

WCU Global Fact Sheet 2026-2027

FOR INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE STUDENTS



OFFICE OF GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT STAFF

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[Click here to visit our website!](#)

WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

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APPLICATION

Nomination Deadlines

Fall Term (August-December) Deadline: March 1

Spring Term (January-May) Deadline: September 1

To nominate a student for an exchange semester at WCU, please email Zach Weerts (zweerts@wcu.edu) with the student's:

- **Full Name**
- **Email address**
- **Academic major**
- **Degree level (Undergraduate or Graduate)**
- **Intended term of study (i.e. Fall 2026, Spring 2027 etc.)**

Application Deadlines

Fall Term (August-December) Early Deadline: March 1*

Fall Term (August-December) Regular Deadline: April 1

Spring Term (January-May) Deadline: October 1

List of Application Documents

- Complete the [**WCU International Undergraduate Application**](#).
- Upload a copy of your passport photo page.
- Upload unofficial copies of your academic transcript(s) in English.
- To demonstrate English proficiency, you must take the TOEFL (Internet-Based: 75, Paper-Based: 537), IELTS (6.0 Overall), DuoLingo English Test (95), PTE Academic (50), or provide a letter from your international office stating that you meet our English proficiency requirements.

*Students can begin to register for classes online in mid-March. Classes can fill up quickly; therefore, this deadline is preferable to ensure better chances of securing your courses. However, April 1 is the absolute deadline.

Pay tuition as an exchange student with Direct Enrollment:

Interested in doing an exchange, but too many people have filled the exchange spots?

Exchange students can apply through "Direct Enrollment," during which students pay the tuition/fees for their time here at Western

Carolina University. Contact global@wcu.edu for more information.





WCU 2025-2026 Academic Calendar

Fall 2026 Semester:

Arrival/Move-In: August 11

Orientation: August 12-14

Classes Begin: August 17

Course Registration: Mid-Nov.

Classes End: December 4

Exams: December 7-11

Vacation Periods/No Class:

Labor Day: September 7

Fall Break: October 12-16

Advising Day: October 27

Thanksgiving: November 25-27

Spring 2027 Semester:

Arrival/Move-In: January 5

Orientation: January 6-8

Classes Begin: January 12

Course Registration: Mid-March

Classes End: April 30

Exams: May 3-7

Vacation Periods/No Class:

MLK Holiday: January 18

Spring Break: February 24-26

Advising Day: March 9

No Classes: March 22-26

[Click to explore the course catalog.](#)

[Click here for the searchable schedule of classes.](#)

[Click here for a list of graduate programs offered.](#)

Full-Time Course Load: 12 Credit Hours

The average course load per semester is 12-15 credit hours, typically equivalent to about 4-5 classes (15 Credit Hours = 30 ECTS).

Undergraduate courses that are *NOT* available to exchange students include the following: ACCT 495, CIS 465, EDSE 483, EDSE 484, EDSE 485, EDSE 490, EDSE 495, ELMG 484, ELMG 485, ELMG 495, ENT 450, ENT 475, FIN 499, HPE 488, HPE 489, HPE 496, HT 438, LAW 475, MGT 404, MGT 495, MKT 475, SM 495, SPED 484, SPED 490, SPED 495

Students interested in taking **graduate-level courses** should email Zach (zweerts@wcu.edu).



Finances

[Cost Details](#)

[Payment Options](#)

Payment Deadline: Payment is due by 5pm on the first day of class each semester.

Room and Board

On-Campus Housing: WCU has [14 different residence halls](#) on campus that serve different student populations and offer various amenities. (Exchange students must live on campus.)

Students that plan to stay on-campus over winter break (mid-December to mid-January), must choose Robertson or Blue Ridge as their residence hall. Winter break housing costs around \$30 a day. Dining options are limited during that time.

Campus Dining Options: All students living on campus are required to purchase a meal plan. [Click here](#) for more information.



Arrival and Public Transportation

Airport Pick-Up: For international students arriving at Asheville Regional Airport (AVL), International Orientation Leaders (IOLs) will be there to welcome you on the arrival day! You must also inform us of your arrival details through the travel survey provided upon acceptance.

Public transportation on campus and to Wal-Mart: The WCU shuttle service is free to students. For more information, [click here](#).



STUDENT LIFE



Health & Wellness

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) offers consultation, counseling, emergency, and psychiatric services to all WCU students. There is a general clinic available to all students.

Office of Accessibility Resources

OAR staff members serve as advocates for accessibility for students with disabilities while promoting student independence, self-determination, and responsibility.

Campus Activities

WCU has over 170 student clubs and organizations, including intramural and club sports, adventure programs, and more. Students also have access to the Campus Recreation Center.

International Organizations

Our office offers a number of exciting ways for U.S. students and international students to share their experiences and cultures.

International Pals (I-Pals): I-Pals is established to guide international students throughout their time here at WCU by pairing them with a WCU student who can help them get accustomed to life on and around campus.

Additional Campus Resources:

Advising Center

Career Services (CCPD)

Information Technology (IT)

Writing Tutoring (WaLC)

Intercultural Affairs (ICA)

Life in WNC



LOCAL COMMUNITY



WCU is perfectly situated for students to explore Western North Carolina. Whether its service learning, community engagement or recreation, opportunities abound for students to get to know this unique region of the United States.

Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning

At WCU, students have the opportunity to engage with and improve the local community through a variety of programs and organizations. Such opportunities include:

- Days of Service
- Student Services Corps
- Student Democracy Coalition
- And more!

Students can visit a new city or country through the Alternative Break Program and can have their volunteer efforts recognized with the Lily Community Engagement Award.

Life in Western North Carolina

Named "Top Adventure College" five times by Blue Ridge Outdoors magazine, Western North Carolina hosts a variety of outdoor activities. WCU students can visit the Adventure Guides to explore themselves or get involved with Base Camp Cullowhee, a WCU program led by qualified staff to take students on their next adventure!

Students can visit the Jackson County Event Calendar to see upcoming local events like live music, festivals, and markets.

Students can hit the road and visit nearby towns like Sylva, Waynesville and Asheville, or take a longer trip to major U.S. cities like Charlotte, Atlanta and Knoxville.

No matter what students are looking for, WCU has something for everyone!

