



UNIVERSITY OF
CENTRAL MISSOURI

INTERNATIONAL
STUDENT SERVICES

UCM EXCHANGE & SPONSORED STUDENT GUIDE

2025–2026



The UCM Experience

- Study in the heart of the United States for one or two semesters
- Live on a friendly, active campus located in a safe community
- Take internationally recognized courses in over 150 high-quality programs
- Pay home institution rates or receive a Global Partnership Non-Resident Scholarship



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of this guide!

YOUR EXCHANGE STUDENT JOURNEY

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UCM EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The University of Central Missouri's Exchange Program offers the most comprehensive and culturally immersive collegiate experience. UCM's International Student Services (ISS) has partnered with over 30 universities around the world to offer short- and long-term study abroad opportunities to exchange students.

- Our academic programs boast an **18-to-1 student-to-faculty ratio** for personal, hands-on experiences.
- We offer **English language and American culture courses** through the English Language Institute, including fun activities and trips.
- We have over **185 recognized student organizations** and a recreation center with a rock-climbing wall.
- Exchange students can pay their **home institution rate for tuition** while studying in the U.S.
- Students can study beyond the exchange program agreement and receive the **UCM Global Partnership Non-Resident Scholarship** which offers **half-off non-resident tuition** for up to one year!
- ISS and the Coordinator of Exchange & Sponsored Student Programs are here to **support you throughout your time with UCM.**



“Follow this easy, step-by-step guide to begin your exchange student journey!”



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IMPORTANT DATES

EVENTS & NOTES		FALL 2025	SPRING 2026
Deadline for Exchange Nomination	<i>UCM exchange partners nominate students in our online form. *Sponsors issuing DS-2019 can nominate students later and only once placement is arranged</i>	June 1, 2025*	October 1, 2025*
Deadline for Student Application	<i>All required materials should be submitted in the admissions portal. *Sponsored students can apply later and once nominated</i>	June 15, 2025*	October 15, 2025*
Soft Deadline to Apply for Housing	<i>This is only a recommended date to ensure the most options. *Sponsored students apply later</i>	June 1, 2025*	November 15, 2025*
Airport arrival at Kansas City International Airport (MCI)	<i>A complimentary hotel stay and airport pickup* must be requested in advance via an ISS form sent to student's email</i>	August 11, 2025 *Between the hours of 11:00 a.m.–11:30 p.m	January 5, 2026 *Between the hours of 11:00 a.m.–11:30 p.m.
International Student Orientation	<i>A required, multi-day orientation including housing move-in, health screening, campus tour, testing, games, and group activities</i>	August 12–15, 2025	January 6–9, 2026
First day of classes	<i>Must be approved by UCM Health Center to attend</i>	August 18, 2025	January 12, 2026
Enrollment changes deadline	<i>Last day to add, change, or drop a full-semester course for 100% refund</i>	August 21, 2025	January 15, 2026
Final examinations and move out	<i>This testing week follows the last week of classes</i>	December 8–12, 2025	May 4–8, 2026
Last day to move out and depart	<i>Campus housing check-out date must be arranged with Housing in advance</i>	December 13, 2025	May 9, 2026

For dates of university office closures; Fall, Winter, and Spring Break; and enrollment deadlines, refer to [Dates and Deadlines](#) with Office of the Registrar & Student Records or the [UCM Calendar](#).

Dates and Deadlines



UCM Calendar



FINANCIAL INFORMATION & PAYMENTS

Exchange students in a 1:1 exchange agreement with UCM are exempt from UCM tuition fees up to 15 credit hours for undergraduate and up to 12 credit hours for graduate. Sponsored students should refer to their sponsoring program information for details on financial coverage.

Direct-pay exchange students and sponsors receive 50% off non-resident tuition with our Global Partnership Non-Resident Scholarship. This scholarship is applied to student accounts after arrival; there is no need to apply.

Refer to costs in the following charts to estimate for future academic years. Updated costs for the next academic year are available around June.

