



2024-25 Fact Sheet

Exchange and American University Experience Programs

General Information	
University Name	Western Michigan University
Address and Phone	Haenicke Institute for Global Education Western Michigan University 1903 W Michigan Ave Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5246, USA Phone: +1 (269) 387-5865
Director of WMU Study Abroad	Mr. Joseph Milostan Email: joseph.milostan@wmich.edu Phone: +1 (269) 387-5890 *Main contact for outgoing exchange programs and exchange balance
Associate Director of International Admissions Operations	Ms. Yumi Takahashi-Ede Email: yumi.takahashi@wmich.edu Phone: +1 (269) 387-5865 *Main contact for incoming exchange programs and American University Experience programs.
Websites	University: https://wmich.edu/ Exchange Program: https://wmich.edu/studyabroad/exchange American University Experience (Partner students): https://wmich.edu/studyabroad/studyabroadwmu American University Experience (Non-partner students): https://wmich.edu/internationaladmissions/semester COVID-19 information and updates: https://wmich.edu/covid-19
Nearest Airports	Kalamazoo/Battle Creek (AZO) - 6.5 miles/10.5km Detroit Airport (DTW) - 123 miles/198km Chicago O'Hare (ORD) - 168 miles/271 km
Emergency Contact	WMU Public Safety Phone: +1 (269) 387-5555 or +1 (269) 488-8911

Nomination and Application Information

Nomination Process	<p>(1) Please fill out the online nomination form (link will be emailed to partners separately).</p> <p>(2) After submitting the online nomination form, please send the following nomination materials via email to yumi.takahashi@wmich.edu:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official university transcripts translated into English (Transcripts must include a grading scale.) • Official English proficiency test score reports such as TOEFL iBT, IELTS, and Duolingo for non-native English speakers (Please see https://wmich.edu/internationaladmissions/proficiency for a list of acceptable English proficiency test scores. <i>Test scores must be no more than two years old.</i>) 	
Application Process	<p>After we receive the online nomination form and materials, nominated students will be contacted by our office with a link to the online application system and the step-by-step guide.</p> <p>Application materials to be submitted online by your students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cover letter completed and signed by student's home university coordinator • Proof of finances (The minimum amount of proof of finances required is stated in the online application guide for students.) • Copy of passport (Passport must be valid for a minimum of 6 months after the end of student's last semester at WMU. The signature should be visible on the passport ID page.) • Copy of university transcript in English • Copy of English proficiency test score 	
Nomination and Application Deadlines	Exchange Program	
	<p>Nomination Deadlines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 1 (fall) • August 1 (spring) 	<p>Application Deadlines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 1 (fall) • September 1 (spring)
	American University Experience Program	
	<p>Nomination Deadlines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 1 (fall) • August 1 (spring) 	<p>Application Deadlines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 1 (fall) • September 1 (spring)
Eligibility Requirements (GPA and English proficiency)	Exchange Program	
	https://wmich.edu/studyabroad/exchange#info	
	American University Experience Program	
https://wmich.edu/studyabroad/studyabroadwmu#info		

Academic Calendar

Semester/Session	Start	End
Fall	Late August	Mid-December
Spring	Early January	Late April
Summer I	Early May	Late June
Summer II	Late June	Mid-August

For exact dates of each semester/session and detailed calendar information, please go to <https://wmich.edu/registrar/calendars/academic>.

International Student Orientation

Western Michigan University's International Student Orientation is an online series of modules designed to help students make a smooth academic, social, geographic, and professional transition to WMU. Admitted students will receive instructions on accessing International Student Orientation via email.

Website <https://wmich.edu/internationaladmissions/orientation>

Housing Information

Undergraduate Students

Undergraduate exchange and American University Experience students are required to live on campus (residence halls only). Students should apply online for residence halls as soon as they have been accepted to Western Michigan University.

WMU's residence halls are home to nearly 5,000 students who enjoy the friendships, living-learning focus, and diversity of campus life. Residents can take advantage of hall activities, leadership opportunities, high-speed Internet, staff available 24 hours a day, close proximity to the dining halls, and many other campus conveniences designed to support busy college students.

