

Visiting Student Factsheet

Academic Year 2024-2025



General Information

University Name	University of Alaska Fairbanks (https://www.uaf.edu)
General Introduction	<p>The University of Alaska Fairbanks, located in Fairbanks, Alaska, USA, is the flagship campus of the University of Alaska System. UAF is a land-grant, sea-grant, and space-grant institution. UAF was established in 1917 as the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines, first opening for classes in 1922.</p> <p>Fairbanks, Alaska's second-largest city, is located just 200 miles south of the Arctic Circle, and is renowned for ample opportunity for viewing 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 ski / walking trails on campus, and world-famous Denali National Park located a 2.5 hour drive away.</p>
Inbound to UAF Contact	Rebecca Menzia, Alaskamester & Incoming Exchange Coordinator rkmenzia@alaska.edu
Outbound From UAF Contact	<p>UAF Study Away Programs</p> <p>Anne Triest, Study Away Advisor aetriest@alaska.edu +1-907-474-6516 PO Box 756400 1747 South Chandalar Drive, Gruening Suite 510 Fairbanks, AK 99775, USA</p>
Emergency	+1-907-474-7721 (24 hours a day)

Application Process

Required Application Materials	<p>All items must be in English. Fill out online or send via email to rkmenzia@alaska.edu:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Online nomination form 2. Online student application 3. Financial Statement Form and proof of funding for duration of program a. Exchange students must document up to \$12,000 USD per semester (depending on program objective and graduate/undergraduate status) b. Tuition-paying students must document up to \$22,000 USD per semester 4. Home University Transcript 5. Copy of Passport 6. English Proficiency Documentation 7. Students from non-partner universities must send additional documents.
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Dates and Fees

Important Dates	<p>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.</p>	
	<p>Fall 2024 Dates: Nomination Deadline: 15 March Application Deadline: 1 April Suggested arrival: 22 August Mandatory Orientation: 22-23 August Fee Payment: 6 September Classes: 26 August – 7 December Final Exams: 9 – 14 December</p>	<p>Spring 2025 Dates: Exchange Nomination Deadline*: 15 March 2024 Application Deadline: 1 October 2024 Suggested arrival: 9 January Mandatory Orientation: 10 January Fee Payment: 24 January Classes: 13 January – 28 April Final Exams: 29 April – 3 May</p>
	<p>*We can accept tuition-paying student nominations through 15 September for spring term.</p>	
Mandatory Fees for Students	<p>There are several mandatory student fees, totalling about \$2,500 a semester, which are not included in a tuition waiver for exchange students. Details can be found here: https://uaf.edu/handbook/register/expenses/#basic</p> <p>Tuition-paying students (those not receiving an exchange tuition waiver) will be responsible for paying tuition at the non-resident rate. If a student is from a UA sister city, they qualify for resident tuition.</p> <p>Tuition and fees are based on the types of courses and number of credits. You can estimate tuition and fees here: https://uaf.edu/handbook/register/tuition.php. This calculator will not calculate every possible fee, such as specific course or department fees.</p> <p>Students living on-campus at UAF will also need to pay for housing and a meal plan.</p>	

Arrival and Departure Information

When to Arrive	<p>Students can arrive in the U.S. 30 days prior to the start date listed on their DS-2019, which is the Friday before classes start. Students are required to arrive in Fairbanks to attend the first day of orientation. If students arrive before the residence halls open, they can request an early move-in date with Residence Life.</p>
How to Get to Campus	<p>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.</p>

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, for you may extend your visa for study or practical experience with approval from our office. See the visa section below.

Accommodation and Student Support

On-Campus Housing	Website: https://www.uaf.edu/reslife/ Students are encouraged to live on-campus for their studies at UAF. UAF offers several Residence Halls for on-campus living. Undergraduate students living on-campus are required to purchase a meal plan: https://uaf.edu/dining/
Disability Services	Website: https://www.uaf.edu/disabilityservices/ If you need accommodation of any kind while at UAF, you should reach out to Disability Services.
Office of Rights, Compliance, and Accountability	Website: https://www.uaf.edu/orca/ Works to provide a respectful, diverse and inclusive university environment. ORCA will serve as a single point of contact for matters involving Title IX, discrimination, student behavioral intervention, crisis management and our Student CARE Team.
Student Health and Counseling Center	Website: https://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 conducted, if needed).
Campus Resources and Emergency Information	Additional Links: https://www.uaf.edu/orca/resources/campus-resources.php UAF has an on-campus police force and fire department: https://www.uaf.edu/police/ UAF on Alert: http://uafalert.alaska.edu/ 24-hour Emergency Line: +1-907-474-7721

