



UNIVERSITY  
of VIRGINIA

INTERNATIONAL  
STUDIES OFFICE



The University of Virginia (UVA) was designed and conceived by Thomas Jefferson, the third president of the United States and author of the Declaration of Independence. The University continues to reflect Jefferson's intent to prepare and produce leaders—independent and intelligent citizens ready to make their mark on the future. Founded in 1819, the University has a total enrollment of approximately 25,000 students. UVA is the only U.S. university listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site, and has twelve schools which offer a wide variety of academic disciplines and courses. UVA is home to the nation's oldest student-run honor system, which requires that students pledge not to lie, cheat, or steal. In the 2024 *U.S. News & World Report's* rankings of best colleges, the University of Virginia was ranked the No. 5 best public university in the United States. UVA also ranks in the Top 25 among the best of all national universities, public and private, at No. 24.

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## CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA

Just 120 miles from Washington, D.C., and 30 minutes from the Shenandoah National Park, Charlottesville combines small-town charm with a wide array of cultural opportunities, outdoor activities, and historic surroundings. The city's population is near 46,000 with a metropolitan population nearing 115,000. The student-friendly neighborhood called The Corner is located next to campus and is home to many shops and restaurants. Charlottesville's Downtown Mall is a pedestrian-only street lined with restaurants, shops, theatres, and music venues. Charlottesville is home to many festivals throughout the year, including the Virginia Film Festival, Virginia Festival of the Book and the Festival of the Photograph. Some of the many outdoor activities students can enjoy while living in Charlottesville include hiking, biking, and kayaking. Charlottesville is also located near the homes of three former U.S. presidents, including Thomas Jefferson's famed estate, Monticello.



[Read more about life in Charlottesville:](https://www.virginia.edu/life/charlottesville) <https://www.virginia.edu/life/charlottesville>

## ACADEMICS AT UVA

UVA offers a broad curriculum and a variety of academic disciplines. Many of the UVA schools and academic departments are among the highest-ranking and most well-regarded in the country.

[UVA Facts & Figures:](https://www.virginia.edu/facts) <https://www.virginia.edu/facts>

## CREDIT AND GRADING SYSTEM

4.0 GPA (Grade Point Average) scale, A – F letter grading system

## 2024/25 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Fall 2024	Late August – mid December
Orientation	August 26
Courses Begin	August 27
Thanksgiving Recess	November 27 – December 1
Courses End	December 6
Final Exams	December 9 – December 17

Spring 2025	Mid January – mid May
Orientation	January 12
Courses Begin	January 13
Spring Recess	March 8 – March 16
Courses End	April 29
Final Exams	May 1 – May 9

## COURSES

Exchange students are eligible to enroll in any courses offered at the University (with the exception of the professional schools including Law, Business, and Medicine) as long as any pre-requisites required for the course are met and/or receive instructor permission. Enrollment in the McIntire School of Commerce is limited to students from institutions that have an exchange agreement specifically with the Commerce School. Exchange students enrolled in the Law School, School of Nursing, Darden School of Business, and the McIntire School of Commerce will receive separate instructions directly from those schools on course selection and enrollment procedures.



The [Graduate or Undergraduate Record](http://records.ureg.virginia.edu/) (<http://records.ureg.virginia.edu/>) includes the complete list and description of all courses offered at UVA.

The Course Catalog is the list of courses that are offered for a specific semester or term. It becomes available midway through the previous semester (about 3 months before spring semester classes begin and about 6 months before fall semester classes begin). **Please note that UVA cannot guarantee that an exchange student will be able to enroll in any specific course offered, so students are encouraged to be flexible with alternative courses.**

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Exchange students must be approved and nominated for participation in an exchange program by their home institution. Your exchange coordinator will forward your nomination to UVA and you will be sent instructions for completing the application process.

Your school of enrollment is dependent on the exchange agreement between UVA and your home institution.

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

Students whose first language is not English must submit TOEFL or IELTS test scores (no more than two years old). Students must score at least 90 on the iBT TOEFL or 7.0 on the IELTS.

### EXCHANGE APPLICATION DATES

Term	Fall 2024/Year (August start)	Spring 2025 (January start)
Nomination deadline	March 1	October 1
Application deadline	March 15	October 15
Notification	End of March	End of October





## ACCOMMODATION INFORMATION

Undergraduate exchange students are eligible to apply for residential (on-campus) housing at UVA. Housing offers are made on a space available basis and are not guaranteed. Students can find information about applying for on-campus housing [online](http://housing.virginia.edu/) at <http://housing.virginia.edu/>.

Housing options available to exchange students are listed under the “transfer student” link on the housing webpage.

If you prefer NOT to live in residential housing there are many options available off-campus near the University. Once admitted, students have access to a secure website that offers a listing of a wide variety of off-campus accommodations.

Students planning to apply for on-campus housing should note the date that housing will be available for move-in. *Students who plan to arrive in Charlottesville before your residential housing becomes available will need to contact Housing directly to arrange for an early move-in or make arrangements to stay at a local hotel.*

## ARRIVAL

### TRAVEL TO CHARLOTTESVILLE

The nearest airport is Charlottesville Albemarle Airport (CHO), located approximately 12 km from UVA. The nearest international airport is Washington Dulles (IAD). We recommend flying into CHO as the cost of transportation from Dulles may exceed the difference in airfare. Taxi service and Uber/Lyft are available at CHO. UVA’s Student Council organizes bus trips to and from Dulles at semester start and end, as well as over long breaks: [www.uvastudco.com/airbus](http://www.uvastudco.com/airbus). The Virginia Breeze bus runs between Washington, D.C. and Charlottesville once daily: [virginiabreeze.drpt.virginia.gov](http://virginiabreeze.drpt.virginia.gov). UVA does not offer pick up service.

### ORIENTATION

All exchange students are required to attend a mandatory orientation session held by the International Studies Office.

Additionally, the International Studies Office works with Global Greeters, a student group associated with the department, for fall orientation. Global Greeters host various events, such as meetup dinners, community receptions, and Insider’s Tour, to assist and welcome incoming international students.

## ESTIMATED LIVING EXPENSES

Under the terms of UVA's exchange agreements, UVA tuition and student fees are waived for exchange students. Student fees do not include health insurance (see information below).

Additionally, the ISO requires that all students provide documentation of the availability of at least \$12,178 per semester of attendance at UVA. A bank statement and, if financial support is coming from someone other than the student, a letter of support from the sponsor (such as parents) is sufficient documentation of these funds. \$12,178 is the minimum estimated cost of living based on shared accommodation and including meals, housing, personal expenses, and books and supplies, health insurance. This does not include the cost of transportation to and from Charlottesville, entertainment, or any travel that you may plan to do while in the U.S. Please take this into consideration when planning for your exchange program.

## OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

### HEALTH INSURANCE

Exchange students must have insurance coverage that meets the University's requirements, or will be required to purchase the health insurance plan for UVA students, through Aetna.

For additional information about the University's health insurance requirement please refer to the [Student Health and Wellness](https://www.studenthealth.virginia.edu/insurance) website, <https://www.studenthealth.virginia.edu/insurance>.

### LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

UVA has a free transit system that runs through campus and adjacent neighborhoods, and Charlottesville has an extensive bus system that is free to UVA students. There is also a city-wide scooter and e-bike share with many access points on the UVA grounds.

In addition, many students bike or walk to navigate the beautiful University grounds and to access nearby shops and restaurants.

#### QUESTIONS?

Contact us at  
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More information on  
studying at UVA at  
[issp.virginia.edu](http://issp.virginia.edu)