



Fact Sheet For International Students

DEAR PROSPECTIVE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT: PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING THOROUGHLY. THIS INFORMATION ANSWERS MANY QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS SEEKING ADMISSION AT UAF.

The University

The University of Alaska Fairbanks opened its door in 1922 as the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines, with six students and six faculty members. Today, the 2,250-acre campus is a comprehensive university offering degrees in more than 110 disciplines. In its pursuit of excellence, the university provides quality education by attracting highly qualified faculty and maintaining a low student/faculty ratio.

Situated on a ridge overlooking the valley of the Tanana River and the city of Fairbanks, with Mt. McKinley on the horizon, the campus provides the perfect atmosphere for the special camaraderie that develops among students and faculty, resulting in both personal and intellectual growth. Activities abound, both on and off campus, and students are actively involved, be it anything from a chess match or College Bowl to backpacking, fishing, or skiing on the university's 25 miles of cross-country trails.

Open enrollment at UAF in the fall of 2007 was 8627, of whom 7600 were undergraduates and 1027 were graduate students. These figures include students who attended the six branch campuses and education centers located across Alaska. Eighty-three percent of the students are from Alaska. The seventeen percent non-resident population represents all other states and 25 international countries.

Life-long friendships result from close interactions through social, recreational and government activities in the residence halls. Students participate in developing rules for living in the eight halls and the student apartment complex. Campus housing is available for students with families.

Extensive cultural and recreational programs, special events and student organizations serve the interests and needs of students. The Patty Athletic Center contains a gymnasium, rifle range, handball/racquetball courts and a swimming pool. Connected to this is the Student Recreation Center, a state-of-the-art multi use fitness facility. Intercollegiate athletics include basketball, rifle, cross-country running and skiing, women's swimming, volleyball and ice hockey. The Wood Center, UAF's student Union, is the focus of various out-of-class activities for students and faculty.

Location

The university is located in interior Alaska and is the largest residential campus in the statewide system. Fairbanks, with a population of approximately 85,000, has a 152-bed community hospital, 6 local television stations, cable TV, 17 AM and FM radio stations and a daily newspaper. Concerts, exhibits and stage productions abound in this land where camping, skiing and hiking are popular diversions. Municipal bus service is available between downtown Fairbanks, the surrounding area and the campus. Fairbanks is served by numerous airlines and is only 45 air minutes from Anchorage, which has direct flights from several points in Europe, Asia and other points in the U.S.

While Fairbanks does get cold during the winter months, with an average winter temperature of -6 degrees Fahrenheit, temperatures reach the 80's during the summer. Although Fairbanks receives moderate snowfall, the climate in interior Alaska is very dry. The annual precipitation in Fairbanks is 11.3 inches of rainfall and 68.8 inches of snowfall.

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Academic Facilities

The Elmer E. Rasmuson Library contains over 1,750,000 book volumes, 30,000 serials and periodicals and the Alaska & Polar Regions Collection. The library has available computer labs, various media, software, maps and photographs. Membership in the Western Library Network provides access to over 3,000,000 additional listings and other database resources through an inter-library loan system.

Since the installation of the first supercomputer, Denali, in 1993, ARSC has grown from one supercomputer to a state-of-the-art high performance computing facility housing five supercomputers as well as storage and visualization resources. ARSC houses two StorageTek robotic tape silos, which were recently upgraded to allow for 1 petabyte of potential storage. The silos are assisted by two 8-processor Sun Fire™ 6800 systems and one Sun Fire™ 4800 system. In addition, there are over 2,000 microcomputers and various mini computers in academic departments and labs, plus an elaborate computer graphics library.

Engineering buildings house labs for air and fluid dynamics, coal development controlled calibration, digital electronics, electric power, electron microprobes, electronics/circuits, micro processing, microwave/communications, minerals development, petroleum development and remote sensing.

The Bunnell, Irving, O'Neill, Reichardt and Elvey Buildings contain laboratories for instruction and research in anatomy and physiology, animal science, chemistry, physics, ecosystems, marine science, microbiology, organic chemistry, geophysics, geological and space physics. The International Arctic Research Center houses internationally cooperative research on arctic climate change.

Faculty

Fifty-two percent of full-time faculty members and thirty-two percent of part-time faculty hold doctoral, professional, or terminal degrees, and many are actively engaged in research. Scientists from the university's several research institutes frequently instruct undergraduate courses. In keeping with University policy, faculty members provide academic counseling for students. The combination of a student/faculty ratio of 10:1 and easy access to instructors for help outside the classroom produces a maximum educational benefit for students. Faculty participates actively with students in musical and theatrical productions, athletic and social events, and on a variety of committees.

International Student Advisor

The International Student Advisor is the liaison between international students sponsored by UAF and U.S. immigration agencies. The advisor issues the form I-20 to students so they can apply for their F-1 visas to enter the U.S. and begin their chosen academic programs. After students arrive at UAF, the advisor and Office of International Programs staff assists students with adjusting to American and Alaska culture and American university life and expectations. The International Student Advisor is located in the Office of International Programs and may be contacted by email at fvisa@uaf.edu or US mail at UAF Office of International Programs, PO Box 757760, Fairbanks, AK 99775-7760.

