



## FACT SHEET FOR INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS

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 doors 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 80 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.

Enrollment at UAF in the fall of 1995 was 6,787, of whom 5,981 were undergraduates and 806 were graduate students. These figures, however, do not include students who attended the six branch campuses and education centers located across Alaska. Eighty-six percent of the students are from Alaska. The 14% non-resident population represents all other states and 44 foreign countries.

Life-long friendships result from close interactions through social, recreational, and government activities in 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 main gymnasium, rifle range, handball/racquetball courts, swimming pool and conditioning equipment. 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, 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 35,000, has a 210-bed community hospital, 18 modest shopping malls, six television stations, cable TV, three AM and six 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  $-11^{\circ}\text{F}$  ( $-24\text{C}$ ),

temperatures reach the 90's (32C) 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 (29 cm) of rainfall and 68.8 inches (175 cm) of snowfall.

### *Academic Facilities*

The Elmer E. Rasmussen Library contains over 1,300,000 book volumes, 30,000 serials and periodicals and the Alaska and Polar 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.

Students have free use of the university's e-mail system with more than 80 terminals dispersed across campus. Also, the Arctic Region Supercomputing Center is equipped with a 4-processor Cray Y MP M98 with over 8 billion bytes of memory and capable of performing over 1.3 billion operations per second. In addition, there are over 200 microcomputers and various minicomputers in academic departments and labs, plus an elaborate computer graphics laboratory.

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, Natural Sciences and Elvey Buildings contain laboratories for instruction and research in anatomy and physiology, animal science, chemistry, physics, ecosystems, marine science, microbiology, organic chemistry, geophysics, geology and space physics.

### *Faculty*

Sixty-eight percent of the 485 full-time teaching faculty members hold doctoral degrees and many are 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 15:1 and easy access to instructors for help outside the classroom produces a maximum educational benefit for students. Faculty participate actively with students in musical and theatrical productions, athletic and social events, and on a variety of committees.

### *International Student Advising*

The International Student Advisor assists students who are not citizens of the United States with problems they may have in adapting to American/Alaskan culture and adjusting to the unique characteristics of American higher education. Additionally, the International Student Advisor is responsible for issuing the I-20 form or IAP-66 form needed to obtain a student visa and acts as a liaison between the foreign student and the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service. The International Student Advising office is located in the Office of Student Services, P.O. Box 756340, 5th

Floor Gruening Building, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Fairbanks, AK 99775-6340.

### **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 are required to submit scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) unless English is the primary language of your country. The University will not make a final decision on your admission until the *official* scores (not photocopies) from the TOEFL examination are on file with the Admissions Office. UAF does not offer an "English as a Second Language" or ESL program. **A minimum score of 550 for the paper test, or 213 for the computerized test on the TOEFL is required** for admission for all international students from countries where English is not their native language. It cannot be waived even though English may be the language of instruction in your school system. The Graduate Record Examination or GRE is required for graduate school applicants. **Graduate departments may require a higher TOEFL score to qualify for admission.**

### **Application Procedures**

Complete the Application for Admission form according to instructions along with the Supplemental Information Form and Financial Statement accompanying the application. Return the application, forms and required financial documents with the **non-refundable processing fee of \$50**. The fee should be paid in either a check or money order drawn on a U.S. financial institution. An application will not be processed without a 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 a 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**

- **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 UAF. The copy should be certified by an official agent of the school as an accurate, official document. If the reports are in a language other than English, a complete and certified English translation must accompany the document.
- **College and University Records (Outside the US.)**--Arrange to have an official transcript or statement of your marks sent to UAF. The statement must include the following information: subjects studied, marks awarded. Length of class periods, number of periods per week for each subject and grading scale with minimum passing marks. **ALL** records must be certified and bear an official stamp verifying their authenticity. They must be signed by the Dean or registrar of the university and sealed in the university's envelope. If the transcript or statement of marks does not carry a statement of graduation, then a certified copy of the diploma is also required. If a syllabus of the course of university study (a description of each course or subject studied) is available, please arrange to have it sent to UAF with a certified English translation.
- **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 of UAF. The transcript must be sent directly to UAF by the institution. The 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 takes several weeks, your application must reach the Admissions Office prior to March 1 for consideration for the fall semester and by October 1 for the spring semester.

### **Housing**

In order to be eligible to live on campus, 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 on-campus housing until after you are accepted, we recommend that students intending to live on-campus send their applications materials several months in advance of the admission deadline to insure housing availability. Some residence halls may not be available due to renovation schedules. The University allows students to remain in campus housing during vacation periods at an extra cost.

### **Finances**

The approximate cost of attending UAF for the 1997-98 academic year (September to May) is U.S. \$14,906 for undergraduates and \$13,814 for graduate students. Residents of the Yukon and Northwest Territories of Canada qualify for resident tuition, as do residents of those regions holding sister-city agreements with any branch of the University of Alaska.

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

You must complete the Financial Declaration 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 must sign the affidavit of support and provide necessary bank documents. All students on F-1 visa status are eligible to work on-campus up to twenty hours/week in a variety of student jobs that are available. Off-campus employment is severely restricted by Federal law and cannot be calculated as part of your anticipated sources of income.

### **Visa**

Most international students attending UAF hold student (F-1) visas. In order to obtain a student visa, present the I-20 form and Certificate of Eligibility to any U.S. Consulate in your country. **Your I-20 form will be issued to you by the International Student Advisor only after your financial declaration has been approved and your TOEFL results are on file.** UAF is also authorized to issue exchange Visitor J- I visas. After you receive the IAP-66 form, you may apply for your visa at any U.S. Consulate in your country.

For further information, please write to  
Office of Admissions  
University of Alaska Fairbanks  
215 Signers' Hall, PO Box 757480  
Fairbanks, AK 99775-7480 U.S.A.  
(907) 474-7500 and FAX (907) 474-5379  
Or try  
[www.uaf.edu](http://www.uaf.edu)