



Fact Sheet

2026-2027 Exchanges



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THE UNIVERSITY & LOCATION

The University of Maryland (UMD) is one of the world's top-ranked public research institutions. With more than 100 majors as well as customized programs, we have something to match everyone's interests. You'll find high-tech labs, world-class performing arts, a hugely popular athletics program, and school spirit that can't be beat. The campus is a 1,250-acre oasis in suburban College Park, with green lawns, shady oak trees, and stately architecture.

With a metro stop on campus, College Park is minutes from downtown Washington, D.C. As the nation's capital and home of the federal government, Washington, D.C. is a truly international city hosting foreign embassies, large governmental organizations, a flourishing tech industry, and dozens of free museums to visit. Moreover, you'll be a car, bus, or train ride from Annapolis, Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York.

FAST FACTS

- Founded in 1856 on a 1,250-acre campus, just eight miles from downtown Washington D.C.
- The 2026 U.S. News & World Report ranked UMD:
 - ▶ 42nd in Best National Universities
 - ▶ 13th in U.S. public institutions ranked as Best Global Schools
 - ▶ 16th in Top Public Schools
- UMD's academics include 12 schools and colleges with over 300 degree programs
- Students can join over 800 clubs and organizations
- Home to about 31,000 undergraduate students / 4,300+ total faculty / 414,000+ alumni
- 70 exchange partners / U21 Member / 4,600 international students / 139 countries represented

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Fall Term 2026:

August 26, 2026 to December 21, 2026



Spring Term 2027:

January 22, 2027* to May 20, 2027

Academic Year 2025-2026 (Fall and Spring):

August 26, 2026 to May 20, 2027

The above dates include arrival days and Exchange Student Orientation (beginning the week prior to the first day of classes in the fall, or the weekend before classes in the spring), as well as final exams.

**to be confirmed*



APPLICATION PROCESS

Application Period for Admission

Fall Term 2026	
January 15, 2026	Nominations/Applications Open
March 1, 2026	Nomination deadline <i>Application “best consideration” deadline. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis.</i>
March 15, 2026	Final application deadline <i>Students will need to be prepared to submit documents for immigration purposes by June 1.</i>

Spring Term 2027	
August 1, 2026	Nominations/Applications Open
September 15, 2026	Nomination deadline <i>Application “best consideration” deadline. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis.</i>
October 1, 2026	Final application deadline <i>Students will need to be prepared to submit documents for immigration purposes by November 1.</i>

It is recommended that students planning to take courses in [Limited Enrollment Programs](#) apply by the best consideration deadline.

STEPS FOR APPLICATION & LIST OF REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

STEP 1: Nomination

The Exchange coordinator or advisor at the student's home university must submit the Incoming Exchange Student Nomination Form by the above deadlines. The nomination form will be sent to partners prior to the nomination cycle opening.

STEP 2: MyEA Portal

As soon as the nomination has been confirmed, UMD Education Abroad will create a student account for the incoming exchange student in the online enrollment system, [MyEA](#).

MyEA is the application system that UMD uses to manage student applications and important post-acceptance materials and resources.

This system will automatically generate a message to the student including a temporary login and password that is only valid for 24 hours. Students must log in to MyEA within 24 hours to change their password. Once the student has done so, they can access all required UMD exchange application forms, submissions and readings.

STEP 3: Application–Student submissions

Students submit application documents through MyEA. Application materials on MyEA consist of:

1. Current original transcript of records from home institution

UMD requires the equivalent of a 3.0 on a 4.0 GPA grade scale to be eligible to study at UMD as an exchange student. The transcript must be an official version, signed or stamped by the home university. Students must have completed 2 semesters of study by the start of the exchange program.

2. Proof of submission of the UMD online application

Instructions are provided for students in the MyEA portal.

3. A copy of the photo page of passport

4. Proposed Courses Form

This form allows the incoming exchange team to provide initial guidance on any restricted areas of study. This form is not a course registration form: students are provided registration instructions after acceptance.

