

UNLV

INTERNATIONAL
STUDENT
HANDBOOK

2025 - 2026

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Welcome to the University of Nevada, Las Vegas!

It is our pleasure to congratulate you on your admission to the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) and welcome you as a new UNLV Rebel!

We are thrilled that you have chosen UNLV for your educational pursuits. UNLV is one of the most diverse universities in the United States, and as an international student, you contribute to our greatest strength and bring a wealth of experience and new perspectives to our campus community.

We know that coming to a new country and university can be both exciting and challenging. UNLV Global is here to ensure your success by providing the information, resources, and personal connections you need to thrive from orientation, through your time on campus, and into your chosen career.

This handbook is tailored to suit your needs as an international student by bringing together the various resources and information available about on-campus resources and showing you how and why you might want to take advantage of them.

In addition, we have also compiled off-campus resources that will help your transition (social security office, driver's license, buying necessities, etc.) and help you enjoy your time in Las Vegas (what to do in your free time, where to buy food from home, etc.). We hope this handbook facilitates a smoother transition for all of our international students!

Our UNLV Global team is here to support you, so please take advantage of our services, events, and opportunities and please reach out when you need help. A great way to stay connected to announcements and upcoming events is to follow us on Instagram [@unlv_global](https://www.instagram.com/unlv_global).

Wishing you a great semester ahead! Rebels make it happen!

With warmest wishes,

The UNLV Global Team

UNLV Global International Student Support Network

The International Student Handbook is your welcome guide to Las Vegas and the UNLV community. This guide will answer many questions you might have, but we encourage you to reach out to our team whenever you need assistance with compliance and international student advising as well as transitional assistance and English Language support. We offer in-person and remote advising appointments. You can reach us by phone or email for the following areas:

- **International Student and Scholar Compliance**
 - ISSC@unlv.edu
 - 702-774-6477
- **English Language Center**
 - elc@unlv.edu
 - 702-895-3925
- **International Success Programs**
 - anne.white@unlv.edu
- **Study Abroad Programs**
 - international.programs@unlv.edu
 - 702-895-3896
- **International Alumni Network**
 - global@unlv.edu

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AND SCHOLAR COMPLIANCE (ISSC)

The **ISSC** international student advisors are here to assist undergraduate and graduate international students with full-time enrollment questions, questions about employment eligibility, and general immigration compliance advising. We also provide international students with travel signatures and updated immigration documents (I-20 or DS-2019) as needed.

The ISSC team offers in-person and remote advising appointments. You can reach us by calling 702-774-6477 or emailing issc@unlv.edu. You can also visit the International Student and Scholar Compliance team in person in BEH 543.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE CENTER (ELC)

The **ELC** and its programs support international students and multilingual learners with English language proficiency and development of fundamental communication skills needed for academic success and enhanced social interaction. International and multilingual first-year undergraduate students can take English composition classes ENG 113 and ENG 114 designed to develop fluency and confidence in critical thinking and academic writing. All UNLV students can request English Language Peer Tutoring provided by the ELC to enhance their English language and communication skills through informal instruction and practice with peer tutors.

For more information about the ELC and its programs, you can visit the [English Language Center website](#), email us at elc@unlv.edu, or call us at 702-895-3925. If you want to visit us in-person, you can stop by the office located in **MAB2** (Maryland Administrative Building 2), or visit the UNLV Global office in BEH 543 to learn more about the ELC and its programs.



INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS PROGRAMS

The International Student & Scholar Success Programs seek to 1) ease transitional stress for students when coming to the U.S. and a new university campus; 2) connect students with critical resources both on and off campus; and 3) provide mentoring and cultural events throughout the year. We focus on these areas to enhance international students' university experience, help them build a strong community of support and belonging, and give them an opportunity to share their background and experience with the larger UNLV community. Transitional support and cultural programming is offered through our Global Ambassador Program. Transitional services include pre-arrival Zoom calls with our Global Ambassadors to answer your questions, the airport pickup program, and a robust program of free weekly activities to give students a chance to build friendships and a support network. More information about various international student programs and events are found in the [Student Success](#) section and [Student Activities, Communities, and Involvement](#) section of this handbook.

You can reach us by emailing Dr. Anne White at anne.white@unlv.edu.

GLOBAL AMBASSADORS

The Global Ambassadors are part of the UNLV Global welcome team. They are a group of domestic and international students who volunteer to help new international students prior to arriving in the U.S., during their arrival, and during their transition to campus and university life. You should expect an email from the Global Ambassador team about upcoming welcome events and ways to contact the ambassadors for assistance. As active members of the international community, the Global Ambassadors look forward to seeing you at some of the weekly [events](#).

If you are a new student, join the Global Ambassador Program [Canvas course](#) here to get connected with your Ambassadors and other first year undergraduate and graduate international students. If you need assistance getting connected, contact Dr. Anne White (anne.white@unlv.edu).



Essential UNLV Resources

STUDENT RESOURCE GUIDE (SRG)

The [SRG](#) is an easy-to-use online inventory of on-campus programs, resources, and services available to all UNLV students. As an international student, the SRG is an excellent companion to your ISH, both of which are accessible at all times. If you are unsure of where to start, the SRG has an online [Help Form](#) to connect you with someone who can answer your unique questions and assist with your concerns.

Pre-Arrival Tasks and Information

As you prepare to embark on the journey to your new university life in the U.S. and begin your program of studies, please review the following important next steps.

NEW STUDENT PRE-ARRIVAL CHECKLIST

It is important that you complete the new student requirements in advance of your course enrollment. For example, you must activate your [Rebelmail](#) and [ACE account](#) to access critical information. New international students should complete their respective new student checklist: [First-year students, transfer students](#), or [new graduate students](#), immediately after confirming their admission.

CONFIRM HOUSING ARRANGEMENTS

First-Year

Securing housing is a vital part of your arrival preparation that must be completed before you arrive in the U.S. All first-year students, undergraduate and graduate, as well as transfer students are strongly encouraged to live on campus in their first year. UNLV offers multiple [housing options](#) for on-campus living. The [residence halls](#) offer the most convenient option because no cash deposit is required and the cost of housing and your meal plan (required for students living in the residence halls) is charged to your student account. Living in the residence halls in your first year will give you easy access to resources on campus and the opportunity to live in a supportive community of fellow students. Living on campus gives you time to get to know the area, establish a U.S. bank account, and find roommates and housing options for your second year if you prefer to live off campus.

The UNLV Residence Halls have [themed communities](#) that you can choose from (first-come, first-served). The Global Gateway themed community seeks to connect international students with students studying world languages at UNLV, and UNLV study abroad students for culture and language exchange. You can apply to live on the Global Languages floor, if you are learning or speak Spanish, French, Chinese, German, or Japanese fluently.

It's important that you [submit your application](#) to live in the Residence Halls as soon as possible. Each residence hall option has limited vacancies, so please apply well in advance of your anticipated arrival date. All new applicants must pay a nonrefundable \$125 USD application fee. Here is a helpful video with instructions for [how to apply for the Residence Halls](#). If you need assistance during the application process, you can contact UNLV Housing at housing@unlv.edu.

Once you secure your on-campus housing in the Residence Halls, you will log into the [Housing Portal](#) using your ACE account to view your specific housing information. If you have not set up your [ACE account](#), please follow the steps for [New Student Activation](#).

To prepare to move into the Residence Halls, please arrive with these items, or plan on purchasing them immediately upon your arrival:

- Bed sheets, pillow, blanket
- Bath towel
- Toiletries
- Shower curtain (check with your roommates, you only need one)

Second Year and Beyond

UNLV also has **apartment-style living** opportunities at **The Legacy** and **The Degree** that are great options for your second year onward. You may need to provide a deposit to hold your space, so prepare for that in advance. Please call the **staff** at the Legacy or Degree leasing office for more information about deposit and leasing options. You do not need a guarantor to apply. The Legacy and The Degree are UNLV-affiliated partners, but they operate under leasing and payment agreements that are separate from UNLV. **Apply** to live at The Degree or The Legacy as early as possible.

We recommend you live on campus or in UNLV-affiliated housing. However, if you plan to live in housing unaffiliated with UNLV, apartment or home rental applications can take up to several weeks to get approved, and you will need to give a deposit of 1-3 months rent in order to reserve your place. We also recommend securing off-campus housing well in advance.

Please feel free to reach out to the Global Ambassadors or UNLV Global staff if you have any questions about on-campus housing.

Housing Contracts

Housing contracts are legal binding agreements. If you sign a housing agreement, you are legally responsible to fulfill it financially. Regardless of whether your housing contract is with UNLV, UNLV-affiliated UDistrict properties, outside properties managed by other companies or individuals, be sure to do the following:

- Never sign a contract until you have read all the details and agree to the terms.
- Never sign a second contract for a different house/apartment. You will be financially responsible for two agreements.
- Check out [**UNLV School of Law Housing Guide**](#)

Housing Resources

- Nevada State Legislature Landlord and Tenant Law: [**Dwellings**](#)
- [**Clark County Landlord/Tenant Information**](#)

Residential Dining Plans

All students studying at UNLV can purchase a residential dining plan offered each semester. Dining plans provide nutritious meals at affordable prices and there are convenient locations throughout campus that cater to different dietary requirements and restrictions. If you plan to live in the residence halls, you are required to select one of the dining plans. For more information about dining plans visit Housing and Residential Life [**Dining Plans**](#).

Packing List

Essential Carry-on Items:

- Boarding pass
- Passport
- U.S. currency (at least \$50 USD for transportation or emergencies)
- Credit or debit cards
- Mobile phone

- Important documents (e.g., admission letter, UNLV I-20 or DS-2019, SEVIS fee receipts, financial statements and supporting documents, or immunization records)
- A list of names, addresses, and phone numbers of your contacts in the U.S.
- Your U.S. address
- Prescription medications
- Valuable items (e.g., laptop or jewelry)

Items for your Checked Bags:

- Electronic chargers that you will not need during your flight
- Personal items such as photos, books, or art.
- A sheet, towel, and personal toiletry items to last a few days
- Enough clothing for a few weeks (includes casual, formal, and outdoor clothing, and shoes)

Check the weather conditions on the day of your flight to Las Vegas. If you are arriving in August the weather will most likely be sunny and hot (average daytime temperatures of 102 °F or 38 °C). Many buildings in Las Vegas are air conditioned and indoor temperatures are much cooler. To help accommodate the fluctuating outdoor and indoor temperature, wear layers of clothing (e.g., short sleeved shirt and a light jacket).

For a list of what you should not bring please see the [**U.S. Customs and Border Protection Prohibited and Restricted Items**](#).

What to Expect at a U.S. Port of Entry as an International Student

New international students - Initial F-1 students and J-1 exchange visitors may enter the U.S. no more than 30 days in advance of the program start date on your Form I-20 or DS-2019.

After exiting your plane and proceeding to the airport terminal for arriving passengers, please have the following documents ready to present to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) official:

- Passport (current and valid for at least 6 months beyond the date of entry)
- Valid F-1 or J-1 Visa
- Not required if you are a citizen of Canada
- Valid Form I-20 or DS-2019
- UNLV Admissions Letter

Please also note that the CBP officer may ask you questions. Please be ready to explain in English your reason for entering the U.S., your reason for choosing UNLV and your degree program/major, and the length of time you plan to stay in the United States (in other words, the length of your program). Although it is not required, it is helpful to have access to MyUNLV or a printout of your class schedule to show course enrollment. It is very important that you explain that you are a student or exchange visitor to the U.S. and be prepared to provide the name and location of the school program where you are enrolling:

University of Nevada, Las Vegas
4505 S Maryland Pkwy
Las Vegas, NV 89154

If the CBP agent has additional questions and requires additional verification of your entry, please ask them to contact UNLV's International Student and Scholar Compliance (ISSC) by calling 702-774-6477.

Please be sure you are presenting your UNLV student immigration documents (I-20 or DS-2019) and requesting entry to the U.S. as a student. You cannot use a B-1 visa or ESTA to enter the U.S. when you are beginning your program of study at UNLV.

COMPLIMENTARY AIRPORT PICKUP

The UNLV Global staff can help you arrange airport transportation to your new home or temporary accommodation. Please remember to complete the **Arrival Plans** survey sent to your UNLV email in advance and before your arrival to request airport pickup.

