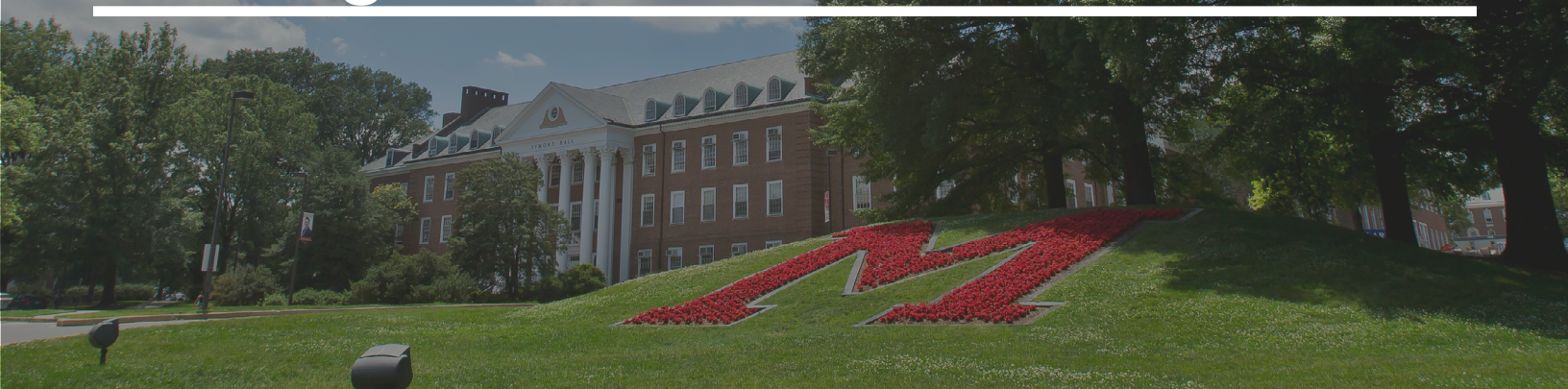# University of Maryland, College Park
Exchange Information Sheet 2022-2023

The University and Location

The University of Maryland is one of the world's top-ranked public research institutions. With more than 100 majors as well as customized programs, UMD has something to match everyone's interests. You'll find high-tech labs, world-class performing arts, a hugely popular athletics program, and school spirit that can't be beat. The campus is a 1,250-acre oasis in suburban College Park, with green lawns, shady oak trees, and stately architecture.

With a metro stop on campus, College Park is minutes from downtown Washington, D.C. As the nation's capital and home of the federal government, Washington, D.C. is a truly international city hosting foreign embassies, large governmental organizations, and dozens of free museums to visit. Moreover, you'll be a car, bus, or train ride from Annapolis, Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York.

Fast Facts

- Founded in 1856 on a 1,250-acre campus, just 8 miles from downtown Washington D.C.

- UMD ranked in the Top 20 among U.S. Public Research Universities

- UMD ranked 51st according to U.S. News & World Report Best Global Universities in 2020, and 91st in the Times Higher Education's World University Rankings in 2020

- About 31,000 undergraduate students / 4,700 total faculty / 319,000+ alumni

- 90 exchange partners / U21 Member / 6,800 international students / 134 countries represented

Academic Calendar 2022-2023

Fall Term 2022: August 24, 2022 to December 20, 2022
Spring Term 2023: January 18, 2023 to May 19, 2023
Academic Year 2022-2023 (Fall and Spring): August 24, 2022 to May 19, 2023

The above dates include Exchange Student Orientation, which begins the week prior to the first day of classes. The above dates include final exams.

Application Process

Application Period for Admission:

Fall Term 2021	
January 15, 2022	Nominations/Applications Open
March 1, 2022	Nomination deadline
March 15, 2022	Application deadline (Students should submit materials as soon as possible and will be considered on a rolling basis) Students will need to be prepared to submit documents for immigration purposes by April 1.

