

Early Entry Master's Degree Agreements with Non-U.S. Universities

CWRU is considering entering into Early Entry Master's Degree agreements (sometimes referred to as "3+2 programs") with non-U.S. universities. Under such an arrangement, undergraduate students would study for three years at their originating university and then matriculate at CWRU for a two-year period of study towards a CWRU master's degree. These students would receive a bachelor's degree from their original undergraduate institution upon completion of their work at CWRU.

Current regulations for admission to a CWRU graduate program require a student to have either completed a bachelor's degree, or be a participant in an established program that integrates a CWRU undergraduate degree with a CWRU graduate degree (e.g., the BS/MS program or the Integrated Graduate Study program). Participants in the proposed program would fall into neither category; instead, these students would be receiving early admission to a CWRU master's program.

However, it is likely that these students will take undergraduate courses at CWRU. Because of the intersection of the proposed Early Entry Master Degree agreements with undergraduate education, the FSCUE recommends the following position statement:

FSCUE Position on Early Entry Master's Degree Agreements

Students matriculating through an Early Entry Master's Degree agreement will not be admitted to the university through the normal undergraduate admissions process. Therefore, the admitting graduate program must be fully responsible for all administrative and educational matters for such students, without imposition on other schools or colleges in the university.

To be admitted under an Early Entry Master's agreement, an applicant should have completed 1) all general education requirements of the undergraduate degree granting university, and 2) at least 75% of courses and credit hours required by the undergraduate degree granting university for the applicant's undergraduate major and graduation. These requirements should be met before matriculation at CWRU and are consistent with the requirements for other existing programs that integrate undergraduate and graduate study at CWRU. In addition, during the application process the student, with the assistance of the admitting graduate department, must determine a term-by-term plan for the courses to be taken at CWRU to complete the undergraduate degree at the undergraduate degree granting institution. This portion of the application requires approval by 1) all departments offering courses that appear on the term-by-term plan, and 2) the undergraduate degree granting institution. The admitting CWRU program or department is responsible for determining that these entry requirements are met.

International students admitted to an Early Entry Master's Program should satisfy the requirements on the TOEFL or IELTS exam that are in place for undergraduates at the time of admission. Adherence to this standard will allow the students to have a better chance of performing well in classes conducted in English.

Approved March 27, 2012 by the Faculty Senate Graduate Studies Committee

Approved April 2, 2012 by the Faculty Senate Committee on Undergraduate Education