

How to soar with hawks

International Student's Steps To, Through and Beyond Graduation...



1. Beginning of a Journey

Whether graduate or undergraduate, students must apply to UHCL, which comes with a non-refundable \$75 fee for graduate students and a non-refundable \$135 fee for doctoral students; these forms can be found [here](#). Along with the application, prospective graduate students must submit test scores – Official GMAT, GRE or MAT scores required by the department of the student's major – and an official English proficiency test prior to admission. There are a few exemption/waivers, and those can be found [here](#), along with the specific English proficiency test needed.

Students can check the status of their application online by clicking the Check Status button on the [Admissions home page](#)



2. Before Liftoff Checklist

A. Once a student has been accepted, they can move on to the next step in the process. As a future student at the University of Houston-Clear Lake, review and check each statement in the [UH-Clear Lake Transition Checklist](#) in order to have smooth transition to campus. The students "Mission Control" and main point of contact is the [OIAP](#) office at oiap@uhcl.edu or calling the main number 281-283-2740.

B. International students must have an [F-1 Visa](#). To apply for a visa, the university has provided the following links: [Visa application guide](#), [Visa interview tips](#) and [Preparing to enter the U.S.](#)

C. [Housing](#) should be secured before arriving. The housing link listed is only one option, students may live anywhere they choose, but the listed property is International student friendly and in close proximity to campus. A list of [hotels](#) is provided if a student cannot secure housing and needs temporary arrangements.



3. Liftoff

[New International Student Orientation](#) is mandatory for all new international students. It contains valuable information that helps ease the transition to UHCL and the life in the United States. At orientation students can register for classes and have questions answered by on-hand staff and professors.



4. Landing

After Orientation, the student's role on campus and their in-class experience is similar to every other student. The work part of the student/work/life balance is where it differs. The F-1 visa, which is required, is needed to work on campus. With the F-1 visa, off-campus work is possible through: [Curricular Practical Training \(CPT\)](#) – authorized off-campus employment that is considered an "integral part of an established curriculum," Optional Practical Training (OPT) – it is temporary employment authorized by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) under three different types: [Pre-Completion OPT](#), [Post-Completion OPT](#), [OPT STEM Extension](#).

5. Post Flight; Mission Complete

After graduation, international students who chose to stay in the U.S., are generally entitled up to one year of [Post-Completion Practical Training](#). Authorization for this type of practical training may be granted for a maximum of 12 months and starts once the student graduated or completed their course of study. Another way to stay in the country is to apply for a [Green Card](#).

