



THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

Study Abroad &
Global Engagement



The University of Kansas Exchange Fact Sheet 2026-27

Located on a scenic campus in the center of the United States, the University of Kansas (KU) is a comprehensive research and teaching university with nearly 200 undergraduate majors.

The university consistently earns excellent ratings in top college guides. KU is a member of the prestigious Association of American Universities, placing it among the top research institutions in the US. It is currently ranked #74 in Top Public Schools by US News & World Report in their 2026 edition of Best Colleges. KU is famous for the natural beauty of its campus, the high-quality of its academic programs, reasonable cost, and diverse cultural and recreational opportunities. Its students come from all 50 states and 116 countries.

AREAS OF STUDY

Exchange students typically take courses within the following departments and schools:

- Applied English Center
- Architecture, Design & Planning
- Arts (Visual Arts, Film, Theatre, and Dance)
- Business
- Engineering
- Journalism & Mass Communications
- Liberal Arts and Sciences (Humanities, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences)
- Music

RESEARCH

KU boasts a proud record of top-tier research. With 11 designated research centers & institutes KU delivers real solutions to worldwide problems through innovation and collaboration. Over 5,595 Kansas jobs are supported by the \$546 million in research & development funds raised last year alone.

Learn more about KU's research at <https://research.ku.edu/>.

CAMPUS LIFE

With over 500 student groups to join, students can connect with their peers and engage in activities for all types of academic and social interests. <https://ku.edu/student-life>

KU's main campus is in Lawrence, Kansas, a historic city with a famously vibrant arts & music scene. To learn more about KU's hometown, visit <https://ku.edu/about-lawrence>.

Athletic events are an exciting part of campus life at KU. As a basketball powerhouse with an unmatched legacy, Kansas has a proud history of athletic excellence. Students will have the opportunity to experience some of the very best in collegiate sports as a student at KU.



APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Application Requirements:

Students must be officially nominated by their home institution. Nominations should be emailed to the [Exchange Coordinator](#) and the appropriate Regional Coordinator at least two weeks prior to the application deadline.

Nomination Deadlines:



Application Deadlines:



Supporting Documents: (to be submitted via online application or shortly after admission)

- Transcript from current institution and listing of courses in progress
- Copy of passport
- Evidence of financial support, which meets the minimum requirements (see application instructions for specific amounts)
- [Assessment of Functional Level of English for Prospective J-1 Exchange Visitor Visas](#) (if applicable)
- Portfolio of work or audition may be required for certain areas of study (such as Architecture, Design, Visual Art, or Music)

See Application Instructions at:
www.studyabroad.ku.edu/application

KU has nearly 30,000 students that come from every state in the U.S. and 110 countries in every region of the world.



ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

English Proficiency Exam Policy:

All non-native English speakers are required to take the [KU English Proficiency Exam](#) through the [Applied English Center \(AEC\)](#) online prior to arrival unless they meet one of the waiver requirements listed below. Those meeting one or more of the requirements should submit documentation with their application. If approved for the waiver, they will be allowed to enroll full-time in university courses. The "Assessment of Functional Level of English" form does not waive you from the AEC Test.

Waiver Requirements		
Undergraduate	TOEFL	79 or higher overall score with no subscore below 18
	IELTS	6.5 or higher overall score with no subscore below 6.0
	Has attended 4 years of college preparatory English and high school graduation with a 2.5 GPA in one of the following locations:	United States of America, The United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, an English-speaking province of Canada, an English-speaking Caribbean or African country, or any US-accredited school located abroad
Graduate	TOEFL (internet-based)	Minimum score of 23 on each section
	IELTS	Overall band score of 6.5 with a minimum of 6 on each section

All other students will take the AEC exam online prior to arrival or during orientation and their test scores will determine if AEC courses are required, and if so, which ones.

Please note: Although TOEFL and IELTS test scores are not required to study on exchange at KU, students who have taken either exam are encouraged to have test scores submitted to AEC with their application materials or shortly thereafter.



ENROLLMENT

Exchange students are not able to enroll until they have:

- Completed the English Proficiency Test (or had it waived)
- Registered for “You at KU” Orientation
- Scheduled their health check-in appointment

After acceptance, students will submit course request questionnaires via their Jayhawks Abroad account.

Study Abroad & Global Engagement will then work with the academic departments to obtain any necessary permissions for enrollment. Before the start of the semester, students will receive enrollment instructions from Study Abroad & Global Engagement once they are able to enroll.

