

WALTON INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM MANUAL

ABOUT THIS MANUAL

The following information is intended to give you, as a Walton Scholar, a start on what you need to know about University of the Ozarks before you get there. The purpose is not to substitute the University Student Handbook, but to respond to your unique opportunity as an international student enrolled in the Walton International Scholars Program (WISP). Once at University of the Ozarks you will have other questions but be assured that there will also be other people – staff, faculty and students willing to lend you a hand and make you feel welcome to our community and, our university.

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

In May of 1985, the Walton family of Bentonville, Arkansas, announced a donation to three Arkansas institutions of higher education – University of the Ozarks, Harding University and John Brown University – to fund scholarships for students in the seven countries of Central America and Mexico (the Scholarship Region). The purpose of this program is to provide a quality university education to students from the Scholarship Region along with exposing them to the benefits of a society and an economy that flourishes under a free, open, and elected government. Mr. Walton was particularly concerned about the promotion of freedom and democracy in the Scholarship Region. He commented at the time of the gift, "If we want future leaders of Central America to know the benefits of a free society, we need to get large numbers of the student generation up here to the United States. The students will learn skills through the liberal arts curricula of these three fine colleges that will encourage democratic traditions and private development of their countries." We at University of the Ozarks heartily agree with Mr. Walton's concerns and objectives for this Walton International Scholarship Program.

COMMUNITY

Founded in 1834, University of the Ozarks is a private, four-year liberal arts university located about two blocks north of downtown Clarksville, Arkansas. Clarksville is at the foot of the Ozark Mountains and in the heart of the River Valley. Clarksville is located halfway between the cities of Little Rock and Fayetteville. Arkansas is known as the 'Natural State' and its beauty is truly exemplified in our local mountains, rivers, lakes, and landscapes.

University of the Ozarks' unique, multidisciplinary approach to higher education empowers our students and faculty to explore the road less traveled and embrace every available opportunity for intellectual, social, and spiritual growth. The University serves a student population of approximately 900 students from more than 20 countries and 32 states. Ozarks has been ranked among the "best value" as well as "most diverse" universities in the South by U.S. News & World Report. With more than 60 academic programs, the University promotes vigorous teaching and learning in keeping with the University's mission: "True to our Christian heritage, we prepare students from diverse religious, cultural, educational and economic backgrounds to live life fully." The University's Christian core values are Honesty, Growth, Sabbath, Justice, Hospitality and Service.

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POLICIES FOR ALL SCHOLARS

THE WALTON INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP

Now that you have received the Walton International Scholarship, what exactly does this mean? Well, you have received a "package deal" comprised of a set of benefits and a set of responsibilities. We use the term "package deal" because when you accept the benefits you also accept the responsibilities.

BENEFITS

Tuition, Room, and Board

The scholarship covers all expenses for your tuition and fees until you graduate. The WISP will also pay for your semi-private housing accommodations and a standard University meal plan at the school cafeteria. The Scholarship Program will not provide meals for any periods that the University cafeteria is closed. The scholarship does not cover any optional additions for meal plans – such as purchasing additional 'declining balance' (DCB).

Air Tickets

The scholarship pays for your air ticket from your country to University of the Ozarks when you start school. This also includes tickets to and from your home country during the summer vacations and, of course, a one-way ticket back home after graduation. One checked piece of luggage will be reimbursed each way.

Learning Materials

As a Walton International Scholar, you will also receive the required textbooks and learning materials for your courses. However, you will be personally responsible for your own school supplies such as notebooks, pens, and other materials that are not explicitly required for your courses by the professor's syllabus.

You may keep your textbooks when your course is completed. If you wish to keep your textbooks, you will need to complete the *WISP Textbook Ownership Form* and seek approval from the WISP Director – textbooks must also be used in your primary major field of study.