Spring Term 2022	
August 15, 2022	Nominations/Applications open
September 15, 2022	Best consideration deadline. Students who submit applications by this deadline will receive earlier registration appointments.
October 1, 2022	Final application deadline

It is recommended that students planning to take courses in Limited Enrollment Programs apply by the best consideration deadline.

Steps for Application & List of the Documents Required for Admission:

STEP 1: Nomination

The Exchange coordinator or advisor at the student's home university must submit the Incoming Exchange Student Nomination Form by the above deadlines. The nomination form will be sent to partners prior to the nomination cycle opening.

STEP 2: MyEA Portal

As soon as the nomination has been confirmed, UMD Education Abroad will create a student account for the incoming exchange student in the system, "MyEA."

MyEA is the application system that the University of Maryland uses to manage student applications and important post-acceptance materials and resources.

MyEA will automatically generate a message to the student including a temporary login and password that is only valid for 24 hours. Students must log in to MyEA within 24 hours to change their password. Once the student has done so, they can access all UMD exchange required application forms, submissions, and readings.

STEP 3: Application—Student submissions

Students submit application documents through MyEA. Application materials on MyEA consist of:

1. Current original transcript from home institution

2. UMD Undergraduate Application or Graduate Application (instructions in MyEA)

3. A copy of the photo page of passport

4. Proposed Courses Form

5. Proof of English Proficiency - Please note recent updates to proficiency requirements!

Each student's application will not be considered complete and will not be reviewed until all of the forms and submissions have been completed as requested on MyEA. *

Once a student's application is complete, it may take up to one month for UMD to process the application and send the student's acceptance letter. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, so students are encouraged to submit materials as soon as possible.

Visa Requirements

Exchange Student Visa Requirements:

DS-2019 Form

Once admitted to UMD, exchange students will request a DS-2019 Form using the International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) online portal, iTerp. The DS-2019 form is the immigration document required to apply for a J-1 Visa. Please read more on our website regarding DS-2019 requirements, including information on proof of financial support.

J-1 (Exchange Visitor) Visa

Exchange students should apply for a J-1 visa. The J-1 visa is used for educational and cultural exchange programs at the University of Maryland. Students on the J-1 visa typically come to the United States to study for a shorter period of time - one to two semesters.

Please read more about applying for a student visa.

Health Services, Insurance, & Vaccinations

Health & Counseling Services:

UMD has excellent health care facilities available to students. Please view the University Health Center website for more details on available services. The UMD Counseling Center provides free and confidential services by professional counselors to all UMD students.

Health Insurance Requirement for Exchange J-1 Students:

Undergraduate and Graduate students attending UMD as exchange students are required to purchase the UMD Student Health Insurance Plan. Incoming exchange students will automatically be enrolled in the program and will pay via their UMD student billing account. It may be possible for students to waive SHIP insurance upon request. Please reach out to UMD Education Abroad to inquire.

Vaccinations:

There are several vaccines that students must get prior to or at the beginning of their semester at UMD. Students are required to turn in a completed and signed Immunization Form before the first day of classes.

A physician needs to sign the form. If students are unable to get all of the required vaccinations before arriving in the US, they can get vaccinated at the UMD Health Center. The SHIP Insurance covers vaccinations.

Note: Students who are required to have the TB test must have the blood test done at the UMD Health Center. Results from home country physicians will not be accepted.

COVID-19 Vaccinations: Please note that as of Fall 2021, UMD will require all students, faculty, and staff to be vaccinated against COVID-19 with an approved vaccine and show proof of this vaccination via the Health Center Portal. Students who are unable to be vaccinated in their home country will be able to get a vaccine at UMD or nearby. For further information, please see the Health Center's website on Information for International Students, ISSS's Student FAQ During COVID-19, and UMD's COVID-19 Information Page.

Arrival & Orientation

Tips of the Week:

International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS) provides Tips of the Week, which are shared with new students prior to arrival. This includes information about academics, related campus activities, communication, insurance, money/banking, cultural considerations, housing, safety & security, transportation, and more.

