

The University of Akron

Office of International Programs

Incoming Exchange Student Handbook



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Brief History of The University of Akron

The institution now known as The University of Akron (UA) was founded as Buchtel College in 1870 by the Ohio Universalist Convention, which was strongly influenced by the efforts, energy and financial support of Akronites, particularly industrialist John R. Buchtel.

Through the early and mid-1900s, the University's growth paralleled the remarkable expansion of Akron. People were drawn to the city, already a major manufacturing center, by the promise of jobs. Companies such as Goodyear, Firestone and Goodrich were headquartered in Akron.

In 1988, the University established the world's first College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering - now the largest academic program of its kind in the world.

Led today by its 15th president, Dr. Luis M. Proenza, The University of Akron recently completed the \$300 million first phase of its New Landscape for Learning campus enhancement program. During the five-year project, nine new buildings were constructed, 14 major renovations were completed and 30 acres of green space were added to the 218-acre campus.

Admission Requirements

Exchange students will be admitted to UA as non degree-seeking guest students for a maximum of two semesters. In order to facilitate this admission, several documents are required. Please ensure they are all submitted at the same time prior to the deadline. All documents should be submitted electronically through the exchange coordinator at the student's home institution. Electronic copies of transcripts and bank statements will be considered official only when submitted directly from the home institution.

Required Documents

- Letter of nomination from home university
- University of Akron application form (online)
- Official university transcripts
- Proof of English proficiency
- Declaration and Certification of Finances and Proof of Finances
- Legible copy of passport
- Exchange Student Academic Worksheet

Application

All students must complete the university application online. Both applications described below may also be found through the [Office of International Programs](#) website.

Undergraduate

Undergraduate students may find the application here: [Undergraduate International Student Application](#).

Graduate

Graduate students may find the application here: [Graduate School Application](#).

Application Fee

The application fee is waived for exchange students. Undergraduate students may simply submit the application without supplying any form of payment. Graduate students, unfortunately, must pay the fee and request a refund.

Transcripts

Official copies of transcripts from *all* universities attended must be submitted—including those from previous exchange experiences and/or from previous US institutions, especially for graduate students. If the transcript is not issued in English, an exact, certified English translation must also be submitted. Transcripts must be recent and include all terms up to the term the student will attend UA. Any breaks in study should be addressed, and a list of current courses should be submitted if not included on the transcript.

The primary purpose of this is to gain a complete picture of students' past study. Especially for undergraduates, this helps us evaluate prerequisites and register students more easily for classes they need and/or want.

English Proficiency

Students should submit a copy of TOEFL, IELTS or MELAB test results no more than two (2) years old that demonstrate they have met the minimum English proficiency levels (see below).

Undergraduate

TOEFL:	173 (CBT), 61 (IBT) or 500 (PBT)
IELTS:	6.0
MELAB:	69

Graduate

TOEFL:	213 (CBT), 79 (IBT) or 550 (PBT)
English Department:	237 (CBT), 92-93 (IBT) or 580 (PBT)
History Department:	237 (CBT), 92-93 (IBT) or 580 (PBT)
Biomedical Eng.:	243 (CBT), 96-97 (IBT) or 590 (PBT)
IELTS:	6.5
MELAB:	NA

Passport

A legible copy of the information/photo page of the student's passport must be submitted. A scanned and emailed copy is preferred.

Declaration and Certification of Finances and Financial Documentation

Students must complete and submit the [Declaration and Certification of Finances](#) (DCF) form, as well as submit financial documentation proving a minimum availability of funds totaling \$6,200 per semester. Documentation may include an official copy of a bank statement, as well as an official letter from the student's bank. All documentation must be in English or include a certified English translation.

Selecting Courses and Registration

Finding Courses

Students can find courses offered in a given term online through the [Schedule of Classes](#). Course descriptions are available in the [undergraduate](#) and [graduate](#) bulletins. These links may also be found on the website of the Office of the University Registrar: <http://www.uakron.edu/registrar/>.

Undergraduate courses have 100-level to 400-level course numbers. Graduate courses have course numbers 500 and above. Please note undergraduate students generally may not register for graduate-level classes.

The University of Akron has multiple campuses at which classes are offered. Students should ensure that their selected classes are offered on the main campus. Additionally, some courses are offered exclusively online. Due to US immigration laws, international students may only register for one online course per term.

