

Information Sheet 2024-2025

EXCHANGE CONTACTS

OUTBOUND STUDENTS

GVSU Students studying abroad. Main Contacts for Agreement and Partnership Development

Ehren Kuzekov

Director
Study Abroad & International Partnerships
kuzekove@gvsu.edu

Jamie Pleyte

Coordinator
Study Abroad & International Partnerships
pleyteja@gvsu.edu

INBOUND STUDENTS

Exchange student studying at GVSU

Libby Jawish

Director
International Student and Scholar Services
istudents@gvsu.edu

Holl Nguyen-Mills

Office Coordinator
istudents@gvsu.edu

INT'L OFFICE INFORMATION

Int'l Office Address: 130 Lake Ontario Hall
1 Campus Drive
Allendale, MI, 49401

Telephone Number: +1 616 331 3898

GVSU Website: www.gvsu.edu
Student Exchange Website: www.gvsu.edu/pic
Inbound Int'l Student Website: www.gvsu.edu/istudents

APPLICATION—DUE DATES

Fall Semester (starting end of August)

June 1

Winter Semester (starting early January)

October 1

Applications are done online through GVSU Admissions. <https://apply.gvsu.edu/register/Exchange>

APPLICATION—SUPPLEMENTAL DOCUMENTS

1. An Academic Transcript or record of the courses the student has completed prior to attending Grand Valley State University (GVSU)
2. Official test results of English Ability from TOEFL or IELTS
3. A typed statement of students' proposed program of study at GVSU and how it will relate to their present academic program at your university.
4. Evidence of Financial Support (see section IV of Application for details)
5. Copy of student passport

APPLICATION—ENGLISH REQUIREMENT & GPA

Provide test results from one of the following English proficiency exams:

TOEFL

ITP (Score: 213)
Paper (550)
iBT (Score: 80)

IELTS (Overall Band Score: 6.5 undergraduate)

**GPA minimum requirement (4.0 scale):
2.5 GPA**

University of Cambridge ESOL Exams:

Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE):
C or better
Certificate of Advanced English (CAE):
C or better

2022-2023 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

	Fall 2025	Winter 2026
Recommended Arrival Dates	August 15-17, 2025	January 8 2026
Int'l Student Orientation	August 18-20, 2025	January 9, 2026
Semester Dates	Classes Begin: August 25, 2025	Classes Begin: January 12, 2026 Classes End: April 24, 2026
Final Examination Period	December 8-13, 2024	April 27-May 1, 2026
Semester Breaks	Labor Day: August 31-Sept 1, 2025 Thanksgiving Break: November 26-30, 2025	Martin Luther King Jr Day: Jan 19, 2026 Spring Break: March 8-15, 2026

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

CREDITS

J-1 Students are required to take between 12 and 15 credits per semester. Generally, a 3 credit course meets in-person for 3 hours per week. This equates to 45 contact hours per class, but this can vary. Courses are taught in English. There are 15 weeks in each semester.

COURSE RESTRICTIONS

See course catalog for restrictions. Students must have pre-requisites or prior approval from the Department Chair at GVSU. The course description in the GVSU catalog will list any pre-requisites or restrictions.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE SUPPORT

Limited support available.

COURSE REGISTRATION

Once students have been accepted, they will be contacted via email by their academic advisor. The advisors will assist students to register for the proper courses. Students should be registered full-time prior to their arrival on-campus. Students will have the week of orientation and the first week of classes to make any necessary changes to their schedule.

COURSE CATALOG: www.gvsu.edu/catalog List of all courses

COURSE SCHEDULE: www.gvsu.edu/schedule List of courses offered by semester

ACCOMMODATION

Housing Application: Accepted students are directed to apply online.

Housing application deadlines:

Fall semester—July 1

Winter semester—October 1

Please note, students who apply by the deadline are guaranteed housing.

Homestays are not an option.

Airport Pick-up Service is provided to students arriving on designated dates

Cost

Allendale campus housing ranges from \$2,900-\$3,700+ per semester. Pew Campus housing ranges from \$3,700- \$4,650 per semester.

www.gvsu.edu/housing

Facilities

Apartment style units, which are recommended for exchange students, include kitchens. Meal plans are also available:

www.gvsu.edu/campusdine

All on-campus housing includes utilities, internet access, air conditioning, central heat, and a local phone.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Estimated Costs

Required fees	\$150 International Student Orientation
Tuition (out-of-state)	Designated schools do not pay tuition to GVSU. If you are a cost paying school, please contact our office for current tuition rates.
Health Insurance	GVSU now requires all international students to purchase our Lewermark insurance plan. See p.4 for details.
Textbooks	\$300-500 per semester
Food	\$2,200-\$3,600 per semester
Misc. Living Expenses	\$2,000-\$2,500 per semester
Transportation	Grand Rapids bus system is free to students. Provides transportation between campuses and to local supermarket, as well as many other destinations.

EMPLOYMENT

Student are eligible to work on-campus for up to 20 hours per week. An overview of regulations will be covered during the orientation.

VISA PROCEDURES AND ASSISTANCE

Students must submit a completed Exchange Student Application. Once the application is submitted and finalized by Admissions, a DS -2019 will be uploaded to the student's Slate portal. Students will be required to pay the SEVIS fee before applying for their visa. Details may be found at www.fmjfee.com. Exchange students will be required to apply for their visa at the nearest US Embassy.

The ISS Team is the contact for visa related matters.

HEALTH INSURANCE

As a GVSU J-1 Exchange student, you are required to purchase our medical health insurance policy for the duration of your exchange program in the USA. This policy, brokered by Lewer-Mark, meets the U.S. Federal Regulation standards that are required of all J-1 Exchange students. The rate per semester as of Fall 2024 & Winter 2025 is \$948 and will be billed to your GVSU Student Account. Details about the policy are available on our website: <https://www.gvsu.edu/istudents/lewermark-health-insurance-130.htm>.