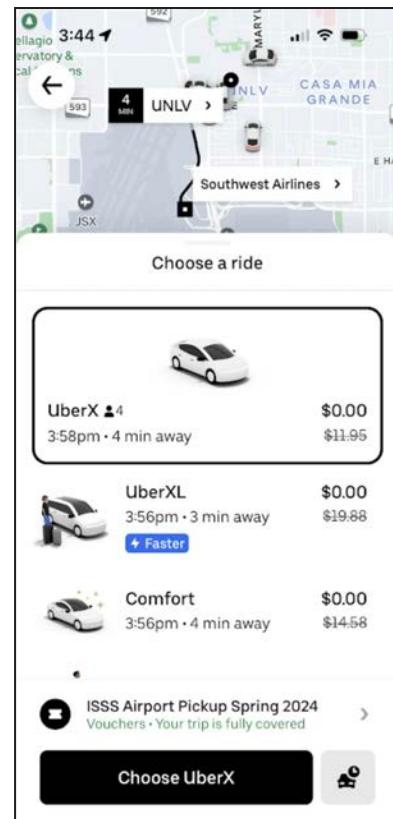
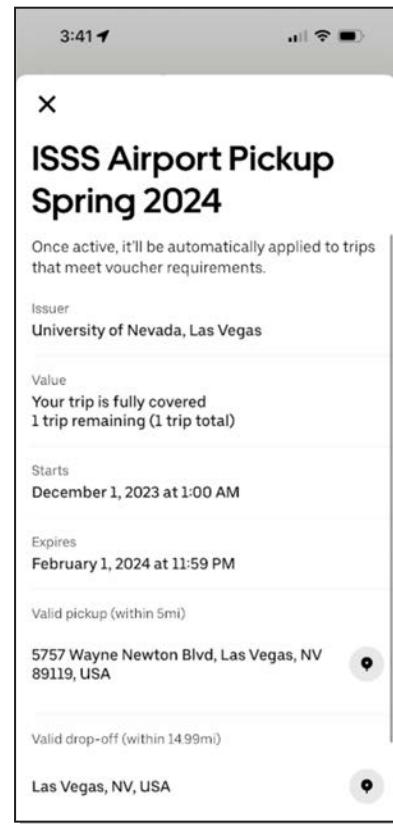
If you indicate interest in the airport pickup service in the **Arrival Plans** survey, you will receive a voucher for a complimentary Uber ride from the Harry Reid International Airport to your accommodation. To receive a voucher, you must download the Uber app and connect your Uber app to your home country bank account or a credit card connected to your home country bank account prior to your arrival. Even if a linked bank account or credit card is not required in your country, your free voucher will not work in the U.S. unless you have completed this step in advance.

- [Uber for Android](#)
- [Uber for Apple](#)

If you requested an airport pickup and connected your Uber app to a bank account or credit card, you should receive a voucher in your email and Uber app. The notification has information similar to the screenshot below. Contact global@unlv.edu if there is a problem. We will respond to your email within **2 business days**.

1. Once you arrive at Harry Reid International Airport, connect to the free wifi. If you have trouble, find an airport Help Desk.
2. Request your Uber ride through the app using the voucher before you leave the airport. The voucher should automatically appear in your Uber app when you are confirming your ride, as seen in the screenshot to the right.
3. Harry Reid International Airport Uber pickup areas:
 - Terminal 1: go to T1 Parking and take the elevator to Level 2M
 - Terminal 3: go to T3 Parking and the take the elevator to Valet Level (V)

REMINDER: In case of an emergency or your Uber voucher not working, please remember to bring \$50 USD cash for your travels. It is safe to travel with some U.S. dollars, and you can use cash to take a taxi or bus if needed.



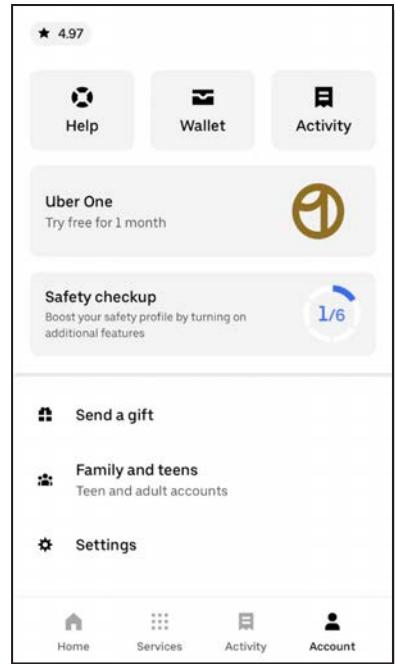
If your bank account does not allow you to use Uber, UNLV Global cannot send you a voucher. In the Uber app, you can select the help button to receive assistance from Uber (pictured on the top left of the image to the right).

If none of these solve the problem, please see the following options that you can arrange.

BUS OR TAXI

You can take a bus or taxi from the Harry Reid International Airport to your accommodation. For information about the bus, please visit the [Regional Transportation Committee \(RTC\)](#). On the RTC website, you will find bus routes and an online tool to [plan out your ride](#). Please note the bus requires **cash** and they do not provide change. You can make a small purchase inside the airport to break a larger note for smaller bills.

If you choose to take a taxi, please find the nearest taxi pick-up area. Terminal 1 arrivals will find the taxis located outside near the baggage claim, and for Terminal 3 arrivals, taxis are located outside on Level Zero. The ride cost to a location near UNLV's campus is approximately \$20 - \$25 USD. Please be aware that there might be fees associated with using an international credit card to pay for your ride, so to avoid fees you can pay with cash.



Starting Your First Semester

If you have secured on-campus housing, please review the [UNLV Housing Guide](#), the [Housing, Residence, and Dining Hall Contract](#), and visit [Announcements](#) for general information. If you have secured off-campus housing, your move-in dates are typically shown in your lease or rental agreement.

If your arrival is outside business hours (typically 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.), you need to contact your housing provider in advance of your arrival to arrange how you will get keys to your building and unit. For example, the Legacy or Degree can arrange alternative key pickup with advance notice. The UNLV residence halls have 24-hour support, but they do need to know in advance that you are coming. For the UNLV residence halls, your building and room access is your [RebelCard](#). Be sure to [activate your card](#) in advance of your arrival.

If your flight is scheduled to arrive prior to your move in date, you need to book temporary accommodation for yourself at a local motel.

MANDATORY INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CHECK-IN AT UNLV ARRIVAL IN THE U.S.

In order to maintain valid F-1 or J-1 nonimmigrant status, all F-1 and J-1 students must complete a check-in with ISSC **immediately** upon arrival. You will complete the check-in process through the [OISS Portal](#) and [MyUNLV](#).

All initial attendance, change of status, change of level, or transfer pending students must submit scanned copies of the following documents within the OIIS Portal:

- Most recent passport
- Most recent F-1 or J-1 visa or I-797A Change of Status Approval Notice
- Signed copy of the UNLV I-20 or UNLV DS-2019
- Most recent I-94 (available on the CBP website after entering the U.S., select “get most recent I-94”)
- Your electronic I-94 may take up to 48 hours to be updated
- If you have changed your visa status while inside the U.S., then your I-94 can be found on the bottom of your I-797A Approval Notice
- You must also update your local U.S. physical address and phone number in MyUNLV

It is very important that you complete this mandatory check-in immediately upon arrival! ISSC will be required to terminate the SEVIS record for any F-1 or J-1 student who does not complete the required check-in process on time.

More details about the ISSC check-in can be found [here on the ISSC website](#). Please email ISSC@unlv.edu if you are having any problems with the check-in process inside of the OISS Portal.

NEW STUDENT TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

To ensure a smooth start to your first semester, we strongly recommend that you become familiar with the various technology resources available to you. As a UNLV student, you can connect to campus WiFi free of cost, register for your courses in the MyUNLV digital platform, and access your course materials and information in WebCampus/Canvas.

For more information on a variety of technology resources for new students, please visit the [New Students](#) webpage of the Office of Information Technology's (OIT).

International Graduate Students, please be aware that you will find helpful information about your admitted program, your program's graduate coordinator, graduate assistantship applications, and more in the [Grad Rebel Gateway](#).

Undergraduate and Graduate International Students will also find important student resources and information through the [Rebel Success Hub](#). This great online tool can be used to schedule an appointment with your academic advisor or to submit your immunization records.

If you have any issues with your new accounts or a technology-related question, please contact the IT Help Desk for assistance. Visit the [IT Help Desk](#) where you will find contact information and the support ticket system.

COURSE INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION

Undergraduate and graduate international students will find information about degree programs in the [Degrees Directory](#). Detailed information about every course offered at UNLV can be found in the [Catalogs](#), which are organized by level (e.g., graduate) and by academic year. Please take the time to become familiar with the catalog of your matriculation year (the year you begin your program of study), which includes the links to useful information about Academic Policies and General Education Requirements.

Registration is a multistep process that can only be completed during registration periods. Check out the Registrar's [Guide to Registration](#) and don't hesitate to contact the [Office of Registrar](#) with any questions. Please begin the registration process early as course capacity can fill up quickly. The [Office of the Registrar](#) outlines specific procedures for registration, and updated registration information and deadlines can be

found on the Registrar's [Calendars and Schedules](#). You are expected to complete registration activities in [MyUNLV](#).

Before registration, undergraduate international students must speak with an academic advisor. F-1 and J-1 students are required to maintain full-time status during the regular semesters (fall and spring). Please review the credit requirements to be considered full time based on student level and assistantship status.

Undergraduate Students:

- Total Minimum Number of Credits: 12
- Total Minimum Number of In-Person Credits: 9
- Total Number of Online Credits That Counts Toward Minimum Totals: 3

Graduate Students without a Graduate Assistantship:

- Total Minimum Number of Credits: 9
- Total Minimum Number of In-Person Credits: 6
- Total Number of Online Credits That Counts Toward Minimum Totals: 3

Graduate Students with a Graduate Assistantship:

- Total Minimum Number of Credits: 6
- Total Minimum Number of In-Person Credits: 3
- Total Number of Online Credits That Counts Toward Minimum Totals: 3

Although F-1 and J-1 students are not required to be enrolled full-time during the summer, continuing F-1 and J-1 students can take courses outside of the regular semesters. For more information visit [Summer Term](#).

Graduate Students

If you are a new international graduate student, please review the [Graduate Student Handbook](#) for information and policies related to your graduate study. We recommend that you contact your Graduate Coordinator and/or Faculty Advisor, before registering for courses as they might have recommendations specific to your program. A program faculty advisor or your graduate coordinator will be assigned to you at the time of admission. For some students, their Graduate Coordinator will also be their advisor during the orientation and onboarding process. For degree progression assistance, you will contact your Graduate College Retention, Progression and Completion (RPC) coordinator (grad.rpc@unlv.edu). You will find contact information for your Graduate coordinator and RPC coordinator in [Grad Rebel Gateway](#).

Providing an Immunization Record

All students studying at any university in Nevada are required to provide documentation of their immunizations, except for students who are excused for medical or religious reasons. Immunization documentation or exemptions are handled by the Office of the Registrar. For more information about the immunization requirements visit the [Office of Registrar Immunizations page](#).

CASHIERING AND STUDENT ACCOUNTS

Paying Tuition and Fees

Registration is not complete until all tuition and fees have been paid. You can view your account balance and securely pay tuition and fees in MyUNLV. Please review [Payment Options](#) for more information and if you are making tuition and fee payments outside of the U.S., see the [UNLV International Student Payments](#) page.

COURSE MATERIALS

Your custom textbook list will be available in [MyUNLV](#) once your registration is complete. For some textbooks, you will have the option to purchase a new or used textbook, and in some cases renting textbooks is an affordable option. If you have questions about your course materials, it is best to refer to your course syllabus and contact the course instructor. Below is useful information to help you effectively communicate with your course instructors/professors.

CONTACTING YOUR INSTRUCTORS AND PROFESSORS

If you have any questions or concerns about the course after reviewing the syllabus, reach out to your instructor or professor. Based on your course syllabus, there will be a preferred method of contact shared by your instructor/professor (e.g., email, phone call, office hours). Every instructor/professor will have office hours listed. If possible, stop by during their office hours. Some instructors/professors may require you to schedule an appointment during their office hours. Make contact early in the semester by introducing yourself or asking questions about the course. Below are a few etiquette tips to keep in mind.

