

UNC

FACT SHEET 2023-2024

EXCHANGE PARTNER INSTITUTION INFORMATION



UNIVERSITY OF
NORTHERN COLORADO

Office of Global Engagement

CONTACT US

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UNC OGE 23-24 Exchange Fact Sheet for ADVISORS

ABOUT UNC

Founded in 1889 and tucked between the Rocky Mountains and Colorado’s stunning high plains, UNC is a public doctoral research university committed to the success of its students, with close to 7,000 undergraduate students in more than [100 undergraduate programs](#) and 2,900 graduate students in [113 graduate programs](#). The university’s just-right size, expert faculty, and tradition of research and hands-on learning gives students exceptional opportunities and a personalized education.

UNC students experience a personalized education grounded in liberal arts and infused with critical and creative inquiry; establish relationships with faculty and staff that nurture individual development; gain the skills and knowledge that provide upward mobility among alumni; and share a commitment to the values of inclusion, equity, and diversity.

UNC [students](#) are diverse and hard-working, and there’s no one “label” that defines them. More than one-third of UNC undergraduates are the first in their family to go to university. Of all UNC students, more than one-quarter identify as students of color. UNC is on the road to [becoming a designated “Hispanic Serving Institution”](#)

[Our alumni](#) often say the connections they made with faculty made a huge difference not only when they were at UNC, but long after, as they traveled their career and life paths. That partnership and community is something we take great pride in – a university culture that is welcoming, collaborative, supportive and committed to student success, service and education.

UNC’s main campus is located in [Greeley, CO](#)

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

	Fall 2023 August-December	Academic Year 23-24 August - May	Spring 2024 January-May
Orientation (Mandatory)	August 17, 2023	August 17, 2023	January 5, 2024
Classes Begin	August 21, 2023	August 21, 2023	January 8, 2024
Classes End (including final exams)	December 9, 2023	December 8, 2023 May 3, 2024	May 3, 2024
Holiday Period (Housing and Dining closed)	November 22-26, 2023	November 22-26, 2023 Dec 9, 2023 –Jan 5, 2024	March 9-11, 2024

STUDENT NOMINATION AND APPLICATION

All nominations and applications must be submitted online. No applications will be accepted through email or mail.

Step 1: Partner exchange coordinators may nominate students using our online form here https://admissions.unco.edu/register/UNC_exchange_nomination.

Nomination Deadlines (early nominations are encouraged)

- Fall Semester and Academic Year Students: March 15th
- Spring Semester Students: September 15th

Step 2: Based on the nomination information, nominated students will be sent a link to their

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individual exchange application form to complete (select “International Exchange” in the application type), and upload their transcripts, and language scores.

Application Deadlines

- Fall/Academic Year Priority: March 30th
- Spring Priority: October 1st

Step 3: Accepted students must activate Ursa account and UNC Email (BearMail) accounts. Students will be contacted by OGE directly through BearMail with further instructions for requesting a DS-2019 visa support document after they apply. Students will need to demonstrate financial support in the amount of \$9,500 USD per semester.

NOTE: After admission, immigration and other important information will be sent exclusively to the student’s BearMail email address, so it is important that they activate and use the email account immediately.

GPA and English Language Requirement

Nominated students should have a grade point average of at least a 2.5 grade point average on a 4-point scale. [The US Department of State requires](#) that all Exchange Visitors have “sufficient knowledge of the English language to undertake the program for which selected, or the sponsoring organization is aware of the language deficiency and has nevertheless indicated willingness to accept the alien”. In order to meet this requirement, all incoming international exchange students must provide one of the testscores below. Students must submit ONE of the following at the time of application:

- [TOEFL iBT](#): 72 with cut scores no lower than: Listening (16), Reading (16), Speaking (18) and Writing (18)
- [IELTS](#): 6.0 with subscores no lower than 5.5 in each of the following proficiency areas: Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking
- [English 3 Proficiency Test \(E3PT\)](#) with score of 60 (minimum score of 15 in each subsection)
- [Cambridge English B2 First](#): 169 with sub scores no lower than: Reading (162), Use of English (160), Writing (162), Listening (162), Speaking (162)
- [Michigan English Test](#): 55 with sub scores no lower than: Listening (54), Reading (56), Speaking (54), Writing (56)

Students who have met score requirements but still feel some concern about their English abilities may consider taking UNC’s [English for Success](#) course before arrival. This virtual, non-credit program follows best practices in English language acquisition and prepares students for success in a U.S.-based academic environment, and is offered on demand.