5. Proof of English Proficiency

TOEFL, IELTS, or Duolingo tests within are accepted. Alternative forms of proficiency including previous study in English may be accepted, please see the [Apply](#) page (linked below) for further details.

Further details regarding eligibility for exchange study at UMD, including required forms of English proficiency, can be found on the [Incoming Exchange | Apply](#) webpage.

*****Each student's application will not be considered complete and will not be reviewed until all of the forms and submissions have been completed as requested on MyEA. *****

Once a student's application is complete, it may take up to six weeks for UMD to process the application and send the student's acceptance letter. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, so students are encouraged to submit materials as soon as possible.



VISA REQUIREMENTS

Exchange Student Visa Requirements

DS-2019 Form

Once admitted to UMD, exchange students will request a DS-2019 Form using the International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS) online portal, [iTerp](#). The DS-2019 form is the immigration document required to apply for a J-1 Exchange Visitor visa. This document is issued digitally from the ISSS office. Please read more on our website about [applying for a student visa](#), including regarding [DS-2019 requirements](#) and information on proof of financial support.



HEALTH SERVICES, INSURANCE, & VACCINATIONS

Health & Counseling Services

UMD has excellent health care facilities available to students. Please view the [University Health Center website](#) for more details on available services. The [UMD Counseling Center](#) provides free and confidential services by professional counselors to all UMD students.

Health Insurance Requirement for Exchange J-1 Students

Undergraduate and graduate students attending UMD as exchange students are required to purchase the UMD [Student Health Insurance Plan](#). Incoming exchange students will automatically be enrolled in the program and will pay via their UMD student billing account for full-year coverage, or pay up front by credit card for semester-only coverage. Students may request to waive the insurance if they believe they have alternative coverage that meets the requirements; however, this is rarely granted for insurance coverage plans based outside of the U.S.

Vaccinations

There are several vaccines that students must get prior to or at the beginning of their semester at UMD. Students are required to turn in a completed and signed [Immunization Form](#) (see: "Submitting your Immunization Form") before the first day of classes.

A physician needs to sign the form. If students are unable to get all of the required vaccinations before arriving in the US, they can get vaccinated at the UMD Health Center. The SHIP Insurance covers vaccinations.



Note: Students who are required to have the TB test must have the blood test done at the UMD Health Center. Results from home country physicians will not be accepted.

COVID-19 Vaccinations: Vaccinations against the COVID-19 virus are no longer required at UMD but are strongly recommended. For up-to-date information on the university's response to COVID-19 and current regulations, please see the Health Center's [Information for International Students page](#).

ARRIVAL & ORIENTATION

Tips of the Week

ISSS provides Tips of the Week, which are shared with new students prior to arrival. This includes information about academics, related campus activities, communication, insurance, money/banking, cultural considerations, housing, safety & security, transportation, and more. Education Abroad also provides updates specifically for exchange students regarding their early arrival and orientation.

Suggested Arrival

Students are given instructions on how to get to campus from the various international airports in the DC metro area on their MyEA post-acceptance materials.

Undergraduate students who live on campus are given permission to move into their accommodations a few days before Exchange Student Orientation sessions begin. Students who are living off-campus are suggested to arrive a few days prior to International Student Orientation to search for housing, if necessary.

All J-1 visa exchange students can enter the U.S. up to 30 days prior to the start date of the period of coverage listed on the Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor (J-1) Status form (DS-2019 Form). Students should see section three of the form to check their program start and end dates.

Orientation

All exchange students must attend the required Incoming Exchange Student Orientation at the beginning of their first semester. The orientation takes place over the course of three days and begins about a week before the first day of classes for the semester. The following topics are addressed: academics, student code of conduct, housing, immigration, campus tour, health and safety and cultural adjustment. Students will also be provided with the opportunity to go on an excursion to explore Washington, D.C.

COURSES, REGISTRATION & TRANSCRIPTS

Language of Instruction: English

Course Offerings and Registration Guide

Exchange students can select from thousands of course offerings in 12 colleges. A complete list of current course offerings can be found on [UMD's Schedule of Classes](#). Engineering exchange students should also reference the [Engineering Exchanges site](#).

