

UNLV



International

Student

Handbook

2026-27



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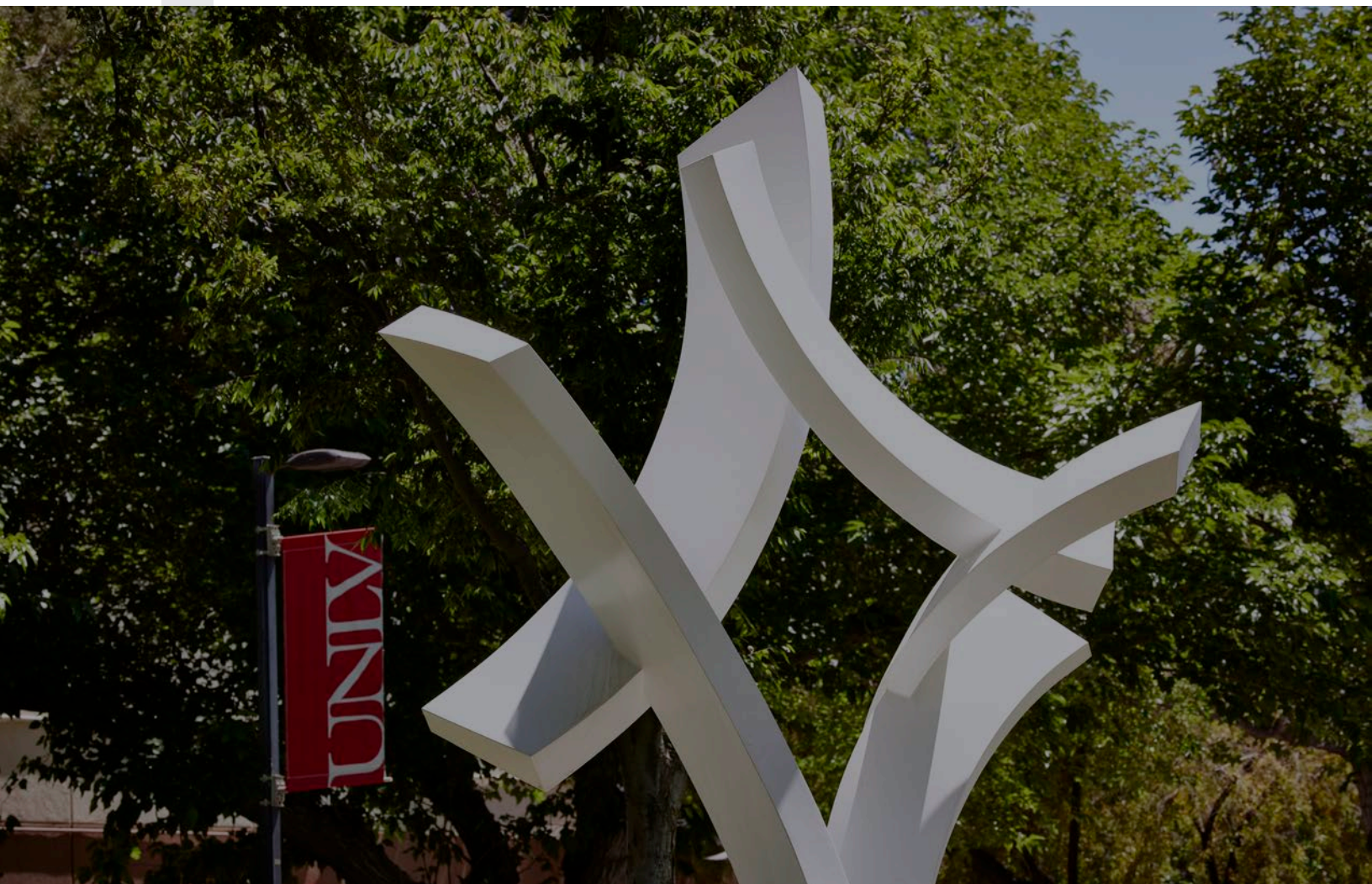
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Welcome to the University of Nevada, Las Vegas!

It is our pleasure to congratulate you on your admission to the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) and welcome you as a new 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 play an important role in our community by contributing to our greatest strength, our diversity, by bringing a wealth of experience and new perspectives

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 designed with international students in mind, bringing together essential campus resources and helping you understand how and why to use them.

In addition, we have compiled off-campus resources to support your transition, including information about the Social Security office, obtaining a driver's license, and purchasing essential items. You will also find suggestions to help you enjoy your time in Las Vegas, such as activities, entertainment, and places where you can find food from home. We hope this handbook helps make your transition to UNLV as smooth as possible.

Our team is here to support you. We encourage you to take advantage of our services, events, and opportunities to connect and to reach out when you need help. To stay updated on announcements and upcoming events, follow us on Instagram [@unlv_global](https://www.instagram.com/unlv_global).

Wishing you a great semester ahead!

With warmest wishes,
The UNLV Global Team

REBELS

MAKE IT | HAPPEN

International Student Support Network



The International Student Handbook (ISH) is your welcome guide to Las Vegas and the UNLV community. This guide will answer many questions you might have. We are here to support you with compliance, international student advising, transitional concerns, 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)

✉ ISSC@unlv.edu
☎ 702-774-6477

English Language Center (ELC)

✉ elc@unlv.edu
☎ 702-895-3925

International Success Programs (ISP)

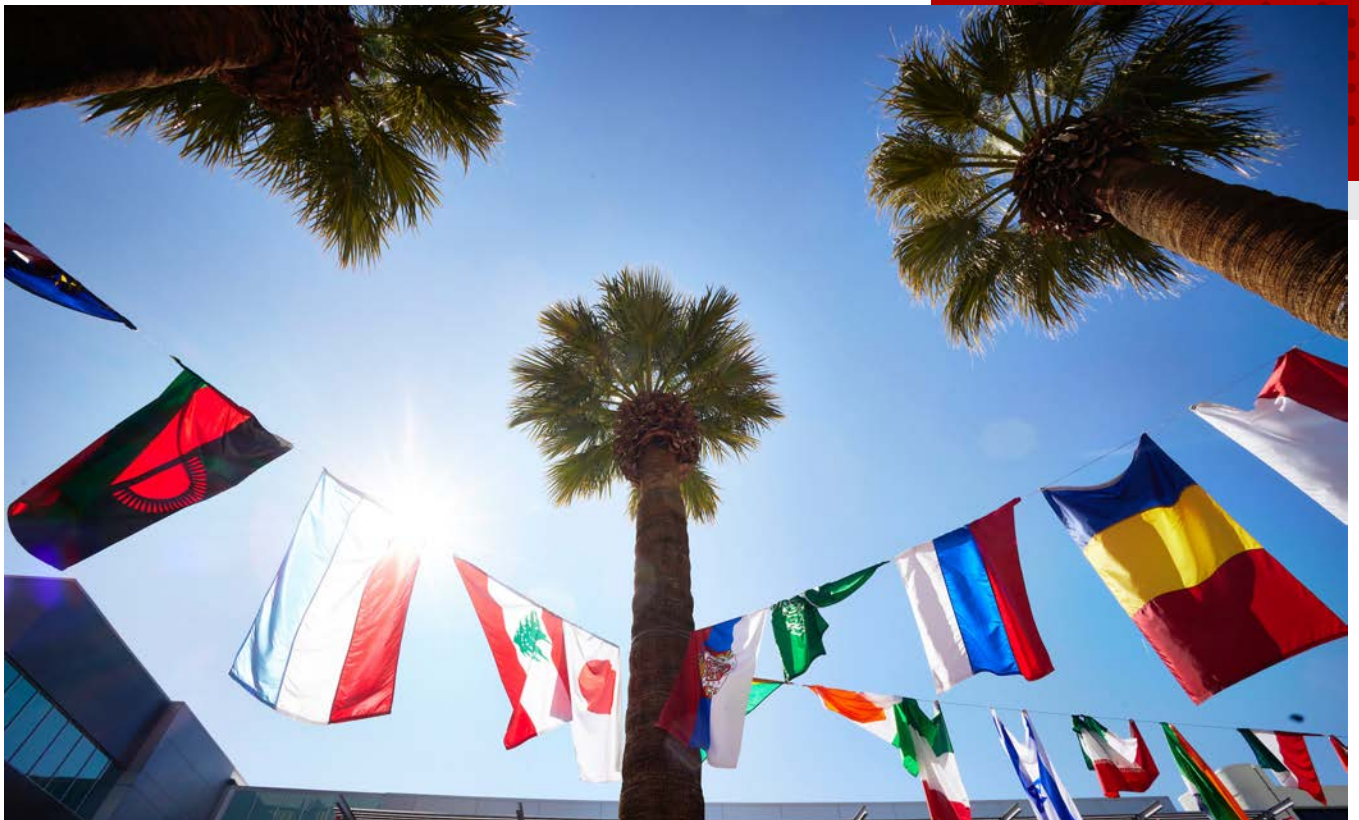
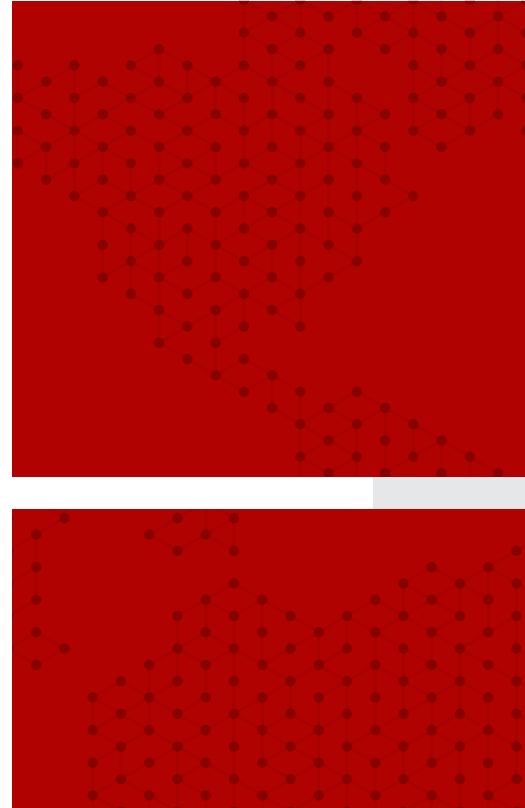
✉ anne.white@unlv.edu