Graduate Students

Graduate exchange and American University Experience students are strongly encouraged to live in University-sponsored (on-campus) housing during the program period. Although on-campus residency is not mandatory for graduate exchange students, please be advised that graduate students who opt to reside off campus bear sole responsibility for finding off-campus housing, contracting with private management companies and others, and abiding by conditions and terms. They may also find it difficult to lease an off-campus apartment for one or two semesters since most off-campus apartment leases are for a one-year (12-month) period. Breaking a lease is costly.

If graduate exchange students wish to live off-campus, they are encouraged to visit the website below for private apartment communities for more information:

<https://www.apartmentguide.com/apartments/Michigan/Western-Michigan-University/>

Meal Plans WMU students have a variety of fresh, flavorful, healthy, and comfort items to choose from on campus. Students may use their meal plan to access food in the following ways, based on their schedule and preferences.

Websites WMU Housing and Residence Life: <https://wmich.edu/housing>

	Room and Board Rates: https://wmich.edu/housing/info/rates Meal Plans: https://wmich.edu/dining/mealplans Dining Services: https://wmich.edu/dining Dining Options: https://wmich.edu/dining/options
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Course Information	
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Courses Available for Exchange and American University Experience Students	<p>Exchange and American University Experience students are eligible to take courses in most of the programs at WMU contingent on the student having completed the appropriate prerequisites, having acquired the appropriate level of English-language proficiency, and having submitted all paperwork prior to deadlines. For some subject areas, pre-approval from academic department or college may be required.</p> <p>Exchange and American University Experience students are not eligible to take flight science based classes in College of Aviation. Many of classes offered through College of Fine Arts (Art, Dance, Music, and Theatre) have major restrictions and have limited seat availability. WMU major/minor students in those programs have priority to enroll in those classes, thus those classes may not be available for exchange and American University Experience students.</p>
Credits Required for Exchange and American University Experience Students	<p>Undergraduate students may take 12 to 15 credit hours per semester. A minimum of 12 credit hours is needed to maintain visa status.</p> <p>Graduate students may take six to nine credit hours per semester. A minimum of six credit hours is needed to maintain visa status.</p>
Course Registration Procedure	<p>Students will be contacted by our office regarding their course selection and course in-progress forms after they complete their online application. WMU academic advisors will process course registration for incoming exchange and American University Experience students based on their course selection, course availability, and eligibility.</p>
Academic Transcripts	<p>Students will need to request and send their official transcript to their home institution after grades have posted. Due to U.S. privacy law (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act), we cannot send the transcript on the student's behalf. For more information, please visit https://wmich.edu/registrar/transcripts.</p>
Grading Scale	<p>The student receives one grade in each course taken. This grade combines the results of course work, tests, and final examinations. Grades are indicated by letters, each of which is assigned a certain value in honor points per hour of credit. For more information, please visit http://www.wmich.edu/registrar/policies/grades.</p>
Websites	<p>Course Offerings Website: https://www.wmich.edu/classlookup/ University Catalog: https://wmich.edu/registrar/catalogs Office of the Registrar: https://wmich.edu/registrar</p>

Estimated Program Costs

Exchange Program

2024-25 Estimated Cost per Semester: \$9,100

Western Michigan University exchange agreements provide for 12 to 15 credit hours per student per semester at the undergraduate level or 6 to 9 credit hours per student per semester at the graduate level. Should your students wish to take more than this number of credits, they will pay non-resident tuition cost per credit.

There are certain standard WMU registration fees that are automatically assessed to all students, including exchange students, depending on the specific agreement between our universities.

There are other fees associated with specific courses students take. These fees are charged at the time of course registration, and vary considerably for each exchange student depending on his/her choice of courses. These fees are unknown at the time we initially estimate our program costs for WMU students (at least a year in advance). Therefore, please advise your students that there may be some fees that will be their responsibility to pay.

Whether or not a student is responsible for these fees is determined by the contract the home university has with WMU. Students are encouraged to speak with their home university's international office to determine which fees are covered in the exchange agreement.

Also, due to a recent change in U.S. tax laws, all scholarship monies awarded beyond tuition are subject to a 14% tax. This amount will be charged to exchange students' accounts, and they will be held responsible for this tax. The withheld 14% is usually reimbursed to students upon filing of U.S. tax forms which will be made available to them in late January via our website (<http://www.wmich.edu/internationaladmissions>).

