



## Refugee and Asylum-Seeker Admissions Policy

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Owner:	Dafi Cohen
Summary:	This policy describes admissions criteria for refugees and asylum-seekers

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### Definitions

A *Refugee* is defined under the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and 1967 Protocol as “a person who is outside his or her country of nationality or habitual residence; has a well-founded fear of being persecuted because of his or her race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion; and is unable or unwilling to avail him or herself of the protection of that country, or to return there, for fear of persecution.”

An *Asylum-Seeker* is a person who asserts that he or she is a refugee, but whose claim has not yet been definitively evaluated by their country of refuge.

A *Refugee Aid Organization* is an international, governmental, or charitable organization established and operating with the exclusive or main purpose of providing advocacy, support and other aid to refugees and asylum-seekers.

A *Refugee Permit* is a permit issued by the applicant's country of refuge, officially recognizing them as a refugee.

An *Asylum-Seeker's Permit* is a temporary permit that indicates that the applicant is awaiting a decision on their application for refugee status or asylum.

### Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to set forth guidelines that enable refugees and asylum-seekers who have no means of presenting evidence of their previous education to obtain admittance to UoPeople's postsecondary educational programs, thereby providing them with an opportunity to earn a University diploma.

### **Policy on Refugee and Asylum-Seeker Admissions**

Where official school transcripts and high school diplomas cannot be obtained, UoPeople will accept a copy of the applicant's Refugee Permit, along with a signed and notarized (or lawyer-certified) affidavit that includes all of the following:

1. The name and location of the applicant's previous educational institution;
2. The nature of their previous studies;
3. The diploma they earned; and
4. Specific reasons as to why they are unable to present proof of their studies.
5. A statement that, should the student submit false testimony, and or, documents, they are liable to be expelled from the University and have their degree invalidated.

For asylum-seekers, UoPeople will accept the following in lieu of the Refugee Permit:

1. An Asylum-Seeker's Permit; or
2. Written certification from an established refugee aid organization stating that the applicant meets the criteria for refugee status under the terms of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol, but has not obtained that status in their country of refuge due to political reasons or bureaucratic delays.

No exceptions shall be made to UoPeople's requirement of proof of English-language proficiency, and or mathematics, should the student require these in order to commence their studies.