Study Abroad Programs (SAP)

✉ international.programs@unlv.edu
☎ 702-895-3896

International Alumni Network (IAN)

✉ global@unlv.edu





UNLV Global International Student Support

International Student and Scholar Compliance (ISSC)

International Student and Scholar Compliance (ISSC) supports international students and scholars by providing immigration compliance and advising services to help you maintain your lawful immigration status during your time at UNLV. The ISSC student advisors assist undergraduate and graduate international students with questions about full-time class enrollment requirements, employment eligibility, and any other immigration compliance questions. The team provides international students with travel signatures and processes updated immigration documents (I-20 or DS-2019) as needed. ISSC also maintains UNLV's immigration paperwork and provides university-wide compliance with the federal immigration regulations.

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 Beam Hall ([BEH](#)) 543.

English Language Center (ELC)

The [English Language Center \(ELC\)](#) and its programs support international students and multilingual learners in developing English language proficiency and 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 elc@unlv.edu, or call us at 702-895-3925.

If you want to visit us in person, you can stop by the office in [MAB2 \(Maryland Administrative Building 2\)](#), or visit the UNLV Global office in BEH 543.



International Success Programs

The International Student & Scholar Success Programs support students as they transition to life in the U.S. and at UNLV. These programs help reduce transitional stress, connect students with key resources, and offer mentoring and cultural events throughout the year.

Our goal is to enhance your university experience by building community, supporting your sense of belonging, and celebrating the diverse experiences you bring to campus.

Many of these services are provided through the Global Ambassador Program, including pre-arrival Zoom calls, the airport pickup program, and free weekly social activities that help students form friendships and support networks. You can find more information about various international student programs and events in the Student Success section and the 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 before they arrive in the U.S., upon 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 upcoming weekly events.

If you are a new student, join the Canvas course to connect with your ambassadors and other first-year undergraduate and graduate international students. If you need assistance getting connected, contact Dr. Anne White at anne.white@unlv.edu.

Essential UNLV Resources

Student Resource Guide

The [Student Resource Guide](#) (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 International Student Handbook, both of which are accessible at all times. If you are unsure where to start, the SRG has more details about how the [Rebel Success Hub](#) can help connect you with someone who can answer your unique questions and address 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 to complete all new student requirements before enrolling in your courses. For example, you must activate your [Rebelmail](#) and [ACE account](#) to access critical information. New international students are required to complete their respective new student checklist immediately after confirming their admission: [First-year students](#), [transfer students](#), or [new graduate students](#).

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, and transfer students are strongly encouraged to live on campus during their first year. UNLV offers multiple [on-campus housing options](#). 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 during your first year will give you easy access to resources on campus and the opportunity to live in a supportive community of fellow students. It also 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 on a first-come, first-served basis. International students can apply to live in the Global Gateway community, which seeks to connect international students with students studying world languages and study abroad students for cultural and language exchange. Students can also apply to live in the Gateway community if they 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 \$125.00 application fee. Please watch the [Housing Application Video Guide](#) for instructions on applying 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, you will log in to 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 offers [apartment-style living](#) in the UDistrict properties, [The Legacy](#) and [The Degree](#), which 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 The 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 off-campus housing.

HOUSING CONTRACTS

Housing contracts are legally binding agreements. If you sign a housing agreement, you are legally responsible for fulfilling it financially. Regardless of whether your housing contract is with UNLV, UNLV-affiliated UDistrict properties, or outside properties managed by other companies or individuals, please note 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 the [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 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, visit [Housing and Residential Life Dining Plans](#).



Packing List

ESSENTIAL CARRY-ON ITEMS:

- Boarding pass
- Passport
- U.S. currency (at least 50.00 USD for transportation or emergencies)
- Credit or debit cards
- Mobile phone and charging cord
- 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)

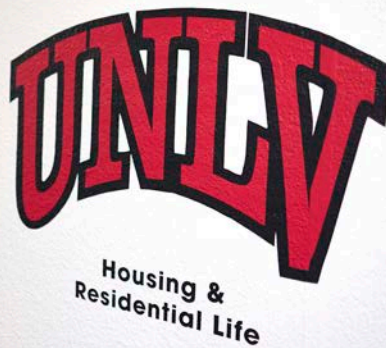
ITEMS FOR YOUR CHECKED BAGS:

- 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 with average daytime temperatures of 102 °F or 38 °C. Most buildings in Las Vegas have air conditioning, and indoor temperatures are much cooler. To help accommodate fluctuating outdoor and indoor temperatures, wear layers of clothing (e.g., short-sleeved shirt and a light jacket).

ITEMS YOU SHOULD NOT BRING:

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. 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 U.S. (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 Office of International Student and Scholar Compliance (ISSC) by calling 702-774-6477.

Be sure to present your UNLV student immigration documents (I-20 or DS-2019) and request 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.

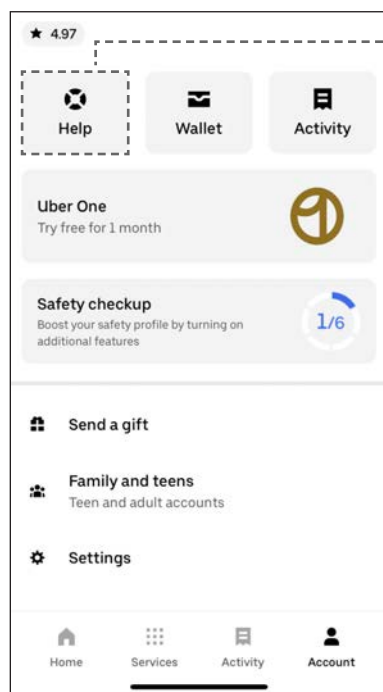
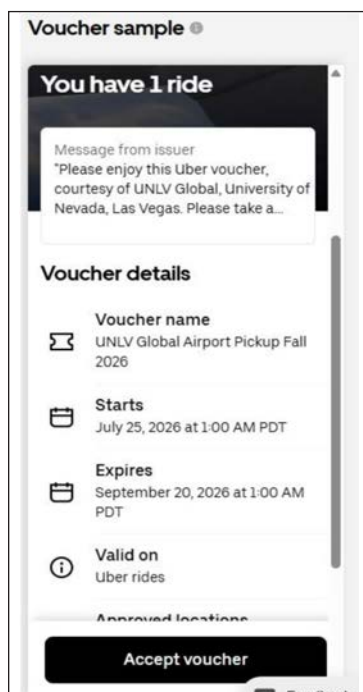
Complimentary Airport Pickup

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 of your arrival to request an 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 it to your home country bank account or a credit card linked 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.