If you do not wish to keep your textbooks you must follow all University policies and procedures to return your textbooks within the given timeframe. Textbooks, digital learning tools, and/or other materials provided to you through WISP cannot be returned to the bookstore for cash reimbursement or sold to third parties. They have been purchased by WISP and any monies realized from their resale or return belong to the WISP.

Insurance

The scholarship pays your health insurance premiums, but you are personally responsible for all other medical expenses not covered by the insurance policy. The WISP Director will supply the student with information on the extent of the insurance coverage and the student should review the data and become familiar with his/her financial responsibilities.

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You are responsible for always carrying a copy of your insurance identification (ID) with you – you may print a copy through your insurance provider’s student member portal or obtain a digital copy through the insurance provider’s mobile application.

Monthly Allowance

For 7 out of the 9 months of the academic year you will receive a check or direct deposit in your name as your monthly allowance – \$150 for Freshman, \$140 for Sophomores, \$125 for Juniors and \$125 for Seniors. For the months of August and May, you will receive a prorated allowance in accordance with the beginning and end of the academic year. The monthly allowance will not be prorated for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Spring Break, and can be used for meals if/when University dining services are closed. Your allowance is meant to cover all your personal expenses such as toothpaste, soap, deodorant, notebooks, laundry, etc. At the beginning of your first semester at University of the Ozarks, if entering in the Fall, you will receive an extra amount for winter clothing.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Lifestyle

As a University of the Ozarks student, and even more, as a Walton International Scholar, your lifestyle should be in accordance with the Christian faith and abide by with the standards of the University of the Ozarks Student Handbook. The University of the Ozarks Student Handbook can be found at <https://ozarks.edu/about/forms-and-policies/student-handbook/> - it is your responsibility to familiarize yourself and comply with the established policies.

Relationships

As a Walton Scholar you are expected to demonstrate appropriate behavior in all your relationships that reflect the published standards of University of the Ozarks and the Walton International Scholarship Program. Relationships (personal, professional, academic, political, etc.) that distract you from fulfilling your scholarship obligations may be cause for withdrawal of the scholarship.

You are not permitted to change your marital status during the term of your scholarship.

Academic Performance, Grade Point Average (GPA)

You will be expected to maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 (B/C) or above, where A is the highest grade, F is the lowest and C is passing (see the University of the Ozarks Academic Catalog for more details on the grading scale). Realizing that English is a foreign language for most of you, University of the Ozarks provides opportunities for you to obtain some help with your English skills – such as English to Speakers of other Languages (ESOL) class and various resources provided by the Student Success Center (SSC) on campus. In all your classes you will have to communicate effectively in English both verbally and in written form. Please take advantage of the English courses that are offered and the help that is available. If you need additional assistance, please speak with the WISP Director. Some good advice is to take advantage of every opportunity to practice your English, starting now!

Summers

All Walton International Scholars must return home once final exams are completed. Graduating seniors may stay for commencement related events. This way you will maintain contact with your native country, your family, and your friends, and readjustment to your country after graduation will be facilitated. You are highly encouraged to meet members of the Walton Alumni Committee during your summer breaks to verify return home, build a network with Walton Alumni in your country, and serve

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the needs of the Committee. A minimum of one year's service with the Recruiting Committee is required after graduation and must be completed no later than 3 years after graduation.

Summer internships, study abroad, and extended (greater than 2 weeks) leisure travel outside the scholarship region is not permitted.

Community Service

All Walton Scholars will complete three hundred (300) hours of Director approved community service activities during their academic career through a variety of community service opportunities at the university, in the community, and in your home country. A minimum of 150 hours must be completed on campus and/or in the Johnson County, Arkansas area. The balance may be completed in the Scholarship region. For hours to count, they must be unpaid volunteer activities focused on educational, developmental, and capacity building activities.

Home Sweet Home

After graduation or withdrawal from the University for any reason, you are required to return to the Scholarship Region and live there for a minimum of six months for each academic semester at University of the Ozarks. You are under legal and moral obligation to fulfill the requirements of the agreement you have signed for the Walton International Scholarship. Please read the Walton International Scholarship Agreement very carefully in this regard.

