Applicants who are citizens of countries other than the United States are welcome at The University of Alabama. Highly qualified students from around the world have been extremely successful in our graduate programs, and the contributions made by our international students in the areas of teaching, research, and general cultural enrichment have been great. Standards for admission and financial aid are extremely competitive, ensuring academic excellence.

Interested students should visit our online application center at http://graduate.ua.edu to apply electronically. Applicants with restrictions that prevent the use of our online application should contact the Graduate School, Box 870118, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0118, U.S.A, e-mail intergradapply@aalan.ua.edu. The request should contain information on the student's citizenship, formal academic preparation, English language ability, standardized test scores, financial situation, proposed major, and date of entry. Requests for application materials receive initial reviews from the Graduate School dean's office.

The fall semester begins in August and is considered the beginning of the academic year. International students are strongly advised to plan to begin their studies then. Many of our departments and programs will consider applications for the spring semester, which starts in January, but fewer openings for new students are available at that time.

The University of Alabama recognizes that, to be accurately evaluated, applications from international students require more time and more supporting information than do domestic applications. For this reason, international applicants applying from outside the U.S. are encouraged to have complete applications, with all supporting documents, at least 180 days before the beginning of the semester for which application is made. All applications must be complete at least 120 days before the beginning of the semester for which application is made. Applications completed after the deadline will automatically be considered for the following semester. The student whose application is completed well in advance of our deadlines is more likely to be admitted and to receive admission and immigration materials in time to make travel arrangements.

Each international application must hold the equivalent of a U.S. four-year bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution to be eligible for graduate admission. While individual departments may have more stringent requirements, bachelor degrees from Bologna Accord certified institutions are considered to meet this criterion.

A student whose first language is not English must submit an official score report for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), the International English Testing System (IELTS) or the Pearson Test of English (PTE). The minimum score for admission to a degree program or for non-degree admission is 550 on the paper-based TOEFL or 79 on the iBT. The minimum IELTS score for admission to a degree program or for non-degree admission is 6.5. The PTE minimum score for admission to a degree program or for non-degree admission is 59. TOEFL, IELTS or PTE scores must be less than two years old at the time of intended initial enrollment at The University of Alabama. Should TOEFL, IELTS or PTE scores become more than two years old prior to enrollment, the student will be required to retest and submit an acceptable score before enrolling. The TOEFL, IELTS or PTE will not be required from any applicant who has earned a degree from an accredited U.S. college or university within the past three years. The Test of Spoken English (TSE) is recommended for international students who wish to be considered for teaching assistantships. For information on registering for the
TOEFL, or TSE available worldwide, IELTS and PTE visit the testing center websites or contact U.S. embassies, consulates, USIS offices, Institute of International Education offices, AMIDEAST offices, and other organizations concerned with international education.

The University of Alabama offers intensive English language instruction to prepare students for further academic study at colleges and universities in the United States. In addition, the University maintains (through the English Language Institute) the International Teaching Assistant Program (ITAP), a program that all graduate assistants with any teaching or instructional activities who are non-native speakers of English must successfully complete before they are allowed to teach. Students are recommended for ITAP by their departments. For information about these programs write to the Director, English Language Institute, Box 870250, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0250, U.S.A. Admission to the English Language Institute does not constitute admission to a graduate program at The University of Alabama.

Students whose applications to the Graduate School are approved will receive housing and health-service information, a letter of admission, and an immigration document (usually Form I-20 or DS-2019). Upon arrival in Tuscaloosa, students should report to Capstone International Programs and Services in order to obtain registration materials and information on the special orientation session for international students that is held prior to the beginning of each semester.

Nonresident foreign students who are offered graduate assistantships are limited to a maximum .50 FTE (half-time) assistantship. Additional employment outside the University is not permitted.

Students are encouraged to direct any questions they may have concerning immigration, housing, or the health service to the Director, Office of International Student and Scholar Services, Box 870304, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0304, U.S.A. Questions concerning admission procedures should be directed to the Graduate School.

Requirements and deadlines for submitting applications are subject to change; applicants should review the specific instructions on the application forms for current requirements and deadlines.
Frequently Asked Questions:

What other requirements are specific to international students?

What are the admission deadlines?

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<td>Summer</td>
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University of Alabama students have an expedited admissions process; hence, deadlines are more flexible. For more information, contact Debra Wheatley at 205.348.6683 or dwheatle@culverhouse.ua.edu.

Is there a TSE (Test of Spoken English) requirement?
No. TOEFL scores will suffice. Though the TSE is required (recommended) for students who wish to be considered for a teaching assistantship.

Do I need to send a Certificate of Financial Support?
Yes. This should be sent to the University along with your application materials.

What preparations should I make before entering the MSF program?
The MSF program at the University of Alabama is quantitative. Therefore, a strong quantitative background in statistics and calculus is highly recommended. International students are also strongly encouraged to work on their oral and written English if their native language is not English.

Will there be any interview for the admission?
It depends. If the program committee deems it necessary, some of the international applicants will be interviewed through Skype or other Internet communication tools for further examination of their qualifications.

Can I complete the program in more than one year?
Yes. With reasonable justifications and satisfying academic progress, international students may apply for extension of program study. The students, however, are fully responsible for all the financial liability if the extension is approved.

Are there any scholarship opportunities in the MSF program?
Every applicant is considered for a variety of aid packages. Unfortunately, we have no dedicated MSF scholarships at this time. University-wide scholarships are awarded at times and exceptional applicants are automatically considered. There is not a separate scholarship application for University of Alabama-based scholarships.
What if I have other questions regarding application and admission?
Please refer to MSFGuide2015 if you have any other questions regarding MSF program.

Mailing Address for Application Materials:

Have transcripts and test scores sent to:
The University of Alabama Graduate School
P.O. Box 870118
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0118
For express or courier mail services, use the physical address:
The University of Alabama Graduate School
801 University Blvd
102 Rose Administration
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0118

Mailing Address for Letters of Recommendation:
Debra Wheatley
Graduate Programs Secretary
Economic, Finance & Legal Studies
Box 870224
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0224

For express or courier mail services to the department, use the physical address:
Debra Wheatley
Economics, Finance and Legal Studies Department
361 Stadium Drive
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401