International Student & Scholar Services

516 High St. MS 9078-S
Bellingham, Washington 98225
Email isss@wwu.edu

Name of institution	Western Washington University https://www.wwu.edu/
Academic term dates	https://registrar.wwu.edu/term-dates
Information website for exchange students	https://isss.wwu.edu/
Deadlines	Fall start Nomination: March 15 Application: April 1 Winter/Spring start Nomination: October 1 Application: October 15 Application link: WWU Exchange Student Application
Contact person for incoming exchange students (students coming to WWU)	Richard Bruce International Student & Scholar Services Western Washington University 516 High Street MS 9078-S Bellingham, WA 98225 Phone: +1-360-650-6517 Email: Richard.Bruce@wwu.edu
Contact person for outgoing exchange students (WWU students going abroad)	Dan Lindeman Education Abroad Western Washington University 516 High Street MS 9094 Bellingham, WA 98225 Phone: +1-360-650-7241 Email: Dan.Lindeman@wwu.edu

Areas of study open to exchange students	Exchange students can usually take any courses at WWU, but there are some limitations on enrollment in the College of Business, Environmental Studies, Chemistry, Computer Science, Political Science, Biology, Geology, Physical Education, Kinesiology, Health and Recreation, Design, Psychology, and Education. Some Music and Art classes require an audition or portfolio.

	Physical Education classes: Physical Education classes have additional charges, so the normal exchange tuition waivers provided by WWU won't cover them. Students must pay the additional charge per credit fee to enroll in PE classes. **Online classes:** Courses offered 100% online are not available for exchange students. There is no guarantee of enrollment in all desired courses, so flexibility is required, and the courses requested may not be the actual courses taken while at WWU. Course enrollment is often at the discretion of the course instructor and/or academic department or depends on the space available in any given course. Information about academic departments https://www.wwu.edu/department-directory and courses offered, https://registrar.wwu.edu/browse-classes .
Credit system	Credits vary from 1 hour to 5 hours; one credit is equal to one hour of class time per week. One hour of class time is expected to require 2-3 hours of homework. Exchange students are required to register for a minimum of 12 credits per quarter (usually 3 or 4 courses) to meet their student visa requirements. A typical course load is 12-15 credits per quarter.
Language of instruction	English
Units/degrees offered in English	All courses
Language classes other than English available as part of exchange (if applicable)	Enrollment in language classes other than English are an option depending on space availability and level of ability.

English language requirements (if applicable)	Applicants must submit English proficiency scores unless English is the applicant's native language. Minimum scores required are the following: TOEFL 79 iBT (4 overall on new TOEFL scale) or 550 (paper-based) IELTS 6.5 Duolingo. 105 or higher
Housing assistance offered & contact person or web link	Exchange students are housed in on-campus, four-person Birnam Wood Apartments https://housing.wwu.edu/life-on-campus/birnam-wood or Buchanan Towers, https://housing.wwu.edu/life-on-campus/buchanan-towers . On-campus married housing is not available. Single rooms may be available depending on space, however the student is responsible for the additional cost. Information about housing can be found here, https://housing.wwu.edu/ .

Housing deadlines	Fall quarter: Early May Winter quarter: Mid-November Spring quarter: Early March
Examination period	During the last week of each quarter: Fall: Mid-December Winter: Late-March Spring: Mid-June
Orientation dates for incoming exchange students	Fall 2026 September 21 Winter 2026 January 4 Spring 2026 March 29 https://registrar.wwu.edu/term-dates
Visa information	After acceptance for exchange, WWU will issue students a DS-2019 visa document for applying for a J-1 Exchange Visitor visa at the nearest U.S. consulate. The U.S. Department of State maintains a useful website on the visa application process, https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas.html .

Health Insurance	U.S. federal regulations require J-1 Exchange Visitor visa holders to have insurance covering them and their accompanying spouse or dependents for sickness or accident during their stay in the U.S. Western Washington University offers an insurance plan for international students, including exchange students, that exceeds J-1 student visa requirements for health coverage. Please see the LewerMark website, https://www.lewermark.com/school- detail/?SID=wwu for more information about what the insurance covers. **All international students at Western Washington University must enroll in the WWU LewerMark Student Insurance plan unless they provide proof of equivalent health insurance coverage from home. If using a health plan from home, students must complete the J-1 Exchange Visitor Insurance Compliance form and provide a copy of their insurance plan to waive out of the WWU insurance.**