

Guide for Exchange Partner Institutions

WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY EXCHANGE STUDENT PROGRAM



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WICHITA STATE
UNIVERSITY

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WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY EXCHANGE STUDENT PROGRAM

ACADEMIC YEAR

Wichita State University has two 16-week semesters that are available for exchange students and the following is a typical academic year:

Fall Semester

2nd week of August Registration and Orientation for exchange students

3rd week of August Fall Semester classes begin

3rd week of December Fall Semester classes and final exams end

Spring Semester

2nd week of January Registration and Orientation for exchange students

3rd week of January Spring Semester classes begin

3rd week of March Spring Break

3rd week of May Spring Semester classes and final exams end

PERIOD OF EXCHANGE

At Wichita State University, exchange students can start their study either from the Fall Semester or the Spring Semester, for one Semester only or for one academic year beginning in the Fall semester. An exchange for one year is calculated by WSU as two exchange placements. A home institution can negotiate to send two students for one semester each or one student for two semesters (one calendar year). If a student is on exchange for two semesters they must obtain satisfactory passing grade in their first semester subjects to continue into the second semester.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Application Deadline

Fall Semester	May 1 st
Spring Semester	October 15 th

Application Procedures and Form

Available online at http://webs.wichita.edu/?u=intlstabroad&p=/incoming_students/

English Language Proficiency Requirement

If English is not your native language, WSU may require a minimum level of English proficiency before you can enroll in academic classes. An **English Proficiency Certification letter** provided by your home institution is required. The letter must be on University letterhead and attest to how the exchange student has sufficient level of English proficiency to successfully participate in the exchange program on a day-to-day basis at Wichita State University.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Courses Available for Exchange Students

Exchange students are allowed to enroll in most undergraduate courses (except some restricted courses, such as MGMT 681) from any department. Exchange students requesting to enroll in upper-division courses (300 level and above) will need to have the pre-requisites. All upper-division courses (300 level and above) must be approved by an academic advisor. To view schedule of courses go to www.wichita.edu/courses.

Intensive English Classes

Wichita State University has an Intensive English Language Center located on the main campus. Exchange students can choose to enroll in Intensive English courses in combination with the regular academic courses. The Intensive English courses will count towards the required enrollment of 12 credit hours, however they do not receive academic credit for the courses. Students interested in taking Intensive English courses should contact the Exchange Coordinator prior to arrival. Students will need to take an English placement exam upon arrival to determine their level in Intensive English.

Required Course Load

Exchange students are required to enroll in 12 credits hours per semester. Some exchange agreements allow for more than 12 hours, however most exchange students are limited to 12 credit hours per semester.

The approximate cost of textbooks is \$500-\$700 per semester for 12 credit hours.

Number of Classes per week

Generally, exchange students will register for 4 classes per semester. Each class will meet approximately 3 hours per week. The classes usually meet once or twice a week.

Selecting and registering for classes

Prior to arriving to WSU, exchange students will generally be able to pre-enroll for classes online. Instructions on registering for classes will be e-mailed to students. Exchange students can also choose to register for classes after they arrive in Wichita, however many of the classes tend to fill up quickly.

PRIOR TO DEPARTURE

Immigration Procedure

Exchange Students will receive a DS-2019 form with their acceptance letter from WSU. Students should verify that all of their information including their name, date of birth, etc. are correct on the DS-2019, prior to applying for the student visa. Exchange students will need to apply for a J-1 visa at the nearest American Embassy.

Health Insurance

Wichita State University requires international students to have medical insurance. You may purchase insurance when you register for classes (the cost is approximately US\$1,300 per year). If you already have medical insurance, please complete a waiver online. Waiver and more information can be found at: www.wichita.edu/medicalinsurance.

Your proof of medical insurance coverage must contain the coverage amount and the coverage period. If you have adequate medical insurance coverage, you will not be required to purchase a new insurance policy. A tuberculin (TB) skin test is required for all new students and is given by WSU's Student Health Service. We recommend that you take care of any existing medical or dental problems at home since student medical insurance does not cover routine dental work or eye examinations.