Undergraduate students must register for a minimum of 12 credits and may register for a maximum of 16 credits. Graduate students must register for 9 credits.

Pre-Requisites

Some courses may have pre-requisites, which are requirements students must satisfy in order to be eligible to register for that class. Pre-requisites are listed in the course description available in the bulletin, and students should contact OIP to determine if they fulfill the pre-requisites for a particular course.

Exchange Student Academic Worksheet

It is critical that exchange students complete the Exchange Student Academic Worksheet in advance and submit it via e-mail to scook2@uakron.edu. Late submission of the worksheet will result in registration during International Student Orientation, a time when many class capacities have already been reached, leaving students with few options.

Registration Process

As much as possible, students will be registered for their selected courses prior to arrival. However, if necessary, students will have the opportunity to meet with an academic advisor to register or make schedule changes during International Student Orientation. Once the initial appointment has taken place, students may change their course schedule through their [My Akron](#) account.

Tuition/Fee Remission

Students will be provided with a tuition/fee remission waiver card during International Student Orientation. Once the class schedule has been set, the student must submit the waiver card to the Office of Student Accounts in Simmons Hall.

Immigration Basics

SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System)

[SEVIS \(Student and Exchange Visitor Information System\)](#) is the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) web-based system that maintains accurate and current information on international students in F-1 and J-1 visa status. SEVIS enables schools and program sponsors to transmit mandatory information and event notifications via the internet to the Department of Homeland Security and Department of State (DOS). Schools must report students' status throughout their stay in the United States.

Immigration Documents

DS-2019: Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor (J-1) Status

Most exchange students coming to UA will do so as a J-1 Exchange Visitor, requiring a Form DS-2019. From the [US Department of State](#): “Form DS-2019, ‘Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor (J-1) Status’ is a Department of State controlled document that can only be produced through the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS). The Form DS-2019 is the basic document required to support an application for an exchange visitor visa (J-1). It is a 2-page document. Foreign nationals are required to sign page one of the form agreeing to the instructions and certification language relating to participation in the exchange program found on page two.

“No blank SEVIS forms exist. Each Form DS-2019 is printed with a unique identifier known as a ‘SEVIS ID number’ in the top right-hand corner, which consists of an ‘alpha’ character (N) and up to 11 numerical characters (e.g. N0002123457).”

The Office of International Programs will send the DS-2019 with the Welcome Packet once a student has been admitted to UA.

I-20: Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant (F-1) Student Status

In rare cases, exchange students will come to UA as F-1 Nonimmigrant Students, requiring a Form I-20. An I-20 is similar to the Form DS-2019 described above, but for F-1 visa holders.

Visa

The visa allows the student to seek entrance to the US at any port of entry and will be affixed in the passport by consular officials in the home country after a successful interview. It will contain a variety of information, including the student’s passport number and the SEVIS number from the DS-2019/I-20. Students should verify that all information is correct.

I-94: Arrival-Departure Record

The student will complete the Form I-94 upon arrival to the US. The Customs and Border Patrol agent will stamp the form and mark it “D/S”, which stands for “Duration of Status”. This is the official record of the student’s arrival and departure and will be surrendered upon departure from the US. It is important not to lose this form; it can be very costly to replace. If the CBP agent does not do so at the port of entry, the I-94 should be stapled into the student’s passport as soon as possible.

Medical Insurance

According to federal regulations, international students are required to maintain a minimum amount of medical insurance during their stay in the United States. Unless a waiver is obtained (see below), students should enroll in The University of Akron Student Health Plan through the Office of International Programs [website](#).

Currently, the annual premium is \$1153.00, which will be prorated for those students staying for one semester. The premium is subject to change without advance notice. Enrollment should be completed prior to check in at the Office of International Programs; students must enroll in the insurance plan before you will be permitted to register for classes.

Coverage Requirements

Minimum Coverage:	At a minimum, insurance shall cover (1) medical benefits of at least \$50,000 per person per accident or illness; (2) repatriation of remains in the amount of \$7,500; and (3) expenses associated with medical evacuation in the amount of \$10,000.
Additional Terms:	A policy secured to fulfill the insurance requirements shall not have a deductible that exceeds \$500 per accident or illness and must meet other standards specified in the regulations.
Maintenance of Insurance:	Exchange visitors must maintain the required insurance during the duration of their programs.

