



# UMASS AMHERST



## University of Massachusetts Amherst Fact Sheet For 2017-2018 Undergraduate Exchanges

### Contact Information

**International Programs Office (IPO):**  
467 Hills South, 4th Floor  
111 Thatcher Road, OFC 3  
University of Massachusetts Amherst  
Amherst, MA 01003-9361  
USA

**International Undergraduate  
Exchange Coordinator:**  
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**International Programs Office:** <http://www.umass.edu/ipo/>

### Introduction

UMass Amherst offers the choices of a large, diverse campus with the community feel of a small college. Our academic programs nurture scholarship, research, faculty-student collaboration, and experiential education. Our campus organizations, living-learning residence halls, and community service programs help students build leadership skills and hands-on experience that lead to meaningful careers. Founded in 1863, we are the largest public research university in New England, distinguished by the excellence and breadth of our academic, research and community outreach programs. We rank 29th among the nation's top public universities, moving up 11 spots in the past two years in the U.S. News & World Report's annual college guide.

UMass is a 1100 acre campus located in the rural college town of Amherst one hour north of Hartford CT, two hours west of Boston and three hours from New York City. Over 50% of undergraduates live on campus. Our award winning dining services focuses on local and healthy food options. We have a great free public transportation system to get you all around the area.



## 2017— 2018 Academic Calendar

**Current Calendars:** <https://www.umass.edu/registrar/calendars/academic-calendar>

### Fall Semester 2017 (September - December)

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <b>Arrival</b>            | August 30   |
| <b>Orientation</b>        | August 30 - September 4                           |
| <b>Classes Begin</b>      | September 5                                       |
| <b>Classes End</b>        | December 12                                       |
| <b>Final Examinations</b> | December 14 - December 20 (Snow Day, December 21) |

### Spring Semester 2018 (January - May)

|                           |                         |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Arrival</b>            | January 19              |
| <b>Orientation</b>        | January 19 – January 21 |
| <b>Classes Begin</b>      | January 22              |
| <b>Classes End</b>        | May 1                   |
| <b>Final Examinations</b> | May 3 - May 10          |

## Application Information

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Application Procedure:</b> | Students should express their desire for exchange to their school's exchange coordinator. The coordinator will nominate students for exchange, and then will provide students with the application link. |
| <b>Application Materials:</b> | Our application will be online. Materials such as transcripts, TOEFL scores, proof of funds, etc. will all be submitted through this resource.   |
| <b>Application Deadlines</b>  | <b>Fall Semester:</b> February 15th<br><b>Spring Semester:</b> October 1st   |

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| <b>Admission Notification</b> | <b>Fall Semester:</b> Mid March<br><b>Spring Semester:</b> Early November<br>Students will be contacted via email. |
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## Visa Requirements

When students receive their acceptance email, they will be given visa instructions. Hard copies of the DS2019 will be sent to the home school coordinator to distribute to students to apply for their J-1 visa.

## Semester Expense Estimates

**All of the following costs are per semester and are estimates.** Actual costs could be up to 10% higher.

All exchange agreements with the University of Massachusetts Amherst cover all costs associated with university tuition and fees. These expenses are paid by the UMass International Programs Office (IPO) and will appear as a payment on your Bursar bill.\*

The bill must be paid before the start of each semester.

| <b>Paid by the International programs Office (IPO)</b>   | <b>Estimate</b>   |
|--|-------------------|
| <b>Tuition, Activities and Technology Fees</b>   | \$7,485.50        |
| <b>Total Paid By UMass</b><br>*Some exchange agreements may also cover some of the costs below.  | <b>\$7,485.50</b> |
| <b>Student are Responsible for These Items:</b>  | <b>Estimate</b>   |
| <b>Room Fees</b> <sup>1</sup>  | \$3,329.50        |
| <b>Dining Services (Meals)</b> <sup>2</sup>  | \$2,891.00        |
| <b>Mandatory Health Insurance</b> <sup>3</sup><br>Student Health Plan (comprehensive medical insurance)  | \$705.00          |
| <b>Miscellaneous</b> <sup>4</sup>  | \$1,700.00        |
| <b>Final Cost to Student</b><br>This amount may vary based on the specific exchange agreement.   | <b>\$8625.50</b>  |
| <sup>1</sup> <b>Room Fees</b> range between \$3,038.50 and \$5,997.50. The average fee for a shared room is \$3,329.50 (Requires student to leave during University break periods). Shared housing that includes break periods is \$3,579.50. <b>Room Fee Rates:</b> <a href="http://www.umass.edu/living/assign/rates">http://www.umass.edu/living/assign/rates</a> |                   |