- If you need to visit outside of office hours, be sure to email the instructor/professor to ask for an appointment in advance.
- Be polite and address your instructor/professor correctly using their name/title. If your instructor/professor holds a PhD, it is polite to address them with Dr. (last name) and if you are unsure, use "Professor" followed by their last name.
- Whether in person or on email, always introduce yourself and the course you are in (your name, course name, and number). Instructors/professors teach multiple courses with a lot of students; therefore, without a proper introduction, they may not know who you are. If you use a nickname, be sure to use both your nickname and legal name in your introduction. This will avoid any misunderstanding and save the instructor/professor time to look through their rosters to find you.
- The form of communication with your instructor/professor depends on your questions or needs. If it's something simple such as clarification questions, email would be the easiest and fastest way; however, if you have a list of questions or complex questions that need time to explain, office hours or a meeting would be more appropriate. When using email, gather all your questions ahead of time and avoid having multiple follow-up questions if you can.
- Before contacting your instructor/professor, do your due diligence and review the course syllabus and Canvas before reaching out. Many answers to your questions can be found in the syllabus and Canvas.
- For anything academic-related, use your UNLV email ([Rebelmail](#)), not a personal email account.
- When emailing your instructor/professor, expect at least 1 to 2 business days for a reply. During weekends and holidays, it may take longer because they may not be working. Be sure to plan accordingly.

COURSE GRADES AND TRANSCRIPTS

UNLV course instructors report a student's course proficiency as a letter grade, which is consistent with the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) Grading Policy. Instructors will provide a clear explanation of their grading scale in the course syllabus. Instructors can also include a "plus" and "minus" as part of their grading scale (i.e., A-, B+, B-, C+, C-, D+, or D-). Please be aware that a "S" or grades of "D- and above" are considered passing and you will earn course credit. A grade of "F" counts towards credits attempted (not earned) and appears on your transcript (official academic record). Your transcript is maintained by the Registrar's Office and you can request official transcripts through the Rebel Success Hub. You can access your unofficial transcripts any time in [MyUNLV](#).

For more information about Undergraduate course grades, Grade Point Average (GPA), and other important Academic Policies, visit the Undergraduate [Catalog](#), and for a quick reference with links to forms visit Undergraduate: [Academic Policies and Terms](#).

For Graduate-level course grades, GPA, or other important Graduate Academic Policies and Terms, please see the [Graduate Student Handbook](#) which is the first broad section of the [Graduate Catalog](#). All [Graduate forms](#) may be found in [Grad Rebel Gateway](#).

WITHDRAWAL

Before dropping a course or changing it to audit after the last day to add/drop online, you must speak to your Academic Advisor (undergraduate student) or your Graduate Coordinator (graduate student) and your ISSC Advisor (ISSC@unlv.edu). You will find the add/drop and other important deadlines on the Calendars and Schedules webpage. The UNLV system will not allow you to make any changes to your course after the add/drop date each semester without permission from your ISSC Advisor. If you drop a course during the registration period, the course does not appear on your transcript. If you withdraw from a course after the end of late registration, you will receive a "W" on your transcript.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Change of Major or Adding Majors

Undergraduate students

International undergraduate students must work with their [Academic Advisor](#) to change or add additional majors during their studies.

For all international students, if you make any program changes you are required to notify ISSC. Please visit the [Program Updates](#) webpage for more information.

Graduate students

International graduate students are admitted to a degree or certificate in a specific department or program. If you want to switch to a different department or program during your graduate studies, you need to submit a new application, pay the application fee, and provide all the necessary documents to the Graduate College. If you want to change your focus or track within your current program, you'll need approval from the graduate coordinator or department chair. New students should email gradadmission@unlv.edu to request a change, while current students should email grad.rpc@unlv.edu for subplan changes.

For currently enrolled graduate students who plan on adding a certificate or changing certificates, a new application with applicable fees and all required admission documents need to be submitted. Visit [Graduate Certificate Programs](#) for more information about adding a certificate program to your degree.

Additional information about specific graduate program requirements may be found in your program handbook. Your program handbook can be found in the [Degrees Directory](#) on your degree page. Program handbooks are typically located on the degree page's Documents/Download section.

For all international students, if you make any program changes, you are required to notify ISSC. Please visit the [Program Updates](#) webpage for more information.

Campus-Wide Welcome Week Events & New Student Orientation

CAMPUS-WIDE WELCOME WEEK EVENTS

We recommend that new international students arrive **one week prior to the start of the semester** to attend a variety of welcome events that occur in the week before the semester begins.

Rebel Ready Week & Undergraduate Orientation

Rebel Ready Week (RRW) is a week-long program each fall designed to help you learn valuable information about UNLV, meet with peers and helpful staff in small group sessions, and participate in fun events to kickstart your university life.

If you are starting in a Fall semester, you should arrive one week before the start of classes to attend the mandatory Rebel Ready Week. International students also should plan to attend **virtual new student orientation** during the summer. You will register for a virtual orientation session in **MyUNLV**.

All new students beginning in the fall semester should check out **UNLV Creates**, which is the annual academic convocation and welcome ceremony for all incoming students and a vital starting point for your academic journey. At this event you will pledge to graduate from UNLV and you will receive an honorary UNLV graduation cord.

Visit the **UNLV Welcome Weeks** Calendar for a list of events.

If you are a **first-year** undergraduate student and your first semester is in the spring, we strongly encourage you to attend **Spring Orientation**. To get registered for classes, please contact your **Advising Center** to schedule an appointment, we highly encourage you to do this prior to attending orientation. Drop in academic advising is provided during the Spring New Student Orientation.

New Graduate Student Rebel Ready Week & Orientation

International graduate students are encouraged to attend campus-wide welcome events in addition to completing the new student online modules found in their **WebCampus/Canvas account**.

International graduate students should expect communications from the Graduate College about the Graduate Student Orientation. Please visit **Information for New Graduate Students** for more information. All graduate students should review the **Graduate Student Handbook** and the **Graduate Catalog**. New graduate assistants should also review the **Graduate Student Assistant Handbook**.

All new students beginning in the fall semester will participate in some Rebel Ready Week events the week prior to the start of the Fall semester and should check out **UNLV Creates**, which is the annual academic convocation and welcome ceremony for all incoming students and vital starting point for your academic journey.

New International Student Welcome Event

All new international undergraduate, graduate, transfer, and English Language Center students are welcome to join the UNLV Global New International Student Welcome Event. This event takes place the week before the start of the semester, and details can be found on the **UNLV Global Events webpage** prior to the event each semester.

This event gives you practical help from your international student advisors with your international student check-in process and a chance to learn about your responsibilities as an international student.

Additionally, you will meet your Global Ambassadors, make new friends, learn about ways to get involved in our vibrant international student community, and enjoy food together.



Getting Settled In

REBELCARD

The **RebelCard** is your official UNLV ID. It also allows you access to campus facilities, programs, and services, including the residence halls, libraries, computer labs, and events. To get access and avoid standing in long lines to get your RebelCard, [set up your RebelCard online](#) with a government ID and photo right away. You will need to [activate your RebelCard](#) before using it at any UNLV facility on campus.

You can deposit money onto your RebelCard to use as **RebelCash** at locations on and off campus. RebelCash can be used on campus to pay for food, books, and printing. It can also be used at participating retailers near campus.

To learn how to deposit money and view a list of locations that accept RebelCash, visit [Who Takes RebelCash](#). Many local vendors offer [discounts and special](#) offers to UNLV students who show their RebelCards.

For more information or questions, visit the [RebelCard](#) website or stop by the office in the Student Union, Room 118.

MOBILE PHONE SERVICE

There are four major carriers for wireless phone and internet service in the Las Vegas area: T-Mobile, AT&T, Verizon, and Sprint. As a UNLV student, you might be eligible for discounts. We encourage you to visit their websites or call for more information about student discounts and to set up your service.

UTILITIES

Utility service in the U.S. is often an additional monthly cost that is separate from your housing payment. When living in a rental home, you are typically required to pay for electricity, water, gas, garbage/recycling, and home internet. If you are living on campus, visit [Housing & Residential Life](#) for information about utilities for resident hall living and upper-class apartment-style living. If you are planning on living off campus, you will likely be responsible for setting up your services. Before signing a lease agreement, ask the property manager (sometimes called a landlord) whether any utilities are included in your monthly rent.

SETTING UP UTILITIES

Utility services can be set up online by completing a registration process. Once registered and with advance notice, you can usually schedule your service to begin on your move-in date.

Local Utility Companies

- Electricity Service for Southern Nevada is through [NVEnergy](#)
- Gas Service for Southern Nevada is through [Southwest Gas](#)
- Home Internet*, Phone, and Live TV or On Demand TV Service through [CenturyLink](#) or [Cox](#)

*Some wireless phone service carriers also offer home internet service. We encourage students to visit the [UNLV Affordable Connectivity Program](#) page to see if they qualify for discounts on their home internet service.

Additional Utilities That May Be Required For Condominium or House Rentals

- Water Service [Las Vegas](#)
- Water Service [Henderson](#)
- Trash Service for Southern Nevada [Republic Services](#)

Money Matters

OPENING A U.S. BANK ACCOUNT

You will most likely need to open a personal U.S. bank account, especially if you intend to live off-campus (to pay your bills) or to work (to deposit your paycheck). If you choose to open a U.S. bank account, you can still maintain your existing account in your home country. To open an account, you will likely need to establish that you live in the local area. International students and scholars can use their passports and lease agreements or utility bills.

What to Bring to Open a Bank Account

Before you visit the bank, call or check their website for the documents you will need to open your account. Information and documentation the bank may ask you to provide include:

- Your full name, your home address, your telephone number, your U.S. home address and telephone number
- Your passport
- Your current UNLV I-20 or DS-2019
- A secondary form of personal identification for example, student ID card, birth certificate, or drivers license
- A letter of admission from UNLV
- Money to deposit into the account (minimum requirements vary between banks)

HOW U.S. BANKS WORK

Banks and credit unions allow individuals to open personal checking or savings accounts. Each bank will have its own fees, interest rates, and policies on the minimum required deposit (e.g., \$25 USD) to open the account. The U.S. government insures banks and credit unions up to a specific amount.

Your bank in your home country might have partnerships with U.S. banks that can make transactions easier to manage. You may want to check with your home country's banking institution before deciding on your banking preference.

After opening a personal bank account, your U.S. bank will typically send you a debit card via postal mail. Online banking is common and can be accessed through the bank's app or website.

Banks and Credit Unions Within 1 mile of Student Union Building

• American First Credit Union Bank	• Chase	• Citi
4700 S Maryland Pkwy #100 Las Vegas, NV 89119 800-999-3961	1340 E Flamingo Rd Las Vegas, NV 89119 702-369-2090	3990 S. Maryland Pkwy Las Vegas, NV 89119 702-487-4891
• Bank of America	2393 E Tropicana Ave, Las Vegas, NV 89119 702-895-660	3333 E Tropicana Ave, Las Vegas, NV 89121 702-487-4889
4795 S Maryland Pkwy Las Vegas, NV 89119 702-654-4120		

MONEY TRANSFER APPS

Some businesses or individuals use money transfer apps for their business transactions. This is not as secure as using bank services like your bank debit card to make purchases. Although money transfer apps are fast and convenient, please confirm who you are sending money to before you send. Be aware that UNLV tuition and fee payments are only accepted through approved payment methods, which are on the Cashiering & Student Accounts [**Tuition Payment Options**](#) page.

TIPS TO AVOID SCAMS

International students can be the target of scams intended to steal their personal and financial information. Here are some valuable tips:

- Never send sensitive personal information using email.
- Always connect to a secured Wi-Fi network when using online cash apps or logging in to your sensitive accounts.
- Always verify who you are sending money to before sending it when using apps like Zelle, PayPal, Venmo, and Transferwise. We encourage you to read the [**Consumer Alert**](#) from the Federal Trade Commission.

UNLV's Office of Technology also has tips on [**Cybersecurity**](#) best practices to help you avoid scams.

NONRESIDENT TAXES

Whether you have or have not worked, you must file a tax form each year. To learn more about tax form requirements, visit the [**Nonresident Alien Tax Compliance Office**](#) or email the office at [**nrat@unlv.edu**](mailto:nrat@unlv.edu) for general and specific questions related to taxes.

Additionally, at the beginning of tax season, you will receive an email from the Nonresident Alien Tax office ([**nrat@unlv.edu**](mailto:nrat@unlv.edu)) on how to make an appointment.

NRAT Contact:

Debbie Honrath
Nonresident Alien Tax Specialist
Phone: 702-895-0872 | Fax: 702-895-0695
Email: [**nrat@unlv.edu**](mailto:nrat@unlv.edu)
Student Accounts Office, SSC-A, Room 132-C

Mailing Address:

University of Nevada, Las Vegas
4505 Maryland Pkwy, Box 451015
Las Vegas, NV 89154-1015

Employment

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (SSN)

If you are going to be paid for any type of work in the United States, you will be required to get a Social Security number. You must request and be approved for your work BEFORE requesting a SSN. If you have a previous SSN, you do NOT need to request a new one. When applying for a SSN, you need to have been in the United States for at least 10 days. For more information, see the [Social Security Administration's Guide](#) and the [ISSC website](#).