COURSE REQUESTS

Course requests are not guaranteed; therefore, students must select at least 2 alternate courses. In cases where prerequisites are listed, it is important that students have the appropriate background for the course.

Please note: Courses tend to be similar from Fall to Fall and Spring to Spring so if the term that you will be attending KU is not listed yet, please view the previous term. Fall classes typically post in mid-March and Spring classes typically post in mid-October. You can search for classes on the class schedule found at: www.classes.ku.edu

Restricted Course Subjects = Athletic Training, Law, Medicine, Pharmacy

CREDIT HOURS

- Undergraduates must enroll in 12-15 credits (usually equivalent to 4 or 5 classes)
- Graduate students must enroll in 9 credits (usually equivalent to 3 classes)
- Students are limited to 1 online course per semester. If the online course includes an additional fee, the student is responsible for this fee. Students are limited to the credit hours listed above.
- Undergraduate students taking more than 15 credits will be responsible for those tuition and fee expenses. Graduate students taking more than 12 credits will be responsible for those tuition and fee expenses.

Please note that Applied English Center (AEC) classes range from 4 – 7.5 credits each depending on level.

Level 1-3 students enroll into full-time English study AEC coursework

Level 4-5 students may enroll in a combination of AEC and academic KU courses.

UNDERSTANDING THE SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

- When searching for classes, class days will be indicated by M (Monday), T (Tuesday), W (Wednesday), Th (Thursday), and F (Friday) and each will have a 5 digit Class # that you will need to enter when submitting your course requests.
- Most classes will be offered at the Lawrence campus, however KU does have other campus locations (KU Med, Edwards, and Regents campuses). Be sure to select courses with “Lawrence” listed after them. Exchange students are not permitted to take course at campuses other than the Lawrence campus. Please note that some classes consist of a large lecture AND an accompanying lab or discussion section (indicated by LAB or DIS) on the schedule. When selecting a class in this format, you must select the lecture as well as a LAB or DIS section. Some departments offer Independent Study credit and/or research credit. These courses are typically not available for exchange students.

With nearly 200 fields of study there are course offerings for a wide variety of academic disciplines.

To find out more about classes, please visit <https://www.ku.edu/academics/>

UNIVERSITY DATES

The full academic calendar is available at: www.registrar.ku.edu/calendar

Fall 2026	
Orientation Arrival Date	August 10th
Classes begin	August 24th
Labor Day (no classes)	September 7th
Fall Break (no classes / limited meal service)	October 17th-20th
Thanksgiving Break (no classes)	November 25th-29th
Final Exams End	December 18th

Spring 2027	
Orientation Arrival Date	January 11th
Martin Luther King Jr. Day (KU Offices closed)	January 18th
Classes begin	January 19th
Spring Break (no classes / residence halls close)	March 15th-21st
Final Exams End	May 13th

Dates are subject to change

PRE-DEPARTURE, ARRIVAL, AND ORIENTATION INFORMATION

All new incoming international students are required to participate in the “You at KU” orientation program. This mandatory orientation is conducted by International Support Services (ISS) and includes an introduction to university facilities, resources, & policies, student life at KU and in the U.S., and safety information. Orientation will include mandatory immigration document check-ins and English Language proficiency testing for students unable to test online prior to arrival. Orientation also provides students with shuttled shopping excursions, social activities, and most meals throughout the program. Useful advice and information that will help you prepare for your travel and arrival can be found at:

<https://iss.ku.edu/newly-admitted-students>

ARRIVAL/REPORT DATE

Students entering the US on a J-1 visa sponsored by the University of Kansas must arrive no later than the Start Date indicated on their DS-2019 (section 3). The Start Date will match the Orientation Arrival Date. If you are not able to arrive by the start date indicated, please contact Study Abroad & Global Engagement at inboundexchange@ku.edu to determine if a later arrival date can be permitted.

KU Dining Plan Options – www.union.ku.edu/dining-plans

KU Housing – www.housing.ku.edu

KU International Support Services – <https://iss.ku.edu/>



ON-CAMPUS ACCOMMODATIONS

Exchange students are responsible for arranging their own housing during the duration of their time at KU, and typically choose to live in either on-campus apartments or residence halls. Students are encouraged to contract for housing as soon as possible once admitted (after receiving your KUID number) in order to have access to the greatest range of options. Please note that cancellation fees apply once you contract. Housing contracts are for the academic year, however students coming for just the fall semester will have the opportunity to opt out of the next semester at no charge.

