



FACT SHEET FOR VISITING STUDENTS 2025
University of Costa Rica (UCR)

CONTACT INFORMATION	
University of Costa Rica Official Website	www.ucr.ac.cr
Student Mobility Website	https://oaiice.ucr.ac.cr/informacion-para-estudiantes-internacionales
Student Mobility Coordinator	<p>Mg. Rita Jiménez Aguilar Email: seme.oai@ucr.ac.cr Phone: (+506) 2511-1098 / (+506) 2511-1099/ (+506) 2511-1136 Address: Oficina de Asuntos Internacionales y Cooperación Externa, 5º Nivel, Edificio Administrativo A., Ciudad Universitaria Rodrigo Facio, San Pedro de Montes de Oca, San José, Costa Rica P.O. Box: 11501-2060, San Pedro de Montes de Oca, San José, Costa Rica</p>
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR VISITING STUDENTS AT THE UCR	
Minimum GPA	8.0/10 equivalent to a 3.2/4.0. GPA (USA).
Language Requirements	Proficiency in written and oral Spanish: level B2. Students have to complete the Spanish Proficiency Form that can be downloaded from the Student Mobility website. However, other B2 Spanish language level certificates may also be accepted with previous approval.
Admission Form	Admission Form 2025: download it from UCR's Student Mobility website.
Period to submit admission documents	<p>First academic semester 2025 (March-July): from October 14th to October 31st, 2024 Second academic semester 2025 (August-December): from March 17th to March 31st, 2025 No previous nomination is required since all documents must be sent by the student exchange coordinator at home institution.</p>
Exchange Duration	Visiting Students can stay at the University of Costa Rica for one or two semesters, maximum.
INFORMATION AND ACADEMIC CALENDAR	
I Semester (March-July) 2025	Expected date of arrival in Costa Rica: Wednesday, March 5 th , 2025. Optional in-person integration activity: Thursday, March 6 th , 2025. Mandatory in-person Orientation Session: Friday, March 7 th , 2025.
	Beginning of classes: Monday, March 10 th , 2025 - tentative date.
	End of classes: Saturday, July 5 th , 2025 - tentative date. Final Examinations: from Monday, July 7 th to Saturday, July 12 th , 2025 - tentative dates.
II Semester (August-December) 2025	Expected date of arrival in Costa Rica: Wednesday, August 6 th , 2025. Optional in-person integration activity: Thursday, August 7 th , 2025. Mandatory in-person Orientation Session: Friday, August 8 th , 2025.
	Beginning of classes: Monday, August 11 th , 2025 - tentative date.
	End of classes: Saturday, November 29 th , 2025 - tentative date. Final Examinations: from Tuesday, December 2 nd to Saturday, December 6 th , 2025 - tentative dates.
Language of Instruction	Spanish.
Course load	12 credits minimum / 18 credits maximum. For local students, full-time academic workload is 16 credits per semester. Passing grade: 7.0/10.0
Courses Catalogue	https://www.ucr.ac.cr/estudiantes



Programs available to Exchange Students	<p>Liberal and Fine Arts: Faculty of Letters, Faculty of Arts. Social Sciences: Faculty of Social Sciences, Faculty of Economics, Faculty of Law, Faculty of Education. Basic Sciences: Faculty of Sciences. Food and Agriculture Sciences: Faculty of Agri-food Sciences. Engineering: Faculty of Engineering. Health: Faculty of Dentistry, Faculty of Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine* Programs offered in regional campuses and its corresponding branches.</p>
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Restricted Programs	* The School of Medicine is not open for exchange students, but other schools from the Faculty of Medicine are. Applications from Dentistry students will be analyzed on a case-by-case basis.
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ACCOMMODATION

Housing	UCR does not have student residences for exchange students. However, students can look for housing by their own means, or through websites that will be sent to them by email, prior to the expected date of arrival, for them to rent the place of their choice.
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FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Tuition and Fees	<p>International students from a university that has a specific student mobility agreement with the University of Costa Rica do not have to pay for tuition fees. However, there is a mandatory fee of approximately USD\$25 per semester, corresponding to associated rates. International undergraduate students from universities that do not have an exchange agreement with the UCR must pay approximately USD\$1,100 per semester, depending on the exchange rate.</p>
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Financial Aid	UCR does not offer financial aid to visiting students.
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INFORMATION ABOUT THE COSTA RICAN ENTRY VISA AND THE PROCESS TO OBTAIN THE SPECIAL STUDENT CATEGORY

