Policy

The purpose of this policy is to determine the conditions under which international students may receive tuition remission. The tuition remission, effective as of the date listed for this policy, is $3,000 per academic year (or $1,500/semester). Tuition remission may be pro-rated according to criteria listed in this document. Past tuition remission policies will be on file with the Office of International Education.

Authority

The UW-River Falls Chancellor issues this policy in accordance with the Administrative Policy process. The Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance is responsible for the administration of this policy. Request an exception to this policy by writing to administrative-policy@uwrf.edu.

Background and Purpose

The guiding principal for this policy is that international students enrich the UW-River Falls campus and learning environment. Therefore, it is appropriate to strategically utilize non-resident tuition remission to enhance international student enrollment with the priority being degree-seeking international students. Tuition remission can significantly enhance recruiting efforts by keeping UWRF competitive with other universities, especially for students who have multiple admissions offers, and assist with retention of students.

The basis for offering tuition remission for international students is in accordance with Chapter 36 of the Wisconsin Statues. Chapter 36.27(3) states that:

“Tuition Remissions. The board may remit nonresident tuition either in whole or in part at each institution, but not other fees:

a) To nonresident students upon the basis of merit, to be shown by suitable tests, examinations, or scholastic records and continued high standards of scholastic attainment
b) To additional students who, in the judgment of the board, are deserving of relief from the assessment of nonresident tuition.
c) In addition to the remission of nonresident tuition under this subsection, the board may, as athletic scholarships, grant full remission of fees and nonresident tuition, up to the maximum number allowed by the appropriate athletic conference as recommended by the chancellor of each university.
d) The board may remit nonresident tuition and fees, in whole or part, to resident and nonresident graduate students who are fellows or who are employed within the system as faculty, instructional academic staff, or assistants with an appointment equal to at least 33% of a full-time equivalent position.”
Criteria

Eligibility

1. Students must be new (including transfers and ELT students transitioning into degree programs) degree-seeking international undergraduate and graduate students to be eligible for a remission.

2. Students must meet the current UWRF admissions standards.

3. Students who enroll in a full course load of degree courses (at least 12 credits for undergraduates, 8 credits for graduate students) will receive the full tuition remission even if they add ESL courses beyond the minimum 12 credit undergraduate full-time load. Students who enroll in no more than 3 credits of ESL-designated courses to achieve their full-time load will be eligible only for 75% of their tuition remission for that term (i.e. 9 credits of undergraduate degree courses and 3 credits of ESL). Students who enroll in more than 3 credits of ESL-designated courses as part of their full-time load will not be eligible for a tuition remission for that particular term. ESL courses listed as Modern Language-designated courses are considered degree courses and thus not ESL-designated courses.

4. Students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.5 for undergraduates and 3.0 for graduate students. These GPA standards have been established to encourage international student academic performance. These standards may be higher than those listed in the UWRF Academic Suspension and Probation Policy.

5. Undergraduate students receiving a tuition remission may receive the remission for no more than 10 semesters. Graduate students may receive the remission for no more than six semesters.

6. International students must maintain F-1 SEVIS compliance and F-2 SEVIS compliance for their dependents (if applicable).

7. Occasionally international students are allowed to carry a reduced course load, as an approved SEVIS exception. International students who have been receiving the tuition remission will continue to be eligible for a remission proportional to the course load carried (e.g., an undergraduate student carrying 9 credits will be eligible for 75% remission). Seniors in their final semester, for example, may not need to carry a full-time course load in order to graduate.

8. Remission will only be granted for fall and spring terms (not summer or J-term).

9. Students who do not meet the requirements for a tuition remission will be given a warning at the end of that semester and will have the following semester to meet the eligibility requirements. Students who do not meet the requirements at the end of that semester will become ineligible for a remission for the remainder of their time in their current education level (i.e., undergraduate or graduate).

Additional Limitations

1. International students are not eligible for a tuition remission if they:
a) are participating in exchange programs (J-1) where they do not pay tuition to UWRF

b) are attending UWRF under a special partnership agreement/inter-institutional agreement that offers the Return to Wisconsin tuition rate (AP-01-121 International Agreements)

c) are admitted to undergraduate or graduate programs with special tuition rates (e.g. Early Childhood).

2. In no case shall the tuition of an international student be less than resident tuition rates.

3. All students will pay full/regular student segregated fees.

4. With the exception of revenue from ELT-designated courses and from programs with special tuition rates (see item 1. under Additional Limitations), all revenue from international students will be collected in the same manner as other tuition and 100% of these funds will be part of the university’s general revenue pool.

5. All agreements and actions engaged in by UWRF personnel must comply with federal, UW System, NCAA and other related laws and policies.

Criteria for Withdrawing or Denying Tuition Remission

1. International students who fail to maintain immigration status will be required to leave the USA and will no longer be eligible for the tuition remission.

2. It is discovered that false information was provided in order to obtain the tuition remission.

3. Students are granted a departmental assistantship or a foundation grant or fellowship, which will cover their tuition.

4. Students fail to complete the full-time course load (as defined in this policy under item 3. under Eligibility) for two consecutive semesters of enrollment. Successful completion includes all grades from A to D-, S and P. Incomplete course and failed courses are not considered successful course completion. Students will be warned in writing by Financial Aid as part of the satisfactory academic progress policy.

Procedure

The student’s degree-seeking status and tuition rate will be determined at the point of admission to UWRF based on the application materials provided. The Office of Financial Aid will confirm the remission awards, and the results will be shared with the Student Billing office for entry on the student’s e-SIS account.
Appeals

If a remission is denied, reduced, or withdrawn, a student may make a written appeal for reinstatement by providing proof and/or documentation of change of circumstances, or by demonstrating “extenuating circumstances” (e.g. medical documentation, etc.). The appeal must be made within 30 days of notification of loss of tuition remission. Depending on the circumstance, exceptions made be made. The appeal process with include the International Student Services Coordinator and the Assistant Vice Chancellor for International Education.

University Responsibilities

This policy will be carried out through the UWRF Admissions, Financial Aid and Student Billing offices, with support and assistance from UWRF International Student Services, Registrar and Institutional Research, and other offices as deemed necessary.

Department/Unit Responsibilities

International Education
Admissions
Registrar
Student Billing
Financial Aid

Contact
Please email questions about this policy to administrative-policy@uwrf.edu.