The University of Akron is responsible for making students aware of insurance requirements and for terminating the participant from the program if he/she willfully fails to meet those requirements. The student is responsible for purchasing the correct amount of insurance.

Enrollment

To pay the University Student Health Insurance Fee:

- Go to <https://commerce.cashnet.com/OIPFEES>
- Choose International Student Insurance Fee
- Choose the Spring/Summer 2013 option.
- Complete the Payment Form with the necessary information (marked by *).
- Click the button, Add to Basket

Once your payment has been processed (10 days) you will be automatically enrolled in the university insurance plan.

Waiver

To qualify for the waiver, insurance must be major medical insurance and meet the following criteria:

- Insurance coverage mandated by your government as part of your government sponsored scholarship.
- Insurance coverage mandated as part of your scholarship.
- Insurance provided by U.S. employers to their employees and the employees' dependents.

Submit insurance verification in English showing current coverage to:

Email: oip-insurance@uakron.edu

Subject: Insurance Verification

Check-In

Upon arrival in Akron, students are required to check-in at the Office of International Programs in order to activate their SEVIS file. Students are encouraged to schedule a check-in session prior to departure from their home country. Students must register for an appropriate check-in via the [New International Student Check-in Registration Form](#).

The following documents should be presented at check-in:

- Passport with a visa stamp (Canadian students should bring the passport)
- I-94 (you will receive this at the port of entry)
- I-20 or DS-2019

OIP must report all student arrivals to the US Department of Homeland Security through SEVIS. If this report is not submitted, students may be considered to be in violation of status in the United States.

Arrival

When to Arrive

F-1 or J-1 students are permitted to enter the US up to 30 days before the start of their program as listed on the I-20/DS-2019. Students must arrive in Akron in time for the International Student Orientation.

Airport

Cleveland Hopkins International Airport is 40 miles north of The University of Akron. Akron-Canton Airport is 17 miles south of The University of Akron. Unfortunately, OIP is unable to provide transportation from either airport and it is ultimately the students' responsibility to find their way to campus. However, at least one community organization may be able to help.

Getting to Campus

Students can take a private taxi or shared shuttle from the airport. Taxi service is expensive in northeast Ohio, as the average fare from Cleveland Hopkins Airport is \$70. It is recommended that students research taxi and shuttle options via the internet.

Chapel Internationals offers free airport pickups from either airport to Akron. To request a ride, students should go to www.chapelinternationals.com and click on “airport rides”. A two-week advance notice is required.

What to Bring

Students should be aware that the climate in northeast Ohio encompasses four seasons that can vary wildly from year to year. Students should be prepared to encounter a variety of weather from snow to rain and very warm temperatures.

Students living in university housing must supply their own bed linens. Beds in UA dorms are size Twin Extra Long (39 x 80 inches/99 x 203 cm). This is not the standard Twin size, so students will need to select bed linens carefully. Students may bring bed linens from home or purchase them upon arrival.

It is also important that students check the adaptability of their electronic devices and buy adaptors and/or converters.

Temporary Housing

If needed, temporary housing can be arranged through The Akron International Friendship First Weekers Program (<http://www.akroninternational.org/>) and Chapel Internationals (www.chapelinternationals.com). Students can also stay at the Quaker Square Inn at The University of Akron, which offers discounted rates for international students. For more information, visit [Quaker Square Inn](#).

Depending on the exact date of arrival, students who have secured on-campus housing are able to arrange to move into their residence hall early. These arrangements should be made directly with the Office of Residence Life and Housing. Contact Ms. Valerie Bloodsworth: vab@uakron.edu.

Accommodations & Meal Plans

On-Campus

Living on campus is the best way to integrate with US students. Not only will students likely have a US roommate, but the [Residence Hall Program Board \(RHPB\)](#) and [Residence Hall Council \(RHC\)](#) plan 40 or more events each academic year. There are also many activities planned by the [Zips Programming Network \(ZPN\)](#) for the entire campus community.

Moreover, it can be difficult and, sometimes, more expensive to find leases for less than an academic year. Most area landlords prefer full-year leases.

