The University of Houston-Downtown (UHD) has created joint admissions partnerships with Houston Community College (HCC) that offers international students a positive, productive and affordable educational experience. The partnership allows international students to be admitted at the same time to both a community college and to the University of Houston Downtown. International Joint Admissions (IJA) partnership students can complete a two-year associate degree program at HCC while jointly admitted at UHD where they can complete their four year baccalaureate degree.

**Benefits** - The IJA partnership offers international students numerous benefits and options that otherwise would not be available to them.

- **Joint Admissions** - International students are assured that they are admitted to a four-year baccalaureate program while completing an associate degree.

- **Seamless Transition** - UHD academic advisors will visit each of the community colleges on a regular basis to give students individual attention as they plan their course of study.

- **UHD computer lab** - IJA students have access to UHD computer labs and e-mail accounts so they can receive enrollment information and university news and events.

- **Affordable education** - Houston Community College System offers two-year associate degree programs, with courses that can be used towards a four-year baccalaureate degree at much lower costs than universities can offer. Accurate information regarding tuition and fees for international students enrolled at HCCS can be found at [http://www.hccs.edu/applying-and-paying/tuition-calculator/](http://www.hccs.edu/applying-and-paying/tuition-calculator/) or in the HCCS course catalog.

- **TOEFL requirement** - IJA students who complete associate degrees, including Composition I and II, with a grade of C or better at HCC will be exempt from taking the TOEFL.

The greater Houston community is home to a highly diverse population which offers international students the opportunity to experience first-hand a variety of customs and cultures while attending classes. The HCC and UHD campuses provide support services which are designed to help international students adjust to the academic community and to life in the U.S. The services include orientation, academic advising, counseling, student visas, tutorial labs, computer access, campus information, on-line/e-mail, and scholarships. The International Joint Admissions Partnership goal is to provide successful and enriching experiences to international students by streamlining the process and offering support as needed.