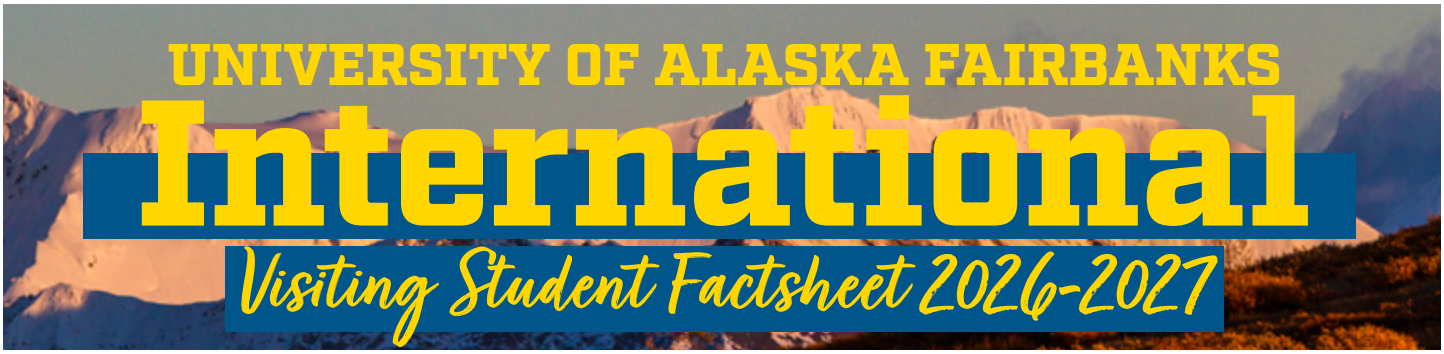

www.uaf.edu/admissions/incoming-exchange.php

The University of Alaska Fairbanks is the flagship campus of the University of Alaska System. We've got our own rocket range, an ice breaking science ship and professors who've published more Arctic research than any other university worldwide. But we offer far more than science — we're enriched by a full suite of art, theater, film and language programs. It's no wonder U.S. News & World Report calls UAF a top-tier national university — the only one in Alaska. UAF leads the world in climate research and is home to the most extreme outdoor laboratory in the United States.

Fairbanks, Alaska's second-largest city, is located just 200 miles south of the Arctic Circle, and is renowned for ample opportunity to view the northern lights. UAF's 2,250-acre campus is perched on a hill with views of the mountains to the south. Outdoor recreation opportunities abound with 26 miles of skiing and walking trails on campus, and the world-famous Denali National Park located a 2.5 hour drive away.

Contact Us

Inbound to UAF

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Outbound from UAF

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Application Process

Your exchange application begins with the help of your coordinator, who completes a nomination form on your behalf. Once UAF receives your nomination, the Incoming Exchange Coordinator will contact you directly with guidance on sending us your required application materials, below.

All required items must be in English and emailed to **rkmenzia@alaska.edu**.
Required application items include:

1. UAF Exchange Application Form
2. Financial Verification Form and proof of funding for duration of program
    a. Exchange students must show documented proof of funding
3. Home University Transcript
4. Copy of passport information page
5. English Proficiency Documentation

Dates and Fees

UAF has a semester-based calendar. We have a fall and spring term, with an optional summer term. The Academic Calendar can be found at https://catalog.uaf.edu/calendar.

Important Dates

Fall 2026 Dates:

15 March: Exchange Nomination Deadline
1 April: Application Deadline
20 August: Suggested arrival
21 August: Mandatory Orientation
3 September: Fee Payment
24 August – 4December: Classes
7 – 12 December: Final Exams

Spring 2027 Dates:

1 September: Exchange Nomination Deadline
1 October: Application Deadline
7 January: Suggested arrival
8 January: Mandatory Orientation
21 January: Fee Payment
11 January – 27 April: Classes
26 April – 1 May: Final Exams

Tuition and Fees for Students

Tuition Waiver Students
Students attending on an approved tuition waiver will not be charged tuition or general university fees. They are responsible for course materials, housing and meal plan costs, which typically range from $6,000-$7,500 per semester, depending on selections.

