



International Exchange Fact Sheet

GENERAL CONTACT INFORMATION

OFFICIAL NAME

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

SCHOOL WEBSITE

<https://www.utrgv.edu/>

CONTACT INFORMATION & ADDRESS

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

International Student Services
(ISS) 1201 West University Dr.
EMASS 1.102
Edinburg, Texas 78539

PHONE

(956) 882-7092 or (956) 665-2922

EXCHANGE WEBSITE

<https://www.utrgv.edu/iss/index.htm>

ADMINISTRATIVE CONTACT PERSONS

INCOMING STUDENTS CONTACT

Jessica J. Cantu

International Programs Specialist



EMAIL

jessica.cantu@utrgv.edu

OUTGOING STUDENTS CONTACT

Adriana Ramirez

Assist Dir of Education Abroad



EMAIL

adriana.ramirez04@utrgv.edu

NOMINATION & APPLICATION INFORMATION

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Home institution submits a Nomination Form (Students may be nominated for in-person exchange)
2. Student completes UTRGV Exchange After Nomination Form

NOMINATION DEADLINE

FALL SEMESTER (AUGUST–DECEMBER)

April 1st, 2026

SPRING SEMESTER (JANUARY–MAY)

October 1st, 2026

APPLICATION DEADLINE

FALL SEMESTER (AUGUST–DECEMBER)

May 1st, 2026

SPRING SEMESTER (JANUARY–MAY)

November 1st, 2026

POST-ADMISSION STEPS AND DEADLINE

1. Log into Submittable:
2. Provide the following information :
 - a. Passport
 - b. Current Academic Transcript
 - c. English Proficiency
 - d. Proof of Funding (required in order to obtain J-1 visa)
 - e. Course Preferences

DEADLINE

Rolling deadline. Students will not receive DS-2019 until they have successfully completed all steps in submittable.

IMMIGRATION AND VISA REQUIREMENTS

EXCHANGE STUDENTS

Students participating in the reciprocal exchange program are issued Form DS-2019 to apply for a J-1 visa to cover the duration of their academic study period, usually one or two semesters. Reciprocal exchange students enroll in a non-degree academic program, according to the terms of exchange agreements between UTRGV and their home universities. Students who have U.S. Citizenship are required to enter the country with their U.S. passport.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

ORIENTATION DATES

FALL SEMESTER (AUGUST–DECEMBER)

Mid-August

SPRING SEMESTER (JANUARY–MAY)

Early January

IMPORTANT DATES

<https://www.utrgv.edu/academics/general-acad-calendar/index.htm>

ACADEMIC STRUCTURE & COURSES

UT COLLEGES & SCHOOLS

<https://www.utrgv.edu/academics/index.htm>

COURSES

UTRGV Academic departments make every effort to accommodate exchange students with their course selections. However, due to high demand for many courses and equipment constraints in some majors, not all course preferences can be accommodated.

COURSE SCHEDULES AND CATALOGS

<https://www.utrgv.edu/academics/catalogs/>

NUMBER OF CREDIT HOURS

1. Undergraduate students
 - Minimum of 12 credit hours per semester (usually 4 classes)
2. Graduate students
 - Minimum of 9 credit hours per semester

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Undergraduate students

- IELTS 6 and TOEFL iBT: 61, Duolingo 95

Graduate students

- IELTS 6.5 and TOEFL iBT: 79, Duolingo 105

GRADING SCALE

<https://www.utrgv.edu/advising/one-stop-shop/gpa-calculator/index.htm>

GRADE REPORTS AND TRANSCRIPTS

<https://www.utrgv.edu/ucentral/grades-and-transcripts/index.htm>

DEPARTMENT COORDINATORS

<https://www.utrgv.edu/graduate/about-us/contact-us/program-directors/index.htm>

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

FALL TERM

Late August through early December

SPRING TERM

Middle of January through early May

SUMMER TERM

Not available to exchange students

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

<https://www.utrgv.edu/academics/general-acad-calendar/index.htm>

GENERAL INFORMATION

HOUSING

Exchange students attending UTRGV usually choose from three types of housing: co-operative houses (co-ops), private dormitories, and apartments. Space in UTRGV-owned dorms is available, but limited.

HOUSING INFORMATION

<https://www.utrgv.edu/housing/>

LIVING EXPENSES

Living expenses can vary from \$1,600 to \$2,500 per month depending on individual lifestyle.

HEALTH INSURANCE

All reciprocal exchange students and any accompanying dependents (spouse/children) are required to have health insurance that meets both the U.S. Department of State and The University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley requirements. Enrollment in the UTRGV insurance plan is mandatory. Cost is approximately \$1,500 USD per semester (subject to change).

<https://utrgv.myahpcare.com/>

ENGLISH LANGUAGE COURSES

UTRGV offers English language courses through our English Language Programs (ELP) for UTRGV students and their family members.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.utrgv.edu/english-language-program/>

NEW INTERNATIONAL STUDENT GUIDE

The International Student Guide contains important information about activities, programs, requirements, and services for new international students.

<https://www.utrgv.edu/iss/current-students/student-guide/index.htm>

INFORMATION ABOUT UTRGV

The University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley is one of the largest public universities in the United States. Founded in 1955, the university is a 350-acre main campus with 14 colleges and schools, about 7,000 faculty and staff and more than 34,000 students.

<https://www.utrgv.edu/admissions/visit-campus>

INFORMATION ABOUT EDINBURG, TX

A growing county seat of Hidalgo County in the Rio Grande Valley, known as a center for commerce, culture, and education, It offers a mix of suburban feel with parks and community, strong economic development efforts, and rich cultural heritage influenced by its South Texas location near the U.S.-Mexico border, blending modern amenities with tradition.

CULTURAL EVENTS

ISS offers several signature events throughout the spring and fall semester.

- Lunar New Year - January/February
- Brunch & Connect - once a month every semester
- Breakfast of Champions - at the end of every semester
- Grad Bash - at the end of every semester
- International Education Week - November
- International Student Thanksgiving Luncheon - November
- International Student Exchange Holiday Program - Nov/Dec