OIP reserves space in one or more of the UA [residence halls](#) each year, and incoming exchange students will be placed there. When living on campus, students will be required to purchase a meal plan for the campus dining facilities (see below).

Application Process

The housing application is included in the application materials provided to the student's home university coordinator. Students should complete the application and submit an electronic copy via email to reslife@uakron.edu and CC educationabroad@uakron.edu.

Alcohol and Tobacco Policies

The possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages is permissible in student rooms, provided that:

- No student under the age of 21 may possess or consume beverages containing alcohol;
- The consumption of alcoholic beverages only take place inside a resident's room; not in the hallways, lounges, balconies, or outside buildings on University property;
- No alcoholic beverages or containers of any type are allowed in the rooms of residents who are not of legal age (21);
- Maturity is exercised with the use of alcohol to avoid damage and to maintain order and an appropriate environment for study.
- Incidents involving excessive quantities (e.g., kegs) of alcohol or continued alcohol violations are prohibited.

There are specific floors in most residence halls which are designated Substance & Alcohol Free Environment (SAFE) and possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages are prohibited completely on these floors.

All University residence halls are smoke-free environments. Smoking is prohibited within 25 feet of any entrance or exit to a residence hall.

Off-Campus

Students with a compelling reason, such as graduate student status, may petition OIP to live in one of the many off-campus housing options. Students may rent an apartment, a house or a room in either. For more information, visit [Off-Campus Student Services](#).

Meal Plan

Depending on a student's residence hall, (s)he may be required to purchase a meal plan. For other students and for those living off-campus, a meal plan is optional. There are several meal plan options of varying costs. Details may be found on the website of Dining Services: <http://www.uakron.edu/dining/meal-plans.dot>.

Dining Facilities

There are many dining options on campus including: Einstein Bros. Bagels, Schumacher's, Trackside Grille and Union Market. To review a full list of on-campus options, please visit [on-campus dining](#).

There are many off-campus dining options, including McDonalds, Subway, Penn Station Subs, Starbucks, Bricco, Cilantro, Jimmy Johns and many more. Additionally, Dave's Markets, Giant Eagle and Acme Fresh Market are both nearby campus. To view more off-campus dining options, visit [Downtown Akron Partnership](#).

International Student Orientation

The *mandatory* International Student Orientation is generally held in mid-August for fall semester and early January for spring semester. Students will receive more specific information with their acceptance package and can find it on the OIP [website](#).

Attendance of all sessions is mandatory unless otherwise indicated; students should not schedule personal travel during orientation. Students who do not attend orientation are in violation of the UA Student Code of Conduct.

Activities

In addition to the mandatory sessions, optional activities will be available to students. Activities can range from playing in an international student football (soccer) game and attending an [Akron Aeros](#) baseball game. Additionally, in the fall, students have the opportunity to attend a welcome picnic, a great opportunity to meet US students.

Academic Advising

During orientation, undergraduate students will be given an appointment with an academic adviser to register for classes.

Graduate students should meet with an adviser in their academic department to establish a class schedule.

Orientation Fee

A fee of \$100 is automatically assessed to all new international students for this service. (Please note: this fee is subject to revision.)

UAnet ID

Definition

The UAnet ID is a student's username to the University of Akron computer systems, as well as My Akron and webmail. It is also the first part of a student's UA email address: UAnetID@zips.uakron.edu.

Activating

Students can activate their UAnet ID upon arrival during International Student Orientation. Should a student need to activate their ID at another time, they must visit the Computer Center located in the basement of Bierce Library.

UA E-Mail

The University of Akron's student e-mail system is run through the Google Mail platform. To access a student account, visit mail.zips.uakron.edu. Students should regularly and diligently check their UA e-mail account as it is the primary method of communication for university offices. Students must activate their UAnet IDs in order to access their UA email account.

Zip Card

Definition

The Zip Card is the official University of Akron identification card. It provides easy access to UA resources and packs a multitude of campus community applications in one convenient card!

Obtaining One

To obtain a Zip Card, students must visit a Zip Card office. Offices can be found in the Polsky Building, the Student Union and Simmons Hall. Students must show picture identification, birth certificate or social security card to obtain a new Zip Card.