WORKING ON CAMPUS

F-1 students who have received their UNLV "Continued Attendance" I-20 are eligible to work on campus for up to 20 hours per week during the regular semesters. Please see the [ISSC website](#) for more information about on-campus employment as an [F-1](#) international student.

J-1 students are required to get written authorization from ISSC to work on campus. Authorization must be received before any employment begins; this includes Graduate Assistant positions.. A J-1 student may be authorized to work up to 20 hours per week during the academic year and full time during summer and official University holiday breaks for on-campus employment. Students who already have assistantships considered to be equivalent to 20 hours a week are not eligible for additional on-campus employment.

Please speak with your ISSC Advisor for additional information. Graduate assistants must also review the [Graduate Student Assistant Handbook](#).

WORKING OFF CAMPUS

F-1 students have the option of working off-campus when their training is considered an essential part of the curriculum (internship, practicum, volunteer, or work experience) and directly related to the student's program of study, called Curricular Practical Training (CPT). F-1 students who are getting ready to graduate can apply for Optional Practical Training (OPT) which allows them to work in the U.S. for up to one year after graduation. F-1 students who are in an eligible field may be able to apply for an additional two years of STEM OPT after their first year of regular OPT.

J-1 students may be eligible to work off campus in a job that is specifically related to their course of study. This is called Academic Training and must be authorized by your ISSC advisor before your first day of work.

When you are planning for CPT, OPT, OPT-STEM, or Academic Training, please review the [ISSC Curricular Practical Training](#), [ISSC Optional Practical Training](#), [ISSC OPT-STEM Extension](#), and [ISSC Academic Training](#) information pages on the ISSC website and feel free to contact ISSC@unlv.edu if you have any questions.





Setting Up Your New Home

Setting up your living space with furniture and housing supplies can be exciting and fun. On campus housing typically comes furnished, that means you do not need to buy furniture such as a bed or desk, but you will need to buy housing supplies. Please refer to page 13 of the [UNLV Housing Guide](#) for a list of household items you might want to buy. If you live off campus and your new home is unfurnished, you will need to buy furniture and housing supplies which can be purchased at various online or local retail stores.

RETAIL STORES

Many retail stores are “one-stop-shops” that sell a variety of goods, from clothes, bath and beauty supplies, to furniture, and electronics. Other retail stores specialize and sell specific goods like furniture. When buying furniture and heavy housing supplies consider how you will get these items to your new home. Some retail stores offer delivery services for a fee. You can also rent a moving van or truck, but in Nevada vehicle rental companies require the driver to be at least 21 years old, have a valid driver’s license, and a credit card. Plan ahead by checking the store’s website for what goods are available at a store near you and the cost of delivery fees. Below are some common retail stores and the store’s distance from the UNLV campus.

Common Retail Stores

Furniture Stores

- Ashley Home Furniture and Decor (7.6 mi/12.2km, Henderson)
- At Home (8.6 mi/13.8 km, Henderson)
- Bob’s Discount Furniture (8.1mi/13.04 km, Henderson)
- Ikea (11.1mi/17.86 km, Las Vegas)

Thrift Stores - Discounted and Second-hand Items

- [UNLV Surplus Center](#) (1.4mi/2.25 km, Las Vegas)
- Goodwill Maryland (2.0mi/3.22km, Las Vegas)
- Savers Tropicana (1.5mi/2.41 km, Las Vegas)

One-stop Shops

- Target (1.1 mi/1.77 km, Las Vegas)
- Walmart Supercenter (1.9 mi/3.06 km, Las Vegas)

Shopping Malls Near UNLV

- Boulevard Mall Las Vegas (1.4 mi/2.25km, Las Vegas)
- Town Square Las Vegas (5.5 mi/8.85 km, Las Vegas)

Online Retailers that Deliver

- Amazon.com
- Wayfair.com

GROCERY STORES

Grocery stores sell a range of products including fresh produce, bread, meats, frozen food, and non-perishable food items such as pasta, rice, cereal, and a limited selection of housing supplies. Most American grocery stores will have a section often labeled "ethnic food" where you can find international food, but these offerings are limited. There are many international or cultural grocery stores in Las Vegas. Below is a list of common and specialty grocery stores in Las Vegas and surrounding areas.

Yelp and **Google** maps are online apps that can help you find retail and grocery stores near you.

Common American Grocery Stores

- Albertsons (1.5 mi/2.41 km, Las Vegas)
- Smiths (5.3 mi/8.5 km, Las Vegas)
- Target Grocery (1.1 mi/1.77 km, Las Vegas)
- Vons (0.1mi/.16 km, Las Vegas)
- Walmart Supercenter (1.9 mi/3.06 km, Las Vegas)
- Whole Foods (5.2 mi/8.4 km, Las Vegas)

International or Cultural Grocery Stores

Near UNLV

- Cugino's Italian Deli & Pizzeria | Italian Market and Eatery
- India Market | Indian Groceries
- La Bonita Supermarket | Mexican Groceries and Traditional Homestyle Mexican Food
- La Favorita Market | Mexican Groceries and Mexican Food
- Namaste India Market | Groceries from India and Nepal
- Sidra Market | Middle Eastern/ Mediterranean/ Indo-Pak Grocery Store
- 99 Ranch Market | Asian Supermarket, Specialty Meats and Seafood and Bakery

North and Northeast Las Vegas

- El Super | Latin American Groceries and Full-Service Meat Market
- Mario's Westside Market | Specialty Meats and Products
- Palengke Oriental Market | Filipino Groceries
- Sister's Oriental Market | Lao and Thai Groceries and Lao Food

North and Northwest Las Vegas

- Afandi | Middle Eastern Restaurant and Market
- Seafood City | Filipino Supermarket, Filipino Style Food and Bakery

Southwest Las Vegas & Spring Mountain Road

- Greenland Market | Asian Supermarket and Korean Food
- International Market | Asian and European Groceries and Kitchen Supplies
- Japan Mini Mart | Japanese Groceries and Japanese Movies on DVD
- New India Market | Indian Groceries
- Selam Market | Ethiopian Groceries
- Zaytoon | Market and Casual Persian Restaurant

South, Southeast and Henderson

- Eastern Market | Eastern European and Mediterranean Food and Groceries
- India British Market | Indian and British Groceries
- La Tapatia Market | Mexican Groceries and Food
- Seafood City | Filipino Supermarket, Filipino Style Food and Bakery

Mailing Services

You can send mail and ship packages on campus at the [Copy & Send](#) located on the first floor of the Student Union Building. Copy & Send also provides a variety of printing services and sells supplies (e.g., boxes and envelopes). Off campus, the [USPS](#) can assist you to send and receive mail. Private companies such as [FedEx](#) and [UPS](#) offer similar mail services at comparable prices.



Getting a Nevada Driver's License

After arriving in the U.S. and completing the mandatory check in with ISSC, you are permitted to apply for a Nevada Driver's License, Driver Authorization Card, or Nevada identification card. You will complete your application at a Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles ([DMV](#)) office, see [DMV office locations](#) to find a location near you. To avoid long wait times, use the DMV's [online appointment system](#). First-time applicants must provide proof of identity and residency.

Please see the [ISSC website](#) for more information about required documents based on immigration status.

For F-1 students and J-1 exchange visitors, the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles typically issues a driver's license that is valid for a maximum of one year.

PASSPORT AND I-94 ERRORS

The student, exchange visitor, scholar, and/or dependent will need to consult their home country's embassy or consulate to find out how to correct, update, or renew the passport. Most embassies and consulates have a website with information regarding this issue. If you believe your I-94 has an error, please refer to the [I-94 corrections page](#) and contact ISSC@unlv.edu.

Parking and Transportation Resources

Students, staff, and residents can park their vehicles on campus in designated parking spaces located in parking lots. You must purchase a parking permit to park your vehicle in most parking lots on and near campus. Many parking lots offer short-term parking by the hour that can be purchased through the [Pay by Phone app](#). For more information about parking enforcement hours, purchasing a student parking permit, and other services offered visit [Parking and Transportation Services](#).

PARKING TIPS FOR STUDENTS

- Plan ahead and use [UNLV Park & Go](#), an interactive website that provides real-time information about the available parking spaces in campus parking locations.
- Plan to arrive 30 minutes early to find parking.
- On University Center Drive and Harmon, [Lot S](#) does not require a parking permit
- Reserved lots and reserved parking spaces require special permits to use.
- Parking is enforced during business hours and is not enforced on Monday through Thursday after 7 p.m. (after 5 p.m. during the summer), Friday after 1 p.m., or on weekends. Students, staff, and faculty do not need permits to park their vehicles during non-enforced hours and days.

On Campus Motorist Assistance and Safety

Motor assistance and safety services are available to anyone who parks on campus including jump start cables for dead car batteries, tire inflation, [emergency phones](#), and [safety escorts](#). For more information visit [Motorist Assistance and Safety](#).

If you have a flat tire or require towing assistance, you will need to contact a third party or use the roadside assistance that is offered through your auto insurance. Roadside assistance is an additional cost you can purchase with your auto insurance. There are online applications such as [Yelp](#) or [Honk](#) that can recommend roadside assistance providers near you.

ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION

Rideshare and Taxi

In Nevada, private companies that provide transportation for a fee are typically Rideshares or Taxicabs. Common Rideshares are [Uber](#) and [Lyft](#). To use Rideshares you must download the online app and sign up for service. To book a Taxicab you can call directly and for some Taxicab companies use an online app. There are multiple [Rideshare and Taxi Cab pickup and drop-off locations](#) on campus.

Public transportation

The Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada ([RTC](#)) oversees public transportation in Southern Nevada which includes Las Vegas. You can purchase a discounted transit pass ([U-pass](#)) online through the [rideRTC transit app](#), or in person at the Student Union, UNLV Parking Office, or RTC Administration Building. The RTC also offers a [Club Ride](#) program that helps users find affordable and convenient transportation options.

Transportation Safety Tips

- Plan ahead by knowing generally the area where your destination is located.
- Wait for your ride in a designated pick up and drop off place.
- Check your driver's rating to make sure they have prior experience and a good rating.

- For Rideshares, confirm the car, license plate, and driver before getting in the vehicle.
- Share your trip with a trusted friend or family member so that someone knows where you are going.
- Sit in the back seat and wear your seatbelt.
- Avoid sharing personal information when having conversations with your driver.



Student Health and Wellness

STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE

F-1 Requirements

All UNLV F-1 degree-seeking students are required by UNLV to be enrolled in a health insurance plan that is compliant with the Affordable Care Act ([ACA](#)). Typically, students will be automatically enrolled in a qualifying health insurance plan that is ACA compliant. Travel insurance plans do not meet the health insurance plan requirements.

If you are covered by an existing health insurance plan and you think your plan meets the health insurance requirements, you can complete an [F-1 Health Insurance Waiver](#). Students must complete the waiver each semester. Email questions to insurancewaiver.grads@unlv.edu.

J-1 students (both non-degree and degree-seeking) have different health insurance requirements regulated by the US Department of State. Degree-seeking J-1 students will be enrolled in the UNLV Student Health Insurance Plan; this plan meets the Department of State Requirements. Non-degree-seeking J-1 students will need to purchase health insurance from one of two authorized providers. For details on the J-1 health insurance requirements and approved providers for non-degree J-1 exchange visitors, please visit the [ISSC J-1 Student information page](#). For questions, email issc@unlv.edu.

All Graduate Assistants (GAs) are required to have health insurance while under contract. All GAs enrolled in the UNLV Student Health Insurance Plan will be given a subsidy for the total cost (fall and spring) of the health insurance premium. The cost of the UNLV Mandatory Health Insurance is subject to change each

academic year. Please see the [UNLV Student Health Insurance](#) Frequently Asked Questions webpage for the most up-to-date information. All GAs appointed for fall and spring will be covered by the mandatory health insurance plan for one year (August-August). This plan will be renewed each year that the GA is rehired and does not opt out of the health insurance program. International students who wish to waive out of the UNLV student health insurance must contact insurancewaiver.grads@unlv.edu for more information. For more information, please see the [Graduate Student Assistant Handbook](#).

For details on F-1 student and J-1 degree-seeking student health insurance requirements, visit [UNLV Student Health Insurance](#) and see [Waiver Information](#) for opt-out details. Email questions to Ellen Bolt at insurancewaiver.grads@unlv.edu.

