



## International Student & Scholar Services

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Bellingham, Washington 98225  
Email [iss@wwu.edu](mailto:iss@wwu.edu)

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

<b>Areas of study open to exchange students</b>	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.
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	<p><b>Physical Education classes:</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Online classes:</b> Courses offered 100% online are not available for exchange students.</p> <p>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 <a href="https://www.wvu.edu/departments-directory">https://www.wvu.edu/departments-directory</a> and courses offered, <a href="https://registrar.wvu.edu/browse-classes">https://registrar.wvu.edu/browse-classes</a>.</p>
<b>Credit system</b>	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.
<b>Language of instruction</b>	English
<b>Units/degrees offered in English</b>	All courses
<b>Language classes other than English available as part of exchange (if applicable)</b>	Enrollment in language classes other than English are an option depending on space availability and level of ability.

<b>English language requirements (if applicable)</b>	<p>Applicants must submit English proficiency scores unless English is the applicant's native language. Minimum scores required are the following:</p> <p>TOEFL 79 iBT (4 overall on new TOEFL scale) or 550 (paper-based)  IELTS 6.5  Duolingo. 105 or higher</p>
<b>Housing assistance offered &amp; contact person or web link</b>	<p>Exchange students are housed in on-campus, four-person Birnam Wood Apartments <a href="https://housing.wvu.edu/life-on-campus/birnam-wood">https://housing.wvu.edu/life-on-campus/birnam-wood</a> or Buchanan Towers, <a href="https://housing.wvu.edu/life-on-campus/buchanan-towers">https://housing.wvu.edu/life-on-campus/buchanan-towers</a> .</p> <p>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, <a href="https://housing.wvu.edu/">https://housing.wvu.edu/</a> .</p>

<b>Housing deadlines</b>	<p>Fall quarter: Early May  Winter quarter: Mid-November  Spring quarter: Early March</p>
<b>Examination period</b>	<p>During the last week of each quarter:  Fall: Mid-December      Winter: Late-March      Spring: Mid-June</p>
<b>Orientation dates for incoming exchange students</b>	<p>Fall 2026      September 21  Winter 2026      January 4  Spring 2026      March 29  <a href="https://registrar.wvu.edu/term-dates">https://registrar.wvu.edu/term-dates</a></p>
<b>Visa information</b>	<p>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, <a href="https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas.html">https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas.html</a> .</p>

<b>Health Insurance</b>	<p>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 LowerMark website, <a href="https://www.lewermark.com/school-detail/?SID=wwu">https://www.lewermark.com/school-detail/?SID=wwu</a> for more information about what the insurance covers.</p> <p><b>All international students at Western Washington University must enroll in the WWU LowerMark 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.</b></p>
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