<sup>2</sup> **Dining Services (Meals):** Students living on campus must enroll in a meal plan (\$2,619.00 to \$3,081.00). Students are automatically billed for the unlimited plan (\$2,891.00) but have the option of changing to another plan. See <http://www.umassdining.com/meal-plans/residential-meal-plan>

<sup>3</sup> **Mandatory Health Insurance:** All full-time students are automatically enrolled in and billed for the Student Health Plan (SHP) (<http://www.umass.edu/uhs/insurance/shbp>). Fees appear on your Bursar's bill in August for the period of August 1 – January 31 and in January for the period of February 1 – July 31. Insurance through non-U.S. insurance companies is NOT allowed. International students **may** be eligible for a waiver. Visit <https://www.umass.edu/uhs/insurance/shbp> for more information. **IPO cannot assist with this process.**

<sup>4</sup> **Miscellaneous** costs include books, supplies, laundry, official transcript fees, local travel, entertainment, etc.

## Housing

UMass guarantees housing for international exchange students as long as deadlines and instructions are met.

Students needing housing when UMass is closed for breaks should refer to instructions from Residential Life about break housing options.

All housing information will be sent via email to students through Residential Life. Students contact them directly with questions and concerns.

### Useful Links

**UMass Housing:** <http://www.umass.edu/living/>

**UMass Undergraduate Housing:** <https://www.umass.edu/living/undergrad>

## Dining Options

UMass Dining, rated #1 in the US in 2016 by the Princeton Review, is a premier program that is committed to providing healthy, flavorful, world cuisine using freshly prepared, sustainable ingredients. You can find UMass Dining at every corner of campus. With four dining commons, eighteen retail cafes, Kosher and Halal options, two food trucks, a delivery service, the bakeshop, UMass Catering, concessions, and the University Club, UMass Dining is ready to welcome you with open arms.

All students living in residential housing (except North Apartments) are required to have a meal plan.

Information about the various types of meal plan options here: <http://www.umassdining.com/meal-plans>





## Course Information

At UMass, you will register for courses using our Internet-based registration system, known as "SPIRE". Course schedule information is **ONLY** available online. You will need your Net ID and password to log in to SPIRE. (Your Net ID and password are the same codes that you use to access your UMass email account.)

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|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>Course Catalog</b>          | Students can browse course offerings by semester without a UMass NetID by visiting <a href="https://www.spire.umass.edu">https://www.spire.umass.edu</a> and clicking "Search Classes/Catalog" under the heading <i>Catalogs &amp; Schedules</i> .   |
| <b>Course Access</b>           | <b>No COURSES ARE GUARANTEED.</b><br><br>Undergraduate students <b>do not have access</b> to graduate level courses (500 and above).   |
| <b>Language of Instruction</b> | English (unless a specific language course)  |
| <b>Course Restrictions</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art, Dance, Music, Nursing and Computer Science are closed to exchange students.</li> <li>• Exchange students may not enroll in independent study courses.</li> <li>• English Writing 112, courses that fulfill the "UMass Junior Year Writing Requirement," and courses that fulfill the "Integrative Experience Requirement" are closed to exchange students. (See the course description.)</li> <li>• Courses in Communication, Isenberg School of Management (ISOM), and Engineering are limited to majors and may have limited availability in upper level courses.</li> <li>• Exchange students cannot take CPE (Continuing &amp; Professional Education) courses.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Registration Period</b>     | <p>Students will receive an email with registration dates and information.</p> <p>Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with SPIRE and have a variety of courses in mind so they can enroll as soon as their appointment posts.</p> <p>The first two weeks of each semester is called the "Add/Drop" period where students can freely add classes or drop out of classes without any record.</p>   |