If students do not meet UNC English proficiency requirements, they may still be considered for admission on condition they enroll in [UNC Intensive English Program classes](#), as necessary.

The Intensive English Program and English for Success costs are not covered by the bilateral exchange agreement and require additional tuition payment.

Costs Not Covered by Exchange Agreement

Students will typically need to cover the following expenses (based on 22-23 academic year, expect costs to rise 3-5% for AY 23-24):

- \$2,835 - \$3,971 per semester (varies) – [Housing](#)
- \$3,000 and up per semester (varies) – [Meals](#)
- \$1,560 per semester (varies) – [Health Insurance](#)
- \$600 per semester (varies) – Books
- \$1,000- \$1,500 per semester (varies) – Personal Expenses
- \$200 per semester – International Student Enrollment Fee
- \$150 Academic Training fee (applicable only to those students applying for off campus work authorization related to studies)

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Additional Information About Costs and Payments

Students living in residence halls must enroll in a university meal plan. Students in an off-campus house or apartment may choose whether or not to purchase a meal plan.

Books can be costly, ranging from \$20 - \$200 per class. Often, books for science and math courses are more expensive. Students can sometimes reduce the cost of books by purchasing used books online or renting textbooks online or at the bookstore. To get less expensive books, students should shop around.

International Payments: UNC International Students can make payments to the university from home using Flywire. This information is available on the [Bursar's Website](#) and can be accessed under the "Financial" tab in students' Ursa Account. All students are advised to include their UNC Bear Number on all payments and bank transfers.

ACADEMICS AND CLASS SELECTION

Exchange students are admitted to the University, rather than a particular college or faculty. That allows for our exchange students to take courses in many different disciplines and explore the U.S. educational environment in a unique way. Class selection for exchange students is limited to undergraduate level courses (courses numbered between 100 and 499) on the Greeley campus.

Some classes have level restrictions and prerequisite requirements, but students interested in a restricted class may petition individual instructors or departments, which determine whether the student will be permitted to enroll. Every semester UNC offers [University 101](#), a 3-credit course that is interactive and student-centered. It is designed to help students adjust to college life and is strongly recommended.

International exchange students are required, to enroll in 12 credits per semester. Most courses are 3 credits, which usually means 3 hours/week in the classroom. 4-5 courses per semester is the typical course load (12 to 15 credits). Online classes do not count toward credits for J-1 visa/immigration purposes and are not covered by exchange agreements.

Students register depending on admission date and priority registration dates from the Registrar's office. The Registrar's website provides video instruction for class registration <https://www.unco.edu/registrar/registration/>. We recommend that students review information on the [UNC Advising Hub](#) for practical registration tips, but additional course registration information will be sent directly to students after admission.

Finding Classes

UNC's [Undergraduate Catalog](#) lists all the classes, with descriptions, that are offered at UNC, but not all classes are offered every term. Students can see the specific list of classes offered for a term in the [Schedule of Classes](#). Students are advised to select the appropriate term (Spring 2023 or Fall 2024) that corresponds to their term of attendance. The schedule is updated by April for Fall term and in October for Spring term.

To search for offered courses in a specific term, from <https://www.unco.edu/sched/>:

1. Click on the 'Go to the Schedule of Classes' button
2. Choose your term (Ex: Fall 2020) and subject (Ex: ANT – Anthropology)
3. Click 'Run'

NOTE: Students coming on a J-1 visa (non-degree-seeking students) are not eligible to enroll in online courses. When reviewing the course lists in the Schedule of Classes, students should check that the course they wish to take is listed as 'Face to Face' and not 'Online'

Grades

The university works on a 4.0 grade point system. A-F grades are assigned where:

- A (4.0) is above average,
- B (3.0) is average,

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- C (2.0) is below average,
- D (1.0) is below average but still passing, and
- F (0.0) is failing.

Grade point averages are calculated by multiplying the credit hours for each academic course by the grade point value of the grade; totaling the credit hours and grade points; and then dividing the grade points by the credit hours.

LOGISTICS AND CAMPUS LIFE

Airport Transportation

We recommend flying to [Denver International Airport](#) (called DIA, locally, but which has an official designation as DEN), which is the nearest major airport and nearest international airport. UNC is just about an hour from DIA, and UNC uses the Greeley Shuttle, which offers direct shuttle service from Denver International Airport to and from UNC's campus at a discounted rate. Online booking is available [View Greeley Shuttle service information](#). **It's important to book the shuttle at least 3 days in advance of travel, so we recommend booking as soon as students have their flight information and housing assignment.** Students should plan on 3 hours (or more) to clear customs in Denver before the departure shuttle if that is the student's first arrival point in the U.S.