Tuition-Paying Students
Students without a tuition waiver are billed at the non-resident tuition rate. However, students from a UA sister city qualify for the resident tuition rate.

Tuition & Fee Estimates
Tuition and fees depend on both the number of credits and the specific types of courses selected. You can use UAF's Tuition Calculator to estimate costs https://uaf.edu/handbook/register/tuition.php. Please note that some charges — such as special course or department fees — may not appear in the calculator.

Housing & Meals
All exchange students are required to live on campus and must pay for both housing and a meal plan. Rates vary by residence hall and meal plan choice. https://www.uaf.edu/reslife/

Arrival and Departure Information

When to Arrive	We recommend you arrive at least a day before the residence halls open. Students can arrive in the U.S. up to 30 days in advance. If you would like arrive early please apply for an early move-in date with residence life. Students are required to arrive in Fairbanks to attend the international new student orientation.
How to Get to Campus	The nearest airport is Fairbanks International Airport (FAI). Students can take a cab, an Uber/Lyft, or a city bus to campus. Cab fare is approximately $20; a single ride on the bus is $1.50. UAF may offer airport pickup service during the start of orientation in the fall.
End of Program	Students should plan to stay until the last day of finals listed on the Academic Calendar. Students have 30 days in which they can stay in the U.S. after their program end date listed on their DS-2019, which is the last day of finals for their final semester.
Can I Extend?	Yes, you may extend your visa for study or practical experience with approval from our office. See the visa section below.

Visa Information

Visa Type	J-1 Exchange Visitor Visa: https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/study.html
How to Apply for your Visa	Once your application for study has been approved by UAF, the DS-2019 Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitors (J visa) Status will be prepared. International Student and Scholars Services Office staff will email this document to your alaska.edu account, along with other information, to your home university coordinator, usually by mid-June (though sometimes it can take longer). Once you receive the DS-2019, you can pay your SEVIS fee and arrange your visa interview.
Visa Extensions	Students can extend their visa for an Academic Training opportunity (employment, internship, research, or other practical experience related to your field of study as reflected on your DS-2019). Extension paperwork must be submitted one month prior to your DS-2019 end date.
Insurance	**All international students (Non-U.S. citizens)** are required to purchase a UAF-recommended health insurance plan costing approximately $600-$900 per semester. **International students that hold U.S. citizenship** are not eligible to purchase the UAF health plan. They are encouraged to obtain thier own insurance plan before arrival if they need coverage.

Accommodation and Student Support

On-Campus Housing and Food	**www.uaf.edu/reslife/** Students are required to live on campus for their semester at UAF. UAF offers several Residence Halls for on-campus living. **uaf.edu/dining/** Undergraduate students living on campus are required to purchase a meal plan
Disability Services	**www.uaf.edu/disabilityservices/** UAF Disability Services provides UAF students with access to academic classes and course materials through an interactive accommodation process.
Office of Rights, Compliance and Accountability	**www.uaf.edu/orca/** ORCA works to provide a respectful and welcoming university environment. ORCA serves as a single point of contact for matters involving Title IX, discrimination, student behavioral intervention, crisis management and our Student CARE Team.
Title IX - Sex & Gender Equality	**www.uaf.edu/titleix/index.php** UAF is committed to providing a safe and respectful campus environment free from gender-based violence and sexual harassment. The Title IX Office leads the effort to ensure UAF moves beyond mere compliance with civil rights laws to embodying the principles of respect and equality for all. The office works with many other groups and programs to reach these goals.
Student Health and Counseling Center	**www.uaf.edu/chc/** Medical and mental health support is offered to all students. Students automatically pay a semester fee that gives them access to see a provider for no charge (though there may be charges for medical supplies or tests, if needed).
Campus Resources and Emergency Information	**www.uaf.edu/orca/resources/campus-resources.php** On-campus police force and fire department: **www.uaf.edu/police/** 24-hour Emergency Line: +1-907-474-7721 UAF on Alert: **uafalert.alaska.edu/**