ITEMIZED COSTS FALL 2024–SPRING 2025 (PREVIOUS YEAR)				
	Undergraduate, one semester *based on 15 credit hours		Graduate, one semester *based on 9 credit hours	
	1:1 Exchange	Direct Pay Exchange or Sponsored	1:1 Exchange	Direct Pay Exchange or Sponsored
Tuition* after Global Partner Scholarship	\$0	\$4,275.00	\$0	\$3,298.50
General Fees	\$750.00		\$750.00	
New Student Fee	\$50.00		\$50.00	
International Fee	\$100.00		\$100.00	
Course Fees	\$75.00		\$225.00	
Residence Hall Housing	\$3,264.00		\$3,264.00	
Meal Plan (Plan 1)	\$2,016.00		\$2,016.00	
Insurance Fall	\$1,026.00		\$1,026.00	
Insurance Spring	\$1,418.00		\$1,418.00	
Expense per Dependent	\$2,000.00		\$2,000.00	

FINANCIAL INFORMATION & PAYMENTS (CONTINUED)

TOTAL COSTS*				
FALL 2024–SPRING 2025 (PREVIOUS YEAR)				
	Undergraduate, one semester *based on 15 credit hours		Graduate, one semester *based on 9 credit hours	
	1:1 Exchange	Direct Pay Exchange or Sponsored	1:1 Exchange	Direct Pay Exchange or Sponsored
Total Fall	\$7,281.00	\$11,556.00	\$7,431.00	\$10,729.50
Total Spring	\$7,673.00	\$11,948.00	\$7,823.00	\$11,121.50
Total Year	\$14,904.00	\$23,454.00	\$15,204.00	\$21,801.00

*Total costs will rely on factors such as credit hours, variable course fees, and dependents

Student accounts and amounts due can be viewed in the UCM Payment Center in [MyCentral](#).

All billing adjustments will be applied after arrival.

For information on methods of payment, third party payments, international payments, and payment due dates, see resources through [Student Financial Services](#).



Student Financial Services

STUDENT TESTIMONIALS & SOCIAL MEDIA



My goal at UCM is to expand my horizons, learn from diverse perspectives, and build a network of friends from many countries while focusing on my studies.

Vannoula Phongvichith
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Check out our
[social media!](#)



[Student
Testimonials](#)



YOUR EXCHANGE STUDENT JOURNEY

HOW TO APPLY

1. NOMINATION

Contact your university's study abroad office and request a nomination to be an exchange student at UCM. Your university must be a recognized UCM exchange partner and will submit the nomination to us in our online form.

2. APPLICATION & DOCUMENTS

Once nominated, you will receive a link to the email provided in the nomination form to fill out an application and submit the required documents.

After filling out an application, you will be redirected to the admissions portal to upload required documents. You can see your application progress in the Application Tracker located in the left margin of the page. **Your application is not complete until the required documents are submitted in the admissions portal.**

Once all your application materials have been submitted and reviewed by ISS, you will receive an **official UCM welcome letter**. You will gain access to UCM's student portal [MyCentral](#) shortly after. UCM email access doesn't start until orientation week.

3. DS-2019

Next you will receive a **DS-2019 form** from UCM to apply for your exchange visitor (J-1) visa. Sponsored students usually receive the DS-2019 from their sponsor.

REQUIRED APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

- Unofficial transcripts (no minimum GPA for undergraduate admission)
- [Declaration of Financial Support](#) form
- Official bank statement or sponsor letter

Bank statement should be translated into English and demonstrate sufficient funds to cover your costs while studying at UCM. This amount will depend on your exchange agreement. Refer to the Financial Information section of this guide for approximate costs.

- Photocopy of passport identification page
- Home country emergency contact
- Demonstration of English proficiency (refer to the next page for details)

REQUIRED APPLICATION DOCUMENTS (CONTINUED)



ENGLISH PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS

Any one of the following may serve as a demonstration of English proficiency. If no English test score is provided or if the minimum score is not met, students will be placed in the Intensive English Program with the English Language Institute and ineligible to enroll in full-time academic coursework until a minimum score is achieved on the UCM English Proficiency Test, TOEFL iBT, IELTS Academic, Duolingo, Oxford ELLT, or Cambridge B2/C1.

Test	Undergraduate	Graduate
TOEFL iBT	61	79
IELTS Academic	5.5	6.0
Duolingo	95	120
Oxford ELLT	6	7
International Baccalaureate High School		
	English A SL: 5+	
	English A HL: 5+	
	English B SL: 6+	
	English B HL: 5+	
Cambridge B2/C1	162	
Graduated from WASC-accredited high school		
Waiver based on country of origin*		

The scores listed are a minimum threshold. During orientation, the following students will be required to take the UCM English Proficiency Test:

- Students who have a score below 92 on the TOEFL iBT or below 7.0 on IELTS Academic, and students who submitted scores from English proficiency tests other than TOEFL and IELTS
- Students who wish to take English (ENGL) or communications (COMM) classes.

If sufficient scores are not achieved on the UCM English Proficiency Test, students will be enrolled in English and unable to enroll in full-time academic courses.

