

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA GRADUATE SCHOOL

International Bridge Program

According to current UA graduate policy, “each international applicant must hold the equivalent of a four-year bachelor's degree from an accredited institution to be eligible for graduate admission.” The *UA International Bridge Program* is intended for international graduate applicants who hold three-year bachelor's degrees from countries where that credential is not deemed equivalent to the four-year U. S. bachelor's degree. By completing a fourth year, or “bridge year”, of undergraduate study at The University of Alabama, international students from recognized foreign institutions with three-year bachelor's degrees will have the opportunity to enter graduate study without completing a separate four-year bachelor's degree. These students will complete a “bridge year” of UA undergraduate coursework and then begin their UA graduate degree program.

International applicants interested in the UA International Bridge Program should consult the list of participating departments that are approved to accept applications for the bridge program. If the intended major is listed as participating, then the international applicant will apply for the UA International Bridge Program following the same graduate application process as other international graduate applicants to the degree program. International applicants may apply electronically via the Graduate School's website <http://graduate.ua.edu> or using the print application forms. International applicants meeting the Graduate School's and department's minimum GPA, GRE, and TOEFL or IELTS requirements for *regular admission to a graduate degree program* and who receive the UA graduate department's recommendation, will be considered for admission in the UA International Bridge Program. Students admitted into the International Bridge Program will hold a regular graduate admission for a degree program, but will first complete the bridge year of UA undergraduate coursework and then begin graduate study to complete their UA graduate degree program.

The following MASTER'S programs within the College of Business Administration are approved to accept applications for the bridge program: accounting, applied statistics, business administration, economics, finance, management, marketing, operations management and tax accounting. Applicants applying for graduate business programs must have a minimum GPA of 3.2 or equivalent in their undergraduate program, minimum GMAT of 600 (or an equivalent GRE score where the GRE is accepted), and minimum TOEFL of 100iBT, 250 CBT or 600PBT.

Each department that participates in the UA International Bridge Program will provide a written description and specific departmental requirements for their bridge students. Bridge year requirements include the following, at a minimum:

- A student in the International Bridge Program will be classified as an “international bridge student” while he or she completes the bridge year. The bridge year is defined as a 30 semester hour undergraduate curriculum designed to meet basic core curriculum requirements missing from the three-year international degree. A student’s course load during the bridge year may not exceed a total of 15 hours per semester.
- Each graduate program participating in the bridge year program will provide a list of specific undergraduate courses that is required for their international bridge students. Each department’s program will include 6 undergraduate credits of specific courses in each of the following five general curriculum areas: (a) written English proficiency, (b) information technology or mathematics, (c) humanities and fine arts, (d) history and social-behavioral sciences, and (e) natural sciences
- During the time the student is classified as an international bridge student, he or she will only be eligible to hold externally funded research assistantships, and departments will provide careful review of the student’s course load and academic progress before granting assistantships. An international bridge student may not hold an internally funded graduate assistantship or fellowship.
- International bridge students must complete the bridge year and earn at least a 3.0 GPA for all coursework completed during the bridge year before progressing into the graduate degree program.
- All courses for the bridge program must be completed through The University of Alabama (no transfer credit). Courses completed as part of the student’s three-year international degree may not be repeated for credit in the bridge program at the University.
- Upon successful completion of all bridge year coursework and other department requirements, the department will consider the student for approval to begin taking coursework in the graduate degree program and for possible graduate assistantships and fellowships. The graduate degree will be awarded upon satisfactory completion of the graduate degree requirements.