Yale
DIVINITY

International Students Admissions Guide

Inspire the Minds that Inspire the World

Yale Divinity School educates and inspire the scholars, ministers, and leaders of the global future. Students from a full spectrum of backgrounds and Christian denominations come together at YDS to develop their faith and intellect while beginning a lifetime of ministry, scholarship, and service to church and world.

YDS fulfills a critical role preparing leaders at a time of dramatic shifts in the global theological landscape. The student body represents cultures, ethnicities, and faith communities from around the world. They are taught by a world-class faculty of scholars and teachers eager to prepare students for the new global century. Our daily ecumenical worship services in Marquand Chapel reflect the great variety of theological and worship traditions represented here.

DEGREE PROGRAMS

Master of Divinity (MDiv.)

The three-year Master of Divinity (MDIV) degree at YDS prepares students for ordination and parish ministry in the various Christian denominations. Courses of study include biblical interpretation, theology, ethics, the history of Christianity, and the practical aspects of ministry such as preaching, pastoral counseling, and Christian education. Part of ministerial formational also includes a Supervised Ministries placement, which is commonly an internship in a church, hospital, or social service agency. Students are also able to fulfill denominational polity requirements of their particular church.

The Master of Divinity program at YDS develops the skills necessary for professional ministry. Academic work in the practical field includes instruction by a homiletical faculty known around the world, and pastoral care and Christian Education faculty that are unparalleled. The ecumenical setting of YDS nurtures students within their own traditions while preparing them for ministry in a post-denominational world. Yale Divinity School welcomes applications from graduates of accredited national and international colleges or universities

Master of Art in Religion (MAR)

Yale Divinity School offers the Master of Arts in Religion (MAR) degree both as a comprehensive and a concentrated program. Both comprise a two-year, 48 credit course of study. The comprehensive MAR degree prepares students for many forms of lay ministry or service (secondary teaching, college or hospital chaplaincy, non-profit management, religion writing, to name but a few of the paths our graduates pursue), while the concentrated MAR degree often serves as a preparation for doctoral study.

The comprehensive program consists of a study of the various theological disciplines, including biblical studies, systematic theology, liturgics, and historical Christianity with electives drawn from courses which deal with Christianity in the larger context of culture. Students are encouraged to take courses in other professional schools and departments of the University.

The concentrated program offers the following academic areas of specialization:

- *Asian Religions*
- *Black Religion in the African Diaspora*
- *Ethics*
- *Hebrew Bible*
- *History of Christianity*
- *Liturgical Studies*
- *New Testament*
- *Philosophical Theology and Philosophy of Religion*
- *Practical Theology*
- *Religion and Ecology*
- *Religion and the Arts*
- *Second Temple Judaism*
- *Theology*
- *Women's, Gender, and/or Sexuality Studies in Religion*
- *World Christianity/Missions*

Students will work closely with a professor from their respective discipline and are encouraged to take courses in other professional schools and departments of the University. Applicants to the concentrated MAR degree must have sufficient background in the discipline (undergraduate major or minor) to be accepted into the program.

Master of Sacred Theology (STM)

Graduates of theological schools of recognized standing who have obtained the M.Div degree may be admitted to a program of studies leading to the Master of Sacred Theology (S.T.M.) degree. The work for this theological degree may be regarded as a fourth year of preparation for the Christian ministry. It may be used for advanced training for a specialized form of Christian service (such as college or university ministry; chaplaincy; urban or inner-city ministry; home missions; foreign missions; or ministry to the elderly). The S.T.M. program may also be used as a year of specialized work in one of the theological disciplines or as preparation for doctoral studies.

A candidate for the S.T.M. degree must complete the equivalent of at least twenty-four credit hours of graduate study. In addition, a candidate is required to submit an extended paper, an independent thesis, or a project in the candidate's area of concentration. Applicants must indicate on their admissions application their proposed area of concentration and the faculty member with whom they would like to study.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

International students are a vital part of Yale Divinity School's vibrant campus culture. The Office of Admissions and Financial Aid welcome applications from international students all around the globe. We are committed to offering support in any way we can for international applicants.

The application and all accompanying documents including letters of recommendation and transcripts must be submitted electronically.

01 Bachelor's Degree

All applicants must have earned a baccalaureate degree from an accredited national and international college or university prior to matriculating at Yale Divinity School. You may submit an application before receiving your degree, or while your degree is still in progress, as long as the degree will be completed prior to matriculation.

02 Personal Statement

Applicants must submit a personal statement apprising the Admissions Committee of reasons for considering theological education, of formative influences in making this decision, of vocational objectives, and of ways in which the Divinity School's resources can prepare applicants to meet their stated objectives.

It should be two pages, double-spaced, 12-point font.

