



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) About Conditional Admission

1. What is conditional admission?

Conditional admission at Ball State is granted to international students who do not meet the university's English proficiency requirement. It is designed for students who have not taken an English proficiency exam such as the TOEFL, IELTS or PTE, but would still like to apply. Conditional Admission is also available for students who have taken these tests, but do not have scores that meet the minimum admission requirements. If students are offered conditional admission they will then be required to complete the Intensive English Institute program or meet the English proficiency requirements before receiving full admission and attending academic courses. Please note that not all programs of study at Ball State offer conditional admission.

2. How do I apply for conditional admission?

To apply for conditional admission, simply complete the online application for undergraduate or graduate programs. Submit a TOEFL, PTE or IELTS, and if your scores do not meet our minimum requirements, we will automatically consider you for conditional admission. Not all programs of study allow for conditional admission. Please check with your program of interest to confirm if they allow for conditional admission.

3. What is the Intensive English Institute?

The Intensive English Institute (IEI) is a nationally accredited English language program designed to help international students' progress in English proficiency and the knowledge of US culture necessary for success in academic coursework at Ball State. The IEI has taught English to nonnative speakers for more than 25 years.

4. What is the IEI program like?

The IEI program provides intensive English instruction for nonnative speakers of English. It includes an innovative project-based curriculum taught by world-class teachers who each have a master's degree in teaching English as a second language or equivalent. The program focuses on immersion in American culture and provides opportunity to interact and communicate with Ball State students. All IEI classes are located at Ball State, and IEI students are full members of the Ball State community. The program provides seven-week of instruction for all levels of English proficiency. The length of the IEI program is different for each student based upon their current English proficiency as well as the speed of the student's progression. There are 5 IEI sessions per year, which provides several potential start dates for students (including Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters, as well as start dates in March and October). Every new student takes the IEI English placement exam when they arrive and are placed into one of IEI's seven levels. The beginning level is level F (or Fundamentals) and the final level is level 6 (advanced, academic English).

5. How much do the Intensive English Institute courses cost?

The cost of attending IEI courses at Ball State is less than the cost of attending academic courses. For a list of the estimated costs, please visit the International Admissions web page.

6. Is on-campus housing available for conditionally admitted students?

Yes. Conditionally admitted international students may in the residence halls (dormitories). Note: married students are not eligible to live in residence halls.

Conditionally admitted international students who apply for the residence halls (dormitories) will automatically be eligible for double rooms. Housing for international students is located in Studebaker East and it is open during university break periods (Thanksgiving break, semester break, and spring break). There may be opportunities for international students to upgrade their room at a higher price to a double as a single room, based on availability.

7. Can I use Ball State facilities such as the Dining Halls or Recreation Center?

Yes. As the Intensive English Institute is a unit of Ball State, you will be offered all of the privileges of being a Ball State student. This includes access to university events, the library, Recreation and Health Centers, and all of the dining facilities on campus. You will experience the full Ball State campus life while attending the Intensive English Institute.

8. Who issues the conditional admission letter?

Conditional admission letters are issued by International Admissions and signed by the Director of International Student Recruitment and Admissions at Ball State. The letter will include your prospective major at Ball State as well as the conditions which must be met before receiving full admission.

9. Will I receive an I-20 form from Ball State?

Yes. Students offered conditional admission will be issued an I-20 form to attend the Intensive English Institute. The level of education on the I-20 will be listed as “Language Training” and the major as “Second Language Learning.” Information about conditional admission will be noted in the SEVIS system and on the remarks section of the I-20 form.

10. When will I receive full admission and an I-20 form for my academic program?

When you meet Ball State’s English proficiency requirement by either completing level six of the Intensive English Institute or submitting an acceptable TOEFL/IELTS/PTE score you will be issued an updated letter of admission. You will also receive an updated I-20 form based upon your change of academic level from language training to your undergraduate or graduate program of study.

11. When can I begin my academic classes? You must begin your academic program at the next available start term as listed on your letter of admission which must be within 5 months of receiving full admission and an updated I-20. If you are unable to begin your study within 5 months of receiving full admission, you should meet with an International Student Advisor in the Rinker Center for International Programs to speak about how this may impact your F-1 student visa status.