



EXCHANGE STUDENT INFORMATION GUIDE- CARLISLE 2025-2026

Welcome to The Pennsylvania State University.

Penn State is one of the world's preeminent research universities and is consistently ranked in the top 1 percent of universities worldwide. Its law school, *Penn State Dickinson Law*, is the oldest ABA-accredited law school in Pennsylvania and one of the oldest in the United States. For over 190 years, Penn State Dickinson Law has educated some of the world's finest attorneys, judges, government and corporate leaders, and legal scholars. Penn State Dickinson Law operates as one law school with two locations in Pennsylvania. The information provided here is oriented to exchange students studying at the law school's primary location in Carlisle, PA.

IMPORTANT DATES

Penn State Dickinson Law welcomes exchange students each fall semester, beginning in August. Unless otherwise determined, most exchange students will spend only one semester.

For important dates, please see [Academic Resources](#) | [Dickinson Law](#).

Tentative dates for the fall 2025 semester are as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| - Arrival & Orientation | August 18-23 |
| - First Day of Classes | August 25 |
| - Last Day of Classes | December 4 |
| - Exam Period | December 8-19 |

NOMINATION & APPLICATION PROCESS

To be admitted at Penn State Dickinson Law as an exchange student, each applicant must follow a four-step process that involves a nomination from applicants home institution and the submission of an exchange student application.

Step 1: Nomination (For Partner Institutions)

Deadline: April 1, 2025

The exchange coordinator at the applicant's home institution must first nominate eligible students for the exchange program at Penn State Dickinson Law. To be eligible, applicants must be enrolled as degree-seeking students at one of its partner universities and nominated by their home institution. Applicants must be in good academic standing, have completed at least one year of full-time undergraduate law studies or one year of graduate law studies by the program's start, and be proficient in English.

Step 2: Application (For Nominated Students)

Deadline: April 15, 2025

Nominated students will be notified by Penn State Dickinson Law and invited to apply to participate in the exchange program. An initial email from Penn State Dickinson Law will provide instructions on the [Online Application](#) process. Please note that all submissions should be in English or accompanied by an English translation (if applicable). Penn State Dickinson Law typically welcomes 2-5 exchange students each fall.

Step 3: Immigration (For Admitted Students)

Once enrolled, students will receive a notice from iStart, Penn State's immigration management system, explaining immigration compliance requirements. After submitting the necessary documentation, a DS2019 (for J-visa students) will be issued within 2-4 weeks. The DS2019 allows admitted exchange students to apply for a nonimmigrant visa at a U.S. embassy or consulate. The [Office of International Students and Scholars at Penn State Global](#) provides support for all immigration matters.

Step 4: Orientation (For Admitted Students)

Penn State Dickinson Law holds pre-arrival orientation meetings for all admitted students covering topics like course offerings, registration, academic expectations, financial considerations, student life, and bar exam information. The week before classes begin, a required in-person student orientation takes place. Admitted students also receive pre-arrival handbooks with detailed information on navigating the law school. More information to be provided upon admission.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Exchange students must register for classes before arrival. Please visit the Penn State Dickinson Law website for [course descriptions](#). Note that, not all courses are offered regularly and may not be available during the exchange semester. Once matriculated, exchange students will have access to the full list of courses offered for Fall 2025 and can register accordingly.

Language:	English
Course Load:	12 credits minimum
Attendance:	Strictly required
Class Format:	Lectures and seminars
Examinations:	Written exams, papers, etc.

STUDENT HOUSING

Penn State Dickinson Law does not offer on-campus housing. Exchange students typically find shared housing within walking distance of campus. Dickinson Law maintains a [database](#) of available local housing, and students should contact landlords directly for more information.

COST OF ATTENDANCE

Penn State tuition and fees are waived for the exchange semester. However, exchange students are required to purchase the [Penn State Student Health Insurance Plan \(SHIP\)](#). To waive this requirement, students must submit a request at the start of the semester with proof of insurance coverage that meets Penn State's requirements. SHIP does not cover vision or dental insurance. For more information, please see [Cost of Attendance | Dickinson Law](#)

EMPLOYMENT

Off-campus employment for exchange students is restricted, and working without permission can affect one's immigration status. On-campus employment is allowed with some restrictions. More information will be provided during the welcome orientation.

LANGUAGE SUPPORT

Applicants must provide proof of a TOEFL score of 88 or higher, an IELTS score of 6.5 or higher, a Duolingo English Test score of 120 or higher, or an equivalent. In some cases, students may be eligible for a waiver. English language support is not available.

LEARN MORE

Join our monthly information sessions to connect with alumni, faculty, and current students. To schedule an individual meeting, email us at dickinsongraded@psu.edu or reach out via WhatsApp by visiting our website and clicking the WhatsApp icon in the bottom right corner.



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