If you requested an airport pickup and connected your Uber app to a bank account or credit card, you should receive a voucher via email and in the app. 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 Airport, connect to the free Wi-Fi. If you have trouble, find an airport Help Desk.
2. Request your Uber ride through the app before leaving the building - using your voucher, which should automatically appear in your app when you confirm your ride.
3. Uber pickup areas:
 - **Terminal 1:** go to T1 Parking and take the elevator to Level 2M
 - **Terminal 3:** go to T3 Parking and take the elevator to Valet Level (V)



REMINDER

In case of an emergency or your Uber voucher is not working, please remember to bring **\$50 US dollars cash for your travels**. It is safe to travel with some U.S. dollars, and you can also 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 browse all help topics (pictured on the top left of the image to the left).

If you are still having a problem, please consider alternate transportation options.

Bus or Taxi

You can take a bus or taxi from the airport to your accommodation. 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 to \$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.

Bus transit customers are encouraged to download the [rideRTC transit app](#) to buy passes. There are multiple options for paying for rides including Tap to Ride for single rides, the RTC Tap & GO reloadable card, Tap & GO thru the rideRTC app. If you prefer to pay in cash, you will need to have exact change.

For more information about the bus, please visit the [Regional Transportation Committee \(RTC\)](#), where you will find bus routes and an online tool to [plan out your ride](#).





Starting Your First Semester



If you have secured on-campus housing, please review the [UNLV Housing Guide](#), the [Cost and Affordability](#), 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 8am-5pm), you need to contact your housing provider in advance to arrange how you will receive the keys to your building and unit. For example, The Legacy and The Degree can arrange alternative key pickup with advance notice. The UNLV residence halls have 24-hour support, but the staff will need to know in advance that you are coming. You will use your [RebelCard](#) to access your building and your room. Be sure to [activate your card](#) before your arrival.

If your flight is scheduled to arrive before your move-in date, you need to book temporary accommodation locally.



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 OISS 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 immigration 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

You must 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 by visiting [Future F-1 Students](#). 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 [eduroam](#), the university's free Wi-Fi, register for your courses in [MyUNLV](#), and access your course materials and information in [WebCampus/Canvas](#).

Please visit [New Students](#) for information on a variety of technology resources offered by the Office of Information Technology's (OIT).

Undergraduate and Graduate International Students will also find important student resources and information through the [Rebel Success Hub](#). This online tool can be used for such things as scheduling an appointment with your academic advisor, submitting your immunization records, or even getting answers to questions about financial aid.

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

If you have any issues with your new accounts or have 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](#), organized by level (e.g., undergraduate, graduate) and academic year. Please take the time to become familiar with the catalog for your matriculation year (the year you begin your program of study), which includes links to useful information on Academic Policies and General Education Requirements for undergraduate students. The Graduate Catalog includes the Graduate Student Handbook which outlines graduate student policies, practices, and procedures. Additionally, the Graduate Catalog displays the official course and program requirements.

Registration is a multistep process that can only be completed during registration periods. Check out the [Guide to Registration](#) and don't hesitate to contact the [Office of the 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 at [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 for full-time status by 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: 12
- Total Minimum Number of In-Person Credits: 9
- 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 graduate coordinator will typically be assigned to you at the time of admission. For some students, your Graduate Coordinator will also serve as your advisor during orientation and onboarding. For degree progression assistance, you will contact your Graduate College Retention, Progression and Completion (RPC) coordinator (grad.rpc@unlv.edu). Contact information for your Graduate coordinator and RPC coordinator can be found in the [Grad Rebel Gateway](#).



Providing an Immunization Record

All students attending any university in Nevada are required to provide documentation of their immunizations, except those excused for medical or religious reasons. The Office of the Registrar handles immunization documentation or exemptions. For more information about the immunization requirements, visit [Immunizations](#).

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. If you would like more information, please review [Payment Options](#), and if you are making tuition and fee payments outside of the U.S., visit [UNLV International Student Payments](#).



Course Materials

Your textbook list will be available at the [UNLV Bookstore](#) once your registration is complete. For some textbooks, you can purchase a new or used textbook, and in some cases, renting 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, your instructor/professor will share their preferred method of contact (e.g., email, phone, office hours). Every instructor/professor will have office hours listed. Please 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 office hours, be sure to email the instructor/professor to request an appointment in advance.
- Be polite and address your instructor or professor by their name/title. If your instructor/professor holds a Ph.D., it is polite to address them as Dr. (last name); if you are unsure, use “Professor” followed by their last name.
- Whether in person or by email, always introduce yourself and the course you are in (your name, course name, and NSHE ID 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 your legal name in your introduction. This will avoid any misunderstandings and save the instructor/professor time by letting them 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 in advance and avoid multiple follow-up questions if possible.
- Before contacting your instructor/professor, do your due diligence by reviewing the course syllabus and Canvas. Many answers to your questions can be found in the syllabus and Canvas.
- For anything academic-related, use your [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 an "S" or a grade of "D- and above" is considered passing for undergraduate courses, and you will earn course credit. A grade of "F" counts towards credits attempted (not earned) and appears on your transcript (official academic record). The Office of the Registrar maintains your transcript and you can request official transcripts [online](#). You can access your unofficial transcripts anytime 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 [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 College forms](#) are available in the [Grad Rebel Gateway](#). Departments may have their own individual forms.



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), your Graduate Coordinator (graduate student), and your ISSC Advisor (ISSC@unlv.edu). Visit [Calendars and Schedules](#) for more information about the add/drop and other important deadlines. 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 (undergraduate students). For graduate students, please contact your Graduate Coordinator or email gradrebel@unlv.edu. 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 [Program Updates](#) 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 to add or change certificates, a new application with applicable fees and all required admission documents must be submitted. Visit [Graduate Certificate Programs](#) for more information about adding a certificate program to your degree. Please note that not all Graduate Certificate Programs are currently approved for F-1 international students.

Additional information about specific graduate degree 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 [Program Updates](#) for more information.



New Student Orientation & Campus-Wide Welcome Week Events

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



Undergraduate Orientation & Rebel Ready Week

International students should plan to attend [virtual new student orientation](#) during the summer. Register for a virtual orientation session in [MyUNLV](#). You will receive your first semester classes during new student orientation and virtual group advising.

Rebel Ready Week (RRW) is a mandatory, week-long program for students starting in the fall semester. This free program takes place during the week before classes start and is designed to help you learn valuable information about UNLV, meet peers and staff, join small-group sessions that interest you, and participate in fun events to kickstart your university life. If you are not able to attend RRW in person, there is a virtual option.

New students beginning in the fall semester should also 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 receive an honorary UNLV Cord to be worn during your graduation ceremony.

If you are a **first-year** undergraduate student and your first semester starts in the spring, we strongly encourage you to attend [Spring New Student Orientation](#). To register for classes, you must contact your [Advising Center](#) to schedule an appointment. We highly encourage you to do this prior to attending orientation. Drop-in academic advising is available during orientation.



New Graduate Student Orientation & Rebel Ready Week

International graduate students should expect communications from the Graduate College about Graduate Student Orientation and should complete new student online modules found in their [WebCampus/Canvas account](#). Please visit [Information for New Graduate Students](#) to learn more. Graduate students should review the [Graduate Student Handbook](#), which is part of the [Graduate Catalogue](#). New graduate assistants should also review the [Graduate Assistant Handbook](#).

New students starting in the fall semester can participate in [Rebel Ready Week](#) graduate student events the week prior to the start of the semester. Students should also 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.



