

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND NONNATIVE SPEAKERS OF ENGLISH**

**Applicants for graduate study** are required to have completed their undergraduate study equivalent to a Bachelor of Arts before starting work on their graduate degree. It is essential to obtain the proper visa before entering the United States; the F-1 visa is typically the most appropriate. In addition, most new F-1 and J-1 students are required to pay a SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System) fee before applying for a U.S. entry visa.

**Financing graduate study:** In order to obtain an I-20, international students must be able to demonstrate that they meet the minimum financial requirements on the university's International Student Financial Certification form. The total cost of living minimum for the 9-month academic year that includes the cost of tuition (if applicable), books and supplies, mandatory student fees and health insurance, and living expenses for students who do not hold an assistantship (or a graduate instructorship) was \$34,400 in 2005. For those who do hold a graduate instructorship through the department, the total cost of living minimum (\$16,672 in 2005) is paid for by the assistantship salary, tuition and health care benefits. However, this minimum amount does not include cost of clothing, automobile expenses, long distance travel or other such items. To live beyond the basic necessities you may need to budget up to \$25,000 for the 12-month period. Graduate instructors may have an opportunity to teach during the summer, but are not guaranteed summer employment.

**Students with F-1 Visas** and an I-20 authorizing them to attend the University of Minnesota are eligible to work on the campus, which refers to employment that is either performed on the school's premises or at an off-campus location that is educationally affiliated with the university. F-1 students may only work 20 hours per week (equivalent to teaching one class per semester) while school is in session and up to full-time during semester breaks and summer. They are not permitted to work off-campus unless they have received work authorization from International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) or the immigration service.

Additional information available from ISSS: <http://www.issss.umn.edu/ProspectiveSt/default.html>

**Nonnative speakers of English who wish to be graduate instructors of Spanish or Portuguese** are required to take the SPEAK Test administered by the Center for Teaching and Learning at the University of Minnesota once they have been admitted to the graduate program and offered a graduate instructor position.

The SPEAK Test is available free of charge and measures the ability of nonnative speakers to communicate orally in English. The University of Minnesota requires students who will work as graduate instructors to obtain a minimum score of 55 on the SPEAK Test (=ELP (English Language Proficiency) rating of 1). You may provide official documentation of your score on the Test of Spoken English (TSE) to satisfy this requirement. Students who receive an ELP rating of 2 or 3 may work as graduate instructors but must enroll in GRAD 5105: Practicum for University Teaching for Nonnative English Speakers during the first semester in which they teach. If students receive a score of 4 or lower, they will be required to retake the SPEAK Test. Other courses such as GRAD 5105 offered through the International TA Program of the Center for Teaching and Learning are open to all graduate students who nonnative English speakers.

Additional information about the International TA Program and the SPEAK Test is available at: <http://www1.umn.edu/ohr/teachlearn/itap/index.html>.