Uses

A student Zip Card can be used as a form of identification on campus as well as for the following: Declining Balance Card, Dining Plans, Print Card, Copy Card, Access Card, Library Card, Roo Express. Additionally, it can be used at a variety of [off-campus locations](#).

Replacement

If a student loses his/her card, (s)he must notify the Zip Card Office in person or go to www.zipcardonline.net to suspend the card so that funds may not be used by an unauthorized person. There is a \$15.00 fee for a replacement card.

My Akron

Definition

My Akron (my.uakron.edu) is the online portal where students can access university services such as registration, grades, e-mail and more.

Uses

My Akron can be used to access the Student Center, Springboard, University E-Mail, DARS, OrgSync, UANet Services, Parking Services, Housing Application, Meal Plan Changes and Transcript Requests.

UA Transcripts

Students are responsible for requesting official copies of their UA transcripts be sent to their home institutions. Unfortunately, due to US privacy laws, OIP is unable to do this on the students' behalf. There are two ways to request an official UA transcript.

Requesting Transcripts via My Akron

For students who retain access to My Akron, the portal is the preferred method of requesting a transcript.

1. Go to <https://my.uakron.edu>
2. Log in to your UA account
3. Click on *Student Center*.
4. Click on the *My Academics* tab.

5. Click on *Request official transcript*.
6. Scroll to the bottom of the page, and click on *Edit Address*.
7. Click on the *Change Country*.
8. Enter the first letter of your home country and click *Look Up*.
9. Select your country from the results.
10. Enter the address for your university.
11. To enter a Prefecture, Province or State, click on the magnifying glass icon.
12. Click *Look Up* without entering anything in the boxes.
13. Find your prefecture, province or state from the list and select it.
14. Finish entering the address and click *OK*.
15. Click *Submit* at the bottom of the page.
16. Please make sure you write down the confirmation number.

Transcript Request Form

Students who no longer have access to My Akron must complete and submit a Transcript Request Form to the Office of the University Registrar (OUR). The form is available online on the OUR website: <http://www.uakron.edu/registrar/services/transalumni.dot>.

Students should contact the OUR directly with any questions about transcripts and transcript requests: registrar@uakron.edu or +1-330-972-8300.

Library

The University of Akron's main campus has five libraries. Bierce Library serves the fields of fine and applied arts, humanities, social sciences and business. The Science & Technology library serves the sciences, technology, polymers, engineering, health and medicine. Archival Services functions as the location for collection and preservation as well as access to the history of the university and the region. The Akron Law Library serves for research and learning in legal studies at the UA School of Law. The Center for the History of Psychology holds archives and is a museum and library that supports research and education in the history of psychology.

For more information, visit [University Libraries](#).

Campus Life

The Department of Student Life is committed to building community through collaborative learning experiences that provide students the opportunity to engage, serve and lead. Additionally, various activities and departments exist outside of The Department of Student Life, such as athletics.

UAEvents.com

UAEvents.com is the central location to find out about events on campus, such as concerts, speakers and athletic events. Students can also register for the ZipTix service and receive notification of and access to free tickets to some events.

Student Organizations

The University of Akron has a wide assortment of student organizations. They range from academically oriented organizations to club sports and from cultural organizations to religious ones. For a complete listing of organizations, visit [The Student Organization Resource Center](#).

Athletics

The University of Akron is a NCAA Division 1 school with many men's and women's sports. Most notably, the men's soccer team won the 2010 National Championship, becoming the school's first team championship in any sport. For more information on the athletics programs, visit [Go Zips](#).

Athletic Facilities

Students have access to the following on-campus facilities:

Student Recreation & Wellness Center (SRWC) -- <http://www.uakron.edu/srws/>

The University of Akron has a variety of athletic facilities that are used exclusively by official Akron Zips athletics teams and sports. More information on athletic facilities can be found at <http://gozips.com/athletics/facilities/index>.

Safety Information

The University of Akron is located in an urban setting and, so, faces the challenges associated with that. As in any city and, to a certain degree, on any university campus, crime does occur, though there is a distinct difference between campus and the surrounding community. On campus, the most common crimes are thefts and occur particularly when individuals leave belongings unattended. Our environment does, therefore, necessitate levels of awareness and precaution that might not be necessary in another, smaller town/city environment.