Housing

On Campus Housing: www.unco.edu/housing/ Students should reserve housing as soon as possible after admission to UNC. A refundable \$100 deposit is required to reserve an on-campus room/apartment and must be paid directly by the admitted student. Residence halls may be closed during the break between semesters. Please contact Housing for additional information about housing arrangements during university holidays and breaks.

Meals

Dining Services offers a variety of dining locations to sit down and eat or grab a bite on the go. Holmes Dining Hall offers several entrées and side dishes, along with a great salad bar, making it easy to choose healthy items every day. There are also convenient "on the go" options at our retail locations. UNC dining contracts are now separate from Housing, and can be purchased semester by semester through the Dining Contract Portal <https://mydining.unco.edu/>

Health Insurance Requirement

The U.S. Government requires all Exchange Visitors to carry health insurance meeting specific requirements for the duration of their time in the U.S. International students are automatically enrolled in the UNC Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP), which meets Department of State requirements. Please consult the [UNC Student Health Insurance Program](#) information for specific details. If students have other comparable insurance, they must show proof of insurance and submit an online waiver by the 10th day of classes. Insurance must be in effect by the program's start date.

The [UNC Student Health Center](#) provides detailed information about immunization requirements for all students. Students must provide proof of immunizations (COVID-19 plus booster, measles, mumps, rubella, and meningitis) prior to registration.

Disability Support

The Disability Resource Center (DRC) offers many services to students with disabilities. Support services are collaborative process with the student and DRC staff working together to determine appropriate accommodations for each semester. After admission, students with disabilities requiring support services should [start the process of requesting accommodations](#) as soon as possible. DRC will need English translations of documents related to disabilities. It's also important to let Housing know if the student has specific needs for housing (like wheelchair accessibility or fire alarms with flashing lights).

Getting Settled and Cultural Events

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Students in campus housing can be provided with basic bed linens on arrival from Housing which are on loan for the first week (and can be rented for the semester thereafter). Some necessary items like sheets, blankets, and hangers may be available free of charge through the International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS) **International Exchange Store** in the Office of Global Engagement, on a first come, first served basis (and we are happy to receive any donated items at the end of a student's stay).

UNC students have free transportation locally through the Greeley Area Transportation (GET) bus system, however, it is somewhat limited in scope. ISSS organizes shopping trips during arrival week to help students make necessary purchases for linens, personal items, clothes, groceries, etc. Students wishing to participate in these shopping trips sign up through [Bear Cave](#).

International Student and Scholar Services organizes [cross-cultural events](#) and excursions throughout each term to promote and support cultural engagement opportunities. ISSS also organizes the [Global Buddies](#) program, to create a mutual learning opportunity between Americans and international students. Buddies help international students adjust to living in the United States through support and friendship.

Exchange students have access to a full range of other [campus support](#) and recreation services, including the [Disability Resource Center](#) (documentation of disability in English required), [Recreation Center](#), Cultural Affiliation Centers, Tutoring Center, Writing Center, Library Services, clubs and organizations, club sports, and [Outdoor Pursuits](#).

Employment

Employment regulations in the United States are very strict, and do not permit J-1 visa Exchange Visitors to work without specific authorization.

On campus employment is allowed with advance permission from International Student and Scholar Services, and many of our exchange students do apply for campus employment. Employment is allowed up to 20 hours per week during the exchange student's active period of study. Students can access campus job postings through the Center for Career Readiness and apply to ISSS for work authorization.

Exchange students, with permission from and cooperation with their home institution, and UNC academic department support, may also be eligible to participate in Academic Training (AT). Academic Training for exchange students refers to certain types of employment related directly to the student's major field of study at their home institution. This training may be paid or unpaid, and must be academic in nature; employment is secondary.

Tax Forms

J-1 exchange visitors are required to complete tax forms for the period of stay in the U.S, regardless of income in the U.S. ISSS provides access to tax form preparation software for exchange students in the spring (February – June) for anyone who took classes at UNC during the preceding calendar year. Access codes are sent to the email address on file for the student in the appropriate year or years (students enrolling at UNC for a full academic year must file separately for each calendar year, students here for a single term file only once, as long as they are not present in the U.S. during more than one calendar year – Students arriving before December 31 for the spring term will file twice).

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