BEFORE LEAVING HOME

Now, there are a few things you need to do before you get on the plane to come to University of the Ozarks.

Travel Documents

The first thing you must do is get your passport. This may take several days, so start as soon as possible. Don't leave it for the last week! After you have your passport, you need an F-1 Visa from the U.S. Government. To get this visa you need to take your I-20 form to the consulate/embassy in your country. In many instances this process takes several days, so act now! The I-20 form will be sent to you by the University of the Ozarks via your personal email address or shipped directly to your home address via Fedex. This document, as well as your passport, is extremely important. Even when you go home for the summer you will need to take your I-20 with you to be able to return. On arrival in the U.S. an I-94 card will be attached to your passport. This also is an important document, and it must be kept with your passport.

School Transcripts

High School Transcripts

You will need to provide an official copy of your High School Transcripts and Diploma upon arriving to campus. The High School Transcript must be an official copy: physical copy provided by your High School in a sealed envelope or sent via email directly from your High School to the Ozarks Admissions office at admission@ozarks.edu

Previous University/College Transcript

If you have done any previous college work, you may want to transfer your credits to University of the Ozarks. The university will determine whether the credits will transfer. Be sure you have official

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transcripts from the college and descriptions of the courses you want to transfer. Getting these documents often takes a few days, so start now. If you wish to transfer credits, the University may require of you to utilize an official translation and evaluation service – the WISP Program will not cover these additional costs. This process must be completed before arriving on campus

Related to this, you may also want to check on how your University of the Ozarks degree will translate in your home country according to your major. Check the requirement, documentation, evaluations, etc. The University will provide you with an Apostille copy of your Diploma if needed after graduation.

Medical Checkup

A full physical examination, blood work including hepatitis test, and HIV test, is recommended prior to arriving on campus. Dental work and eyeglasses are not covered by the WISP Program, and these things are much more expensive in the United States. It would be much better and cheaper for you to get these things done right now rather than waiting to do it in the United States.

You will be required to provide documentation of your immunization record and to get any required immunizations that are not documented. You must be able to show proof of obtaining two MMR vaccines (measles, mumps, and rubella) as well as a Tuberculosis (TB) test (blood test preferred) before coming to Ozarks. TB Tests may be completed 6 months before arriving on campus. Proof of completed MMRs and TB Test must be sent to admission@ozarks.edu. For more information, please refer to the Immunization Policy located in the University Academic Catalog.

Packing

As you prepare to leave, remember there are four seasons in Arkansas and the weather can be very cold (-20 degrees C) in the winter and very hot (40 degrees C) in the summer. Be prepared for both! Also be sure to include soap, shampoo, toothpaste, etc. Chances are you will arrive on the campus at night and will be unable to buy these things until the next day.

You are also encouraged to bring traditional dress, musical instruments, and other items of your country. The university often has campus events where you may want to demonstrate your cultural uniqueness.

ARRIVAL AT UNIVERSITY OF THE OZARKS

Life at Ozarks

At Ozarks, we encourage students to fully engage in the Ozarks experience. Through involvement and transformative opportunities, we help each student reach their full potential and leave Ozarks prepared to live their lives fully. Get involved on campus through our more than 30 Student Organizations or compete and have fun in our strong Intramural Sports program.

Go out on one of our many Ozarks Outdoors trips. We are in a prime location for a wide range of outdoor activities such as hiking, canoeing, rock climbing, and much, much more! Explore the spiritual side of our campus through many diverse programs and people. No matter your spiritual background, Ozarks offers you the ability to grow and explore in a safe environment.

Sabbath

While we are a private university affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (USA), we are open and accepting of all. You are encouraged to attend weekly services held in our beautiful campus chapel or pursue your spiritual development of your own through several student organizations reflecting a wide spectrum of spiritual beliefs. At the heart of the week, members of the University of the Ozarks community stop in a spirit of worship, of jubilee, and of rest and discernment during Sabbath. The

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importance of this Sabbath is to replenish our souls so that we can finish the race ahead of us mindful of our callings to service, justice, growth, hospitality, and honesty.

