



THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

Fact Sheet | Incoming Exchange Program & Global Visiting Student Program

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill was founded in 1793 as the first public state university in the young United States. Since then, it has grown into one of the most renowned teaching and research universities in the country and internationally, and ranks highly on a global scale. Chapel Hill is a small college town with roughly 60,000 residents, of which 20,800 are undergraduate students and 12,500 are graduate students. The area boasts rich cultural, historic, dining, and sports opportunities that allow students to experience college and community life in the United States.

Although Chapel Hill itself is small, Raleigh, the capital city of North Carolina is only 30 minutes away, and Washington DC can be reached in around 4 hours. The university is also within close driving distance to the beach and the Blue Ridge Mountains. Rolling hills, gentle winters, and picturesque dairy farms all add to the lovely setting of Chapel Hill, which is known as the Southern Part of Heaven.

Application Process

Application Requirements

The online application includes:

- Official transcript
- Proof of English Proficiency (if applicable)
- Essay
- Signature documents

Eligibility

Note: Check with your home university for their requirements which may be higher.

- **GPA:** Minimum 2.8/4.0
- **English Language Proficiency:**
 - TOEFL 85
 - IELTS 6.0
 - Cambridge English First test B2 on the CEFR
 - Duolingo 130 or higher

Application Period

Spring/Calendar Year

- Nomination opens: August 1
- Nominations due: September 1
- Application Deadline: September 15

Fall/Summer/Academic Year

- Nomination opens: December 1
- Nominations due: February 15
- Application Deadline: March 1

Submit online nomination form (see email).

How To Apply

Step-by-step instructions can be found at <https://studyabroad.unc.edu/international-exchange/how-to-apply/>

Other English proficiency guidelines: We will accept a letter from your home institution that certifies that your level of English proficiency meets the requirements based on prior studies in an English-taught curriculum (secondary school or university), or a good passing grade in an English language training course specifically for exchange applicants.

Academic Calendar 2025-2026 ([more details](#))

Fall Semester

Arrival	mid-August
Required In-Person Orientation	August 17, 2025
First day of classes	August 18, 2025
Fall Break	October 16-17, 2025
Thanksgiving Break	November 26-28, 2025
Last day of classes	December 3, 2025
Exams	December 5-12, 2025

Spring Semester

Arrival	early January
Required In-Person Orientation	January 6, 2026
First day of classes	January 7, 2026
Spring Break	March 16-20, 2026
Spring Holiday	April 3, 2026
Last day of classes	April 27, 2026
Exams	April 29-May 7, 2026

Academic Information

Areas of Study Available

Exchange students and Global Visiting Students can take courses in any department within the College of Arts and Sciences, which includes more than 40 academic departments and interdisciplinary curricula. Enrollment will be subject to availability and will be dependent upon students having met any course pre-requisites. Please refer to the UNC catalog for course descriptions, <http://www.catalog.unc.edu/>.

African, African American Diaspora Studies	Communication Studies Computer Science*	Global Studies History	Physics and Astronomy Political Science
American Studies	Dramatic Arts	Italian	Portuguese
Anthropology	Dutch	Latin American Studies	Psychology*
Applied Sciences	Economics*	Linguistics	Public Policy
Archaeology	English and Comparative Literature	Japanese	Religious Studies
Arabic	Environment & Ecology	Marine Science	Romance Languages & Literature
Art History	Exercise & Sports Science	Mathematics	Russian
Asian Studies	European Studies	Medical Anthropology	Sociology
Biology	French	Military Science	Spanish
Biomedical Engineering*	German	Music	Statistic & Operation Research
Chemistry	Contemporary Geography	Naval Science	Studio Art
City & Regional Planning	Geological Sciences	Neuroscience	Women's & Gender Studies
Classics	German & Slavic Languages and Literature	Peace, War and Defense	
Chinese		Philosophy	

Note: It is unlikely that students may take a full course load within a single department.