Registration instructions for exchange students are emailed to them after they have been accepted. For non-engineering and non-business courses, students are provided with a registration appointment, which is the day and time at which they may begin registering for courses. Students are encouraged to be prepared to register on that date, as many popular courses will fill up quickly. Seats cannot be reserved for exchange students in UMD classes.

Undergraduate exchange students must take a minimum of 12 credits per semester, which is typically four courses. Graduate exchange students must take a minimum of 48 units per semester, which is typically the equivalent of three graduate level (600+ level) courses.

NOTE: Undergraduate students may be able to take graduate-level coursework on a case-by-case basis. Students must take most of their coursework at the level at which they were admitted to UMD, meaning an undergraduate student must take a majority of coursework at the undergraduate level.

EXPENSES & BUDGETING

Please review the [estimated semester expenses for incoming exchange students](#) at UMD.

Students are waived from paying tuition fees, most mandatory student services fees and application fees to UMD. Incoming students will be required to pay a student activity fee to UMD. This fee will be automatically charged to the student's UMD account. Information regarding the student activity fee will be updated every year on the [UMD Student Financial Services & Cashiering website](#).

For arrival expenses it is recommended that students budget at least \$300 for their first week to cover such expenses as hotels, taxis, and general setting-up costs. Most services will accept all major credit cards, but carrying some cash is also recommended.



ACCOMMODATIONS & DINING SERVICES

On-Campus Accommodations for Undergraduate Students

Undergraduate students are **guaranteed** housing as long as they complete the online housing application on the [Department of Resident Life website](#) by the deadline. Instructions on how to apply for on-campus housing are provided in the post-acceptance documents on MyEA. Students can only apply for housing after they have been accepted and assigned a student and university ID number. [Housing fees](#) depend on the type of housing that is assigned. See the Department of Resident Life website for costs.

Language House

Students who are native speakers of certain languages are invited to apply for the Language house Living Learning Program. This program places students in "language clusters" in a centrally-located residence hall where they agree to speak only the target learning language in common areas within the apartment. It is an excellent way to connect with local students and share in cross-cultural learning. Participating exchange students have the opportunity for a scholarship of up to \$500.

Off-Campus Accommodations for Graduate Students

Graduate students are NOT provided with on-campus housing. Graduate students are assisted with finding off-campus accommodations through resources provided by the [Off-Campus Accommodations Office](#). This office provides students with a searchable database of rooms and apartments that are available for rent in College Park and the surrounding communities.

There are guides about how to conduct your housing search, safety and security, apartments located on Shuttle-UM routes, the local communities, signing a lease, how to find a roommate and much more.

Dining Services

There are many dining services and facilities available on-campus. Students living on or off campus can purchase different types of [dining plans](#). Students living in certain dormitories without kitchen facilities are required to purchase a dining plan and will be automatically billed.

CAMPUS LIFE

On-Campus Facilities & Resources

UMD exchange students have access to a number of recreation facilities on-campus, including the Eppley Recreation Center, which has a full gym with group fitness classes, Outdoor Aquatic Center, Outdoor Recreation Center, and an Adventure Complex.

There are a few other smaller gyms located across campus and intramural sports clubs.

[The Adele H. Stamp Student Union](#) (known as The STAMP) is located at the heart of the campus and has food, events, shops and services and entertainment facilities.

In addition, UMD has a [career center](#), [health center](#), [counseling center](#), [disabilities support services](#), [fraternity and sorority life](#), [eight libraries](#), [several campus diversity offices](#) and [hundreds of student organizations](#).

UMD MASCOT

What is a Terp?

Terps are UMD students, alumni, fans and supporters. It's short for "Terrapins," named for the diamondback terrapin, or turtle, indigenous to the state of Maryland. At UMD, we call the terrapin mascot Testudo and we proudly say, "Fear the Turtle!"





UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND

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