Welcome Weeks

Kick off the semester with events highlighting UNLV campus traditions and student involvement and get the most out of your UNLV experience. Join us on campus to make new friends, learn about campus resources, explore student organizations, and even win some UNLV swag! Visit the [UNLV Welcome Weeks](#) calendar for a list of events.



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 at [UNLV Global Events](#) 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 gives you access to campus facilities, including residence halls, libraries, and computer labs, as well as services, programs, and events. To get access and avoid long lines, **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** for 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 may 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 services in the U.S. are often an additional monthly cost 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 plan to live 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 services 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.*

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 likely need to open a personal U.S. bank account, especially if you intend to live off-campus, so you can pay your bills or deposit a 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 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 to find out which documents you need to open your account. Information and documentation that 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, a 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 to open an account (e.g., 25.00 USD). 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 NEAR UNLV

American First Credit Union Bank

4700 S Maryland Pkwy #100, Las Vegas, NV 89119
800-999-3961

Bank of America

4795 S Maryland Pkwy, Las Vegas, NV 89119
702-654-4120

Chase

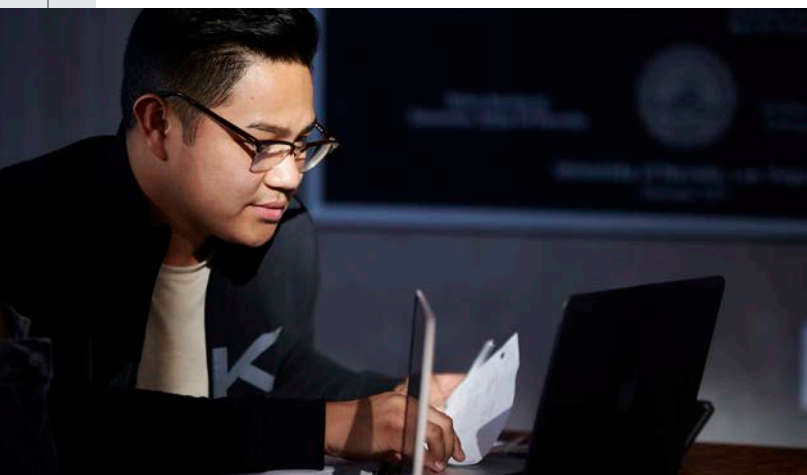
1340 E Flamingo Rd, Las Vegas, NV 89119
702-369-2090

2393 E Tropicana Ave, Las Vegas, NV 89119
702-895-660

Citi

3990 S. Maryland Pkwy, Las Vegas, NV 89119
702-487-4891

3333 E Tropicana Ave, Las Vegas, NV 89121
702-487-4889



Money Transfer Apps

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

Tips to Avoid Scams

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

- Never send sensitive personal information via email.
- Always connect to a secure 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 through 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 for general and specific questions related to taxes.

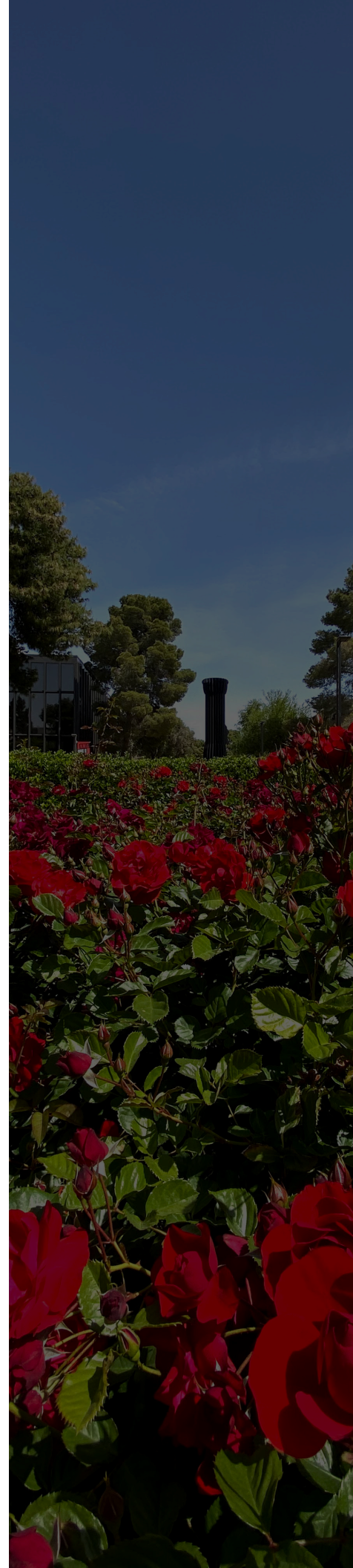
Additionally, at the beginning of tax season, you will receive an email from the Nonresident Alien Tax office (nrat@unlv.edu) on how to make an appointment.

NRAT Contact:

Debbie Honrath
Nonresident Alien Tax Specialist
Phone: 702-895-0872 | Fax: 702-895-0695
Email: nrat@unlv.edu
Student Accounts Office, SSC-A, Room 131

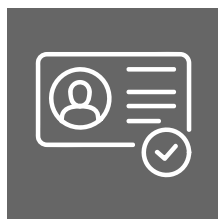
Mailing Address:

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 an SSN. If you have a previous SSN, you do NOT need to request a new one. When applying for an 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, including 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 graduate assistantships are considered to be equivalent to 20 hours per week and are not eligible for additional on-campus employment. Please speak with your ISSC Advisor for additional information. Graduate assistants must also review the [Graduate Assistant Handbook](#).