Contact **Valerie Heming**, English Language Institute Director, for UCM English Proficiency Test information: vheming@ucmo.edu

***Students from the following countries may receive an English proficiency waiver:**

American Samoa, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Botswana, Cameroon, Canada, Cayman Islands, Gambia, Ghana, Jamaica, Kenya, Liberia, Namibia, New Zealand, Nigeria, The Pacific Islands of Palau, the Philippines, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Tanzania, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, Uganda, United Kingdom, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

PREPARING FOR ARRIVAL

4. VISA

Apply for an exchange visitor (J-1) visa and schedule an interview through your local U.S. Embassy or Consulate. It is important to apply for your visa as far in advance as possible. You will also need to pay various fees, such as the visa application fee and the Form I-901 SEVIS fee.

Make sure your passport will be valid for at least 6 months after arrival to the U.S.

Search for your nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate and their exchange visitor (J-1) visa application process:



www.usembassy.gov

Review tips for a successful visa interview and information on the visa application process:



5. FLIGHTS

Once you receive your visa, **arrange your flights to Kansas City International Airport (MCI) to arrive the day before orientation begins.** Find your airport arrival date in the Important Dates chart, and make sure your arrival time to Kansas City is between 11:00 a.m. and 11:30 p.m. to request our airport pickup service.

Attending every day of orientation is required, you may not enter the U.S. more than 30 days before your DS-2019 start date, and you must leave the U.S. within 30 days after program completion.



PREPARING FOR ARRIVAL (CONTINUED)



6. AIRPORT PICKUP, HOTEL, & TRANSPORTATION



Fill out the Airport Pickup Request Form by the deadline stated in an ISS email. Airport pickup includes a one-night complimentary hotel stay and transportation to campus the morning of orientation. Airport pickup can only occur the day before orientation between 11:00 a.m. and 11:30 p.m.



Public transportation is extremely limited, so requesting our airport pickup ensures the smoothest transition. There are no taxis or buses at the airport to take to Warrensburg or taxis on the street in Warrensburg. An Uber ride from MCI to Warrensburg could cost about \$250, and some students have had issues processing payments in the app upon arrival.



If you do not arrange ISS-provided airport pickup by the deadline, you will be responsible for your own accommodations including a hotel stay and transportation to UCM campus the morning of orientation.

- Pre-arrange an Agenda shuttle from MCI to Warrensburg: Email your pickup/drop-off request, name, phone and WhatsApp #s, and flight itinerary to fleet@agendausa.com (~\$250 with the discount password "UCM Orientation").
- Call an ETS Taxi (+1 (660) 624-4120) an hour in advance for pickup from your hotel in Warrensburg to UCM campus (~\$12/reservation).

PREPARING FOR ARRIVAL (CONTINUED)

7. COURSE ENROLLMENT

Select courses for enrollment. Enrollment opens in late March for the Fall semester and late October for the Spring semester. There are enrollment holds for all international students, so please follow these steps and refer to your program requirements when selecting classes. Course suggestions are on the following page.

1. **Check the UCM course catalog** and write down any courses you want to take. Not all courses are available every semester. Courses have a prefix (e.g. ACCT for Accounting) and a number associated with the course level: 1000 to 4000 level (undergraduate) and 5000 to 6000 level (graduate). Upper-level courses require prerequisite courses to enroll. **Students taking courses with a prefix of ENGL or COMM must take the UCM English Proficiency Test at orientation.**

UCM COURSE LISTS



[Undergraduate Courses](#)



[Graduate Courses](#)



[General Education Courses](#)

2. **Print and fill out the chart in the Worksheet for Exchange Program Course Selection.** Follow the instructions and fill out courses in order of preference.



3. **Fill out the Course Selection Form to submit** your preferred courses using the worksheet chart.



COURSE SUGGESTIONS

AMERICAN STUDIES

- IEP 0511, 0811, 0821, 0531, 0831 & 0841*: American Culture sessions, 3 credit hours (see below)
- HIST 1350: History of the United States to 1877, 3 credit hours
- HIST 1351: History of the United States from 1877, 3 credit hours
- POLS 1510: American Government, 3 credit hours
- POLS 2511: State Government, 3 credit hours
- ENGL 2205: Introduction to American Literature, 3 credit hours

*IEP 0511-0841: This is a six-session American culture course that totals 3 credit hours (one "class"). It includes cultural activities and field trips that students love and recommend! The activity package is \$200 per semester. Course times for classes in the English Language Institute (ELI) are not finalized until orientation week. Contact **Valerie Heming**, English Language Institute Director, for details: vheming@ucmo.edu

