



## Spring 2026 International Student Partial Tuition Waiver

The Office of International Engagement (OIE) at Illinois State University offers a merit-based partial tuition waiver to continuing degree-seeking undergraduate international students. The waiver is awarded at a rate not to exceed \$5,000 USD per semester to be applied to **tuition only**. Smaller amounts may be given based on availability of funds.

### Award Description and Qualifications

- A. The partial tuition waiver is awarded for the Spring 2026 semester only. All students wishing to receive funding for future semesters will be required to reapply for the waiver.
- B. In order to be awarded and receive a partial tuition waiver, students must:
  - a. Currently maintain a GPA of 3.0 or higher.
  - b. Be enrolled full-time for the Spring 2026 semester.
    - i. Undergraduate students must be enrolled in a minimum of 12 credit hours.
    - ii. Students in their last semester of study that have been granted permission for a reduced course load (RCL) by International Student and Scholar Services may also be considered.
  - c. Remain in good academic and disciplinary standing at all times.
- C. The International Student Partial Tuition Waiver is a partial waiver of tuition. Recipients are responsible for paying any remaining tuition not covered by the tuition waiver, as well as all other non-tuition expenses such as international travel, general fees, housing, board, meals, medical insurance, and personal expenses. In addition, recipients are expected to abide by all applicable laws, regulations, policies, and procedures as required or mandated by Illinois State University.
- D. Awards are not transferable between semesters. Any unused award amount (due to part-time enrollment, scholarship, etc.) will be removed from the recipient's student account.
- E. Applicants are expected to adhere to the Code of Student Conduct. Students who are found to be in poor disciplinary standing with the institution or whose applications are found by OIE and the Student Conduct Office to have been plagiarized must forfeit any funds allocated and will be ineligible to apply for any future funding through the International Student Partial Tuition Waiver.

### Eligibility

The International Student Partial Tuition Waiver is awarded on a competitive basis to applicants who:

- A. Are citizens of countries other than the United States of America with a valid US student visa;
- B. Are enrolled at ISU as a degree-seeking undergraduate student in the Spring 2026; and
- C. Have completed at least 2 semesters at Illinois State University.



**ILLINOIS STATE  
UNIVERSITY**  
*Illinois' first public university*

**Office of International Engagement**

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## Application Procedures

Applicants must submit their application materials through the OIE International Student Partial Tuition Waiver Application, found here:

<https://forms.office.com/r/eN6wZCgSa2>

Materials include:

- A. A 250-500 word essay in which the applicant describes their interest in international activities and current involvement in activities or groups that promote internationalization on Illinois State University's campus.
- B. A completed Statement of Registration Compliance. A link to this form is included in the application.
- C. Two letters of recommendation in support of the applicant. An Illinois State University faculty member who has taught the applicant must write one of the letters, which should address the academic ability of the applicant.

## Application Deadline

Complete application submissions following the procedures outlined above, must be received by OIE no later than **March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 4:30pm CST**. This includes letters of recommendation. Incomplete applications will not be considered, and it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that their application is complete.

## Selection Process and Criteria

**Ranking information will be held strictly confidential.** A committee composed of Illinois State University staff members will review applications for the International Student Partial Tuition Waiver. The committee will select recipients who most successfully demonstrate:

- A. Strong academic background and progress as illustrated by GPA and letters of recommendation;
- B. Active involvement in campus activities as illustrated in the student essay;
- C. Effective communication skills as illustrated in the student essay;
- D. Active and creative interest in promoting intercultural understanding as illustrated in the student essay and letters of recommendation.

## Notification

Applicants will be notified via ISU email account of the selection committee decision on or after April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

## Questions

Students who have questions about the International Student Partial Tuition Waiver process should contact Matt Schwab at [mlschwa@ilstu.edu](mailto:mlschwa@ilstu.edu) or 309-438-1436.