

# 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

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

## Spring Semester

|                                       |                      |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Arrival</b>                        | early January        |
| <b>Required In-Person Orientation</b> | January 6, 2026      |
| <b>First day of classes</b>           | January 7, 2026      |
| <b>Spring Break</b>                   | March 16-20, 2026    |
| <b>Spring Holiday</b>                 | April 3, 2026        |
| <b>Last day of classes</b>            | April 27, 2026       |
| <b>Exams</b>                          | 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<br>Diaspora Studies | Communication Studies                       | Global Studies         | Physics and Astronomy          |
| American Studies                              | Computer Science*                           | History                | Political Science              |
| Anthropology                                  | Dramatic Arts                               | Italian                | Portuguese                     |
| Applied Sciences                              | Dutch                                       | Latin American Studies | Psychology*                    |
| Archaeology                                   | Economics*                                  | Linguistics            | Public Policy                  |
| Arabic                                        | English and Comparative<br>Literature       | Japanese               | Religious Studies              |
| Art History                                   | Environment & Ecology                       | Marine Science         | Romance Languages & Literature |
| Asian Studies                                 | Exercise & Sports Science                   | Mathematics            | Russian                        |
| Biology                                       | European Studies                            | Medical Anthropology   | Sociology                      |
| Biomedical Engineering*                       | French                                      | Military Science       | Spanish                        |
| Chemistry                                     | German                                      | Music                  | Statistic & Operation Research |
| City & Regional Planning                      | Contemporary Geography                      | Naval Science          | Studio Art                     |
| Classics                                      | Geological Sciences                         | Neuroscience           | Women's & Gender Studies       |
| Chinese                                       | German & Slavic Languages<br>and Literature | Peace, War and Defense |                                |
|                                               |                                             | 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<br>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

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

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### Phone Number

(+1) 919.962.7002