Airport Shuttle Transportation

During specific times of the school year University of the Ozarks provides shuttle transportation from the Little Rock National Airport to the Ozarks campus. Students must sign up for the shuttle service and complete their travel itinerary at least 2 weeks before traveling. For more information, please visit: <https://ozarks.edu/life-at-ozarks/shuttle-services/>

All students arriving on the approved arrival date will be transported to University of the Ozarks free of charge. Students arriving or departing on a date different than the approved travel date for all students are expected to secure their own transportation.

New Student Orientation

As you make your transition to University of the Ozarks this fall, we want you to be prepared for your college journey. New Student Orientation will provide you with many different resources, connections, memories, and more that will set you up for a successful start to your college career. To register for Orientation and for additional information please visit: <https://ozarks.edu/admissions-aid/orientation/>

Housing

While living on campus, you'll meet people from a wide range of backgrounds and beliefs, and you may develop friendships that will last a lifetime. All Ozarks residence halls feature a full slate of both planned and impromptu activities, so there's nearly always something going on. We develop opportunities and experiences that build our community. Residence halls are dynamic facilities where students may interact, grow, mature, learn, and effectively pursue their academic, personal, and spiritual goals.

Campus Dining

Students living in University Residence Halls and Apartments are expected to have a meal plan. Meal plan options vary depending where students live on campus. Meal plans provide students with meals to use at the campus Dining Hall as well as Declining Credit Balance (DCB) that can be redeemed at the campus retail dining locations.

STUDENT LIFE

Meetings

Attendance at all Scholarship Program meetings is required. Except in case of an emergency, an excused absence form must be presented PRIOR to the meeting missed. We will try to give you sufficient notice of meeting times so there will be no unexcused absences.

Housing

The Walton International Scholarship will provide regular university housing (semiprivate room) and the standard university meal plan. Students must live on campus.

Athletics

Walton Scholars are allowed to compete in collegiate sports due to NCAA III regulations and are allowed to participate on intramural teams. Please notify the WISP Director prior to joining a collegiate sport.

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Breaks and Holidays

For all university breaks (Christmas, Thanksgiving, Fall Break, Spring Break) housing may be provided but food is the responsibility of the student. Each student will receive their allowance whether they stay on campus or not. Students are encouraged to use these breaks to develop a deeper understanding of democracy and free enterprise.

Democracy and Free Enterprise

You will explore these ideas by taking two courses from the list below in addition to your major/minor requirements.

1. American National Government (PLS 2013) (required)
2. and one (1) of the following:
 - a. Business Communications (BSA 2003)
 - b. Intro to Economics (ECN 1003)
 - c. Marketing Concepts (MKT 1013)
 - d. Survey of Management (MGT 1003)

If your major/minor already requires any of the courses listed above, you may be exempt from that section of the requirement.

ACADEMIC POLICIES

Completion of Degree

The scholarship granted by the Walton International Scholarship Program provides funding for a maximum of eight (8) semesters to complete the approved degree(s) program. A student may request additional majors only if they can be completed within the eight (8) semesters allowed to complete a bachelor's degree. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis with character, academic capacity, and utility as consideration factors, and must be applied for in writing through the Director.

Class Attendance

The Walton Scholarship is a substantial investment in your education. Therefore, in your pursuit of academic excellence as a Walton International Scholar, you are expected to attend all scheduled classes. Since class activities for each course have been specifically designed to enable students to meet the objectives of the course, class attendance is necessary. Attendance policies will be explained by the instructor at the beginning of each semester and will be printed in the class syllabus. When students are absent for any reason, they are expected to confer with their instructor concerning the possibility of being allowed to make up work. Students who fail to follow attendance policies and who jeopardize their academic progress may be cause for withdrawal of your scholarship funds.

