International Student Application Procedures
Enrollment and Success Center

Ulster County Community College is a unit of the State University of New York (SUNY), the nation's largest university system. As a community college, Ulster offers two-year associate degree programs in a variety of academic areas. The associate degree generally comprises the first two years of the standard four-year baccalaureate degree. Ulster does not offer upper-division or graduate work but does work directly with students to assist in the admissions and transfer process to a four-year college.

Ulster is located in the Hudson Valley Region, a rural area of upstate New York; ninety miles north of New York City and sixty miles south of Albany, New York’s capital city. The majority of Ulster’s students are from the Hudson Valley Region and its educational programs are primarily directed toward this population. Ulster does not have residential facilities, but students who are interested in obtaining housing with local families in the community are encouraged to participate in our homestay program.

New York State has a temperate climate with an extreme range of temperatures. There are four seasons: Fall (September-December), Winter (January-March), Spring (April-June), Summer (June-August). The winters are very cold and summers hot, with mild to cool weather in spring and fall. Students should plan to bring appropriate clothing for warm and cold weather.

SUNY Ulster is dedicated to providing an affordable, accessible education to all and to preparing students to live and work in a global society. The campus offers a safe environment for international students to develop familiarity with American culture and traditions. Small class sizes provide opportunities for participation and direct communication with the instructor. If you have any questions or concerns about Ulster's appropriateness for you, please call or write the Enrollment and Success Center, we will be more than happy to assist you.

Who should apply as an International Student?
The International Student application should be used by non-United States citizens who have attended secondary school outside the United States and who plan to attend with a student visa. International students currently attending a college or university in this country, who attended secondary school in another country, should also use the International Student application.

Academic Ability
SUNY Ulster will admit only those students who have completed at least the equivalent of 12 years of elementary and secondary education and have successfully passed all required examinations. Normally, candidates must be qualified for university admission in their own country.

Transfer of Credit
A student who has completed courses at other recognized institutions of higher learning may apply for credit for such courses toward degree requirements at State University campuses. Ulster will evaluate the official records of studies previously completed. In some cases, a decision as to the credit that can be allowed will be deferred until the student arrives on campus and can discuss with appropriate officials the nature and extent of previous studies.

English Language Proficiency
English is the language of instruction at SUNY Ulster. International students may not always be as fluent in the language as American students, but they must be able to read, write, speak and understand English well enough to participate in and benefit from an academic program. All examinations and papers must be written in English. TOEFL information can be found on page 2 of this document.

Employment
Under no circumstances can students earn all or a major portion of the funds required to finance their studies through part-time employment. International students may work up to 20 hours per week on campus when school is in session, and during holidays and recesses. International students may be eligible for degree-related employment in accordance with USCIS regulations.

Expenses
The cost of an education in the United States is high and students should be fully aware of the major expenses that they will incur. Students must be certain before they leave their country that they have sufficient funds to meet their educational costs during the years they plan to study in the United States. The United States Consul will not issue a visa to prospective students unless they have provided evidence that they have sufficient funds to cover their entire period of study. Please note that financial assistance is not available for international students.

The cost of tuition, fees and books for one year at SUNY Ulster is approximately $8,460. Students must have an additional $9,190 available for room and board, which is not provided by the College. These figures are only approximations and actual costs are likely to be higher. Also, please note that all students must plan their own transportation to and from the campus. The College is served by limited bus service.

International students who are planning to stay with family or friends in the area and will be provided with free transportation, room, or board should have the appropriate family member or friend submit a notarized affidavit indicating that they are providing these services for the duration of the student’s stay.

Medical services in the United States are not nationalized and costs are high. All applicants are advised to have appropriate health and accident insurance to cover unforeseen emergencies caused by sickness or accident.

Ulster County College does not discriminate in education, employment or any of its businesses on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, race, color, age, veteran status, religion, national origin or handicapping conditions. This policy is in compliance with Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972.