03 Academic Writing Sample

An academic writing sample is required that illustrates the applicant's ability to analyze and argue on a particular subject. The Admissions Committee requests a writing sample in order to assess how you write--style, clarity, facility with the English language, and a grasp of academic prose. It is not required to be a Religious Studies or Bible-oriented paper. It should not be a sermon nor is it an appropriate venue for fiction or autobiography.

It should be a maximum of five pages, 12 point font, double-spaced, not including citation pages.

04 Letters of Recommendation

Three letters of recommendation are required. Additional letters will not be accepted. All recommendation letters should be newly written and address an applicant's potential for success in the program to which they are applying at Yale Divinity School. Career services dossiers will not be accepted. All letters must be in English.

Letters must be submitted electronically by recommenders through the application portal. Applicants are required to enter the names and contact information for their recommenders directly in the application section for references and each recommender will receive a link to submit a letter.

Master of Divinity applicants should submit two letters that speak to their academic potential, and the third letter must be a pastoral recommendation that addresses an applicant's suitability for ministry. If an applicant has been out of school for seven (7) years or more, two professional references are acceptable, along with a pastoral letter of recommendation.

Master of Religion applicants should submit three letters that address their academic potential in either the comprehensive or the concentrated program. If an applicant has been out of school for seven (7) years or more, professional references that address an applicant's professional abilities and academic potential are acceptable.

Master of Sacred Theology applicants should submit three letters that address academic potential. The letters should address the applicant's research interests and their preparedness to complete their proposed course of study in the STM program.

05 Transcripts

Transcripts from each college, university, and professional school attended and/or graduated must be submitted as part of the application process. For purposes of evaluating the application, unofficial copies of all transcripts should be uploaded to the online application portal. A final official transcript is required for all admitted students prior to matriculation.

Final official transcripts may be certified electronic transcripts or traditional paper transcripts. All transcripts must be in English or accompanied by an English translation. All transcripts should clearly state the date the degree was awarded.

Certified electronic transcript should be sent to : **divinity.admissions@yale.edu**

Paper transcripts must be received in an envelope sealed by the issuing institution and contain authentication, such as a signature or raised seal. Paper transcripts can be mailed to:

Yale Divinity School
Office of Admissions
409 Prospect Street
New Haven, CT 06511

06 Résumé

A current résumé or curriculum vitae must be submitted.

07 English Language Proficiency Requirement

Yale Divinity School requires the IELTS Academic scores from all applicants for whom English is not the primary or native language, and who did not complete their baccalaureate degree at an institution where the sole or primary language of instruction is English.

IELTS Academic scores must be a minimum 7.0 in each area.

Official scores may be submitted electronically by the IELTS test center via the E-Delivery service. When you take this test, please specify **Yale University Yale Divinity School** as a score recipient. To identify us in the IELTS system, our address is 409 Prospect Street, New Haven, CT 06511. Paper score reports can also be sent to this address.

Exemptions

If your baccalaureate degree was completed at an institution where English is the primary language of instruction, then you will not need to submit IELTS scores along with your application. No exemptions are made on the basis of an advanced degree from any institution.

TOEFL Scores are not accepted.

08 Application Fee

Applications submitted by the priority deadline, January 8, will require a non-refundable fee of$50.00 (U.S.). Applications submitted after the priority deadline, will require a non-refundable fee of $75.00 (U.S.). Application fees are payable online by credit card. Applications submitted without payment of the application fee will not be processed.

09 Admissions Interview

The Admissions Committee encourages, but does not require, personal interviews during the application process. You are welcome to request an interview by emailing Assistant Director of Admissions and Recruitment, Edlyn Jones at edlyn.jones@yale.edu.

Important Dates

01	02	03	04	05	06
Applications Open	**Priority Application Deadline**	**Standard Application Deadline**	**Financial Aid Application Deadline**	**Admissions Decisions Released**	**Deadline To Respond to Offer**
Early September	January 8	February 1	March 1	March 15	April 15

FINANCIAL AID FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The goal of the financial aid program at Yale Divinity School is to enable students enrolled in its degree programs to manage and meet their institutional and living expenses without diverting undue energy or attention from their educational responsibilities.

Merit Scholarships

Yale Divinity School awards merit scholarships to selected Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Religion degree applicants each year. YDS has no application form specifically for merit scholarships; all students applying for admission to the MDIV and MAR programs are considered for merit awards.

Merit awards are determined by the Admissions Committee based on students' Admissions applications.

YDS merit scholarships are awarded based on a variety of factors, including (but not limited to) applicants' talents and achievements, exceptional academic excellence, evidence of commitment to social justice work, demonstrated leadership ability, and promise for ministerial leadership and service to churches.