Study Abroad

The program will not allow funding for study abroad courses. Study abroad programs are contrary to the intent and purpose of WISP which is to provide students experiences which will promote understanding of democracy and free enterprise within the United States.

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Graduate Studies

Permission to pursue in-person graduate studies outside the scholarship region may be granted only after a student has returned to the scholarship region to satisfy their scholarship commitment. Permission to pursue graduate studies inside the scholarship region may be requested while the student is satisfying their scholarship commitment.

Grade Renewal

The Scholarship will not pay tuition or fees for repeat courses taken to renew grades unless they fall within the 18-credit hour limit and the academic program is not extended beyond eight (8) semesters. Approval may be granted by the Program Director at the written request of the student's advisor to renew a deficient grade in a required course in exceptional cases.

Academic Probation

Walton International Scholars are required to maintain a 2.5 cumulative GPA to continue in the program. The student must also follow all policies and guidelines established by the University regarding Academic Status as described in the Academic Catalog. If the cumulative or semester GPA remains below 2.5 for two consecutive semesters the student will be given written notice of dismissal from the Walton Scholarship program and the scholarship will be withdrawn. The student may present a written appeal to the Program Director for an additional semester if circumstances warrant.

Summer Coursework

Summer courses may be taken only upon approval of the Program Director and are limited to 6 credit hours for the Walton Scholar's academic career. Summer coursework requests must be sent in writing to the Director.

FINANCIAL POLICIES

Tuition and Fees

The Walton International Scholarship will pay tuition and fees for all classes taken for college credit at or through University of the Ozarks. Tuition for non-program/degree related classes may be covered with Program Director approval if they fall within the eight (8) semesters required to graduate. Fees for late registration or drop/add will not be covered by the program.

Employment

During your first two semesters on campus, you are not allowed to work for pay. Your primary responsibility will be to adapt to a new culture, improve your English, and establish a healthy GPA. We believe these tasks require your full time and attention. We want you to develop good study habits so that perhaps later you may be able to add additional responsibilities to your schedule. The student must also maintain good academic standing while employed; if it's established that employment is affecting academic performance and standing, employment approval may be rejected.

Students may be permitted to work up to 10 hours a week during their 3rd and 4th semesters with written Director approval.

Students may be permitted to work up to F-1 visa limits (20 hours per week) with Director approval after completing their 4th semester.

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Taxes

Liability for all local, state, and federal taxes rests with the student. The University aids in the filing of the tax forms and the Walton International Scholarship pays all taxes resulting from scholarship grants. Any due income taxes incurred by the student related to student employment or any other source of income will be the sole responsibility of the student.

No Resale of Learning Materials

Textbooks, digital learning tools, and/or other materials provided to you through WISP cannot be returned to the bookstore for cash reimbursement or sold to third parties. They have been purchased by the Walton International Program and any monies realized from their resale must be returned to the Walton International Program.

Loans/Advances

The Walton Program will not make any cash loans or advances of personal allowances.

TRAVEL**Airline**

Each student will be provided an airline ticket home for the summer. Ground transportation will be provided between the university and the airport only at the beginning and end of the academic year. Any costs associated with intermediate stops or elective changes to ticket class are the responsibility of the student. The scholarship only pays for the first checked bag if it is not included in the ticket price.

Domestic

All domestic travel and field trips will be the responsibility of the student and will not be paid by the Walton International Program.

Vehicles

No student may own or ride a motorcycle. Students may own automobiles provided such ownership is approved in advance by the Program Director and evidence of proper license and insurance is provided.

WISP STUDENT MANUAL EXCEPTIONS

The Director will not allow exceptions to these policies. In the rare case of an exception, it must be in writing and signed by the Walton Director and the Vice President for Student Success. Failure to comply with the stated policies may result in disciplinary action and/or withdrawal of the scholarship. Students may appeal the Directors decision in writing.

Name: _____ Sign: _____ Date: _____