

FACT SHEET FOR VISITING STUDENTS 2026

Universidad de Costa Rica

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: rita.jimenez@ucr.ac.cr; 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	
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.
Admission Form	Admission Form 2026: download it from UCR's Student Mobility website.
Period to submit admission documents	<p>First academic semester 2026 (March-July): from October 13th to October 31st, 2025 Second academic semester 2026 (August-December): from March 16th to March 31st, 2026</p>
Exchange Duration	Visiting Students can stay at the University of Costa Rica for one or two semesters, maximum.
ACADEMIC INFORMATION	
I Semester	Expected date of arrival in Costa Rica: March 4 th , 2026 Optional in-person integration activity: March 5 th , 2026 Mandatory in-person Orientation Session: March 6 th , 2026
	Beginning of classes: March 9 th , 2026– tentative date.
	End of classes: July 4 th , 2026 – tentative date. Final Examinations: from July 6 th to July 11 th , 2026 – tentative date.
II Semester	Expected date of arrival in Costa Rica: August 5 th , 2026 Optional in-person integration activity: August 6 th , 2026 Mandatory in-person Orientation Session: August 7 th , 2026
	Beginning of classes: August 10 th , 2026 – tentative date.
	End of classes: November 28 th , 2026 – tentative date. Final Examinations: from November 30 th to December 5 th , 2026 – tentative date.
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: 7.0/10.00
Course Catalogues	https://www.ucr.ac.cr/estudiantes/

Programs available to Exchange Students	<p>Liberal and Fine Arts: Faculty of Letters, Faculty of Arts</p> <p>Social Sciences: Faculty of Social Sciences, Faculty of Economics, Faculty of Law, Faculty of Education Sciences: Faculty of Sciences</p> <p>Food and Agriculture Sciences: Faculty of Agri-food Sciences</p> <p>Engineering: Faculty of Engineering</p> <p>Health: Faculty of Medicine*, Faculty of Dentistry, Faculty of Microbiology</p> <p>Programs offered in regional campuses and its corresponding branches.</p>
Restricted Programs	<p>*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.</p>
ACCOMMODATION	
Housing	<p>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.</p>
FINANCIAL INFORMATION	
Tuition and Fees	<p>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\$30 per semester.</p> <p>International 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>
Financial Aid	<p>UCR does not offer financial aid to visiting students.</p>
INFORMATION ABOUT THE COSTA RICAN ENTRY VISA AND THE PROCESS TO OBTAIN THE SPECIAL STUDENT CATEGORY	
Entry Visa and Special Student Category Application.	<p>Costa Rican Dirección General de Migración y Extranjería (General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners Office), divides the countries into 4 groups (see the following link):</p> <p>First Group of Countries: Nationals of countries from this group <u>do not need</u> to apply for the Special Student Category as long as their academic activities do not exceed 180 days. If students wish to study in Costa Rica for two academic cycles, they must apply for the Special Student Category and request a provisional student visa in the Costa Rican Consulate of their origin or residence country.</p> <p>Note: If exchange students enter the country without a provisional student visa, they must pay to the Government of Costa Rica USD\$200 penalty (it is an admissibility fee). If exchange students enter with the provisional student visa, which they must apply for at the Costa Rica Consulate in their country of origin or residence, they should not make this payment.</p> <p>Second, Third and Fourth Group of Countries: Nationals of countries from these groups of countries, must apply for the Special Student Category.</p> <p>In the case of students who must carry out immigration procedures, they will receive instructions and support from our Office.</p>
INSURANCE	
Medical Insurance	<p>Students must have an international insurance that covers their own needs, and that includes at least: hospitalization, pandemics such as COVID-19, considering the guidelines of the Costa Rican Ministry of Health, as well as surgery, dental emergencies, medical expenses, and repatriation of remains. This insurance must have coverage during the entire stay in Costa Rica. Students can get basic medical assistance at the UCR Health Office.</p>
Vaccines	<p>Students who come from South America must verify what the local vaccination requirements are (for example, yellow fever vaccine) for their departure and entry to Costa Rica.</p>

DATES FOR VISITING STUDENTS ACADEMIC YEAR 2026

FIRST SEMESTER 2026 (March to July)	
DATE	ACTIVITIES
Only from October 13 th to October 31 st , 2025, no exception.	Period to submit admission documentation for the first semester 2026. A previous nomination process is not necessary.
From December 1 st to December 5 th , 2025	Acceptance and non-acceptance letters will be sent, via e-mail.
From December 20 th , 2025, to January 4 th , 2026	Institutional break 2025 (UCR will be closed).
January, 2026	Beginning of the pre-enrollment and enrollment process for the first 2026 academic cycle. Students will receive instructions via email.
March 4 th , 2026	Expected date for arrival in Costa Rica.
March 5 th , 2026	Optional in-person integration activity.
March 6 th , 2026	Mandatory in-person orientation session.
March 9 th , 2025	Beginning of classes – tentative date.
From March 29 th to April 5 th , 2026	Easter Week (UCR will be closed).
May 1 st , 2026	National Holiday: International Labor Day (UCR will be closed).
July 2 nd , 2026	Activities for students: Farewell of the students.
July 4 th , 2026	End of classes – tentative date.
From July 6 th to July 11 th , 2026	Final exams. Dates vary, depending on each faculty – tentative date.
SECOND SEMESTER 2026 (August to December)	
DATE	ACTIVITIES
Only from March 16 th to March 31 st , 2026, no exception*	Period to submit admission documentation for the second semester 2026. A previous nomination process is not necessary.
From May 4 th to May 9 th , 2026	Acceptance and non-acceptance letters will be sent, via e-mail.
May, 2026	Beginning of the pre-enrollment and enrollment process for the second 2026 academic cycle. Students will receive instructions via email.
August 5 th , 2026	Expected date for arrival in Costa Rica.
August 6 th , 2026	<u>Optional</u> in-person integration activity.
August 7 th , 2025	Mandatory in-person orientation session.
August 10 th , 2026	Beginning of classes – tentative date.
September 15 th , 2026	National Holiday: Independence Day (UCR will be closed).
November 16 th , 2026	Integration Activity for students: International Student's Day and Farewell of the students.
November 28 th , 2026	End of classes – tentative date.
December 1 st , 2026	National Holiday: Army Abolition Day (UCR will be closed).
From November 30 th to December 5 th , 2025	Final exams. Dates vary, depending on each faculty – tentative date.