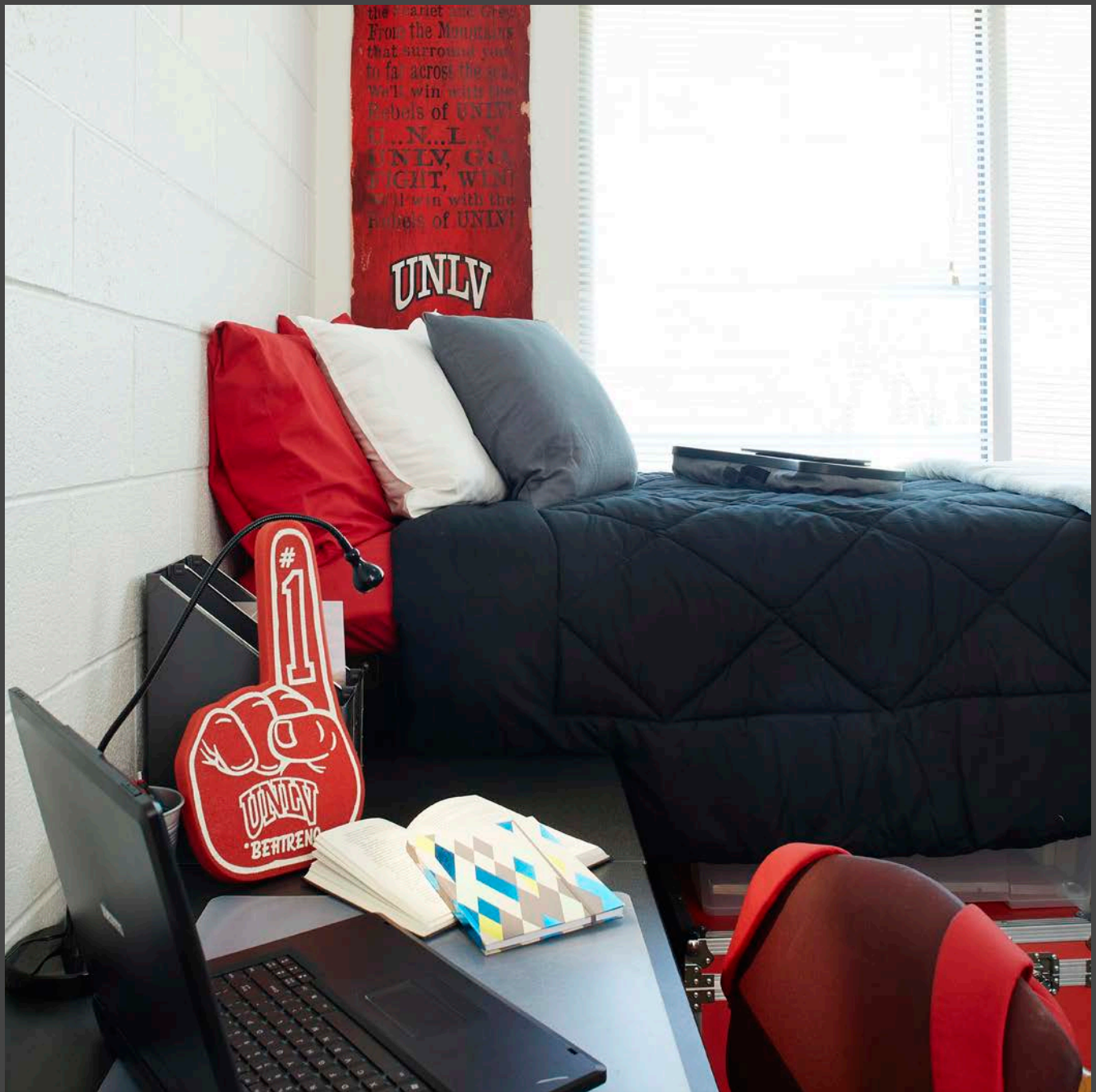


Working Off-Campus

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 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 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](#) for more information, 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 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, to bath and beauty supplies, to furniture, and electronics. Other retail stores specialize and sell specific goods, like furniture. When buying furniture and heavy household 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 distance of each store 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 household supplies. Most American grocery stores 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 the surrounding areas.

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

Common American Grocery Stores

- 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. Copy & Send also provides a variety of printing services and sells supplies (e.g., boxes and envelopes). Off campus, the **USPS** can assist you in sending and receiving 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 one 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 the 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 valid for up to 1 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 learn how to correct, update, or renew their passport. Most embassies and consulates have websites with information regarding this issue. If you believe your I-94 has an error, please refer to **I-94 corrections**, and contact **ISSC@unlv.edu**.



Parking and Transportation Resources

Students, staff, and residents can park in designated spaces in multiple lots across campus. 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 on available parking spaces across campus.
- 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.
- 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.

Visit [Parking & Transportation Services Tips](#) for more information.

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 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 taxi services. Common rideshares are [Uber](#) and [Lyft](#), and you must download the online app and sign up for service. To book a taxi, you can call directly or, for some companies, use an online app. There are multiple Rideshare and Taxi Service Cab pickup and drop-off locations on campus.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

The Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada ([RTC](#)) oversees public transportation in Southern Nevada, including 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 of your destination.
- Wait for your ride at 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

All UNLV F-1 degree-seeking students are required to be enrolled in a health insurance plan that is compliant with the Affordable Care Act ([ACA](#)). To ensure this requirement is met, most students are automatically enrolled in the UNLV Student Health Insurance Plan each semester.

It is important to note that travel insurance plans do not meet university requirements and cannot be used to waive the UNLV plan. If you have an existing health insurance policy that meets all UNLV criteria, including mandatory evacuation and repatriation coverage, you may apply for a waiver. Waivers are subject to strict deadlines each semester and cannot be submitted after the deadline. You must complete and receive approval for your waiver through the [Academic HealthPlans \(AHP\) portal](#) before the published deadline to avoid being charged. These waivers must be renewed every semester to remain valid.

The U.S. Department of State mandates additional requirements for all J-1 visa holders. While degree-seeking J-1 students are enrolled in the UNLV plan, non-degree J-1 students must purchase coverage from one of two authorized providers. Visit the [SSC J-1 Student webpage](#) for information about the providers. For specific J-1 questions, please contact the ISSC at issc@unlv.edu.



Graduate Assistants (GAs) under contract are also required to maintain health insurance. For GAs enrolled in the UNLV plan, the university provides a full subsidy covering the premium cost for the Fall and Spring semesters. GAs appointed for the full academic year receive continuous coverage from August to August, which automatically renews upon rehire. The process for international GAs to opt out of the UNLV plan is the same as for F-1 students; you must meet all university criteria and submit a waiver through the [AHP portal](#) every semester. For more information, please see the [Graduate Assistant Handbook](#). For specific instructions on GA waivers, contact shi@unlv.edu with your NSHE number.

To help you navigate the U.S. healthcare system and understand your coverage, we recommend visiting the [Aetna Insurance Basics](#). This resource provides an overview of how insurance works, explaining terms like premiums and co-pays, and includes specific guides for students on how to use their plan. The site also features a helpful glossary of terms and a dedicated FAQ to help you understand your benefits.

For additional information regarding eligibility and coverage dates, please visit the [UNLV Student Health Insurance website](#). To view benefits, enroll in optional services, or submit a waiver, utilize [AHP](#). For all other insurance-related inquiries, email shi@unlv.edu and include your NSHE number for a prompt response.

Dental and Vision Services

The UNLV Student Health insurance plan provides coverage for [essential medical services](#), including but not limited to emergency services, hospitalization, and preventive and wellness services. However, please be aware that this medical plan does not include dental or vision coverage. Detailed information regarding core medical benefits can be found via [Aetna UNLV Student Health Insurance](#).

Students who wish to obtain dental or vision insurance may voluntarily enroll in separate, optional plans through the [AHP Dental and Vision](#). For further information regarding the enrollment process for these voluntary services, please refer to [UNLV Student Health Insurance](#) or contact shi@unlv.edu with your NSHE number.

All UNLV students 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. It 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 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 student health insurance and offers many prescriptions at competitive prices. For more information about common prescription prices, products that do not require a 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 help you develop 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 relationship counseling. All currently enrolled UNLV students who have paid their student health fees can receive CAPS services at no cost. Testing and prescriptions may incur a charge. Please visit [CAPS Therapy 101](#) for answers to commonly asked questions about counseling and clinical services. For more information about the many services CAPS offers, visit [Student Counseling and Psychological Services](#).

CAPS is open Monday - Thursday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and on Fridays from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 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.

Togetherall is a free and safe international online community where people support each other. By sharing feelings, thoughts, emotions, and experiences, we can all improve our mental health together. UNLV students can sign up instantly, share anonymously, and access the community day or night. Togetherall is moderated 24/7 by fully trained mental health professionals and led by an on-duty clinical team.

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 7 days a week to help you with your transition.

Project Wellness (Peer Support)

Project Wellness is a student-led initiative that aims to improve students' wellness by creating opportunities for them 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 support and wellness services they need. Students 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 [Student Resource Guide](#).



“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 is not linear, and each person might move forward or backward, revisiting stages.



1

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 new and unfamiliar.

Tips for Coping and Thriving:

- Know your surroundings - explore campus and get familiar with the places you will visit regularly, e.g., 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 help you learn American cultural, 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.

2

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 reflect on 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 to 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 [You@UNLV video](#) about a student at another American university and his experience with cross-cultural transition and adapting. and friends.

3

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. Still 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.

4

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., serving as a global ambassador or joining a student organization that is active in the international campus community).

5

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 the [Student Wellness Center's Crisis/Emergency Services Resources](#).

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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 refer to the numbers listed below.

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 webpage](#).

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 who 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 dial 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