***These departments might be a bit more challenging to get into due to the high demands of the courses.**

Restricted Areas of Study

Exchange students and Global Visiting Students cannot take courses in certain departments or the professional schools unless their home university has a specific agreement with that school. These include:

Eshelman School of Pharmacy	School of Dentistry	Hussman School of Journalism and Media
Gillings School of Global Public Health	School of Education	School of Medicine
Kenan-Flagler Business School	School of Government	School of Nursing
Law School	School of Information & Library Science	School of Social Work
Shuford Program in Entrepreneurship		
Biomedical Engineering		

Grading

A (94-100) / A- (90-93) / B+ (87-89) / B (84-86) / B- (80-83) / C+ (77-79) / C (74-76) / C- (70-73) / D+ (67-69) / D (60-66) / F (0-59)

Full Time Course Load

Undergraduate - 12 credit hours (4 courses) minimum per semester

Graduate - 9 credit hours (3 courses) minimum per semester

Course Catalog & Class Search

<http://www.catalog.unc.edu/>

<https://reports.unc.edu/class-search/>

Course Registration

Fall/Academic Year

- Course Offerings Available: February
- Course Registration: late March

Spring/Calendar Year

- Course Offerings Available: October
- Course Registration: early November

Transcripts

Mailed 45 days after the last day of exams

Housing/Meals

Housing

On-Campus Housing: International students can select from the 31 campus residence halls. Double occupancy rooms are the only option. Apartment style housing is limited. Learn more about the residence halls and rates at <https://housing.unc.edu/>

Off-Campus Housing: International students can reside off-campus. Students who choose to live off-campus are responsible for finding their own housing. More info at <https://offcampus.unc.edu/>

Meals

Students are not required to purchase a campus meal plan, but it is strongly recommended. Several meal plan options are available that can meet a student's dining habits. Check out the various meal plan options and rates at <https://dining.unc.edu/meal-plans/>

Transportation

Chapel Hill Transit provides fare-free bus service between UNC, Chapel Hill, and Carrboro. For more information about transit options, visit <https://move.unc.edu/transit/>



Immunizations

Students will be responsible for providing proof of immunizations upon their arrival to campus, no later than 30 days from the start of classes. Visit <https://campushealth.unc.edu/services/immunizations> for information on required immunizations. Step-by-step instructions on how to complete the Medical History and Immunization Forms will be available to exchange students post-acceptance.

Health Insurance

All students are required to have health insurance coverage. International students can enroll in the university insurance program, Student Blue. Exchange students can waive the Student Blue insurance and substitute it for a preferred insurance policy. Preferred policies must meet the following requirements:

- Minimum total benefit/coverage of \$100,000 (USD) per accident or illness
- Plan deductible of no more than \$500 (USD)
- Minimum of \$50,000 (USD) for medical evacuation
- Minimum of \$25,000 (USD) for repatriation
- Policy must be active for the entire duration of the academic semester

Students cannot start the process of waiving out of the mandatory insurance until after acceptance to the exchange program. More details about the specific waiver process will be provided post-acceptance.

Medical Care

International students at UNC are eligible to use the university's Campus Health Service (CHS), which can provide care for minor illnesses and accidents, immunizations, injections, and other medical services. For specialized treatment, students are referred to medical specialists in the community. Visit <https://campushealth.unc.edu/> for more information about CHS, including services available, hours of operation, and important phone numbers.



Estimated Expenses per semester 2025-2026

Housing (double occupancy in Residence Hall)	\$3,868 (see live rates)
Meal Plan	\$1,795 - \$3,080 (depends on plan selected)
Health Insurance	\$1,308.40 (possible to waive with comparable coverage)
Books and Supplies	\$400 - \$700, varies
Travel and Personal	\$500 - \$1,350, varies
Study Abroad Office Admin Fee	\$300 exchange, \$1,500 Global Visiting Student Program
Visa Application Cost	\$220

Visa and Orientation Information

Visa

International exchange students will apply for a J-1 Non-Degree student visa. This visa will allow you to enter the US 30 days prior to the program start date and depart the US 30 days after the program end date listed on the Form DS-2019. Proof of funds for an academic semester and/or year is required to be issued a Form DS-2019.

Additional information can be found on the [U.S. State Department's Study & Exchange website](#) and on the [UNC International Student & Scholar Services \(ISSS\) website](#).

Mandatory Orientation

All exchange students and Global Visiting Students are required to attend orientation at the start of the exchange program. Orientation is scheduled the day before the first day of class (FDOC).

UNC Chapel Hill Study Abroad Office Contact Information

Address

2009 FedEx Global Education Center
Campus Box 3130
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3130
USA

Website

<https://studyabroad.unc.edu/incoming-exchange/program-overview/>

Advisor

N. Nicole Cobb

Email

incoming_exchange@unc.edu

Phone Number

(+1) 919.962.7002