Admission and Degree Requirements

Admission to the university is granted on an individual basis. International students must have completed secondary school with a superior average in academic subjects, and must have earned the type of certificate of completion that enables the student to be admitted to a university in their home country.

All international students on an F-1 visa are required to submit scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) if English is **not** the primary language of their country. **A minimum score of 550 for the paper test, 213 for the computerized test, or 80 for the internet-based test of the TOEFL, or 6.5 on the IELTS is required and cannot be waived** even though English may be the language of instruction in your educational system. (*Some graduate departments may require an even higher TOEFL score to qualify for admission.*) The university will not make a final decision on your admission until the *official* scores from the TOEFL or the IELTS examination are on file with the Admissions Office. UAF does not offer an “English as a Second Language” (ESL) program. Students will need to have a GPA equivalent to a 3.0 composite in their secondary education **OR** a 2.5 composite *and* minimum 18 ACT or 1290 SAT composite to be **admitted** as an **undergraduate** at UAF. The Graduate Record Exam (**GRE**) is required for most graduate school applications; the Graduate Management Admission Test (**GMAT**) is required for applications to the **MBA** program.

Application Procedures

Complete the UAF Application for Admission, together with the Supplemental Information Form and the Financial Statement for International Applications (www.uaf.edu/admissions/international). Return the application, forms, and required financial documents with the **non-refundable \$50 processing fee for Bachelor degree applications and a non-refundable \$60 processing fee for Master/PHD applications**. The fee should be paid in either a check or money order drawn on a U.S. financial institution. Your application will not be processed without the fee; **this fee cannot be waived**. If you find it difficult to submit the fee because of currency restrictions in your country, you should request a friend or relative in the United States to submit the fee on your behalf. A Health Inventory form will be provided at a later date and must be completed and returned to the Center for Health and Counseling.

Academic Records

Undergraduate Applicants must arrange to have the following documents sent to World Education Services (WES).

- ◆ **Secondary School Records** – Arrange to have an official report of your marks (or grades) earned in secondary school, and a copy of your upper secondary school leaving certificate, sent to WES.
- ◆ **College and University records (outside the U.S.)** – Arrange to have an official transcript or statement of your marks sent to (WES).
 - Please go to the WES website at www.wes.org. The documents that WES requires are specific to each country of education. To ensure that your evaluation is prepared without delay, please follow the instructions for your country of education as provided at: www.wes.org/required. Do not send these to UAF.
- ◆ **U.S. College or University records** – Arrange to have an official transcript of all academic work completed in the United States sent to the Admissions Office at UAF. The transcript must be sent directly to UAF by the registrar of the issuing institution.

Graduate Applicants may submit all documents directly to the UAF Admissions Office, however, transcripts, records of marks, and test scores must be official.

To be considered official documents must be received at UAF in a sealed envelope sent directly from the institution or testing agency.

The UAF school year is divided into two semesters of fifteen weeks each: the fall semester begins in early September and the spring semester begins in mid-January. A limited number of courses are

offered during the summer. Since processing applications for international students may take many weeks, your application must reach the Office of Admissions prior to **March 1** for consideration for the fall semester and by **September 1** for the spring semester.

Housing

To live in campus housing, you must be a full-time student. This means you must successfully complete a minimum of 12 credits per semester as an undergraduate student or 9 credits per semester as a graduate student. Since you cannot submit a reservation for campus housing until you are accepted, we recommend that you send admission materials several months in advance of the admission deadline to ensure the availability of housing. The University allows students to remain in campus housing during vacation periods at an extra cost.

Finances

The approximate cost of attending UAF during the 2009-2010 academic year (September to May) is \$25,790 for undergraduates and \$25,880 for graduate students. Residents of cities having sister city relationships with any Alaskan city are eligible for resident tuition rates.

Financial aid is sometimes available to graduate students in the form of assistantships, which are awarded through academic departments on a competitive basis when the student is accepted to the program. Graduate students seeking teaching or research assistantships should contact their specific department directly.

You must complete and sign the Financial Statement and **attach appropriate bank documentation** to show that you have sufficient resources to fund your education in the United States. If you have a financial sponsor, he or she must sign the affidavit of support and provide necessary bank documentation. All students in F-1 visa status are eligible to work on campus up to twenty hours per week in a variety of student jobs that are available. Off campus employment is severely restricted by Federal law. No employment can be calculated as part of your proof of financial resources. International students are required to enroll in and attend courses full time each semester..

Visa

Most international students attend UAF on a student (F-1) visa. To obtain a student visa, the Form I-20, Certificate of Eligibility, and visa application form with required fees must be presented to the U.S. Consulate in your country closest to your residence. **The Form I-20 will be issued by the International Student Advisor after you have been unconditionally admitted to the University. The financial declaration form and TOEFL results must be received by UAF before this can happen.**

UAF is also authorized to accept exchange students on the J-1 visa. Applications should be submitted to the International Programs office. The Form DS-2019 is issued by the International Student Advisor after acceptance to the Exchange Program. To obtain the J visa present the DS-2019 with the visa application form and fee to any visa issuing US Consulate in your country.

Information on US Embassies and Consulates in your country and the visa application forms may be found on the US Dept of State website: <http://usembassy.state.gov/> and <http://www.travel.state.gov/visa/>.

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