Entry Visa and Special Student Category Application	<p>The Costa Rican <i>Dirección General de Migración y Extranjería-DGME</i> (General Directorate of Immigration and Foreign Affairs), divides the countries of the world into 4 groups (see the following link):</p> <p>First Group of Countries: Nationals of countries indicated on this group do not have to apply for the Special Student Category as long as they carry out their academic activities for one semester (a period of less than 180 days). However, if they decide to carry out their studies for two semesters, they must apply for the Special Student Category with the DGME and get a provisional visa at the Costa Rican consulate in their country of origin or residence.</p> <p>Note: If students decide to enter in country without a provisional student visa, they must pay a penalty of USD\$200 (it is an admissibility fee) to the Costa Rican government. If they decide to enter with the provisional student visa, which must be obtained at the Costa Rican Consulate in their country of origin or residence, they do not have to make this payment.</p> <p>Second, Third and Fourth Group of Countries: People belonging to these groups of countries, without exception, must process the Special Student Category with the DGME Office, as appropriate.</p> <p>In the case of those who must carry out immigration procedures, they will receive instructions and support from our Office.</p>
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INSURANCE

Medical Insurance	Students must have an international insurance that covers their own needs, and that includes at least: hospitalization, pandemics such as COVID-19, considering the actual guidelines of the Costa Rican Ministry of Health, as well as surgery, dental emergencies, medical expenses, and repatriation of remains. Students can also receive basic medical care at the Oficina de Bienestar y Salud (Wellness and Health Office) located at the UCR Campus.
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Vaccines	Students who come from or make an airplane scale in South America, must verify what the local vaccination requirements are, for their departure and entry to Costa Rica.
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DATES FOR VISITING STUDENTS ACADEMIC YEAR 2025

FIRST SEMESTER 2025 (March to July)	
DATE	ACTIVITY
Only from October 14 th to October 31 st , 2024, no exception.	Period to submit admission documentation for the first semester 2025. A previous nomination process is not necessary.
From December 2 nd to December 6 th , 2024	Acceptance and non-acceptance letters will be sent, via e-mail.
From December 21 st , 2024 to January 5 th , 2025	Institutional break 2024 (UCR will be closed).
January, 2025	Beginning of the pre-enrollment and enrollment process for the first 2025 academic cycle. Students will receive instructions via email.
March 5 th , 2025	Expected date for arrival in Costa Rica.
March 6 th , 2025	Optional in-person integration activity.
March 7 th , 2025	Mandatory In-Person Orientation Session.
March 10 th , 2025	Beginning of classes - tentative date.
April 11 th , 2025	National Holiday: Battle of Rivas.
From April 13 th to April 20 th , 2025	Easter Week (UCR will be closed).
May 1 st , 2025	National Holiday: International Labor Day.
May 7 th , 2025	Integration Activities for visiting students.
July 2 nd , 2025	Farewell activity for visiting students.
July 5 th , 2025	End of classes - tentative date.
From July 7 th to July 12 th , 2025	Final exams. Dates vary, depending on each faculty - tentative date.
SECOND SEMESTER 2025 (August to December)	
DATE	ACTIVITY
Only from March 17 th to March 31 st , 2025, no exception*	Period to submit admission documentation for the second semester 2025. A previous nomination process is not necessary.
From May 5 th to May 9 th , 2025	Acceptance and non-acceptance letters will be sent, via e-mail.
May, 2025	Beginning of the pre-enrollment and enrollment process for the second 2025 academic cycle. Students will receive instructions via email.
August 6 th , 2025	Expected date for arrival in Costa Rica.
August 7 th , 2025	Optional in-person integration activity.
August 8 th , 2025	Mandatory in-person Orientation Session.
August 11 th , 2025	Beginning of classes - tentative date.
August 15 th , 2025	National Holiday: Mother's Day (UCR will be closed).
September 15 th , 2025	National Holiday: Independence Day (UCR will be closed).
November 17 th , 2025	Farewell activity for visiting students.
November 29 th , 2025	End of classes - tentative date.
December 1 st , 2025	National Holiday: Army Abolition Day (UCR will be closed).
From December 2 nd to 6 th , December 2025	Final exams. Dates vary, depending on each faculty - tentative date.