DENTAL AND VISION SERVICES

Your UNLV student health insurance plan covers [essential medical services](#), including but not limited to emergency services, hospitalization, and preventive and wellness services. For more information about plan benefits visit [UNLV Student Aetna Plan Design and Benefits Summary](#). International students are eligible to voluntarily enroll in the [Student Dental Plan](#). Please see the [Student Health Insurance website](#) for additional information about enrollment, waivers, and answers to frequently asked questions.

We strongly encourage you to review the Student Health Insurance website to understand your health insurance benefits.

All students studying at UNLV can receive dental services at competitive prices from the School of Dental Medicine. For more information visit [School of Dental Medicine Patients](#) or call 702-774-2400 to schedule a screening appointment.

ON CAMPUS HEALTH AND WELLNESS RESOURCES

As a UNLV student, you have access to board-certified doctors and nurse practitioners at the [Student Health Center](#) where you can receive medical services that include, but are not limited to, primary care, treatment of illnesses and injuries, first aid, vaccinations, repair of minor lacerations, gender care, wellness exams, nutrition services, and laboratory services. The Student Health Center is located in the Student Wellness Center on the first floor inside the Student Recreation and Wellness Center (SRWC) building and is open Monday - Thursday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and on Fridays from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. You can make an appointment using the [Wellness View Patient Portal](#) or by calling 702-895-3370.

For more information about services offered, hours of operation, and more, visit the [Student Health Center](#) in the [Student Recreation and Wellness Center](#), room 1500.

Pharmacy

The campus Pharmacy is conveniently located on the first floor of the Student Recreation and Wellness Center (SRWC). The Pharmacy accepts the student health insurance and offers many prescriptions at competitive prices. For more information about common prescription prices, products that do not require prescription or "over-the-counter" products, and hours of operation visit the [Pharmacy](#) website.

Nutrition and Healthy Habits

You can schedule a nutrition consultation with a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) who will assist you in developing healthy eating habits that complement your individual lifestyle and activity level. You can make an appointment using the [Wellness View Patient Portal](#) or by calling 702-895-3370. For more information visit [Nutrition Consultation](#).

STUDENT COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES (CAPS).....

CAPS provides a variety of services to help students address mental health concerns and make the most out of the college experience. Services include online educational and support resources, workshops and outreach programming, same-day crisis services, psychiatric services, and individual, group, and couples counseling. All currently enrolled UNLV students who have paid their student health fees can receive CAPS services free of charge. Testing and prescriptions may incur a charge. Please visit [CAPS Therapy 101](#) for answers to some commonly asked questions about counseling and clinical services. For more information about the many services CAPS offers visit [Student Counseling and Psychological Services](#).

If you are interested in CAPS services and want to schedule an initial consultation please call 702-895-3627. Be sure to ask if help is available in your native language; some languages may be accommodated.

Online Resources for Students

[YOU at UNLV](#) is a confidential online tool available 24/7 that you can independently explore to learn more about common mental health and wellness topics. You at UNLV will also direct students to helpful UNLV resources as needed. There is no fee to use this tool and it is optional to use. You will need your UNLV email address or ACE ID to log in.

Other Institutional and Peer Support for Students

[The Center for Individual, Couples, and Family Counseling](#) (CICFC) provides telehealth and in-person counseling services to individuals experiencing personal, couple, or family difficulties. Please contact the CICFC for more information about types of therapy, cost, and scheduling an appointment.

CICFC Front Desk 702-895-3106

CICFC general inquiries cicfc@unlv.edu

Global Ambassadors (Peer Support)

The Global Ambassadors are peers who can assist with your adjustment to life as a UNLV student. If you encounter challenges and want a safe person to talk with, consider reaching out to a Global Ambassador. They can help guide you to overcome practical obstacles or suggest a UNLV staff member to contact for more sensitive or complex situations. The Global Ambassadors participate in programming all week every week to help you in your transition.

Project Wellness (Peer Support)

[Project Wellness](#) is a student-led initiative that aims to improve wellness for students by creating opportunities for students to share resources and advice on wellbeing. The student organization has hosted Mental Health Town Halls where students can come together to publicly discuss concerns and issues related to student mental health and wellbeing. The group also has student committees, including one that meets to discuss matters relevant to international and transfer students.

UNLV Support Team (Institutional Support)

The [UNLV Support Team](#) is an institutional resource that connects students with the student support and wellness services they need. You can also complete an online referral form for a friend, classmate, or loved one who could use some help.

For additional information about student health and wellness resources visit the [SRG](#).

“CULTURE SHOCK” AND CULTURAL ADJUSTMENT

Leaving your home, family, and friends to live in a new culture can be both exciting and challenging. Many international students experience positive and negative emotions during this time of adjustment. Although everyone's transition to a new culture will be unique, there are 5 stages of “culture shock” or cross-cultural transition and adjustment that students commonly experience^{1,2}. It's important to note that not everyone experiences each stage, begins at stage 1, or goes through the stages in order. The culture shock and adjustment process are not linear and each person might move forward or backward revisiting stages.

Stage 1 – Excitement or Honeymoon: Arrival in a new culture and university is an exciting time that often comes with intense positive emotions. You might feel extremely excited, curious, and interested to learn about the language, customs, food, and location of your new home. This initial stage is comparable to when people take vacations and are enthusiastic about trying everything that is new and unfamiliar.

Tips for Coping and Thriving:

- Know your surroundings - explore campus and get familiar with the places you will visit regularly, like grocery stores, restaurants, bookstores, or classrooms.
- Locate resources – know where to find support by visiting the [Student Resource Guide](#) and reach out to your department to learn about program-specific support.
- Make connections – networking and meeting new people can assist in learning American cultural and social norms and friendship expectations. Reaching out to your [instructors](#) is a great way to learn about course expectations.
- Document your experience – keep a journal and share your new experiences with family and friends.



¹ McLeod, K. D., Eslami, Z. R., & Graham, K. M. (2021). Culture shock and coping mechanisms of international Korean students: A qualitative study. *International Journal of TESOL Studies*, 3(1), 14-28.

² Park, H., Lee, M.-J., Choi, G.-Y., & Zepernick, J. S. (2017). Challenges and coping strategies of East Asian graduate students in the United States. *International Social Work*, 60(3), 733-749.

Stage 2 – Frustration or Crisis: After the initial excitement and interest, many people experience various negative emotions including frustration, loneliness, anxiety, confusion, and even physical symptoms like headaches. Interactions and experiences that were once exciting might now be stressful or confusing. On top of that, you miss your home, family, and friends, which is often called feeling “homesick”. This is the most challenging part of the transition and you might feel like isolating yourself.

Tips for Coping and Thriving:

- Don’t Isolate – avoid isolating yourself from people you previously connected with (friends, classmates, and instructors) and lean on your UNLV support network. What you are experiencing is common, so consider attending group discussions with other international students who are going through a similar situation.
- Be kind to yourself – understand that your negative feelings are valid and okay. Take time to do things you enjoy and destress.
- Get help – seek out help through the [**resources, programs, and services**](#) available to you.
- Practice gratitude – taking the time to think about what you are grateful for can help shift your perspective from focusing on what is bad to what is good. The practice of gratitude is a powerful strategy for changing your mind to look for and recognize positive aspects about your current situation.
- Educate yourself – learn more about healthy ways to cope and adjust with cross-cultural transitions. If you have previously experienced challenges, you might be surprised by your ability to cope during this difficult transition. Check out this video from You@UNLV about a student at another American university and his experience with cross-cultural transition and adapting.

Stage 3 – Recovery or Gradual Adjustment: You have experienced many positive and negative feelings, but generally you may be more comfortable with these emotions. With more knowledge of American cultural norms and academic expectations, your confidence to explore new places and interact with people may increase.

Tips for Coping and Thriving:

- Gaining resilience – you begin to recognize and feel comfortable with the tension of being away from your country of origin, but at the same time you have new perspectives and skills that have helped you recover. This type of resilience can only be achieved by going through a difficult transition and recovering.
- Build stronger connections – when you feel confident about social interactions this is an ideal time to strengthen friendships and connections with classmates, work colleagues, or instructors/professors.
- Return to exploration – you might feel ready to find new places of interest and this is a great way to immerse yourself in American culture.

Stage 4 – Acceptance or Biculturalism: You now have a good understanding of American and academic culture. You accept the differences and delight in the similarities between your home country and your new home. You are comfortable in most situations and have various friendships and work relationships you enjoy.

Tips for Coping and Thriving:

- Challenge yourself – expand your comfort zone by trying new activities or finding opportunities that will help you grow academically, personally, and professionally.
- Pay it forward – your experiences are valuable and sharing what you have been through with others may help them with their cultural transition and adjustment. Consider volunteering or seeking a paid position where you can help others cope and thrive (e.g., be a global ambassador or join a student organization that is active in the international campus community).

Stage 5 – Reverse “Culture Shock”: Once you have completed your program, you will begin the transition to your chosen career. You might be returning to your home country or to a new country of residence. You will likely feel a mix of emotions, such as excitement about your new career and sadness for leaving your friends and life in the U.S. You should expect challenges with the transition; even if you are returning home, your perspective has broadened, and you will likely not see your home the same way. This is common for many students who have studied abroad.

Tips for Coping and Thriving:

- Stay connected – remain in contact with the friends you made while studying abroad.
- Be patient with others and kind to yourself – know that your family and friends will not share your perspective as they have not shared your experiences. Be sure to give yourself time to adjust and share your feelings and thoughts with others who can validate your feelings and support you.

The information presented here on culture shock and adjustment comes from multiple online sources and academic articles. Check the [**UNLV Global events calendar**](#) for future workshops on this topic.

For more information, you can visit the following websites.

- U.S. Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs [**Adjusting to a New Culture**](#)
- Georgia Institute of Technology's [**Resources for Cultural Transition**](#)

Emergency and Crisis Resources

WHAT TO DO IN AN EMERGENCY OR CRISIS

It is good to plan ahead and know who to call in an emergency, for information about campus emergency services visit [**Student Wellness Center's Crisis/ Emergency Services Resources**](#).

The [**Safety and Emergency Contacts**](#) website has additional contact information.

If you need immediate assistance with crisis situations that involve medical emergencies or injuries, mental health concerns, sexual assault, interpersonal violence, or a safety concern, you can call the numbers listed below.

Emergency Telephone Numbers

Life-Threatening or Medical Emergencies

Call 9-1-1 or go to the nearest emergency room ([**emergency rooms near UNLV**](#))

Crisis Text Line

Text CONNECT or HOME to 741741 (24 hrs/day)

Mental Health Crisis

For yourself or if you are worried about someone else call or text 9-8-8

Sexual Assault

If you have been sexually assaulted, or think you might have been, please go to the University Medical Center (UMC). For more information visit the [**sexual assault resource**](#).

UNLV Care (Campus Advocacy and Empowerment)

Monday – Friday • 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.
702-895-0602

Rape Crisis Hotline

24 hrs every day
702-366-1640

Interpersonal Violence

If you have a partner or family member that does not make you feel safe and you think you are in danger, please call 9-1-1. If you are on campus you can contact UNLV Campus Police at 702-895-3668. Visit interpersonal violence for more information and resources.

Shelters in Las Vegas

If you are experiencing interpersonal violence and are seeking shelter or other resources, you can call the numbers below for assistance.

S.A.F.E. House

702-564-3227

Safe Nest

702-646-4981

Non-Emergency Telephone Numbers

If you need medical care after hours, but it is not an emergency, or if you need to report something to the police but there is no present danger, use the following telephone numbers:

Non-Emergency Police Services

From campus phone dial 3-1-1
From non-campus phone 702-895-3668
University Police Services Online Incident Report Form

Non-Emergency Medical Services

Student Health Center - For same-day appointments call 702-895-3370
Monday - Thursday 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Concentra Health Services, Inc. (0.7 miles from UNLV)

5850 S. Polaris Road, Ste. 100, Las Vegas, NV 89778
702-739-9957
Hours: Open 24 hours/day 7 days/week

Healthcare Partners Medical Group (3.2 miles from UNLV)

4880 S. Wynn Road, Las Vegas, NV 89103
702-871-5005
Hours: Open 24 hours/day 7 days/week



Safety

UNLV POLICE SERVICES

UNLV Police Services are dedicated to providing a safe and secure environment for all members of the campus community. They do this using a **Community Policing** approach that is based on collaboration and professionalism.

How to interact with police?

Community policing is about collaboration and professionalism. There are typical ways of interacting with police in the U.S. that promote helpful police interactions. For example, during routine traffic stops, drivers should never get out of their vehicles to approach police. Additionally, it is not appropriate to ask police officers for favors or to offer money in exchange for services or to avoid penalties.