SKILLS BUILDING

- IEP 0811 & 0831*: Tutorial: Study Skills sessions, 1 credit hour (see below)
- COMM 1000: Public Speaking, 3 credit hours
- COMM 1050: Communication in Practice, 3 credit hours
- MKT 1401: Professional Speaking and Presentation, 3 credit hours
- COMM 2000: Media Literacy, 3 credit hours
- PHIL 1410: Critical Thinking, 3 credit hours

*IEP 0811-0831: This is a two-session course that totals 1 credit hour (one "class"). The activity package is \$200 per semester. Course times for classes in the English Language Institute (ELI) are not finalized until orientation week. Contact **Valerie Heming**, English Language Institute Director, for details: vheming@ucmo.edu

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

English course level will be assigned after orientation testing for those who do not meet English requirements and for those who wish to take English or communications courses. The activity package is \$200 per semester. Contact **Valerie Heming**, English Language Institute Director, for details: vheming@ucmo.edu

- ENGL 1180: Spoken English as a Second Language, 3 credit hours
- ENGL 1190: Written English as a Second Language, 3 credit hours

PREPARING FOR ARRIVAL (CONTINUED)

8. HOUSING AND MEAL PLANS

Learn about on-campus residence hall housing:

Living in a residence hall with an American roommate is the best opportunity for cultural exchange and language immersion during your time at UCM. *This is a program requirement for sponsored students.*



General information about housing and apartment living is available through University Housing.



Learn about meal plans and campus retail dining:



Exchange students typically have Meal Plan 1.

Review pricing for housing and meal plans:



(updated in April)

8. HOUSING AND MEAL PLANS (CONTINUED)

Exchange Students (not sponsored):

Sign up for housing and select your meal plan in **MyCentral**. Housing options will fill up, so submitting the residence hall agreement earlier is better. Your meal plan also must be processed prior to arrival to add to your digital student ID.

How to sign up for residence hall housing in MyCentral:



How to find links for housing (including apartment applications) and meal plan sign-up in MyCentral:



Sponsored Students:

Fill out the **Residence Hall Agreement** and **Meal Plan Agreement** and email the completed forms to the Exchange Program coordinator: **intlsponsored@ucmo.edu**
Select a double room and Meal Plan 1.

Sponsored students will not select housing or meal plans in MyCentral.



Housing During Academic Breaks

Residence halls and dining centers are closed during certain academic breaks. You do not need to move out, but you must request break housing to stay in your room. This does not apply to apartments. Limited retail dining will be available on campus. If you need an extension into the weekend after the semester of your departure, pre-arrange with University Housing without a fee.

Sign up for required **break housing** for your term when it is available. A red checkmark in the following chart indicates that a housing closure occurs.

Break Housing Schedule			
	Thanksgiving Break	Winter Break	Spring Break
Fall Semester-only Students	✓	✗	✗
Spring Semester-only Students	✗	✗	✓
Fall and Spring Semester Students	✓	✓	✓

PREPARING FOR ARRIVAL (CONTINUED)

9. MEDICAL RECORDS & HEALTH INSURANCE

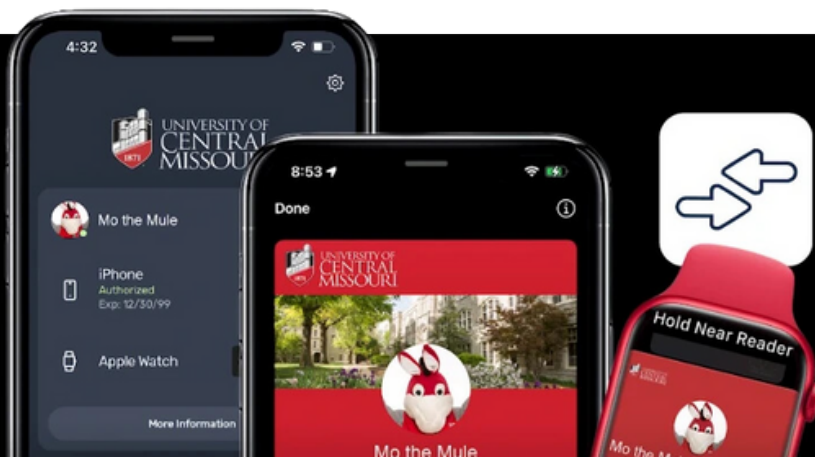
Prepare to **bring your medical and immunization records** translated into English. Students who need required vaccines will receive them at the Orientation Health Screening. Vaccines are required to move into campus housing and attend class. Refer to the [UCM Vaccination and Tuberculosis Requirements](#) for more information.