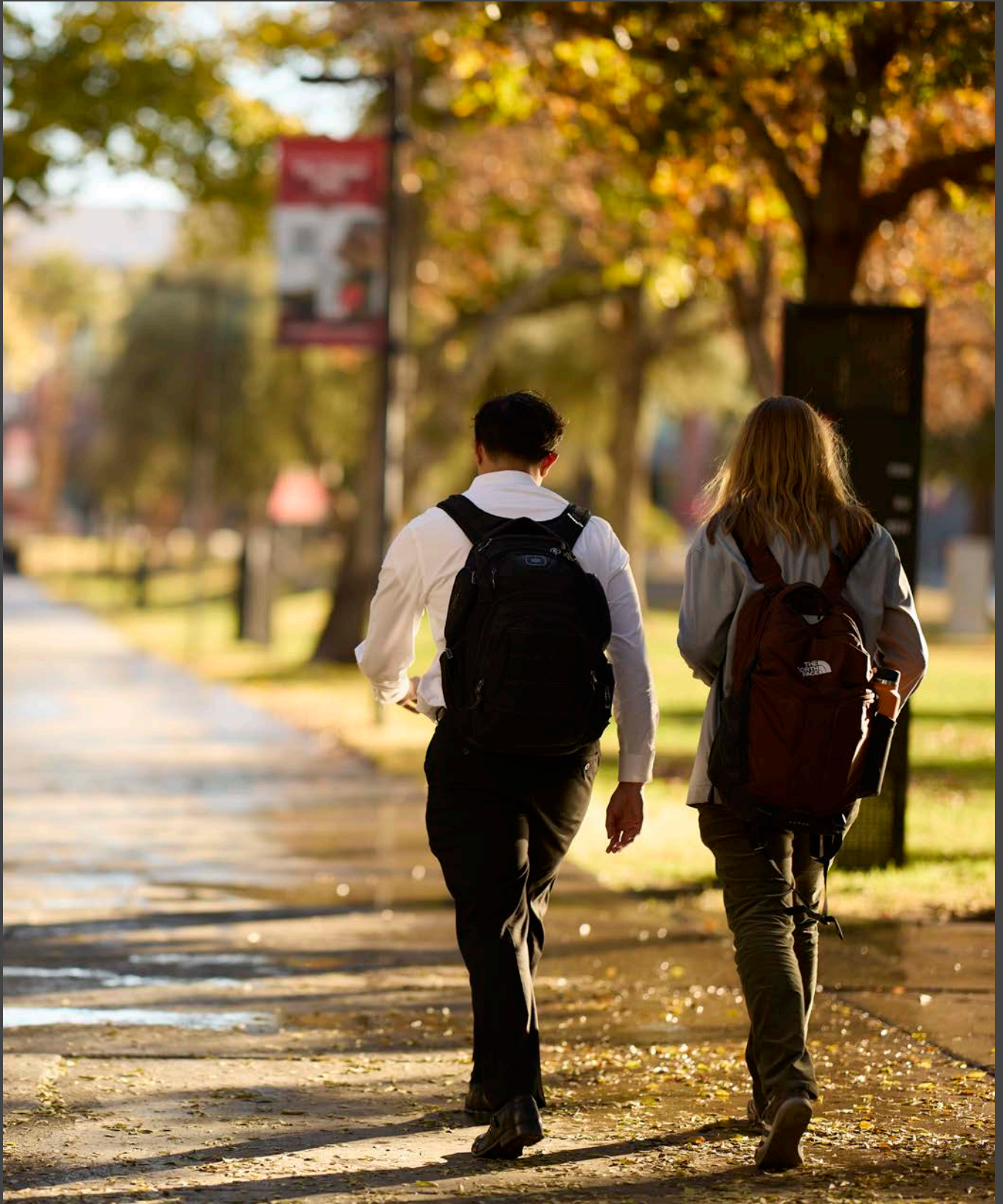
702-739-9957

Hours: Open 24 hours/day, 7 days/week

Concentra Health Services, Inc. (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

The **UNLV Police Department** is dedicated to providing a safe and secure environment for all members of the campus community. They do this through proactive policing and a **Community Engagement** approach that is based on collaboration and professionalism.

HOW TO INTERACT WITH THE POLICE?

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 they 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, phones, IDs, wallets, 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, to request a ride shuttle, and to chat with police staff. 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 U.S. are open to the public, not gated, and as such, it's important that you take the same safety precautions that people in any U.S. 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 the [RebelSAFE Mobile app](#) if you feel unsafe, need to report suspicious activity, or need someone 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 only official Wi-Fi 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.



Student Success



Student Success

The Student Success team leads institution-wide initiatives that support enrollment growth, promote retention, progression, and timely degree completion for undergraduate students. Student Success collaboratively serves students across their undergraduate life cycle, from matriculation to graduation. Housed in the **Academic Success Center** (ASC) and satellite locations, Student Success includes **Undergraduate Advising Practice**, Learning Support (e.g., tutoring and supplemental instruction), **The First-Year Experience**, Rebels R.I.S.E., **Peer Mentoring**, **Success Coaching**, **Student-Athlete Academic Services** (SAAS), Major Exploration, Exploring & Pre-Professional Advising, **Rebel Success Hub**, and other holistic student success efforts.

- **First-Year Experience (FYE)**: Provides incoming first-year and transfer students with a network of engagement and opportunities at UNLV to create a personalized first-year experience, ease the transition to college life, promote student success, and support student achievement. One opportunity includes the **Common Read program**, which provides incoming first-year students a shared experience for meaningful discussions related to joining the UNLV community.
- Each semester, students have the opportunity to engage with our FYE Connection Award student success menu to explore the variety of experiences UNLV offers and have an opportunity to participate in our **FYE Connection Award**. **Five core beliefs** are used to build our FYE menu, where you can:

CONNECT with the community, peers, professors, faculty, and staff.

EXPLORE opportunities and identify your Success Team.

GROW academically, personally, and professionally.

BELIEVE in your dreams, next steps, and your place in this community.

THRIVE at UNLV and celebrate your achievements.

- **Peer Mentoring**: Supports first-year students as they transition to life at UNLV by connecting them with experienced undergraduate Peer Mentors who serve as role models, providing guidance, support, and accountability. They help students navigate campus resources, encourage engagement in the UNLV community, and assist with goal development and achievement. Peer mentoring programs are housed in each college and selected departments to support undergraduate student success. Please contact peermentor@unlv.edu if you are interested in connecting with a peer mentor.



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](#), which 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 they 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 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



UNLV Career Resources

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.

Handshake

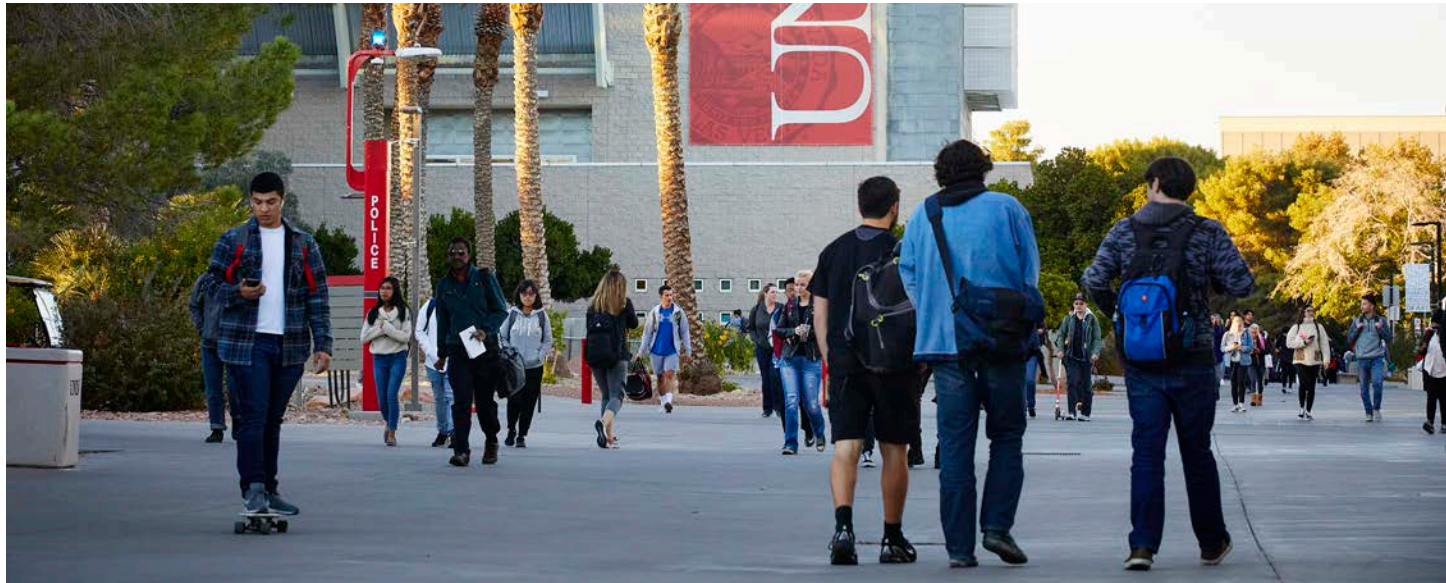
Disability Resource Center

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

Digital Education Support

UNLV's [Office of Information Technology \(OIT\)](#) supports 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 [essential student software](#), for at-home use and computer lab locations. 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