UNLV Police Services encourages all members of the UNLV community to use police services and to contact police services when you require assistance.

Some services they provide are:

- Security Escort to have an officer or **Safety Cadet** escort you to any location on campus during evening hours.
- Lost and Found to find or turn in valuable items found on campus such as keys, phone, ID, wallet, purses, or computers.
- Attend Self Defense Classes to learn how to avoid dangerous situations.

How to Contact UNLV Police

Download UNLV's **RebelSAFE Mobile app** for a number of convenient safety features such as updates, request a ride shuttle, and chat with police staff. Or call For more information about services visit **Police Services**.

CAMPUS AND LOCAL AREA SAFETY TIPS

UNLV is nestled in the dynamic Las Vegas community. Our 350-acre campus is full of green spaces and unique buildings for you to enjoy. Public universities in the US are open to the public, not gated, and as such it's important that you take the same safety precautions that people in any US city take. Here are some general tips to keep you safe:

- Get to know the campus safety services. Use the red emergency phone stations on campus or your [**RebelSAFE Mobile app**](#) if you feel unsafe, need to report suspicious activities, or need somebody to escort you.
- Take precautions after dark. Use the buddy system instead of walking alone. Always pay attention to people and the environment around you.
- Keep things locked. Close and lock your windows and doors and keep your blinds and curtains closed at night. Secure your electronics when feasible and keep your valuables in a safe place.
- Be smart on your phone and computer. Take care with the information you share about yourself online. Protect your passwords and PINs. Use official wifi only and log out of accounts to avoid hackers.
- Car Safety. Park in well-lit areas and stay alert when walking to your car. Always keep your car doors locked, and never leave valuables in your car. Have a plan. Know where you need to go beforehand and don't be distracted by your phone.
- Protect yourself from potential danger. Don't ignore something that gives you reason to be suspicious. If something makes you uncomfortable, ask for help.

CONFIDENTIAL REPORTING CHANNELS (TITLE IX)

UNLV does not discriminate in its educational programs or activities and in employment practices based on a person's gender/sex, age, ability, or any other individual characteristic that is protected by Title IX federal law. If you have questions or want to learn more about preventing or reporting discrimination visit [**Title IX Resources**](#). You can report a concern to a UNLV Title IX analyst using the [**Report a Concern online form**](#).

You may choose to report a concern anonymously, but this might limit the University's ability to investigate the incident.

For questions or more information contact Michelle Sposito, Director and Title IX Coordinator at [**titleixcoordinator@unlv.edu**](mailto:titleixcoordinator@unlv.edu).





Student Success

ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER

Under the umbrella of Student and Academic Success, the Academic Success Center (ASC) is a resource and service hub that guides and supports undergraduate students throughout their UNLV journey. The ASC offers campus-wide tutoring, peer-led-study groups for selected courses (supplemental instruction), academic advising for Exploring Majors and non-degree-seeking students, scholarship programs, and more. They also partner to connect students to academic success coaching and peer mentoring. For more information, visit [Academic Success Center](#), email asc@unlv.edu, or call 702-895-3177.

CAREER SERVICES & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

UNLV Career Services & Workforce Development is your resource for exploring careers, job and interview preparation, and connecting you with internship and job opportunities. Services are tailored for undergraduate and graduate students and can be accessed by visiting [Career Services](#).

You can also download the [Career Handbook](#) and visit [Career Launch](#) that both have useful information, handouts, and resources to help you get career ready. F-1 students should also carefully review information about [Optional Practical Training](#) as you prepare to graduate and begin applying for jobs. J-1 students should review the [Academic Training](#) information.

Please see the ISSC website for work authorization information for [F-1 students](#) and [J-1 students](#) and contact ISSC@unlv.edu for any questions.

If you have any additional questions about employment after graduation as an international student please contact your ISSC Advisor by emailing ISSC@unlv.edu.

Career Services Programs and Online Resources

- [UNLV Career Launch](#) - An online space to customize your career and professional experience by accessing helpful resources and information.
- [UNLV Career Services x Handshake](#) - An online space to access resources, apply for jobs and internships, and connect with the career coaching teams.
- [Student Micro-Internships](#) - Find short-term internship experiences to work on projects with industry professionals.

DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER

The Disability Resource Center is committed to providing support to all students with disabilities through appropriate accommodations, advocacy, and support to access campus activities, courses, and services. For more information about services visit [Disability Resource Center](#).

DIGITAL EDUCATION SUPPORT

UNLV's [Office of Information Technology](#) (OIT) is here to support your digital education needs, including resources on how to use Zoom for web conferencing and Webcampus/ Canvas courses, and minimal requirements for your devices to access Canvas courses. OIT also provides access to a variety of [student essential software](#) (for at-home use and location of computer labs and the available software). If you need access to a laptop computer while you are waiting to purchase one, check out the [Tech Loan Program](#). OIT can also help with [laptop recommendations or even discounts](#) for purchasing a personal computer.

Stay Cybersafe by following [OIT's recommended best practices](#).

ENGLISH LANGUAGE CENTER (ELC)

At the [ELC](#), UNLV students can take first-year composition classes that are designed for international and multilingual students. For more information about placement and course descriptions visit [English Composition Classes](#).

If you are interested in a relaxed setting to practice conversational English while playing fun games, check out Game Time at the ELC. As an enrolled student, you can also request peer tutoring that is free of charge to assist with pronunciation, listening comprehension practice, vocabulary expansion, reading practice, conversational skills and speaking practice, and grammar.

LIBRARY AND ACADEMIC TUTORING RESOURCES

The University Libraries are a central hub on campus for students to study, work on projects, and collaborate in a supportive environment. Lied Library serves as the main campus library and is joined by four branch libraries: [Architecture Studies Library](#), [Music Library](#), [School of Medicine Library](#), and [Teacher Development & Resources Library](#).

The Libraries offer more than [600 computers](#), printers, [group study rooms, study pods](#), and more to support your academic needs. Your RebelCard grants you access to borrow books, equipment, and more at the Libraries. You can access online resources (e.g., online articles, databases, or ebooks) with your ACE account.

Students can access the [Makerspace](#) in Lied Library to use technology for 3D printing and scanning, vinyl cutting, sticker making, laser cutting, sewing, embroidery, and more. Just attend an [orientation session](#) to gain access. Students also have access to our [Multimedia Production Studios](#), which have equipment and technology to assist you with recording music, podcasts, video presentations, and more.

The [Tutoring Center](#), run by the Academic Success Center, is located on the first floor of Lied Library, and a Graduate Student Commons is open to grad students on the second floor. The Book 'N' Bean coffee shop is also located on the first floor of Lied.

The Libraries host many student-focused events and academic workshops on a range of topics throughout the semester. Check out the [Library Events Calendar](#) for information and to register for upcoming events.

We have subject librarians available to assist you with [research consultations](#), or for quick assistance you can stop by the Research and Information Desk on the first floor of Lied Library or use our [online chat service](#).

For general information about important library resources, locations, and services check out the [International Students and Scholars - A Guide to the Library](#), and for research assistance in a specific subject visit the [Libraries Subject Guides List](#).

WRITING CENTER

The Writing Center can help you with any writing assignment. You can meet with center staff in person or submit your writing using the online form on the Online Writing Lab (OWL) page. Other Writing Center services include answers to [Quick Questions](#), handouts or presentations on various writing topics (e.g., Active and Passive voice), and [consultations for Multilingual Writers](#). For more information visit [UNLV Writing Center](#).

GRADUATE STUDENT SUCCESS

The UNLV Graduate College welcomes all graduate and professional students and has many resources to support your educational journey. Please familiarize yourself with the [Graduate College website](#), where you can learn more about the wide range of services and programming offered by the Graduate College. You should also review the [Information for Graduate Students](#) and if you have secured a graduate assistant position please review the [Graduate Assistant Handbook](#). Also, please see the [funding opportunities](#) website for enrolled graduate students.

The Grad Academy

The UNLV Graduate College's [The Grad Academy](#) offers a wide array of free leadership, professional, and career development opportunities to promote student success and help students prepare for their careers after graduation. Programming is built around six key pillars of skills graduate students need to be successful: research, teaching, mentorship, communication, career preparation, and wellness. We offer a variety of 70+ workshops, signature events, and career support each year in addition to offering co-curricular certifications and programs. All of these are free opportunities for graduate and professional students.

At the Grad Academy graduate students will find a variety of programming to earn badges (digital microcredentials), co-curricular certifications, events, and workshops to enhance personal, professional, and career development. The Grad Academy also prepares undergraduate students for graduate school through the [Grad Rebel Advantage](#) program.

For more information about The Grad Academy, you can visit the [Graduate College website](#).



Graduate & Professional Student Association (GPSA)

GPSA's primary role is to advocate for improvements in the graduate student experience and education. GPSA membership is automatic for all graduate students and we strongly recommend that you learn more about getting involved in GPSA activities and events, and various funding and research opportunities offered by GPSA.

Please see [Get Involved](#) for more information on various events and activities you can participate in to support graduate and professional student education at UNLV.

Graduate and Professional Student Workspaces

The GPSA maintains workspaces, copy and print service, conference rooms, and kitchen and lounge areas exclusively for graduate students, called [Graduate Student Commons](#), the main space is located on the second floor of Lied Library. A second study space for graduate and professional students, the [Gateway Graduate Commons](#), is located on the second floor of the [University Gateway Building](#).

For additional career assistance information visit [SRG](#).

Graduate Registered Student Organizations (GRSOs)

Established by the Graduate College, the [Graduate Registered Student Organizations](#) (GRSOs) provide specific spaces and communities for UNLV graduate and professional students. They offer students opportunities to focus on leadership experiences, scholarship exchanges, and community building. Please see [the GRSO Handbook](#) for information on how to set up one, the benefits, funding opportunities, resources, and more.

BASIC NEEDS ASSISTANCE

UNLV Food Pantry

You can visit the UNLV Food Pantry to receive perishable and non-perishable food year-round. To access these resources you must bring one of the following: your Rebel ID card, proof of employment at UNLV, or proof of class registration. Visit [UNLV Food Pantry](#) for up-to-date hours of operation, closures, and contact information.

Student Support Spot

If you need additional non-perishable food, toiletry items, and in-person guidance to overcome basic needs challenges, visit the [Student Support Spot](#) located in the Welcome Center on the second floor of the University Gateway Building. You do not need a student ID to receive assistance.

Take What You Need

The Take What You Need program provides free basic need items to students. Take What You Need hosts monthly events throughout the year for UNLV community members to access free hygiene products, non-perishable food, school supplies, clothing and linens, cleaning supplies, and more. For more information about Take What You Need events visit the [Basic Needs Support](#) website.

CHILD CARE AND DEPENDENT RESOURCES

One of the hardest aspects of moving to a new city is uprooting your children. Not only are you here to participate in the learning process, but you can help your children learn as well. To find out where to register your children, which schools they may attend, and other information regarding the Las Vegas public schools, please visit the [Clark County School District website](#).

UNLV/CSUN Preschool

UNLV offers preschool with CSUN, the UNLV Student Government, open to children between the ages of six weeks and five years. It is a highly sought-after and all-inclusive program that often has an enrollment waiting list. If you have children and would like to learn more about the preschool and registration visit [**UNLV/CSUN Preschool**](#). If you are interested in learning about opportunities to conduct research with or at the preschool, visit [**UNLV/CSUN Preschool Research**](#).



Funding Resources

Check out the [**Student Resource Guide \(SRG\)**](#) for more financial resources. You can also visit the following websites.

- [**Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships**](#)
- [**Cashiering & Student Accounts**](#)
- [**Nonresident Alien Tax Services**](#)

CASHIERING & STUDENT ACCOUNTS

You can contact [**Cashiering & Student Accounts**](#) regarding questions about tuition, international wire transfers, payment plans, or if you have government funding (e.g., SACM) and must complete a financial guarantee submission. To make an appointment, use the CashieringQ: Virtual Line system available on the Cashiering & Student Accounts website.

FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIPS

The Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships provides financial support to all students, including the UNLV Signature Scholarship which is available to in and out-of-state and international students who submit a FAFSA or Alternative Need Form. Please visit [**Financial Aid & Scholarships**](#) for details and important information about scholarships and scholarship application deadlines, grants, loans, and waivers.