All exchange students are automatically enrolled in the [UCM Health Insurance Plan](#). UCM health insurance is required for all students; only some programs are exempt and may request a waiver.

10. STUDENT ID (MOBILE MULE CARD)

Set up your **digital student ID**, which will be used to access your meal plan.

- 1 Download the Transact eAccounts mobile app from the Apple or Google Play Store.
- 2 Enter your UCM credentials and password.
- 3 Use the gear in the top right corner of the app to submit your photo following the photo requirements. Please allow up to 24 hours for your photo to be approved.
- 4 When the photo is approved you will see an icon that says to add it to your Apple Wallet or GPay. Select the icon to link up your account. Once linked, your Mobile Mule Card will be available. *Note: The region in your phone must be set to the United States to attach it to your wallet. We can help you with this at orientation, if needed.*



PREPARING FOR ARRIVAL (CONTINUED)

11. WHAT TO BRING (OR BUY UPON ARRIVAL)

Refer to the move-in guide for detailed information. There will be opportunity to buy items at the store during orientation.

Bed packs can be purchased for \$85, if desired. Contact English Language Institute Director Valerie Heming to arrange yours prior to arrival: vheming@ucmo.edu

BEDROOM & BATHROOM

- Winter coat and warm clothes
- Clothes hangers
- Pillow and pillowcase
- Towel, bathmat, shower shoes, toiletries, toilet paper
- Backpack, notebooks, writing utensils
- Water bottle, plate, cup, utensils, food storage containers
- Desk or floor lamp (optional)

	LOCATION	DIMENSIONS
Bed sheets and comforter	All residence halls; Foster-Knox & Nickerson Apartments	Twin XL mattress size: 38 x 80 inches / 99 x 203 cm
	Todd & The Crossing Apartments	Full XL mattress size: 54 x 80 inches / 137 x 203 cm
Shower liner and hooks	All housing locations	72 x 72 inches / 183 x 183 cm

CLEANING & LAUNDRY

- Laundry bag & high-efficiency detergent
- Trash can liners (for 8-gallon trash can)
- Cleaning supplies, paper towels

ELECTRICITY

- Electricity adapter (Plug Type B is best)
- Electricity converter, if needed (The U.S. operates on 120V and 60Hz)
- An extension cord with power strip

FOOD

- Snacks & water, especially for the day of your arrival
- Any unique products or spices you want to use for cooking in shared kitchens.

Some international products are available in Warrensburg grocery stores, and there are international markets in Kansas City. There is a shuttle from Warrensburg to Lee's Summit (southeast of Kansas City), and you can use Uber or Lyft rideshare service in Kansas City.

Consult Prohibited and Restricted Items for what is permissible to bring into the United States. It's a good idea to also bring USD in cash with you. You will have opportunity to open a bank account during orientation.

ARRIVAL

12. COMING TO UCM & ORIENTATION

Welcome! We are so excited you are here!

- **Carry all necessary documents to enter the U.S. and to UCM Orientation Check-in:**
 - DS-2019
 - Passport (valid 6+ months into the future)
 - J-1 visa
 - I-94 (digital, proof of legal visitor status issued by U.S. Customs upon arrival)
- **Watch your email accounts for communications.** You will gain access to your UCM email account during orientation week.
- **If you did not arrange ISS airport pickup,** arrange a hotel stay and transportation to UCM the morning of orientation. You can arrange an Agenda shuttle to Warrensburg (~\$250 with the discount password "UCM Orientation") and call an ETS Taxi an hour in advance for pickup in Warrensburg to UCM (+1 (660) 624-4120, ~\$12).
- **Students are required to attend every day of orientation and all sessions.** You will move into campus housing on the first day. There will be provided meals, games, group activities, presentations, testing, a health screening, opportunities to buy essentials and open a bank account, a campus tour, and more! Be ready to have fun!
- **Classes begin the week following orientation.** Make sure to attend and be on time! To make course changes, contact Success Advising before the enrollment deadlines.
- **Payments are not due until August 20th (Fall) and January 20th (Spring).** Check your student account in the UCM Payment Center in MyCentral. **All billing adjustments will be applied after arrival.** For assistance, see Student Financial Services.

Get ready to have an amazing time at orientation, make lifelong friends, and start classes in your UCM exchange student journey!

