



## **INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MERIT SCHOLARSHIP AGREEMENT FORM**

Congratulations on your acceptance to the University of Southern Maine and your receipt of the International Student Merit Scholarship. You should consider it a distinct honor and privilege to have been awarded this highly selective award.

As an International Student Merit Scholar, you will have the opportunity to receive a scholarship equivalent to that of full tuition for full time, out-of-state undergraduate enrollment for four years or half of the tuition for full time, out-of-state undergraduate enrollment for four years, depending on the information in your award letter. Please carefully review the following Guidelines for Success to ensure that you begin and continue your educational endeavors at the University of Southern Maine in good standing.

### **Guidelines for Success:**

1. To accept your scholarship and agree to the terms, please sign and return a copy of the acceptance agreement and enrollment deposit to the Office of Undergraduate Admission by the May 1 enrollment deposit deadline or no later than 14 days after the date of the accompanying acceptance letter.
2. International Student Merit Scholars must meet and maintain all eligibility criteria required of international students studying in the United States under the terms of an F-1 student visa. As such, students must maintain continuous, full time enrollment for the duration of their F-1 student status, estimated to be 4 years. Failure to do so will result in the cancellation of the International Student Merit Scholarship and may alter a student's visa status.
3. Changes in enrollment after the start of the semester must be made in consultation with your Academic Advisor and Foreign Student Advisor. Any change made after the start of the semester must be communicated to the Scholarship Coordinator in the Office of Undergraduate Admission. Reduction of course load to less than full-time status may result in ineligibility for this award. Full-time status entails enrollment in a minimum of 12 credit hours each during the fall and spring semester (A typical semester course load may consist of 15 credit hours). International Student Merit Scholars may enroll in summer courses and have the tuition charges covered by the scholarship. Any summer course selections must be made in conjunction with the Foreign Student Advisor and must be communicated to the Scholarship Coordinator in a timely fashion.
4. As outlined in the Undergraduate Catalog, withdrawing from a course before the end of the second week of classes incurs no financial penalty. Any financial penalties incurred as a result of late changes in enrollment will not be covered by the scholarship and will be the responsibility of the student.
5. In order to maintain continuing eligibility for the International Student Merit Scholarship, recipients must maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.67 after the first academic year and a 3.0 grade point average (GPA) at the end of each academic year thereafter. Scholars must also maintain sufficient academic progress toward their chosen program of study. It is required that scholars meet with a staff member in the Office of International Exchange once a year to discuss these criteria and review their progress toward completion of their academic program.

6. An important facet to any successful experience at an institution of higher learning is participation in the campus and surrounding community. With this in mind, the University of Southern Maine expects that its International Student Scholars complete volunteer service during their first and second year. This service may be completed at a USM-sponsored public service event, or with a non-profit organization of the student's choosing. A written report is to be submitted to the Scholarship Coordinator in the Office of Undergraduate Admission annually.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read and understand the above guidelines and agree to adhere to them. I acknowledge that failure to follow these guidelines may result in the Undergraduate Admission Scholarship Committee electing to not renew my award. I further understand that actions which result in academic or behavioral sanctions may adversely affect my continuing eligibility to receive this award.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Useful Contacts:

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