Students are notified in their admission letter if the Admissions Committee has selected them as merit scholars. Students who are offered merit awards must complete a full financial aid application to receive the scholarship.

In 2026–2027, all YDS merit scholarships will cover 100% of tuition costs and provide an annual stipend of $13,500 or $15,000 for other educational and living expenses.

Need-Based Scholarships

Yale Divinity School awards need-based scholarships with a commitment toward funding students from a wide variety of backgrounds. All YDS degree students with demonstrated financial need will receive a full tuition scholarship.

In 2026–2027, all YDS need-based scholarships will cover 100% of tuition costs and provide an annual stipend of $4,500 for other educational and living expenses.

Scholarships are renewable annually, provided the student maintains satisfactory academic progress and completes a YDS financial aid application each year.

Students enrolled in fewer than 9 credits and students in the ***Master of Sacred Theology*** degree program are eligible for full tuition scholarships only; they are not eligible for YDS stipends. Non-degree students and students in the STM for Ministry Professionals program are not eligible for YDS financial aid.

YDS Dining Benefits

All YDS degree students, regardless of financial aid status, receive free dining credits for use in the Divinity School Refectory. There are no cash equivalents or reimbursements for the free dining credits, and the credits cannot be used at other dining locations on campus.

The YDS Refectory offers breakfast and lunch options Monday through Friday and provides an inviting place for members of the YDS community to eat, talk, and spend time together. For more information on the Refectory, visit the Yale Hospitality website.

In 2026–2027, full-time degree students will receive $1,300 in annual dining credits; part-time degree students will receive $650 in annual dining credits.

Degree students who want a declining balance to use at other Yale Dining locations on campus may purchase Eli Bucks on the Yale Hospitality website. Students who have used all of their free dining credits may use purchased Eli Bucks at the YDS Refectory as well. Nondegree students may also purchase Eli Bucks.

Campus Employment

International students with F-1 visa status are eligible for most jobs listed through Yale's Student Employment Office. Many students use earnings from a campus job to help with their expenses. Wages from campus jobs are paid directly to the student each week. Matriculated students can find job listings, applications, and other resources on the Student Employment website.

To be eligible for on-campus employment you must be enrolled in a full course of study and remain enrolled full-time. Students may work "on campus" up to 19 hours per week (each week) when school is in session, and full-time (more than 20 hours a week) during holiday and vacation periods.

Grant Aid from Other Sources

Students are encouraged to seek outside scholarships and grants to supplement their financial aid awards from YDS. Such funding may include support from students' home churches, dioceses, or local foundations, as well as from government or private organizations.

Financial Aid Application

YDS financial aid application forms for the 2027–2028 academic year will be available in late December 2026.

All prospective students who have started or completed a YDS Admissions application will receive an e-mail notice when the forms become available.

All international students seeking financial aid, including those seeking only merit scholarships, will be required to submit the **Financial Aid Application for International Students Form**.

Admitted international students who matriculate at YDS must also complete the **YDS International Student Financial Resources Form** to document financial resources for U.S. student visa requirements. A link to the form is sent to matriculated students in the spring.

The Deadline to apply for financial aid is March 1st.

TUITION & FEES

2026–2027 Cost of Attendance

The standard single-student budget below is used in calculating eligibility for financial aid, including grants and loans. The budget assumes a modest lifestyle for a single student in New Haven during the academic year. All costs other than tuition are estimates provided for budgeting; students' actual costs may differ. Estimated costs for a single semester would be half the amounts listed in the table below.

Tuition	$31,192
Hospitalization insurance	$3,764
Living Expenses	
Housing*	$9,000
Food	$5,032
Books, Course Materials, Supplies, and Equipment	$1,200
Transportation	$1,772
Miscellaneous Personal Expenses	$5,868
Total	$57,828

*This estimate is for single-student on-campus housing.

VISA PROCESSING

In order to receive a visa to study in the United States, international students must show proof that they have sufficient funds to cover living expenses, travel expenses, tuition, and health fees for one year of study. Although international applicants are eligible for scholarship assistance from YDS, that assistance by itself is not sufficient to secure an I-20.

International students must be admitted by the Admissions Committee and must have accepted their offer of admission before the application process for an I-20 can begin.

Documentation of Financial Resources

Admitted international students must provide documentation showing financial resources at least equal to the YDS Estimated Cost of Attendance minus their Yale Divinity School scholarship award. This evidence is required for Yale to process documents needed for student visa applications.

Documentation could be in the form of bank statements or official award letters from scholarship organizations, government offices, employers, or sponsors.