Enrolled undergraduate students who experience an unexpected crisis might be eligible for emergency funds. Emergencies include but are not limited to accidents, food or housing insecurity, illness, damage caused by fire, or death in your family. Visit the [**S.O.S Emergency Relief Fund**](#) for more details and application instructions. Please be aware that this application for funding is only available when funds are available. However, in the event of an emergency, students can submit a case to Financial Aid to request emergency funding in Rebel Success Hub and attach appropriate documentation as well as a description of the emergency and the amount needed. The Financial Aid Office will review your request and get back to you within 10 business days. If your need is more urgent you should use the Viva Chat in Rebel Success Hub to request your case be escalated for a more immediate review.

UNLV UNDERGRADUATE MERIT-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS

Admitted international undergraduate students may be considered for **merit-based scholarships**. These scholarships range from \$5000 - \$7000 USD per year. Students can apply prior to their first fall term, and scholarship consideration only happens once per year.

To be considered, you must:

- **Apply for the fall term**
 - Scholarship consideration occurs yearly before the fall term
 - There is no scholarship consideration for spring and summer
- **Be admitted before the priority deadline**
 - For up-to-date information visit [Financial Aid Deadlines](#)
- **Complete UNLV's Alternative Need Form before the priority deadline**
 - You must be admitted before the form can be submitted
 - This form is required for many UNLV scholarships

FINANCIAL LITERACY SUPPORT

As a student, you will need to manage your budget and take responsibility for your spending. Check out [UNLV's Institute for Financial Literacy](#) for resources and news about upcoming events aimed at helping you make wise financial decisions as a student.

CONSOLIDATED STUDENTS OF UNLV (CSUN)

The Consolidated Students of UNLV or CSUN is the undergraduate student government. CSUN, in partnership with other university departments, provides sponsored scholarships to students regardless of their residency status. You can visit [CSUN Scholarships](#) to learn more about the various scholarships offered.

Enrolled undergraduate international students can apply for emergency financial assistance through [The Intersection Cares Emergency Fund](#).

COLLEGE AND DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Check with your college, school, or department to learn more about scholarship opportunities for students in your degree program. Information about merit-based scholarships, or scholarships given based on the student's skills or achievements, can be found on the College, School, or Department website.

GRADUATE COLLEGE FINANCIAL RESOURCES

If you are an enrolled international graduate student, visit [Graduate College Financial Resources](#) for more information about funding opportunities and awards, graduate assistantships, research funding, and employment.

Enrolled graduate international students can apply for emergency financial assistance through the [Graduate College Emergency Retention Grants](#) or [Graduate & Professional Student Association Continuation Support Grant](#) (CSG).

GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION (GPSA) SPONSORSHIP ...

Enrolled international graduate students can apply for funding through the GPSA to purchase research materials, and cover travel expenses to conferences and other scholarly activities that will positively impact your degree. For details about eligible activities and expenses, application instructions and deadlines visit [GPSA Sponsorship Award Program](#).

RESEARCH SUPPORT AND FUNDING

There are multiple offices on campus that can assist you with research projects, funding to conduct independent research, and more. To learn more, visit the Research Support section of the [Student Resource Guide \(SRG\)](#).



Student Activities, Communities, and Involvement

INVOLVEMENT CENTER

Getting involved in campus activities, events, clubs, and organizations enhances your university experience and advances student success. You can find student organizations and events by visiting the [UNLV Involvement Center](#). There you will find over 440 registered student organizations including multicultural student groups, and 10 student-led sports clubs that range from bowling to men's and women's rugby. The involvement center even has a tracker for you to record your membership and participation in student organizations and campus events.

At UNLV your voice matters and we encourage you to find ways to help our campus continue to thrive. Whether you are interested in improving the student experience on campus or advocating for social justice, consider being active in student groups that seek to enhance the academic experience for all students.

For more information about student involvement visit [SRG](#), the undergraduate student government visit [CSUN](#) and [GPSA](#) to learn more about the graduate student government and [Graduate Registered Student Organizations \(GRSO\)](#)

To see a daily, weekly, or monthly list of campus events visit the [UNLV Events Calendar](#). If you are interested in sporting events see [Athletics Calendar](#).

CULTURAL AND SOCIAL EVENTS

UNLV Global Programs & Events

UNLV Global plans multiple events throughout the year in partnership with student organizations and campus offices to reinforce an active and vibrant international community. We host some large events for the whole campus, such as **International Education Week** events, but as international students, we hope you will take advantage of 4-5 free events/programs that we offer especially for you every week! Become part of our international student community and make lasting memories every week at UNLV.

Visit [UNLV Global Events](#) to view an up-to-date calendar of ISSC sponsored events and meet up with your Global Ambassadors there. Also, follow us on Instagram [@unlv_global](#) for information on upcoming events.

Don't forget to bring your Global Education Passport. When you've completed your passport stamps, bring your passport to the next Global Thursday event for a prize and an optional social media highlight. The first 10 students to complete their passport will win a seat on an international student day trip to a local tourist destination!

OFFICE OF STUDENT DIVERSITY PROGRAMS

The Office of Student Diversity Programs (SDP) was created to uplift students with identity-based support. In the U.S. a person's identity can include personal characteristics, beliefs, values, and experiences that shape their sense (awareness) of self. Identity can be influenced by culture, ethnicity, race, gender, nationality, religiosity, and more.

SDP also offers valuable cultural programming and partners with UNLV Global on events tailored for international students. See the Cultural and Social Events section for more details.

Every year, UNLV celebrates diversity and culture with live entertainment, activities, craft vendors, and cultural food at the **Festival of Communities**, an event that must not be missed!

For more information about identity-based support services and resources and to learn about SDP events visit, [Office of Student Diversity Programs](#).

RELIGION, SPIRITUALITY, AND COMMUNITY

For those looking for a faith-based community, finding a place of worship or a group of people who share similar beliefs, values, or interests is beneficial for personal well-being. There are many ways to build your supportive network, and below are some tips for finding a place of worship or a community based on shared interests.

- There are many registered student organizations that are dedicated to the exploration of or participation in various religions or spiritual beliefs. You can find student organizations, groups, and events at the [UNLV Involvement Center](#). Some student-led religious and spiritual groups include: Chabad UNLV, Christians on Campus, Elohist Bible Club, Latter Day Saint Student Association, Muslim Students Association, SGI Buddhism, and St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Newman Community.
- You can use online applications or an internet search to find places of worship, including mosques, churches, and temples throughout Las Vegas and surrounding neighborhoods. Common search tools include [ChurchFinder](#) or [Yelp](#).
- Be mindful about asking friends, peers, or university staff about their religious or spiritual beliefs - in American culture, people who have recently met do not usually talk about their religious beliefs or

spiritual practices. Close friends often share this kind of information, but that is not an expected conversation topic for classmates, work colleagues, or acquaintances (someone you know but who is not a close friend).

- Outside of faith-based groups, exploring extracurricular activities offered by various offices on campus is another great way to build a community with people who share similar interests or hobbies. For example, if you are passionate about volunteering, there is the Service Learning and Leadership Office. You can also explore groups or activities in your local neighborhood or through your city's recreation centers. Some recreational activities that are popular in Las Vegas and surrounding neighborhoods include nature hikes, bird watching, cycling, art viewing and art classes, archery, gardening, pickleball, tennis, and attending outdoor concerts.

OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

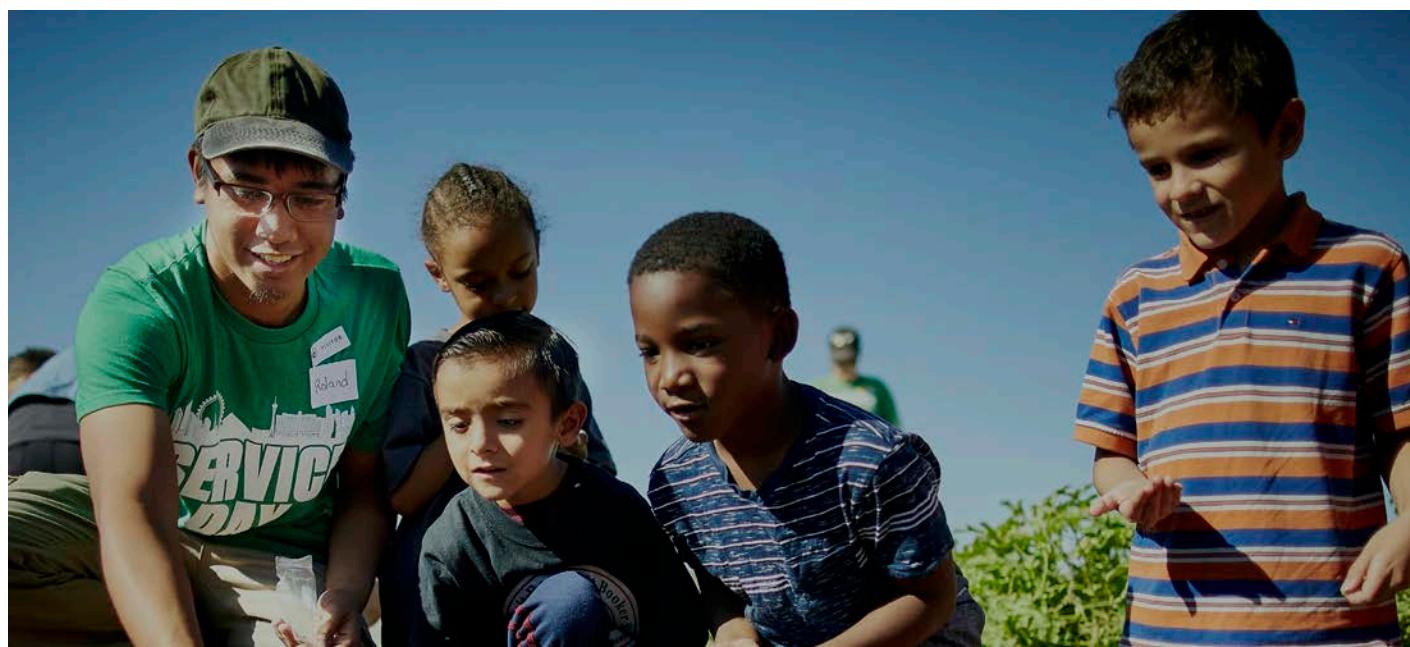
International undergraduate students can request research guidance and advising from the Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR). You can get involved in research by participating in the fall or spring research symposium, writing an article or creating art for the Spectra Undergraduate Research Journal, or applying to participate in a research program or for research funding.

For more information, visit [OUR](#) and check out the [UNLV Expert Directories](#) to get to know the research of faculty experts on topics ranging from arts and culture to renewable energy.

SERVICE LEARNING AND LEADERSHIP

Another way you can enhance your campus experience is to get involved in service learning and leadership opportunities. Service learning is a blend of academic study, practical experience, and engagement in activities that make a positive impact on the community. UNLV is committed to helping all students find the best service learning opportunities for them and supports students who engage in service learning with scholarships or awards. To learn more about how to get involved in service learning visit [Service Learning and Leadership \(SLL\)](#).

Check out the [SLL alternative breaks](#) to learn about day or weekend trips to nearby destinations. The cost of trips varies from \$150 - \$300 USD. Note if a flight is required that is an additional cost you pay for yourself. Students who demonstrate financial need may be eligible for reduced trip costs.





Campus Life

Explore UNLV's 350-acre campus, nestled in the dynamic Las Vegas community. Visit our spacious green areas, outdoor artwork, and unique buildings. Familiarize yourself with key campus landmarks, from the vibrant student union to the state-of-the-art Lied Library.

Use the [Interactive Campus Map](#) to help you navigate around campus and to learn more about UNLV visit [About UNLV](#).

THINGS TO DO ON CAMPUS

Museums and Art Galleries

The Marjorie Barrick Museum of Art is the only one of its kind and is located on UNLV's campus. The museum is committed to displaying contemporary art that reflects the diversity of the Southern Nevada community. The museum also hosts guest lectures, student-centered events, and community activities. Admission to the museum is free for all guests.

For more information visit [Marjorie Barrick Museum of Art](#).

The Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery seeks to amplify the cultural diversity of the UNLV community by showcasing art from well recognized and up-and-coming artists. The gallery presents anywhere from 7 to 15 exhibitions throughout the year, which can be themed shows, and faculty or student exhibitions. The gallery offers six additional spaces on campus where students can view works of art.

For more information visit [Donna Beam Gallery](#) and to learn more about other activities visit [Arts and Entertainment](#). Visit [UNLV Museums and Galleries](#) for a list of where various galleries and museums are located.

Performing Arts Center

The UNLV Performing Arts Center has an ongoing program of theater productions and musical performances. Students can buy discounted tickets [here](#).

