

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **How does Miss Porter's School define an international student?**

At Miss Porter's School, we define an international student as:

- any student living outside of the United States, regardless of citizenship.
- any student who is a non-U.S. passport or green card holder, currently living in the United States, but who will require an F1 visa to attend Miss Porter's School.

We believe that students living outside of the United States have an additional set of needs (e.g. transportation, local support, summer storage, and visa processing, if applicable) that we strive to meet.

### **What support is provided for international students?**

- Transportation to/from JFK airport in addition to local airport, train, and bus stations for the beginning of school, end of school, and winter and spring breaks.
- Summer storage (up to 5 boxes/bags).
- Early arrival and orientation on campus.
- Local host family (e.g. day student family or faculty family) for the first academic year.
- International Student Advisors who serve as primary contact for both parents and students for all international student needs.
- International Student Advisory which is a student group on campus that meets 5 times a year for fellowship, support, and celebrations of countries and cultures, in addition to campus events.
- Visa processing and support for all years on campus, including visa transferring out process to colleges and universities.
- Assistance with convalidation of studies if returning to home country.

## **Do you accept mid-year international applicants?**

Generally, we do not accept mid-year international applicants due to full enrollment. Please contact the assistant director of admission for international recruitment to inquire about availability.

## **Do you offer financial assistance to international families?**

We do not offer any need-based financial aid to international students.\* However, all students, domestic and international, are eligible for our limited merit scholarships.

*\*If you are a U.S. passport holder and file U.S. taxes, you are eligible to apply for financial aid.*

## **Do you offer ESL/ELL courses?**

No, we do not offer formal ESL or ELL courses to support international students.

Applicants should have the English proficiency necessary to succeed in Porter's rigorous academic setting, as outlined by our TOEFL requirements. We offer individual academic support during the school year.

## **What TOEFL scores do you look for?**

For international students applying for 9th or 10th grade, the minimum TOEFL score required is 90.

For international students applying for 11th or 12th grade, the minimum TOEFL score required is 100.

## **Do you accept the SLEP test or Cambridge Exams?**

No, we do not accept the SLEP test or Cambridge Exams.

## **I'm an international student who is studying in the U.S. or at an American School. Do I need to take the TOEFL?**

If you have studied in the United States or have studied at an American school (ex: Shanghai American School, American School Foundation of Mexico City) for at least 2 academic years, we will waive the TOEFL. Please note, international schools are not American schools.

## **What if I can't get to campus for a visit and interview?**

We understand that it's not possible for all of our international families to get to campus. We offer Skype, Zoom, or WeChat interviews for any students who are unable to come to campus.

## **I'm a U.S. citizen/expat who was raised speaking English as my first language. Do I need to submit the TOEFL?**

No, we will waive the TOEFL.

# Suggestions for submitting a strong application as an international student

## Improve your English proficiency.

While we use the SSAT and the TOEFL tests as benchmarks for a student's level of English proficiency, we also consider how much exposure the student has had to the language in her home country. If the language of instruction at your school is not English, we recommend that you:



### Read

as much as you can in English, and read what you enjoy. We believe that you'll read more if you enjoy what you're reading.



### Listen

to audiobooks, podcasts, or music in English.



### Watch

movies or TV shows in English, with or without subtitles.

## Do your research.

Before coming to campus, do some preliminary research about Miss Porter's School. Come with specific questions or comments about what you are looking for and what our school can offer you!

## Stay in touch!

Admission officers will frequently check in with you during the application process, but feel free to reach out on your own! Let us know what is going on in your life, like accomplishments and any news you would like to share. The more we get to know you, the more we can advocate for you.