Visa Information

Visa Type	J-1 Exchange Visitor Visa: https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/study.html
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How to Apply for your Visa	Once your application for study has been approved by UAF, the <i>DS-2019 Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitors (J visa) Status</i> will be prepared. The Study Away 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). Extension paperwork must be submitted a month prior to your DS-2019 end date.

Insurance

Insurance	All international students are required to purchase a UAF-recommended health Insurance plan costing approximately \$600-\$900 per semester.
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Course Information

Language of Instruction	All courses are conducted in English, except for foreign language courses.
Minimum Language Requirements	<p>To take regular UAF classes, students must have a minimum 70 on the TOEFL iBT.</p> <p>Students who have a TOEFL iBT score of 65-69 will be required to take one English intensive course.</p> <p>Students with a TOEFL-iBT score of 46-64 will be required to take 12 credits in the English intensive program. Students must have a score of at least 46 to attend UAF.</p> <p>If your university uses a different proficiency scale, let us know and we can convert the requirements.</p>
Minimum Credits	<p>Undergraduate: 12 <u>in-person</u> credits per semester</p> <p>Graduate: 9 <u>in-person</u> credits at the 400- and 600-level per semester</p>

<p>Restricted Courses</p>	<p>All of the following courses for credit <u>do not count</u> towards the minimum requirement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Distance Courses (including courses that meet at a specific time) ● Research/Thesis/Non-thesis Research Projects ● Directed/Independent Study ● Private Lessons ● Internships <p>There may be additional courses that do not count towards the minimum credit requirement that are not listed above.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Course Offerings</p>	<p>Course Descriptions: https://catalog.uaf.edu/courses/</p> <p>Courses listed in the Catalog may not always be offered during the semester as predicted. Some courses listed might not be offered in Fairbanks.</p> <p>Semester offerings: https://ssb-prod.ec.alaska.edu/PROD/bwck2sch.p_disp_dyn_sched</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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), not even by distance.</p>

Available Areas of Study

<p>Selecting a Field of Study</p>	<p>Program Objective Requirement</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Students must choose their program objective wisely, as courses taken during each semester of attendance must relate to this program objective. 75% of the student’s required 12 in-person credits must be related to the program objective. This is not simply UAF policy, it is a requirement for the J-1 student visa.</p> <p>An example regarding course selection related to a program objective: A student chooses ‘Biological Sciences’; related classes could include a GIS course (GEOS), Statistics (STAT), Wildlife Conservation and Biology (WLF), or any other course that could be argued to be related to the program objective, even if it is not in the BIOL subject search.</p> <p>Once a student has at least 75% of their credits relating to their program objective, they are free to choose courses in any other subject (though the student will still need to have met prerequisites).</p>
<p>Undergraduate Program Objectives</p>	<p>Associate/Bachelor’s (must take 12 in-person credits from 100-400 level)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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 ● Marine Science ● Mathematics ● Music Education ● Music Performance ● Natural Resources & Environment ● Physics ● Political Science (limited courses) ● Security & Emergency Management ● Wildlife Biology & Conservation

<p>Graduate Program Objectives</p>	<p>Master/PhD (must take 9 credits at 400- or 600-level; at least 3 at 600-level)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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 ● Indigenous Studies ● Marine Biology ● Marine Studies ● Mathematics ● Natural Resources & Environment (limited courses) ● Oceanography ● Physics ● Security & Disaster Management ● Space Physics ● Statistics & Data Science
<p>Research Opportunities</p>	<p>UAF offers graduate and undergraduate students many ways to get hands-on experience -- 46 percent 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, supercomputing, and aboriginal studies.</p> <p>It may be difficult to arrange research opportunities if you only stay one semester; we suggest you stay two semesters if you are interested in conducting research.</p>