It is generally safe to walk on campus; however, students are encouraged to walk in pairs or groups after nightfall. There are areas of the city surrounding campus where one may walk safely alone during the day; however, there are also areas in which one should not walk alone at all, particularly after nightfall. Unfortunately, this is simply a fact of city life.

During International Student Orientation, the Office of International Programs and the University of Akron Police Department (UAPD) will give a presentation on safety and campus resources. However, below are a few resources that may be helpful prior to arrival.

- [Safety Tips from UAPD](#)
- [Annual Clery Report of Crime Statistics](#)
- [Akron Police Department](#)
- [RAIDS Online Crime Statistics](#)

Health Care Resources

Overview of US System

The health care system in the United States has a variety of components, as you will see below. Some treatment options can be expensive, even with insurance coverage. To avoid large bills, students should only go to a hospital for medical emergencies or when referred by a clinic

physician. For routine illnesses and procedures, students are advised to go first to the Student Health Services clinic or to an off-campus clinic.

Facilities

On-Campus

[Student Health Services](#) is located in Room 260 of the Student Recreation and Wellness Center on campus. It provides a variety of services and lower costs than an off-campus clinic or hospital. At the time of writing, a fee of \$15 is charged for each visit and may be covered by insurance. The staff includes board-certified medical doctors, registered nurses, nurse practitioners and a health educator. More information, including hours of operation and service costs, is available online.

Clinics

Easily accessible clinics, such as [Minute Clinic](#), [Now Clinic](#) and [Take Care Clinic](#) are located throughout the Greater Akron region. These clinics make it easy for one to visit a qualified medical professional for screenings on a minor illness, injury or skin condition.

Hospitals

The City of Akron is home to three major hospitals: [Akron General](#), [Akron Children's Hospital](#) and [Summa Health System](#). Additionally, there are major hospitals in both Cleveland and Canton.

Counseling/Psychological Services

The Counseling Center is located on campus and is available to all students. The Center provides comprehensive psychological services for free. A culturally diverse staff of licensed psychologists and doctoral trainees provide psychological counseling and psychotherapy, career counseling, testing services, outreach and consultation to the university community. For more information, visit [Counseling Center](#).

Banking and Money

It is advisable to have some US Dollars in cash on hand or to withdraw it upon arrival.

Many international students find it convenient to open a bank account in the US. PNC bank has a branch in the Student Union and ATMs across campus. Bank of America, Key Bank, Huntington and Chase are other major banks in the area. Students should also check with their financial institution in their home country to verify fees and usability of a debit or credit card in the US.

Roo Express Shuttle

The Roo Express Shuttle Service provides transportation to university buildings in the downtown area, neighborhoods near campus and the parking lots on the north side of campus. Some routes include the Akron bus depot and the Chapel Hill Mall. During the Fall and Spring Semesters, the shuttle also services students on the weekends to and from the downtown area. For more information on routes and times, visit the [Roo Express Shuttle Service](#).

Communication

Mobile Phones

If you have an unlocked mobile phone, you may be able to purchase a US SIM card for it, though it will likely still conform to one of the types below. If you must purchase a mobile phone, there are two main options available in the US: contract phones and prepaid phones.

Contract Phones

You must sign a contract for services paid on a monthly basis; contracts are generally 12 to 24 months. It is difficult and expensive to cancel a contract. Plans include a minimum amount that will be charged for a set amount of minutes (calls), text messages and/or data usage. If one goes over the usage amount as set forth in their contract, extra costs will be added to the monthly bill.

Normally, most contracts range from \$30-50 per month without a data plan or \$80-\$100 per month with a data plan. However, for international students without a Social Security Number, a large deposit may be required and perhaps make such phones prohibitively expensive.

Prepaid Phones

No contract is signed with prepaid phones; one simply purchases credit to pay for calls and services before usage. One must also purchase the phone, which generally starts around \$20.00.

Most prepaid phones range from \$25-\$35 per month with limited talk time or \$45-\$65 with unlimited talk time.

Internet

All students have access to internet while on campus and can log in using their UAnet ID and password. All campus buildings are served by WiFi.

Computer Labs

In various locations on the UA campus, computer labs are available for students to use. To find a full list of locations, visit [Computer Lab Services](#).

