

International Studies Office

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Incoming Exchange Students

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The University of Virginia (U.Va.) was designed and conceived by Thomas Jefferson, the third President of the United States and the 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 had a total enrollment of 22,805 for the 2017-18 academic year. U.Va. is the only U.S. University listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site. The University has eleven schools which offer a wide variety of academic disciplines and courses. U.Va. is home to the nation's oldest student-run Honor System, which requires that students pledge not to lie, cheat, or steal. In the 2018 *U.S. News & World Report's* rankings of best colleges, the University of Virginia was ranked the No. 3 best public university in the United States. U.Va. also ranks in the Top 25 among the best of all national universities, public and private, at No. 25.



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 47,000 with a metropolitan population nearing 100,000. 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.

www.virginia.edu/exploring.html.

2019/ 20 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Fall semester	Late August – mid December	Spring semester	Mid January– mid May
Orientation	TBD	Orientation	TBD
Courses Begin	August 27	Courses Begin	January 13
Thanksgiving Recess	November 27– Dec 1	Spring Recess	March 7-15
Courses End	December 6	Courses End	April 28
Exams	December 9-17	Exams	April 30 – May 8

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

U.Va. offers a broad curriculum and a variety of academic disciplines. Many of the U.Va. schools and academic departments are among the highest-ranking and most well-regarded in the country. For more information please visit:

<http://www.virginia.edu/facts>

Credit and Grading System

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

COURSES

Exchange students are eligible to enroll in any courses offered at the University (with the exception of the professional schools (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 includes the complete list and description of all courses offered at U.Va. It can be found online at:

<http://records.ureg.virginia.edu/>



The Course Catalog is the list of courses that are offered for a specific semester or term. It becomes available mid-way through the previous semester (about 3 months before spring semester classes begin and about 6 months before fall semester classes begin). **Please note that U.Va. cannot guarantee that an exchange student will be able to enroll in any specific course offered.**

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 U.Va. 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 600 on the paper-based TOEFL, 250 on the CBT TOEFL, or 7.0 on the IELTS.

Exchange Application deadlines:

For Spring (January start): October 1

Notification: November 15

For Fall/Year (August start): March 1

Notification: End of March

ACCOMMODATION INFORMATION

Undergraduate exchange students are eligible to apply for residential (on-campus) housing at U.Va. Housing offers are made on a space available basis and are not guaranteed. Students can find information about applying for on-campus housing 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

We suggest that students try to arrange to fly directly into the Charlottesville/ Albemarle Airport (CHO), located approximately 7 miles (11.5 km) from UVa. The cost of flying into CHO can be somewhat more expensive than arriving at the closest international airport (such as Washington Dulles (IAD) located just outside of Washington, D.C.), but the cost of transportation by taxi or shuttle from Dulles may exceed the cost of the additional airfare. Taxi service is available from CHO. The University does not offer pick up service from the airport.

Orientation

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

ESTIMATED LIVING EXPENSES

Under the terms of U.Va.'s exchange agreements, U.Va 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 \$8,825 per semester of attendance at U.Va. 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. \$8,825 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 US. Please take this into consideration when planning for your exchange program.

OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

Health Insurance

Exchange students will be subject to the University's hard waiver requirement. All students must have insurance coverage that meets the University's requirement or will need to purchase the insurance endorsed for UVa through Aetna.

Local Transportation

Charlottesville is served by an extensive bus system that connects various parts of the University and the surrounding town. Buses are free to U.Va. students. It is not necessary to have a car. In addition, many students bike or walk to navigate the beautiful University grounds and to access nearby shops and restaurants.

