

# International Student Applicants

## DBTS General Requirements:

There are five types of information needed from any international student in order to process an application.

1. We need to know who in your country has recommended DBTS to you.
2. We need to know who could serve as a recognizable (to us) and credible reference for your character, doctrinal position, and academic abilities.
3. You will need to have an official copy of all applicable transcripts sent to our registrar. This would apply to all undergraduate training to meet minimum entrance requirements and any graduate training you want considered for possible transfer of credits.
4. We will need to have official evidence that you have met our requirements on the TOEFL examination (see below).
5. Since foreign students must meet USCIS (U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services) requirements, we need to know what your USCIS status is and who your American financial sponsor will be (see below).

## DBTS English Language Requirements:

International students must demonstrate an ability to use the English language for seminary-level, graduate work. If the student's native language is not English, he must take the TOEFL exam (Test of English as a Foreign Language). Information about the TOEFL exam may be obtained from <http://www.ets.org/student.html>, or by writing to TOEFL, P.O. Box 6151, Princeton, NJ 08541-6151. The TOEFL institution code for DBTS is 8470. If this code is correctly entered, the TOEFL administrators will send DBTS the student's exam score within six weeks after the exam has been taken.

The test results must be received at DBTS no less than two months prior to the beginning of the semester in which a student plans to enter, and must have been taken no greater than two years prior to his application to DBTS.

For the Master of Divinity program, the student should earn a score of 213 or above if the TOEFL exam is computer-based, 79 or above for the internet-based program, or 550 or above for the standard written exam.

For the Master of Theology program, the student should earn a score of 230 or above if the exam is computer-based, 88 or above for the internet-based program, or 570 or above for the standard written exam

You will have to provide evidence that these requirements have been met prior to our issuing an I-20 form. Of course, that decision would also be contingent upon all other academic, personal, and financial sponsorship requirements in the application process.

## **U.S. Government Requirements:**

There are many international student application requirements placed upon all institutions of higher education in this country by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. These are national guidelines, not something we have established, and they have become even more stringent since September 11, 2001. They require us to document the financial sponsorship of students whom we would accept for enrollment. Before we can consider issuing an I-20 form to the USCIS, we must have your information on the following: (1) Who will be paying for your tuition, fees, and books? (2) Who will be providing for the cost of your housing and meals [room & board]? (3) Who will be providing for your transportation needs to/from the USA and locally while a student? If driving a motor vehicle, this includes providing the legally required automobile insurance. (4) Who will be providing for the cost of medical insurance while you are a student here? If these expenses are being covered by an aggregate group of church or individual donors, we will need to have a letter on file from each donor demonstrating ongoing support sufficient to meet the cost of all four issues.

There may be additional issues raised in the course of discussion which will have to be addressed. Obviously, before we could process an I-20 form, we would have to obtain written confirmation of these financial details from each of the individual sponsors involved. In some cases, it is possible for international student applicant to secure employment with the sponsoring school ministry. Aside from that, international students are not allowed to obtain outside employment, at least initially, while studying here in the USA. They are also limited to working twenty hours per week while school is in session. Since we already have some international students in our program at DBTS, I am not certain if there could be any financial sponsorship provided by our church or seminary, at this point. The fastest way to qualify for enrollment here would be to secure documentable financial sponsorship from another source(s).

You will have to provide evidence that all of these requirements have been met prior to our issuing an I-20 form. Of course, that decision would also be contingent upon all other academic, personal, and financial sponsorship requirements in the application process.