Printing

For a fee, students may use printers available in the computer labs on campus. Money should be loaded onto the student's Zip Card, and the small fee will be deducted from that balance for each page printed.

Postal Services

The closest US Postal Service office to campus is located at the following address:

[675 Wolf Ledges Parkway](#)
[Akron, OH 44309](#)

Through the three [DocuZip Centers](#) on campus, students may send and receive items via UPS. DocuZip Centers are located in the Student Union, the Polsky Building and the Exchange Street Residence Hall.

US Classroom Culture

Grading

Grades for course are determined by the instructor of the course. The grading scheme for the course should be represented in the course syllabus, which is typically given to students on the first day of class.

For more information on grading, visit [Grade Policies and Credit](#).

Attendance

Most faculty members expect attendance every class session; they will explain their attendance policies in the class syllabus on the first day of instruction. If a student misses a class, it is expected that they will notify the instructor ahead of time when possible or, at least, provide an e-mail or phone call to provide an explanation. In classes where strict attendance is kept, it is possible to receive top marks on all exams and yet fail the class.

Homework

It is quite common for the instructor to assign frequent homework during the semester, and assignments are typically listed in the course syllabus and/or on the Springboard portal. When homework is assigned, it is required and will be factored into the final marks.

Student-Professor Dynamic

The relationship between students and instructors may be quite different in the US to that in the student's home country. Students are expected to participate and ask questions in class; participation is often factored into the final marks.

Office Hours

All instructors have office hours during which they should be able to meet. If a student needs to meet with an instructor, office hours should be the first resort. If it is not possible to attend an instructor's office for some reason, students should contact the instructor to arrange for an alternate time. An instructor's office hours should be included on the course syllabus.

Akron and Ohio

Weather

Akron has a humid continental climate, with cold but changeable winters; wet, cool springs; warm (sometimes hot) and humid summers; and cool, rather dry autumns. During Fall Semester, average temperatures can range from a high of 80°F (27°C) and a low of 61°F (16°C) in August to a high of 37°F (3°C) and a low of 24°F (-4°C) in December. During Spring Semester average temperatures can range from a high of 33°F (1°C) and a low of 1°F (-7°C) in January to a high of 69°F (21°C) and a low of 49°F (9°C) in May. Rain is common in spring and summer, and winter can bring snow and ice, as well.

Activities

The City of Akron and the Downtown Akron Partnership offer many free activities throughout the year. The activities can range from concerts to food festivals and holiday festivals. To find a full listing of activities, visit [Downtown Akron Partnership](#) and [Akron Performs](#).

Sights

Northeastern Ohio is home to many sights and attractions, including:

Parks

- [The Akron Zoo](#)
- [Cedar Point](#) [Sandusky, OH]
- [Cuyahoga Valley National Park](#)
- [Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad](#)
- [Fun 'n' Stuff Amusement Park](#)
- [The Ohio & Erie Canalway](#)
- [Summit Metro Parks](#)
- [Wildwater Fun](#)

Museums, Culture and the Arts

- [The Akron Art Museum](#)
 - (free for UA students)
- [The Akron Civic Theatre](#)
- [The Akron Fossils & Science Center](#)
- [The Akron Symphony](#)
- [Blossom Music Center](#)
- [The Children's Museum of Cleveland](#)
- [The Cleveland Chamber Symphony](#)
- [The Cleveland Orchestra](#)
- [The Cleveland Museum of Art](#)
- [The Cleveland Museum of Natural History](#)
- [Great Lakes Science Center](#)
- [Hale Farm & Village](#)
- [Military Aviation Preservation Society Museum](#)

- [The National First Ladies' Library](#)
- [Ohio Amish Country](#)
- [Playhouse Square \[Theatre\]](#)
- [Porthouse Theatre](#)
- [The Pro Football Hall of Fame](#)
- [The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum](#)
- [Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens](#)

Sports

- [The Akron Aeros](#)
 - (minor league baseball)
- [The Akron Racers](#)
 - (softball)
- [Boston Mills Brandywine Ski Resorts](#)
- [The Cleveland Browns](#)
 - (National Football League)
- [The Cleveland Cavaliers](#)
 - (National Basketball Association)
- [The Cleveland Indians](#)
 - (Major League Baseball)
- [The Columbus Crew](#) [Columbus, OH]
 - (Major League Soccer)
- [Good Park & Mud Run Golf Courses](#)
- [The Lake Erie Monsters](#)
 - (minor league ice hockey)
- [NEO Roller Derby](#)

Transportation Connections

While perhaps not as extensive or convenient as in other cities and countries, a variety of transportation options do exist in Akron and the region. [Akron METRO](#) operates buses within and to specific locations outside of the city. For more information on available transportation links, please visit the Downtown Akron website here: [Transit Options](#).