Black Mountain Institute

The [Black Mountain Institute](#) (BMI) is an international literary center at UNLV. The BMI brings local and international writers to engage in live conversations with their audience on a variety of topics. BMI offers on-campus [events](#) that are open to students, faculty, and the public. Graduate Students in the Creative Writing programs should check out the BMI's [funding and scholarship](#) opportunities.

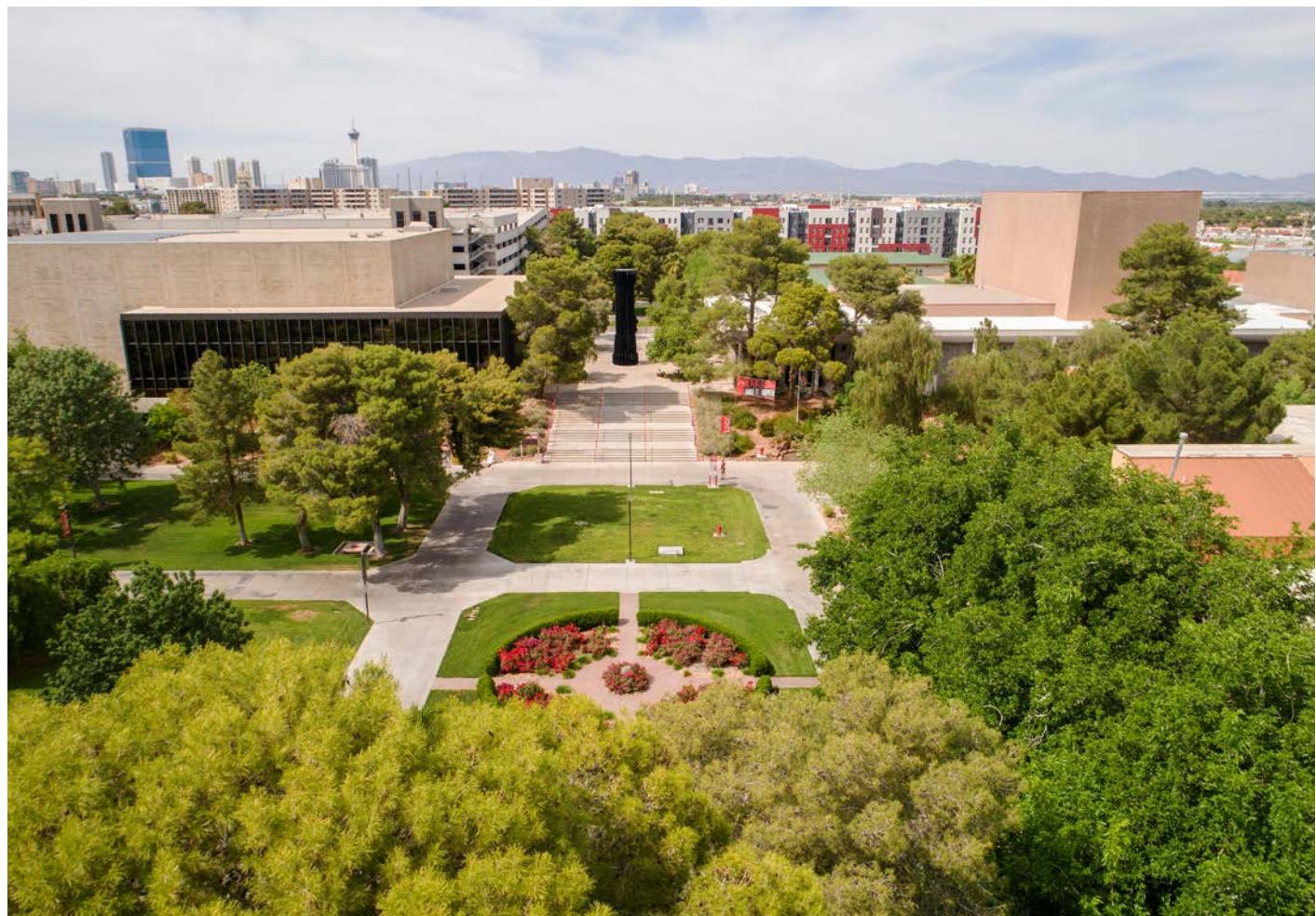
Student Recreation and Wellness Center

Students who are registered for at least 4 or more credits during the semester and have paid their student fees receive membership to UNLV's state-of-the-art recreation and wellness center. The center offers programs and activities to promote healthy lifestyles and personal growth, from fitness and personal training to outdoor adventures and sports clubs. Visit [Campus Recreation Center](#) for details about recreation and wellness programs.

Student Union

The Student Union (SU) offers amenities, meeting spaces, and services to UNLV students, faculty and staff, and guests. The SU is open Monday through Sunday (hours vary) all year round. Retail shops include food services, the UNLV bookstore, US Bank, and Copy & Send. Student services located at the SU include computer labs, CSUN and GPSA, OIT help desk, RebelCard, The Intersection, and Scarlet & Gray Free Press.

Visit [Student Union](#) for more information about all amenities and services offered.



Recreation and Travel

THINGS TO DO IN LAS VEGAS AND NEARBY REGIONS

UNLV's campus is conveniently located near the Las Vegas strip where there are countless activities and entertainment options available. In the city of Las Vegas and surrounding areas, you can enjoy a wide variety of outdoor activities, such as hiking, rock climbing, and camping. [Red Rock Canyon](#), [Mount Charleston](#), and [Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area](#) are a few examples of the scenic destinations in and near the city. Other renowned destinations are only a short flight or hours drive from Las Vegas, including Southern California (Los Angeles and San Diego), Utah, and Arizona.

Be a tourist. [Get to know Las Vegas](#) as the "Entertainment Capital of the World" with its hotels, casinos, shows, fine dining, and attractions.

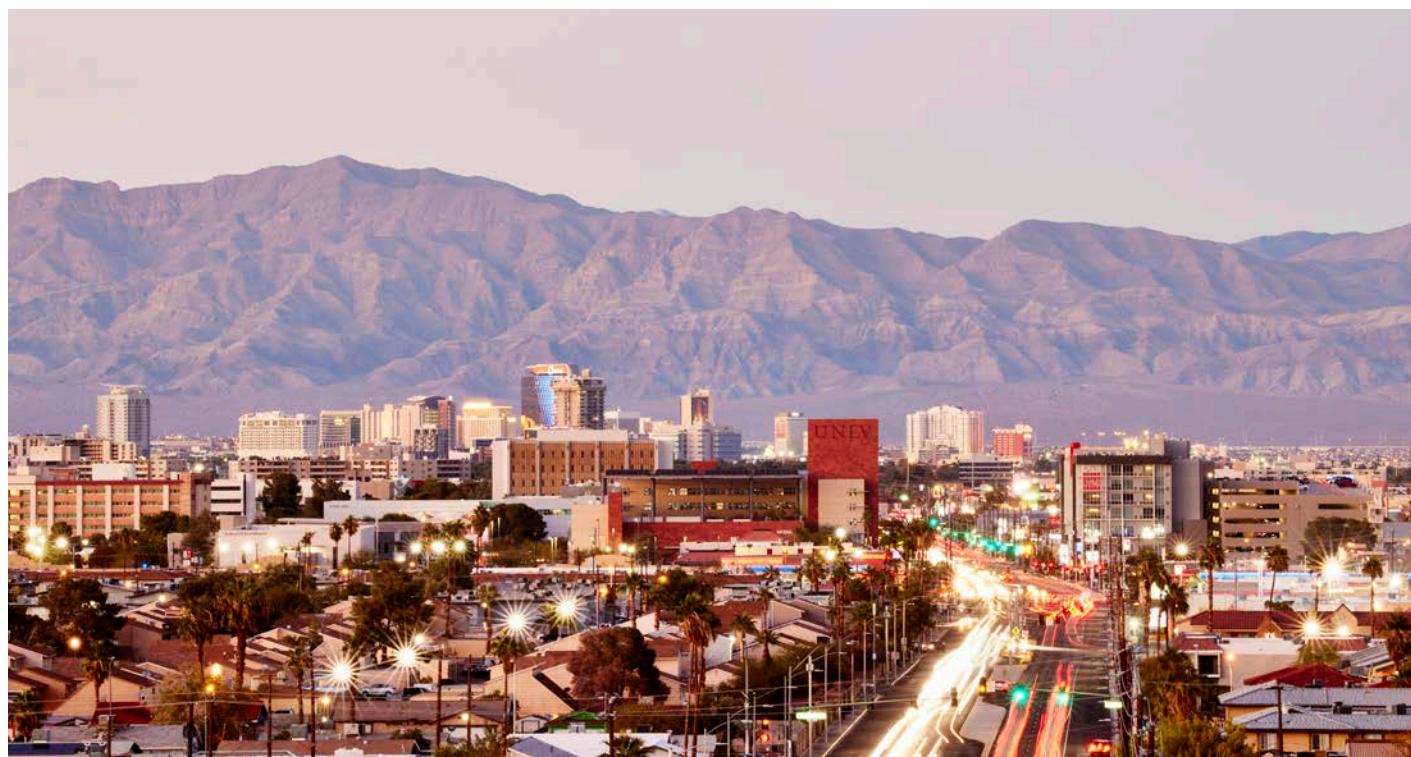
To learn more about recreation in the city and travel to nearby destinations visit [Campus Life Las Vegas](#), [Downtown Las Vegas](#), [City of Las Vegas](#), [Nevada Legislature's Facts about Nevada Guide](#), or [National Park Service Nevada](#).

Las Vegas Climate

The Las Vegas climate is characterized by long and dry summers (average temperatures 90 °F or 32 °C), warm fall and spring temperatures, and short winters with mild day temperatures (average temperatures 57 °F or 14 °C) and cooler nights (average temperatures 40 °F or 4°C). Las Vegas is sunny year-round with an average of 26 rainy days per year.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

F-1 students and their F-2 dependents can travel internationally during the F-1 student's enrollment and while on OPT or OPT-STEM Extension. International travel is also permitted for J-1 exchange visitors and their dependents. Before you travel internationally, please visit [ISSC International Travel](#) for the requirements based on your immigration status.



Graduation and Beyond

GRADUATION RESOURCES

Undergraduate students who would like to learn about the graduate school application process can apply to participate in the [Grad Rebel Advantage Program](#) (GRAP). Students who participate in GRAP receive many program benefits including, special workshops, events, activities about graduate study, and mentorship. The program duration is typically one year and applications are only accepted during a certain time frame, so please review this information on the program website well in advance of your graduating semester.

Graduation Requirements and Deadlines

Undergraduate students who plan to graduate should review the [Office of Registrar's graduation](#) requirements at least 1 semester prior to the semester they plan on graduating. Graduate students who are nearing graduation should review the [Graduate Student Handbook](#) for guidance on graduation requirements, which include applying for graduation and culminating experience, master's thesis, or doctoral project defense requirements. Additionally, graduate students can view [graduation deadlines](#) for the semester they plan to graduate.

Commencement Resources

UNLV also has a Cap & Gown Lending program, where students can borrow a cap and gown (i.e., the required attire for graduation) for their graduation. The program operates on a first come first served basis, which means students should apply early.

- [Undergraduate Student Cap & Gown Lending Program](#)
- [Graduate Student Cap & Gown Lending Program](#)

Students should check with their department or college for graduation resources specifically for their program of study. Additionally, students with certain cultural or ethnic identities can contact the [Office of Student Diversity Programs](#) about affinity graduation ceremonies including the Latinx Graduation Ceremony or the Asian, Pacific Islander, Middle Eastern (APIME) Graduation Ceremony.

POST-GRAD CAREER SERVICES

Career Services wants to be your partner in your post-graduate and professional journey. Visit the [Alumni Career Services](#) webpage for more information. For example, UNLV Alumni are welcome to use Handshake. Check out the [Alumni Handshake](#) webpage for details.

ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

Rebels forever! UNLV [Alumni Engagement](#) works to support students while they are on campus and throughout their lifetime after graduation. Students can attend Alumni Engagement events to learn more about how the university can support graduating students. For example, Grad Fest is an event where students can win door prizes for swag, access a one-stop-shopping event to purchase graduation regalia and more, and learn about transition services, such as alumni chapters and clubs.

UNLV Global would also like to stay in touch with our [international alumni](#) whether you are starting your career in Las Vegas, or going back to your home country. Please watch for International Alumni Events in the future and reach out to global@unlv.edu with any questions.

UNLV

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS

**INTERNATIONAL
STUDENT HANDBOOK**

2025 – 2026