At the [English Language Center \(ELC\)](#), 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 free peer tutoring to assist with pronunciation, listening comprehension, 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](#)
- [Teacher Development & Resources Library](#)

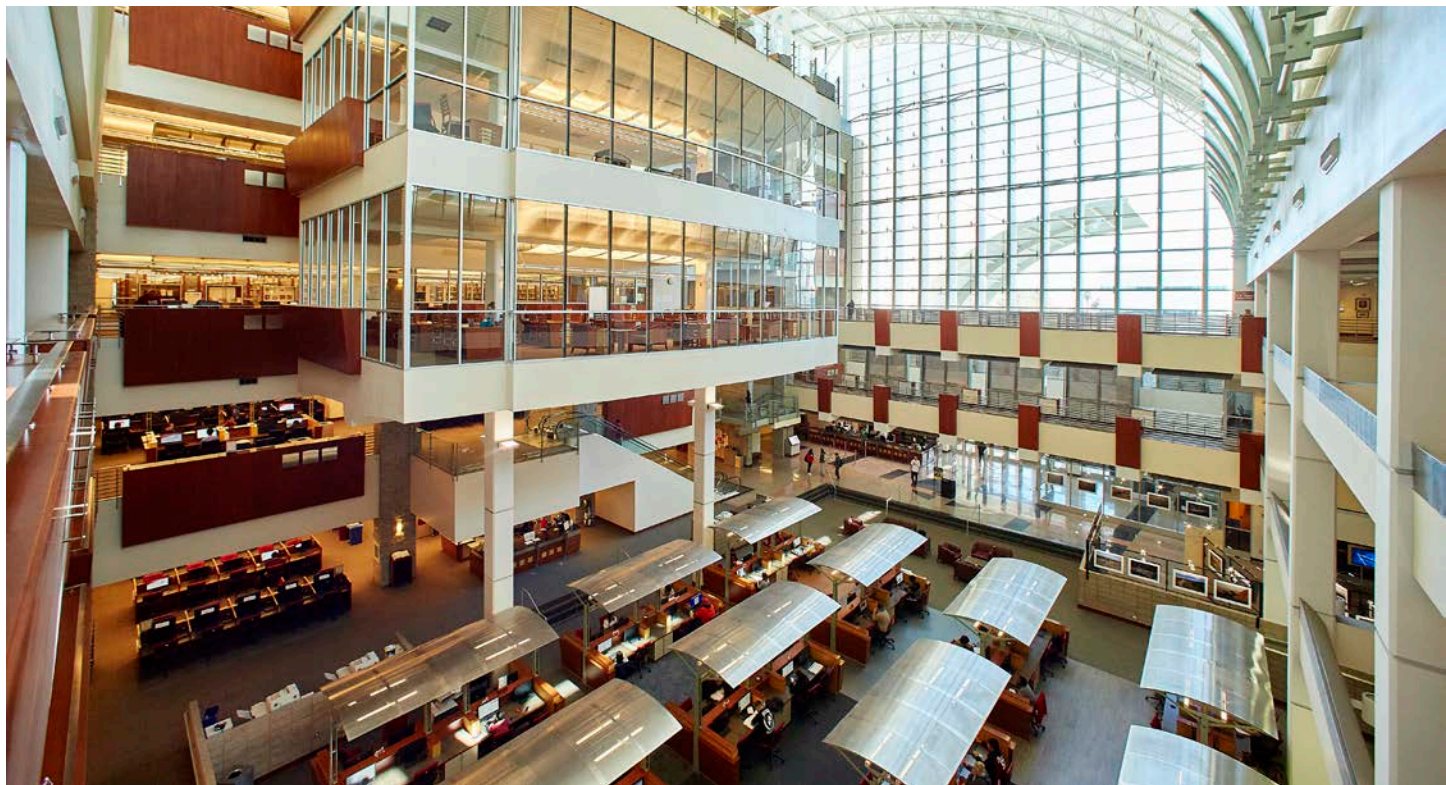
The libraries offer more than **600 computers**, printers, **group study rooms**, study pods, and more to support your academic needs. Your RebelCard grants you access to borrow books, equipment, and more at the Libraries. You can access online resources (e.g., online articles, databases, or ebooks) 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. Once you have completed an **orientation session**, you may use the Makerspace during open hours. Students also have access to our **Multimedia Production Studios**, which feature equipment and technology to help you record music, podcasts, video presentations, and more.

The **Tutoring Program**, run by Student Success, is located on the first floor of Lied Library, where you can also find the Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf coffee shop. The Graduate Student Commons is open to graduate students on the second floor.

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 expert librarians** available to provide you with the right support for your work, 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](#).



Sands Institute for Chinese Language and Culture

The Sands Institute strengthens educational and cultural connections between the U.S. and China. Committed to deepening the understanding and appreciation of Chinese heritage, the Sands Institute provides comprehensive language and cultural programs to enrich the academic and social landscape of UNLV, Las Vegas, and its Chinese partner institutions.

We offer **scholarships** for incoming freshmen to study the Chinese language throughout their undergraduate years. In addition, the institute offers **Chinese culture short courses**, cultural performances, art exhibitions, and other programming for the UNLV campus and the Las Vegas community to engage with China directly and indirectly.

International students are encouraged to take advantage of the vast opportunities offered by the Sands Institute to study Chinese language and culture. Students also have the chance to participate in internships, study abroad programs, and graduate assistantships in China.

For more information, visit the **[Sands Institute for Chinese Language and Culture at UNLV](#)**.



UNLV Writing Center

The **UNLV Writing Center** supports all UNLV students, staff, and faculty with any writing project at any stage in the writing process, including before you've started writing, just before you are ready to submit, and anywhere in between! You can improve your writing and grow your confidence as a writer with the help of our trained consultants who will work with you to develop ideas, address writing concerns, clarify feedback you receive from instructors, and build strategies to meet your writing goals.

The Writing Center offers 45-minute, synchronous in-person and virtual consultations. It also accepts submissions to the asynchronous Online Writing Lab (OWL) and will respond to quick questions.

To learn more, visit the **[UNLV Writing Center](#)**, where you can also find information about our **[Consultations](#)** and review our **[Handouts](#)**.

Graduate Student Success

The UNLV Graduate College has many resources to support graduate and professional students along their educational journey. To learn about the wide range of services and programming offered, visit the [UNLV Graduate College](#) website. Information on graduate assistant positions can be found in the [Graduate Assistant Handbook](#). Enrolled graduate students can find funding opportunities by visiting the [Funding and Awards](#) website.

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. The Grad Academy offers a variety of 70+ workshops, signature events, and career support each year in addition to 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.

To learn more, visit [The Grad Academy](#).



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 services, 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, the Gateway Graduate Commons, is located on the second floor of the University Gateway Building.

For additional career assistance information, visit Student Resource Guide.

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 one up, 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, toiletries, and in-person guidance to overcome basic needs challenges, visit the [Student Support Spot](#) in the Welcome Center on the second floor of the [University Gateway Building](#). You do not need a student ID to receive assistance.

BASIC NEEDS PROGRAM

The [Basic Needs Program](#) supports students experiencing basic needs insecurity through access to daily necessities, one-on-one guidance to connect with resources, and an undergraduate Cap & Gown Lending Program. Students in need of support can visit the program in UNLV Student Union Room 309 to access items such as non-perishable food, hygiene products, school supplies, cleaning supplies, clothing, and linens at no cost. Contact basicneeds@unlv.edu for more information.



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 also help your children learn. 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 in partnership 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

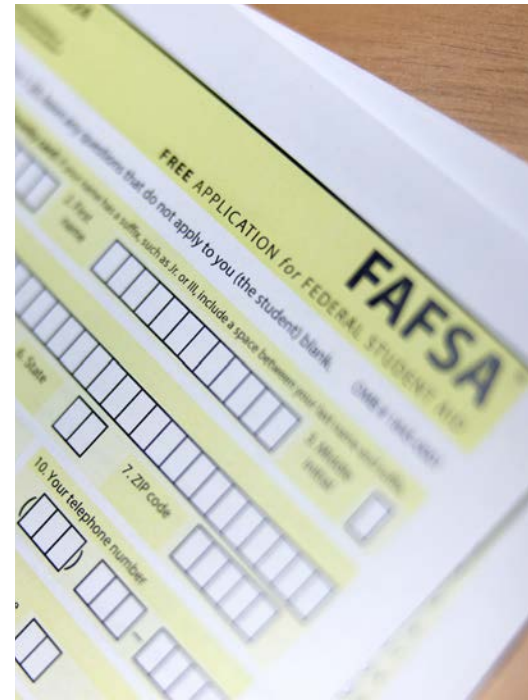
Check out the [Student Resource Guide](#) for more financial resources. You can also visit the following websites.