You can explore on-campus housing options at: www.housing.ku.edu

ORIENTATION ACCOMMODATIONS

Students staying on campus during the semester will have the option of moving into their on-campus housing early for an additional modest nightly fee (typically around \$40). Students who have contracted for on-campus housing must submit an Early Arrival Request through their KU Housing portal in order to move into their housing prior to the contract start date. Once processed, information will be sent to you regarding your check-in location and other details.

ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS

Location	Acommodation	Description	During Breaks	Dining Plans
On-Campus	Jayhawker Towers, Stouffer Apartments, and McCarthy Hall Apartments	2-person, 4-person, and even 6-person (Stouffer) apartments are available. Each one includes 2-4 bedrooms, a living room, full bath, and a kitchenette with a stove, oven, and refrigerator. The bedrooms are furnished with beds, desks and chairs, and closets with a dresser.	Remain open; contracts include housing over breaks so students living there may stay at no additional cost.	Optional (kitchen access)
	Residence Halls	Traditional dormitory-style living which typically have 2-3 students per bedroom. Certain residence halls such as Oswald and Self are open to freshmen only, whereas GSP, Corbin, Ellsworth, and Hashinger are open to students of all levels.	Remain open during all university breaks except for Winter Break. Students wishing to stay on-campus over Winter Break must sign up for winter break housing and pay a fee.	Required (no kitchen access)
Off-Campus	**The majority of exchange students choose to live on-campus for convenience and because it is challenging to find furnished apartments with short-term leases. However, exchange students occasionally choose to live off-campus. All off-campus housing arrangements are the responsibility of the student.**			
	Naismith Hall	A privately owned residence-hall-style option that is adjacent to campus that has also been popular with exchange students. If you are coming for just one semester, please be sure to specify this with the staff to ensure that a single semester contract is a possibility. Learn more at https://www.naismithhall.com/	See lease options	Included

TUITION & FEES

Tuition and Course Fees, Technology Fee, International Student Service fee, Infrastructure Fee, Wellness Fee, and Campus Fee will be covered by Study Abroad & Global Engagement. Campus fees fund access to the recreation and fitness center, on-campus bus system, library and software resources, health center, and student events. Exchange students will be responsible for housing and meals (except for Tsuda, University of Costa Rica or ISEP students), KUID card (\$21), Orientation Fees (\$290), ISS Check-In Fee (\$40), and the required health insurance (subject to change but currently \$1,180 per semester).

These prices are estimates based on past terms and can change. These will be billed after you have arrived on campus and enrolled into classes.

REQUIRED HEALTH INSURANCE

All international exchange students will automatically be enrolled in and charged the mandatory health insurance plan through United Healthcare unless granted a waiver through the ISS Office. The cost for the academic year is currently \$1,180 per semester and subject to change.

To apply for the waiver, you must submit the Waiver Request Form by the first day of class and provide documentation showing that you are covered by an insurance plan which meets the specified minimum requirements. Please note that students coming for the full academic year must apply for the waiver at the beginning of each semester. Learn more about the minimum requirements and waiver process at:

www.iss.ku.edu/waivers.

CONTACTS

Exchange Student Coordinator	Coordinator	Email
Inbound Exchange Students	Jason Foster	inboundexchange@ku.edu
Region	Coordinator	Email
Australia and East Asia	Renee Frias	rfrias@ku.edu
École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture Paris Val de Seine	Kate Gerken	kategerken@ku.edu
France, Italy, the Mediterranean, the Middle-East, Africa, and Southeast Asia	Brooke Stock	brooke.stock@ku.edu
Germany, Austria, Eastern Europe, & MAUI/UTRECHT	Jenna Hunter-Skidmore	jmhunter@ku.edu
Spain, Portugal, Latin America, & the Caribbean	Mari Keyser	mkeyser@ku.edu
The Netherlands, Scandinavia, Ireland, & the United Kingdom	David Wiley	dwiley@ku.edu



GET IN TOUCH

Study Abroad & Global Engagement
1410 Jayhawk Boulevard, Room 108
Lawrence, Kansas 66045
United States of America

University Website: www.ku.edu
Study Abroad Website: www.studyabroad.ku.edu/exchangestudents
Take an online tour: www.admissions.ku.edu/tour

Phone: 001.785.864.3742 | Email: inboundexchange@ku.edu | [Instagram](#)