

ENROLLING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

- **Checklist for athletic training program director**

- Applicants who are interested in applying to your program may have already taken **pre-requisite courses** in a foreign institution; there are numerous commercial services that provide evaluations of these courses to determine their eligibility for credit transfer. If the applicant did not meet the pre-requisite course criteria, consider providing options to take courses (e.g., summer sessions) at your institution prior to enrollment to the athletic training program. This may also provide the applicant an opportunity to get used to living in the area.
- It is common for an athletic training program to require **observation hours** (under certified athletic trainers) as a pre-requisite to applying to the program. Note that this may not be feasible in circumstances where foreign applicants had no exposure to a Board of Certification (BOC) certified athletic trainer in their home country.
- Check with the university admissions office for the foreign student's requisite score on the **TOEFL** (Test of English as a Foreign Language). The requisite score may vary by institution, and also within institutions depending on the degree program (e.g., bachelor program vs. master program). When receiving inquiries or letters of interest from foreign applicants, ask for their TOEFL score to gauge their English proficiency.
- Most graduate school programs require **GRE** (Graduate Record Examination) scores, which is no exception for foreign applicants. When receiving interests from foreign applicants, it would be prudent to remind the applicant about this requirement, if applicable.
- International students may need the **acceptance letter** to apply for his/her student visa to enter the U.S.; it is important for the department to coordinate with the university's international office to ensure enough time for the student to apply for the visa before moving to the U.S.
- Regulations regarding **visas** may change unexpectedly; the program directors should always refer any visa related questions to the university's international office.
- Foreign students may be subject to higher **tuition** rates than in- or out-of-state students. Furthermore, most **scholarships** offered by state institutions are for U.S. citizens only. Students should check with the university's international office about international scholarships. Program directors should encourage and support foreign students to apply for scholarships that are not based on citizenship (i.e., often ones offered by professional organizations, such as National Athletic Trainers' Association).
- If you have **alumni** from the incoming foreign student's home country, consider introducing them to help the new student adjust to the new environment.

APPLYING TO ATHLETIC TRAINING PROGRAM IN THE U.S.

Checklist for students applying to the athletic training program in the U.S.

- Identify an academic institution (a list of institutions with accredited Athletic Training programs is listed [here](#)). Completion of an accredited undergraduate or professional degree in athletic training which allows you to take the board of certification exam.
- After identifying one or more accredited athletic training programs, identify the program director for that athletic training program and make contact. Your initial e-mail may include questions about how to apply for the university, specific requirements for the university (e.g. GRE and TOEFL [Test of English as a Foreign Language]) as well as the athletic training program. The requisite score may vary by institution, and also within institutions depending on the degree program (e.g., bachelor program vs. master program).
- In addition to the athletic training education program director, work with the academic institution's admission office to determine if any of your previously completed coursework is eligible for credit transfer. If you are missing one or more courses that would facilitate your enrollment into an athletic training program, discuss alternative strategies to complete the pre-requisite course criteria (e.g., summer sessions) at the institution of interest prior to enrollment. This may also provide the applicant an opportunity to get used to living in the area.
- It is common for an athletic training program to require **observation hours** (under certified athletic trainers) as a pre-requisite to applying to the program. This may not be feasible in circumstances where foreign applicants had no exposure to a Board of Certification (BOC) certified athletic trainer in their home country. Discuss viable strategies with the athletic training education program director to determine how to complete the requisite number of observation hours.
- Investigate the necessary student F1 [visa requirements](#) to enter the U.S.; it is important for you to communicate with your potential program director and the university's international office to ensure enough time for you to apply for the visa before moving to the U.S. **Regulations regarding visas may change unexpectedly;** the program directors should always refer any visa related questions to the university's international office.
- Foreign students may be subject to higher **tuition** rates than in- and out of state students. Furthermore, most **scholarships** offered by state institutions are for U.S. citizens only. Students should check with the university's international office about international scholarships. Program directors should encourage and support foreign students to apply for scholarships that are not based on citizenship (i.e., often ones offered by professional organizations, such as National Athletic Trainers' Association).

- If applicable, check with your countries governing athletic training/therapy association or organization to determine if alumni from your potential institution live nearby. If so, consider contacting them to learn from their experience to better prepare for your transition to the United States.