Suggested Arrival:

Students are given instructions on how to get to campus from the various international airports in the metro DC area on their MyEA post-acceptance materials.

Undergraduate students who live on campus are given permission to move into their accommodations the day before Exchange Student Orientation begins. Students who are living off-campus are suggested to arrive a few days prior to International Student Orientation to search for housing, if necessary.

All J-1 visa exchange students can enter the US up to 30 days prior to the start date of the period of coverage listed on the Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor (J-1) Status form. Students should see section 3 of the form to check their program start and end dates.

Orientation:

All exchange students must attend the required Incoming Exchange Student Orientation at the beginning of their first semester. The orientation takes place over the course of 3 days and begins about a week before the first day of classes for the semester. The following topics are addressed: academics, student code of conduct, housing, immigration, campus tour, health & safety, and cultural adjustment. Students will also be provided with the opportunity to do an excursion to DC.

Courses, Registration, & Transcripts

Language of Instruction:

All classes are taught in English.

List of Course Offerings and Registration Guide:

Exchange students can select from thousands of course offerings in 11 colleges. A complete list of current course offerings can be found on UMD's Schedule of Classes. Engineering exchange students should also reference the Engineering Exchanges site.

Registration instructions for exchange students are emailed to them after they have been accepted.

Undergraduate exchange students must take a minimum of 12 credits per semester, which is typically the equivalent of 4 courses. *Graduate exchange students* must take a minimum of 48 units per semester, which is typically the equivalent of 3 courses.

Expenses & Budgeting

Please review the estimated semester expenses for incoming exchange students at UMD.

Students are waived from paying tuition fees, most mandatory student services fees, and application fees to UMD. Incoming students will be required to pay a student activity fee to UMD. This fee will be automatically charged to the student's UMD account. Information regarding the student activity fee will be updated every year on the UMD Student Financial Services & Cashiering website.

For arrival expenses International Student & Scholar Services suggests the following:

"You should budget at least $300 for your first week here to cover such expenses as hotels, taxis, and general setting-up costs. Try to bring the majority of your money as credit cards or traveler's checks."

Accommodations & Dining Services

On-Campus Accommodations for Undergraduate Students:

Undergraduate students ARE guaranteed housing as long as they complete the online housing application on the Department of Resident Life website by the deadline. Instructions on how to apply for on-campus housing are provided in the post-acceptance documents on MyEA. Students can only apply for housing after they have been accepted and assigned a student and university ID number.

Housing fees depend on the type of housing that is assigned – see Department of Resident Life website for costs.

Off-Campus Accommodations for Graduate Students:

Graduate students ARE NOT provided with on-campus housing. Graduate students are assisted with finding off-campus accommodations through resources provided by the Off-Campus Accommodations Office. This office provides students with a searchable database of rooms and apartments that are available for rent in College Park and the surrounding communities.

There are guides about how to conduct your housing search, safety & security, apartments located on Shuttle-UM routes, the local communities, signing a lease, how to find a roommate, and much more.

Dining Services:

There are many dining services and facilities available on-campus. Students living on or off campus can purchase different types of dining plans.

Campus Life

On-Campus Facilities & Resources:

UMD exchange students have access to a number of recreation facilities on-campus, including the Eppley Recreation Center, which has a full gym with group fitness classes, Outdoor Aquatic Center, Outdoor Recreation Center, and an Adventure Complex.

There are a few other smaller gyms located across campus and intramural sports clubs.

The Adele H. Stamp Student Union (known as The STAMP) is located at the heart of the campus and has food, events, shops & services, and entertainment facilities.

In addition, UMD has a career center, health center, counseling center, disabilities support services, fraternity and sorority life, eight libraries, several campus diversity offices, and hundreds of student organizations.

UMD Mascot: What is a Terp?

Terps are University of Maryland students, alumni, fans, and supporters. It's short for "Terrapins", named for the diamondback terrapin, or turtle, indigenous to the state of Maryland. At UMD, we call the terrapin mascot Testudo and we proudly say, "Fear the Turtle!"

Contact Information

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