ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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Admissions Procedure and Policies
International Students

• The Assemblies of God Theological Seminary provides graduate and doctoral level education that will train you for Christian service. The seminary warmly welcomes students from other countries with the expectation that they will return to active ministry in their homelands upon completion of their studies.
• The following information outlines the seminary's admissions policies and procedures for admitting international students.

IMMIGRATION

• There are several policies that AGTS must follow in admitting international students. Many are set by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services and others by the seminary.
• The AGTS Enrollment Office will assist you in processing the necessary forms but is not authorized to help in obtaining American citizenship.
• As an international student, you will be admitted to AGTS only if you have sufficient financial resources to cover tuition, fees, travel, medical insurance and living expenses while enrolled at seminary.
• You must not plan to arrive in the United States until you have been approved for admission to AGTS. Students who enter the country without a student visa and means of support may be deported and ineligible to return to the U.S.
• Immigration regulations limit arrival in U.S. to not more than 30 days prior to the program start date stated on the I-20.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

• Before being admitted, you are required to provide a letter fully explaining how seminary expenses will be covered and proof of financial responsibility such as notarized sponsorship forms, supporting documents from financial sponsors, and certified bank statements.
• The seminary does not offer any scholarships that will cover the cost of tuition, fees and living expenses. A few small scholarships are offered each year but only to international students who have already raised a majority of support for their seminary expenses.

ADMISSIONS PROCEDURE

• You are required to follow the standard admissions procedure which includes submitting the following:
1) application fee—$75
2) completed application for admission to AGTS;
3) completed ministerial and personal recommendation forms;
4) official, certified copies of transcripts from all post-secondary schools attended in the United States. All post-secondary work done outside the United States must be evaluated by one of the preferred accreditation evaluation institution. These must be sent by the college directly to AGTS.

• In addition to the standard admissions procedure, as an international student, you must submit the following:
1) A letter fully explaining how your seminary expenses• will be covered and proof of financial responsibility as outlined in the IMMIGRATION section;
2) A written recommendation from your national church organization, endorsing your educational plans and indicating that such theological education is not available in your country. If you are A/G, recommendations are required from the AGWM area director or field moderator and AGWM regional director;
3) Written evidence that a responsible Christian organization will guarantee financial support for your dependents remaining at home during your time in the U.S. at AGTS;
4) Guarantee of financial support for your dependents who will be accompanying you to the U.S.;
6) A copy of the results of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) if English is not your native language. You must make your own arrangements to take this exam and request the results be sent to the

AGTS Enrollment Office. Arrangements to take the test can be made on-line at www.toefl.org. The TOEFL institution code for AGTS is 6022. Subsequent to enrollment, if a student's mastery of English proves inadequate, AGTS reserves the right to remove the student from degree candidacy and require further language study.

APPROVAL FOR ADMISSION TO SEMINARY

• Upon completion of the application procedure and all the required documents, the Admissions Committee will review your file to approve or disapprove admission. You will receive written notification of that decision. There are two stages of approval that are required before an I-20 will be issued: 1) General admission and academic approval; 2) Financial approval based upon sponsorship and deposit guarantees.

FINANCIAL DEPOSIT

• A $1000 (U.S.) deposit is required upon written notification of your approval for admission to AGTS. One half of this amount will be applied toward your tuition and fees, and the remainder will be retained on your account until you graduate or leave school. AGTS will not release the formal visa application (I-20) until your deposit has been received.

• A $4,000.00 deposit is due two weeks prior to the first day of class.

• A $10,000 (U.S.) deposit is required from students from financially-troubled countries. This deposit is also required if student is sponsored by churches or organizations not located in the U.S.

• I-901 SEVIS fee payment is required by the Department of Homeland Security. Arrangements for payment can be made online at www.fmjfee.com. If payment by credit card, a receipt will be issued immediately. Otherwise please allow sufficient mail time to receive receipt before your appointment at the consulate. Proof of payment of this fee must be provided to the Consulate before an I-20 will be issued.

HEALTH INSURANCE

• You will be required to carry health insurance for yourself and your dependents who accompany you to the United States. Although this coverage is expensive, it is critical because of the high costs of medical treatment.

EMPLOYMENT

• International students cannot depend upon employment while in the U.S. to subsidize their educational and living expenses. AGTS cannot provide on-campus jobs for most international students.

• In extenuating circumstances, it is possible for international students to work off-campus but approval must be secured from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Labor, and AGTS. Work permits are difficult to obtain and cannot be secured during the first academic year.

• Employment at the General Council of the Assemblies of God or its affiliates is considered by Immigration to be off-campus employment.

FUND-RAISING

• AGTS discourages students from fund-raising in Assemblies of God churches and prohibits the collection of mailing lists of U.S. churches or individuals while enrolled at AGTS in order to finance education or future endeavors. Failure to follow this policy will result in disciplinary action and possible dismissal from AGTS.

CHURCH RELATIONSHIPS/ ASSOCIATIONS

• If you are A/G, AGTS advises you to contact the A/G World Missions (AGWM) regarding your relationship with AGMW and U.S. churches.

• The AGTS International Student Association has been established to provide you with fellowship, promote cultural understanding, encourage participation in group activities and assist you as a new student.

ARRIVAL IN SPRINGFIELD

• If you have been approved for admission, you may contact the AGTS Enrollment Office as to the date and time of your arrival in Springfield, Missouri. Upon arrival in Springfield, an appointment must be made with the Director of Enrollment Management within one week of arriving in the United States.