

International Applicants to the Doctor of Pastoral Music (DPM) Program, Perkins School of Theology

We welcome international applicants to the DPM Program! Our campus has a significant international graduate student body and we believe that international students provide diverse perspectives and backgrounds that are invaluable in graduate education.

Language Requirement

Applicants who do not speak English as their native language are required to supply scores on the TOEFL English language proficiency test. The minimum TOEFL score for admission is 100 on the computer-based exam. Because the DPM degree involves highly interactive discussions among the students, International Applicants are strongly encouraged to take the TSE (Test of Spoken English). The TOEFL requirement is waived for students who have received undergraduate or graduate degrees from an English-language institution located in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, or South Africa. For English-language programs in other countries, please contact the Director of the DPM Program.

Financial Support

If admitted, foreign students must provide a Certification of Finance Form/Letter of Financial Backing as evidence of financial support. This should represent that sufficient money will be available to the applicant to cover all expenses while at the University. This letter may be signed by a parent or sponsor but must be certified by a bank. The document must be notarized and on file before the process for visas and passport can proceed.

Degrees from Foreign Universities

International applicants who hold a bachelor's degree from a foreign university should not assume that these degrees will be automatically accepted in U.S. universities. Decisions will be based on the academic standings of the institutions from which the applicant has graduated. Professional diplomas and higher certificates from technical or vocational schools are normally not considered as equivalent to a bachelor's degree.

Course Load Requirement

International students must maintain a full course of study for each academic year. A full course load is 12 hours for an academic year, with most courses being taken in June and January during while enrolled for the duration of the DPM degree. This usually requires five trips to the Dallas campus over the duration of the degree. NOTE: The DPM is a non-resident program (meeting on campus only in June and January) and visas are granted for the duration of each visit to the United States (usually two weeks) plus a specified time before and after the class meets.

Passports and Visas

Before the international student may depart for SMU, both a passport and a visa are required. The government of the student's home country is responsible for issuing the passport. If the international student is accepted by Southern Methodist University, a letter of acceptance will be

sent from the Graduate Office. The SMU International Advisors' Office will send an I-20 form (F-1 visa or J-1 visa) once the financial support has been verified. It is important that the name on the application matches exactly the name on the student's passport.

International applicants who hold a Religious Worker (R-1) Visa may be considered for admission. This will be decided on a case-by-case basis according to applicant's situation and current rules from the Department of Homeland Security.

For further assistance:

Visas and Foreign Students: Director, International Advisors' Office, Box 381, Southern Methodist University, Dallas TX 75275, U.S.A.

E-mail: smuvisa@mail.smu.edu

Health Insurance

All international students must be covered by hospitalization insurance and must show proof of such insurance at the time of registration. Coverage may be obtained individually or through the University for an annual fee of approximately \$1,300. In addition, students purchasing this insurance are required to be eligible to use the Student Health Center, which may require an additional amount of approximately \$120 per semester. Additional information about this requirement can be obtained through the International Advisors' Office - smuvisa@mail.smu.edu. Students will need to provide a record of immunizations on the SMU health form, which can be downloaded from <http://smu.edu/healthcenter/download/medforms/Health%20Form%20A1.pdf>

Living Accommodations

Many international students live in University residence halls and in University operated apartments while some live in off-campus housing.