All students enrolled at WSU are eligible for outpatient care at Student Health Services (SHS), located at 209 Ahlberg Hall. If you have a health problem or feel ill, contact SHS at (316) 978-3620. Student Health is generally open during regular office hours 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and is open later certain days during the week. **The last appointment will be 30 minutes before closing time.** SHS is closed during major holidays and hours may be changed during semester breaks. www.wichita.edu/studenthealth.

Accommodations

After you arrive in Wichita, we will assist you in moving into one of WSU's housing facilities – Fairmount Towers or Shocker Hall. We recommend that you make a housing reservation before coming to Wichita by completing the housing application and submitting it along with the necessary fees to the Housing Office. However, if there is not enough time to make a reservation before coming to Wichita, you can usually make a reservation after you arrive. If you have questions about living in one of the University's residence halls, please visit <http://www.wichita.edu/housing>.

PLEASE NOTE: WSU requires all incoming freshman to live on-campus in designated University housing.

- Fairmount Towers, a residence hall, offers various meal plans, suite-style rooms, sand volleyball court, basketball court, community assistants and programs to enhance student success.
- Shocker Hall is a residence hall located near the center of campus featuring a main dining hall as well as a kitchen, laundry and lounge area on each floor. Rooms are fully furnished with options of five different room styles.

All residence halls are patrolled regularly and a shuttle bus travels around the campus in the evenings. There is also a shuttle bus that will take students to Wal-Mart. Students should check with their residence hall for a shuttle bus schedule.

ARRIVING IN WICHITA

Arrival Date

Wichita State University provides FREE airport arrival assistance to international students. To notify us of your arrival information, please complete the online form at: <http://wichita.edu/arrival>. You may also notify us of your arrival by e-mail at arrival@wichita.edu.

After you have arrived, please check-in to your dorm room. There will be a mandatory check-in and meeting for exchange students. You will receive details by e-mail about this meeting.

Orientation

Exchange students will attend an orientation that is organized by the Office of International Education for all new international students. Generally, the orientation is one full day. Information regarding the orientation will be given to students in pre-arrival information by e-mail.

Opening a Bank Account

After you arrive in Wichita, you may open a bank account. There are many banks in Wichita. The most popular banks for international students are Commerce Bank and Bank of America. Commerce Bank has a branch located in the center of campus in the Rhatigan Student Center. Bank of America has a branch next to campus opposite Fairmount Towers (one of the University's residence halls). In order to open an account, you will need to show the bank your passport, ShockerCard (the identification card that you will receive when you arrive), and proof of your address in Wichita (such as your housing contract or apartment rental contract). As a student, your account is normally free of charge. You will automatically receive an ATM card so you can get cash quickly and easily. You can find out more information about opening a bank account after you arrive in Wichita.

Activities for Exchange Students

Several activities are scheduled each semester by the Office of International Education. These can include such events as shopping trips, ice skating parties, trips to the movies, and others. Stop by OIE for a schedule of current events. All activities are open to WSU international students. The price of tickets and transportation is free. This is a great way to practice your English and make new friends, so don't miss out!

The International Student Union (ISU) is an organization at WSU that exchange students can join. The purpose of ISU is to foster communication and cooperation among WSU international students and to promote social and cultural exchange among international students, American students, faculty, staff and the community. All WSU international students are automatically members of ISU. In the past, the ISU has sponsored INTERFEST, an annual cultural celebration including a food fair, cultural displays and a cultural show. ISU is an umbrella organization that encompasses all nationality groups and those students without nationality groups. The organization welcomes participation from all interested students, especially those with leadership experience.

There are also a number of other student organizations that exchange students can choose to join during their semester at WSU. Student Activities Council (SAC) - SAC is one of the largest student-run organizations at Wichita State University and brings a variety of events and programs to campus each year. Some notable SAC events include Hippodrome, Shocktoberfest, Welcomefest, Family Carnival, Gamefest, and live entertainment. By joining SAC, students can get valuable development and leadership opportunities through planning social, educational and cultural events -- and membership is open to all WSU students.

The Barton School of Business also has many student organizations that are specifically for business students such as IBSA, which is an International Business & Studies Association, ACE, which is the Association of Collegiate Entrepreneurs, and Shocker Student Marketing.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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