Spouses, Partners and Children

Students bringing a spouse and/or dependents with them to the U.S. are required to provide evidence of funds to cover their own costs as well as the estimated cost of their family members' living expenses while in the United States. Documentation must show financial resources at least equal to the YDS Estimated Cost of Attendance minus the Yale Divinity School scholarship award, plus the appropriate amount(s) from the table below.

The estimated costs for family members in the table below do not include the cost of family medical insurance. However, please be aware that family members accompanying a student to the U.S. are required to have health insurance coverage. Students should plan for that cost in addition to the finances documented for visa purposes. Please note that estimated costs for family members' living expenses usually increase each year.

Additional Financial Resources for Family Members (2026–2027)

Spouse only	$9,250
1 dependent/child only	$15,250
Spouse + 1 dependent/child	$22,000
Per additional dependent/child	$6,000

Once the Financial Aid Office receives all of a student's required documentation, an I-20 will be requested from the Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS). OISS serves as the immigration adviser for all entering international students and their accompanying family members. When the I-20 is ready, OISS will send it to the student electronically. The I-20 is not issued more than 3 months prior to the start of a student's first semester.

HOUSING

Yale Graduate Housing offers a variety of housing options; from dormitories and suites, to one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments. Yale Graduate Housing also manages a housing website, that provides off-campus, alternative housing for all members of the Yale community.

Additionally, Yale Graduate Housing offers dedicated on-campus housing options exclusively for Divinity Students.

Divinity Apartments

Bellamy, Fisher, and Curtis Halls

There are approximately 85 Sterling Quad apartments, located in Bellamy, Fisher, and Curtis Halls. All are unfurnished one-bedroom and two-bedroom shared apartments. All utilities are included in rent (heat, hot water, electricity). These apartments are not suitable for children.

Bauer Hall at The Living Village

Giving back to the environment more than it takes, the newly constructed regenerative living community will be the largest living building residential complex on a university campus. Designed to meet the Living Building Challenge, the most aggressive for sustainable buildings today, this residence will serve as a key component of Yale Divinity School's sustainable future.

The three-story building will have three student apartment types (Micros, Efficiencies, 1 Bedroom) and will have a one-year residency limit per resident. All units will be fully furnished and will include access to communal lounges, study rooms and a bike storage room. The building is fully ADA compliant, including elevators and accessible rooms.

Divinity Students coming with families should seek family housing or off campus housing options.

Explore Housing Options:
housing.yale.edu

COMMON QUESTIONS

Can a student enroll in the spring semester?

No. YDS does not offer January admissions.

Must the applicant have majored in religion or theology as an undergraduate student?

No. Many of our applicants come to YDS with backgrounds in religious studies, scripture, theology, or pre-ministry, but it is not a requirement. It is suggested that applicants have a strong background in the liberal arts, namely philosophy, english, history, or religion/theology. The coursework at YDS is rigorous and in order for the admissions committee to accurately evaluate a candidate's ability to succeed here academically evidence of success in liberal arts coursework is essential. Applicants should also possess strong writing and critical thinking skills.

Are GRE scores required?

No, GRE scores are not required. We do not consider them when reading applications.

Is an internship required?

Students in the Master of Divinity program are required to complete two consecutive terms of a full-or part-time Supervised Ministries component in church, social, educational, or clinical ministry with supervision, or a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE).

Are there regular breaks throughout the year?

Yes, YDS actually has several "reading periods" throughout the year. Reading periods typically fall in early October, the week of Thanksgiving, early December (prior to finals), early February, and early May (prior to spring exams). There is also a three week Christmas recess and a two week spring break in March. School is closed on both Martin Luther King Day and Good Friday, as well.

Is there an infirmary or health facility on campus?

All full time degree-candidate students at YDS and the University at large are enrolled in the Yale Health Plan's basic coverage program. The YHP Basic Coverage covers preventative health and medical services. Students are then required to purchase hospitalization and prescription drug coverage, unless they are covered under another policy (via a spouse or parent). Fees are posted to a student's bill.

May I join a chorus or band at YDS?

Students at YDS may participate in the Marquand Chapel Choir, the Marquand Gospel Choir, students may audition for parts in a cappella groups, the Sacramental Winers (females) and the Bible Belters (males). There is also a Praise and Worship band, as well as several musical groups throughout the University that students are welcome to join.

Is there a Ph.D program in Religion?

Yes, but the program is offered through the Department of Religious Studies that is part of the Graduate School of Arts and Science. Please visit http://gsas.yale.edu/(link is external) for more information on the PhD program.

CONTACT US

We're here to answer your questions and guide you through the admissions process. Please feel free to reach out to us.

Office of Admissions and Financial Aid

Phone
(203) 432-5360

Email
div.admissions@yale.edu

Website
divinity.yale.edu

409 PROSPECT ST, NEW HAVEN, CT 06511