Course Information

Language of Instruction	All courses are conducted in English, except for foreign language courses.
Minimum Language Requirements	• To take regular UAF classes, students must have a minimum 70 on the TOEFL iBT. • Students who have a TOEFL iBT score of 65-69 are required to take one English intensive course. • Students with a TOEFL-iBT score of 46-64 are required to take 12 credits in the English intensive program. Students must have a score of at least 46 to attend UAF. • If your university uses a different proficiency scale, let us know and we can convert the requirements.
Minimum Credits	Undergraduate: 12 in-person credits per semester Graduate: 9 in-person credits at the 400- and 600-level per semester
Restricted Courses	The following courses for credit do not count towards the minimum requirement: • Distance Courses (including courses that meet at a specific time) • Research/Thesis/Non-thesis Research Projects • Directed/Independent Study • Private Lessons • Internships *There may be additional courses that do not count towards the minimum credit requirement that are not listed above.* Internship, Research, and Thesis courses must be arranged in advance of registration. These are not pre-arranged opportunities; the student and faculty must design the course requirements together. This is extremely difficult to do before arrival to Fairbanks. We suggest students interested in these types of opportunities stay for a full year and make arrangements for these activities for their second semester.
Course Offerings	**Course Descriptions:** https://catalog.uaf.edu/course-search/ Courses listed in the Catalog may not always be offered during the semester as predicted. Some courses listed might not be offered in Fairbanks. **Course Search:** https://alaska.search.collegescheduler.com/ This link can be used to search for courses offered by every UA campus all over the state of Alaska. Students must take in-person UAF courses within the city of Fairbanks. When searching for courses, students must be sure to select "UAF – Fairbanks Campus" as the campus. Once students have fulfilled their 9 (graduate) or 12 (undergraduate) in-person credit requirement they can search other UAF campuses for distance courses to take in addition. Students cannot take classes at the other University of Alaska schools (UAA and UAS), even by distance.

Available Areas of Study

Selecting a Field of Study

Program Objective Requirement

At the time of application, students are required to select a "Program Objective" (major/field of study) that they wish to study at UAF. The program objective can be related to their home degree, or it can be entirely different. This program welcomes all students, regardless of the their home degree area of study.

The J-1 student visa requires 9 credits of the student's required 12 in-person semester credits must be related to the program objective.

Example course selection related to a program objective: For students choosing biological sciences, related classes could include a geological sciences course (GEOS), statistics (STAT), wildlife biology and conservation (WLF), or any other course that is related to the program objective, even if it is not in the BIOL subject search.

Once a student has at least 9 credits of their course load related to their program objective, courses in any area may be chosen, however course prerequisites may need to be met.

Bachelor's Degrees

Accounting Art Biological Sciences Business Administration Chemistry Climate & Arctic Sustainability Computer Engineering Computer Science Culinary Arts & Hospitality Engineering (Civil, Electrical, Geological, Mechanical, Mining, Petroleum) English English as a Second Language (limited courses; at the intermediate level) Film & Performing Arts	Fisheries Geoscience History Journalism: Science & the Environment Linguistics Mathematics Music Education Music Performance Natural Resources & Environment Physics Political Science (limited courses) Security & Emergency Management Wildlife Biology & Conservation

Master's Degrees

Anthropology Applied Linguistics Arctic and Northern Studies (limited courses) Art Atmospheric Science (limited courses) Biochemistry & Neuroscience Biological Sciences Chemistry Computer Science (limited courses) Creative Writing Engineering (Civil, Electrical, Environmental, Geological, Mechanical, Mining, Petroleum) English	Fisheries Geophysics/Geoscience Marine Biology Marine Studies Mathematics Natural Resources & Environment (limited courses) Oceanography Physics Security & Disaster Management Space Physics Statistics & Data Science

Research Opportunities

UAF offers graduate and undergraduate students many ways to get hands-on experience — 46% of undergraduate students who receive a bachelor's degree complete a research, thesis or honors project.

Visiting students have the same opportunities as degree-seeking students to take part in research at one of UAF's more than **50 research centers and institutes**. Several lines of research are renowned worldwide, most notably in Arctic biology, Arctic engineering, geophysics, computer science and Indigenous studies.

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS

www.uaf.edu

The University of Alaska (http://www.alaska.edu/alaska) is an equal opportunity/equal access employer and educational institution. The university is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination (http://www.alaska.edu/nondiscrimination) against individuals on the basis of any legally protected status. EM Comm 10/2025