|                             |  |
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| <b>Course Number System</b> | 100-199 – Lower Division Undergraduate – Freshman (first year) level<br>200-299 – Lower Division Undergraduate – Sophomore (second year) level<br>300-399 - Upper Division Undergraduate – Junior (third year) level<br>400-499 - Upper Division Undergraduate – Senior (fourth year) level<br><br>Instructor Permission may be required:<br>500 - 599 Combined graduate/undergraduate<br><i>Exchange students should not expect to have access to these courses.</i><br><br>Undergraduate exchange students do NOT have access:<br>600 - 699 Master's or first-year graduate<br>700 - 899 Doctoral or advanced graduate |
| <b>Course Types</b>         | Courses will generally be lecture style though some lectures are accompanied with a separate discussion section or lab. Other types of classes are seminars with professors (contact professor for information).   |
| <b>Course Load</b>          | Undergraduate exchange students MUST enroll in a minimum of 12 credits per semester.   |
| <b>Credit Hours</b>         | The nationally recognized standard, the Federal Credit Hour Standard, defines a three-credit course as three fifty-minute classes per week over a fifteen-week semester (including final exam week). This standard assumes that each credit hour generates two hours of assigned work for every hour of in-class contact. Thus, the guiding rule is 45 hours of work per semester for each unit of credit.   |

## SPIRE

SPIRE is the University's secure online student information system. Almost all student functions take place on SPIRE: Students use SPIRE to register for courses, view/pay their Bursar bill, view holds, select/view housing assignments, change meal plans, etc. You will need your Net ID and password to log in to SPIRE. (Your Net ID and password are the same codes that you use to access your UMass email account.) You will receive this information after you have been administratively admitted to UMass.

### SPIRE Help Videos

**UMass Amherst Getting Started with SPIRE** <https://youtu.be/1-bw4w0oALw>

**UMass Amherst Searching for Classes** <https://youtu.be/Jl3OCqzVKg8>

**UMass Amherst Enrolling in Classes** <https://youtu.be/i72X3bRbZiQ>

## Grading System

UMass uses a typical American grade point average (GPA) system. The percentages corresponding to each letter grade vary depending on the professor and the department, but are generally stated in the syllabus.

For more specific information on GPA calculations visit <https://www.umass.edu/registrar/students/policies-and-practices/grading-and-gpa-calculation>

| Letter Grade | GPA  | Letter Grade | GPA  |
|--------------|------|--------------|------|
| A            | 4.00 | C            | 2.00 |
| A-           | 3.70 | C-           | 1.70 |

## Transcripts

Students are responsible for requesting and paying for their official transcripts. IPO is not able to request transcripts for students.

**For more information:**

<http://www.umass.edu/registrar/students/transcripts>

|           |      |           |      |
|-----------|------|-----------|------|
| <b>B+</b> | 3.30 | <b>D+</b> | 1.30 |
| <b>B</b>  | 3.00 | <b>D</b>  | 1.00 |
| <b>B-</b> | 2.70 | <b>F</b>  | 0.00 |
| <b>C+</b> | 2.30 |           |      |



## Health Insurance

### Insurance

**Health Insurance Information:** <http://www.umass.edu/uhs/insurance/shbp>

International students are automatically enrolled in the UMass health insurance plan, Student Health Plan (SHP).

All students must be enrolled in health insurance and non-U.S. insurance companies are NOT allowed. International students **may** be eligible for a waiver. Visit <https://www.umass.edu/uhs/insurance/shbp> for more information. IPO cannot assist with this process.

### Immunizations

State law requires that college students have certain immunizations before coming to school.

Students are required to submit immunization information through the online system found at <http://www.umass.edu/uhs/immunizations>.

Students are not able to submit this information until they have been assigned a UMass email.

Immunization information should not be submitted to the IPO office.