American University Experience Program (Fee-Paying Program)

Program fees vary depending on a program option of American University Experience program. Please refer to the Program Fees tables on <https://wmich.edu/studyabroad/studyabroadwmu#info> for estimated costs per semester.

Health Insurance Requirements

The cost of health care in the United States is very high; a short stay in the hospital can cost thousands of dollars. International students, scholars, or dependents who are in the U.S. on temporary, non-immigrant visas such as F or J, are not eligible for U.S. government programs like Medical Assistance or Medicaid. International students can protect themselves from the high cost of health care by obtaining health insurance coverage.

Exchange and American University Experience students on J-1 visas are required by U.S. Department of State regulations to have health insurance that meets minimum J-1 requirements while they are in the United States.

All international students must send documentation of their health insurance to ias-insurance@wmich.edu within the first week of classes. This includes a copy of the front and back of the insurance card and confirmation letter from the insurance company stating coverage dates of the policy. The insurance policy must be written in English, in U.S. currency, and have a U.S. billing address and phone number.

Students must keep a copy of their health insurance card with them at all times and present it when they seek medical treatment.

For insurance assistance contact Ms. Tiedra Robertson at ias-insurance@wmich.edu.

J-Visa Holders Insurance Requirements	Students entering the United States on a J-Visa must have health insurance that meets the minimum requirements set by U.S. Department of State regulations: http://j1visa.state.gov/sponsors/how-to-administer-a-program/ For more information, please visit https://wmich.edu/internationaladmissions/resources/insurance .
Other International Students Not on J-Visa	Health insurance for all other international students must meet the same requirements as the J-Visa holders, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inpatient and outpatient medical coverage for hospitalization, emergency room, urgent care, maternity, physical therapy, and mental health services.• Prescription (medication) coverage.• Pre-existing condition clause not greater than 6 months. For more information, please visit https://wmich.edu/internationaladmissions/resources/insurance . Please take note that medical evacuation and repatriation coverage is a standard requirement for all international students. If students do not have this coverage in their current plan, it must be purchased in a separate policy.
Tuberculosis Testing Requirement	Incoming students from countries identified by the World Health Organization as high-risk for tuberculosis exposure will be required to have testing done at WMU's health center. Sindecuse Health Center offers the highly-reliable Quantiferon Gold (QFG) test for M. tuberculosis exposure. For more information, please visit https://wmich.edu/healthcenter/clinic/services/tb .

Getting Around WMU Campus and Kalamazoo

Most classes are within walking distance from on-campus housing, making walking the most common transport for students to get to class.

Transportation Options	WMU Campus Busing: https://wmich.edu/busing Metro Transit Buses (greater Kalamazoo area): http://www.kmetro.com/ Uber and Lyft are also an option.
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University Facilities

Health Services	Sindecuse Health Center: http://www.wmich.edu/healthcenter/
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	<p>Located on the main campus, WMU's Sindecuse Health Center offers convenient, cost-saving services with an experienced, multidisciplinary staff dedicated to maintaining and improving patient health.</p>
Counseling Services	<p>Counseling Services at Sindecuse Health Center: http://www.wmich.edu/healthcenter/counseling/</p> <p>Counselors help students identify challenges and make changes to manage the emotional and social difficulties that might complicate college life.</p>
Academic Support Services	<p>Academic Success Programs: https://wmich.edu/merzetate/academics/support</p> <p>The Center for Academic Success Programs enhances teaching and promotes student learning through collaborative, effective research-based programs.</p>
	<p>Student Success Services: https://wmich.edu/merzetate/academics/support/success</p> <p>Student Success Services in the College of Arts and Sciences at Western Michigan University provides academic support programs and connects students to resources they may need to achieve their academic and personal goals.</p>
Special Needs and Accommodations	<p>Disability Services for Students: https://wmich.edu/disabilityservices</p> <p>All students deserve the chance to succeed regardless of issues, challenges, or conditions. DSS advocates for students to be provided with the appropriate tools to allow them to reach their potential. Those tools, academic accommodation or adjustment, facilitate learning while maintaining the integrity of course content and outcomes.</p>
Exercise and Recreation	<p>Student Recreation Center: http://www.wmich.edu/rec/</p> <p>This center promotes healthy life-style choices, team building, leadership skills, and opportunities for positive social interaction.</p>