- [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, join the [UNLV Cashiering WaitWell Line](#).



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 Institutional Aid Form. Please visit [Financial Aid & Scholarships](#) for details and important information on scholarships, 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 funding application is only available when funds are available. However, in the event of an emergency, students can submit a case to the Office of Financial Aid in the [Rebel Success Hub](#) and attach appropriate documentation, a description of the emergency, and the amount needed. Your request will be reviewed and you will get a response 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.

Graduate students facing unexpected emergency funding needs may apply for the [Emergency Retention Grant](#) (ERG) program. Established in 2012, the ERG program allows graduate students to request emergency funding. Since its inception, the committee has awarded students over \$1 million in aid funding to help them progress in and complete their degree programs. While funds are limited, such grants are available to all students admitted and enrolled in graduate-level courses.

This funding is intended to enable recipients to continue their degree programs and remain on track for graduation. Emergency retention funds are for emergency use only, and financial need must be clearly demonstrated in the application. Please see the [ERG website](#) for more information.

UNLV Undergraduate Merit-Based Scholarships

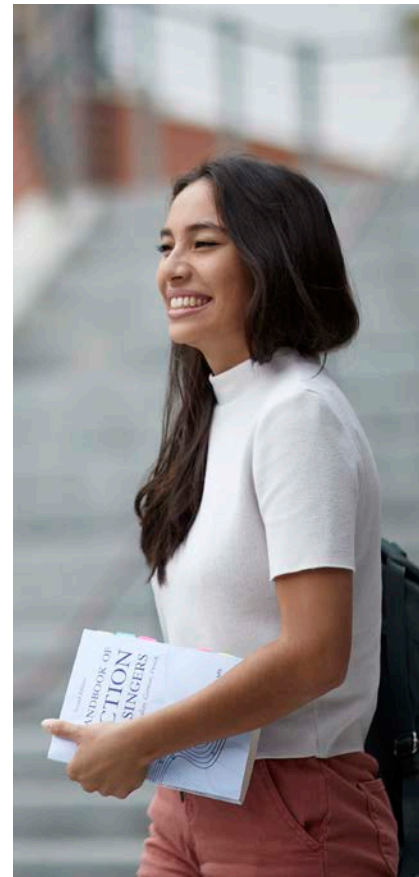
Admitted international undergraduate students may be considered for **merit-based scholarships**. These scholarships range from \$5000–\$7000 per year. Students can apply prior to their first fall term, and scholarship consideration occurs only once per year.

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 Institutional Aid 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 & Wellness](#) for resources and news about upcoming events aimed at helping you make wise financial decisions as a student.



Consolidated Students of UNLV

The [Consolidated Students of UNLV \(CSUN\)](#) 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.

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 their websites.



Graduate College Financial Resources

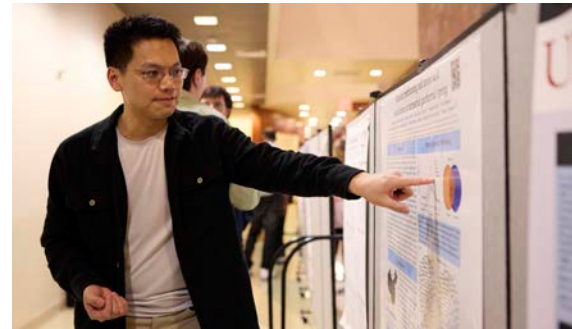
If you are an enrolled international graduate student, visit [Graduate College Financial Resources](#) for more information about funding opportunities and awards, graduate assistantships, fellowships, scholarships, research funding, and employment.

Enrolled graduate international students can apply for emergency financial assistance through the [Graduate College Emergency Retention Grants](#) or the [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 their degree. For details on eligible activities and expenses, application instructions and deadlines, visit [GPSA Sponsorship Award Program](#).



Research Support and Funding

Multiple offices on campus 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](#).





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 aim to enhance the academic experience for all students.

For more information about student involvement, review the [Student Resource Guide](#). For a list of involvement opportunities, visit [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 large events for the whole campus, such as [International Education Week](#), but as international students, we hope you will take advantage of 4-5 free events/programs 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 UNLV Global Event Passport. The first 10 students to complete their passports will win a seat on an international student day trip to a local tourist destination!

Department of Student Connection and Engagement

The Department of Student Connection and Engagement's mission affirms that belonging, visibility, and engagement are essential to student retention, well-being, and academic success. Our programs are designed to provide students with the tools, relationships, and affirming spaces they need to thrive both personally and academically.

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

For more information about identity-based support services and resources, and to learn about SCE events visit, [Student Connection and Engagement](#).



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 dedicated to exploring or participating 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 it is not an expected conversation topic for classmates, work colleagues, or acquaintances (people you know but are not close friends).
- Outside of faith-based groups, exploring the 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're passionate about volunteering, [Service Learning and Leadership](#) is a great place to start. You can also explore groups or activities in your local neighborhood or through your city's recreation centers. Some popular recreational activities in Las Vegas and surrounding neighborhoods include nature hikes, birdwatching, 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 coordinated through [Service Learning and Leadership](#) (SLL). They offer a variety of events and activities to get involved in. Volunteer for a few hours, or participate in a low-stakes one-hour event practicing dialogue about topics. Join a leadership development workshop or the day-long Serve and Lead Conference. They also hold events on voting where you can try mock voting or learn about US government processes/decisions in nonpartisan ways. There are even Crafternoon social gatherings 1-2 times per month on the 3rd floor of the Student Union. To learn more about how to get involved visit [SLL](#).

Check out the office's [Alternative Breaks](#) to learn about service and learning day trips (Alt Break immersions) or the weekend or week-long trips (Alt Break trips) to nearby destinations. These experiences are free of charge, but there are competitive application requirements and attendance requirements (pre-trip meetings, structured trip schedule).



Student 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](#). To find a list of where various galleries and museums are located on campus, check out [UNLV Museums and Galleries](#).

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 together to engage in live conversations with their audience on a variety of topics. They host on-campus **events** that are open to students, faculty, and the public.

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, staff, and guests. The SU is open Monday through Sunday (hours vary) 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, Rebel Card, The intersection, and Scarlet & Gray Free Press.

Visit the **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. In the city of Las Vegas and the 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, dry summers (average temperatures 90 °F or 32 °C), warm fall and spring temperatures, and short winters with mild daytime 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 the [graduation deadlines](#) for the semester in which 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). 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.



Post-grad Career Services

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

Alumni Engagement

Once you graduate from UNLV, you become part of the powerful and growing Rebel Rebels Forever Family, more than 155,000 graduates strong, with alumni living in every state and more than 77 countries around the world.

The [UNLV Office of Alumni Engagement](#) and the [UNLV Alumni Association](#) help students and graduates stay connected to the university long after commencement through networking, professional development, volunteer opportunities, social events, career resources, and lifelong learning experiences.

Students are encouraged to participate in signature events such as Grad Fest, a one-stop celebration and resource event where graduating students can purchase commencement regalia, connect with campus partners, win prizes and giveaways, learn about alumni benefits and services, and begin their transition from student to alumni life.

UNLV Alumni can also take advantage of:

- Regional, academic, and affinity alumni chapters and clubs
- Career networking and mentoring opportunities
- Volunteer and leadership opportunities
- Homecoming and campus traditions
- Exclusive alumni events and receptions
- Access to alumni communications and digital resources
- A complimentary [@alumni.unlv.edu](#) email account for graduates

Whether you stay in Las Vegas or move anywhere in the world, the Rebels Forever Family remains an important part of your personal and professional journey. Once a Rebel, Always a Rebel!



UNLV

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