## Student Services and Resources

### Useful Links

**International Students and Scholars:** <http://www.umass.edu/ipo/iss/>

International Student Handbook can be found under "International Students"

**UMass Homepage:** <http://www.umass.edu/>

**UMass Residential Life:** <https://www.umass.edu/living/>

**Amherst, MA Website:** <https://www.amherstma.gov/>



|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <b>IPO Buddy Program</b>              | IPO Buddies is a buddy/mentor program designed to enable you to meet current UMass student so he/she can help you to transition into life in the U.S., Amherst and at UMass. Newly arrived students like YOU may need a friend to answer your questions and help you to adjust to a new academic and personal life here. If you are interested to have a buddy to provide advice, support and friendship, please send a message to <a href="mailto:buddy@ipo.umass.edu">buddy@ipo.umass.edu</a> . |
| <b>Health Services</b>                | <b>University Health Services:</b> <a href="https://www.umass.edu/uhs/">https://www.umass.edu/uhs/</a><br>UHS provides a large range of medical services on-campus for UMass community members including but not limited to: regular appointments, pharmacy, walk-in clinics, and women's health services.  |
| <b>Public Transportation</b>          | <b>Pioneer Valley Transit Authority:</b> <a href="http://www.pvta.com/">http://www.pvta.com/</a><br>The PVTA provides public transportation in and around the Amherst area and is completely FREE for UMass and Five College students and faculty.  |
| <b>International Student Handbook</b> | Please visit <a href="http://tinyurl.com/hr4xvfl">http://tinyurl.com/hr4xvfl</a> for more information.  |

## Student Services and Resources

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>On-Campus Wi-Fi and Computer Labs</b> | <b>Office of Information and Technology:</b> <a href="http://www.it.umass.edu/">http://www.it.umass.edu/</a><br>UMass has an office which can answer all of your technology needs as well as a large number of available computer stations all over campus.  |
| <b>Library Services</b>                  | <b>UMass Amherst Libraries:</b> <a href="http://www.library.umass.edu/">http://www.library.umass.edu/</a><br><b>Learning Resource Center:</b> <a href="http://www.umass.edu/lrc/">http://www.umass.edu/lrc/</a><br><b>Digital Media Lab:</b> <a href="https://www.library.umass.edu/locations/dml/">https://www.library.umass.edu/locations/dml/</a><br>UMass has multiple libraries, study spaces, tutoring, and technology resources available for students to use. Most notably, the Dubois Library stands 28 stories tall as a campus landmark.  |
| <b>Student Organizations</b>             | UMass is home to over 500 registered student organizations. From professional networking organizations to hobby clubs, there is something for everyone and all are welcoming to international and exchange students.<br><b>Student Life Homepage:</b> <a href="https://www.umass.edu/studentlife/">https://www.umass.edu/studentlife/</a><br><i>Click "Get Involved" for activities</i><br><b>International Students Club (ISC):</b><br><a href="https://umassamherst.collegiatelink.net/organization/ISC">https://umassamherst.collegiatelink.net/organization/ISC</a><br><b>ISC on Facebook:</b> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/isc.umass/">https://www.facebook.com/isc.umass/</a> |
| <b>Sports and Athletics</b>              | UMass is home to many sports teams including football, basketball and hockey. There are official recruited university teams where students can buy tickets and attend games but there are also many club and intramural teams that anyone can join.<br><b>UMass Athletics:</b> <a href="http://www.umassathletics.com/">http://www.umassathletics.com/</a><br><b>Intramural and Club Sports:</b> <a href="http://www.umass.edu/campusrec/">http://www.umass.edu/campusrec/</a>   |



|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Recreation Center</b> | <p>UMass is home to state of the art recreation facilities including the Recreation Center which has fitness equipment, basketball courts, an indoor track, group fitness classes and more!</p> <p><b>Recreation Center Homepage:</b><br/> <a href="http://www.umass.edu/campusrec/facilities/indoorfacilities/recreationcenter/">http://www.umass.edu/campusrec/facilities/indoorfacilities/recreationcenter/</a></p> <p><b>Group Fitness Classes:</b><br/> <a href="http://www.umass.edu/campusrec/fitnesswellness/groupfitness/">http://www.umass.edu/campusrec/fitnesswellness/groupfitness/</a></p> |
| <b>Fine Arts</b>         | <p>There are always lots of cultural events taking place on campus as well from theater and art to music and dance, the Fine Arts Center has something to offer for everyone.</p> <p><b>Fine Arts Center Homepage:</b> <a href="https://fac.umass.edu/">https://fac.umass.edu/</a></p>   |