Supermarkets

The most easily accessible supermarket is [Dave's Supermarket](#), located not far from campus at:

[871 E Exchange St](#)
[Akron, OH 44306](#)

Dave's Supermarket is located on the [Dave's Supermarket Route](#) of the Roo Express Shuttle.

Other supermarkets in the area are: Acme Fresh Market, Aldi, Giant Eagle and Marc's Supermarket. Target and Walmart hypermarkets are also available.

Community Resources

Akron International Friendship

Akron International Friendship (AIF) is an organization of volunteers from Akron and the surrounding area committed to strengthening international ties in the region. AIF also sponsors a number of services and events to help international students experience US culture and share their own.

At the start of each semester, AIF sponsors the First Weekers Program, which provides temporary housing with local volunteer families to newly arrived international students for 1-2 weeks while the students secure permanent housing. In November, AIF also organizes a Thanksgiving holiday dinner for international students and guests, helping them experience an important US tradition.

Exchange students are also encouraged to participate in AIF's International Speakers Program, in which international volunteers go to classrooms in local elementary, middle and/or high schools and speak to students about their home countries/cultures.

For more information, visit [Akron International Friendship](#) or contact Michelle Wilson, the AIF Executive Director, at wilsonaif@earthlink.net.

The Chapel

The Chapel is a non-denominational Christian church in Akron, located near the UA campus. Its [Chapel Internationals](#) volunteers sponsor events and services to help international students and community members of all consciences and to make them part of the community.

Among The Chapel's offerings are free airport pickup and temporary housing at the beginning of each semester (two weeks' notice required), excursions with Ohio and elsewhere, American Family Experience, American Conversation Partners, free English classes, Friday Dinners, furniture and much more.

Downtown Akron Partnership

[Downtown Akron Partnership \(DAP\)](#) is a local non-profit organization that focuses on reinvigorating the city center. DAP holds numerous activities throughout the year, including concerts, cultural exhibitions and more. Most events are free.

Important Dates (subject to change)

Fall Semester 2013

May 1st:	Exchange Student Application Deadline (Academic Year and Fall)
May – August:	Exchange Student Registration (via email)
August 19-23rd:	International Student Orientation
August 26 th :	First Day of Classes
August 26 th :	Begin Add/Drop
September 2 nd :	Labor Day (UA closed)
September 9 th :	End Add/Drop
November 11 th :	Veteran's Day (classes held)
November 28-29 th :	Thanksgiving Holiday Break (UA closed)
December 8 th :	Last Day of Classes
December 9-15 th :	Exam Period
December 17 th :	Faculty Submit Final Grades

Spring Semester 2014

October 1 st :	Exchange Student Application Deadline (Spring and Calendar Year)
October-December:	Exchange Student Registration (via email)
January 1 st :	New Year's Day (UA Closed)
January 6-10 th :	International Student Orientation
January 13 th :	First Day of Classes
January 13 th :	Begin Add/Drop
January 20 th :	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (UA Closed)
February 17 th :	Presidents' Day (no classes)
March 24-28 th :	Spring Break (no classes)
May 4 th :	Last Day of Classes
May 5-11 th :	Exam Period
May 13 th :	Faculty Submit Final Grades

Contact Information

NAME	OFFICE	PHONE	EMAIL
Steven Cook Assistant Director for Education Abroad	Office of International Programs	+1-330-972-7406	scook2@uakron.edu
Front Desk	Office of International Programs	+1-330-972-6349	
	Office of the University Registrar	+1-330-972-8300	registrar@uakron.edu
	Center for Academic Advising and Student Success	+1-330-972-7430	
	Counseling Center	+1-330-972-7082	
	Student Health Services	+1-330-972-7808	
	UA Police Department	+1-330-972-2911	