



# *The International Connection:*

## CONNECTING THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS

### **QUICK ANSWERS FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS**

*Here is a quick list of frequently asked questions about the University of Arkansas.*

---

#### ***Why do I want to study at the University of Arkansas?***

The University of Arkansas offers you a place to achieve your goals in a comfortable, friendly, inexpensive setting. Located in Fayetteville, in the beautiful northwest corner of the state of Arkansas and in the central U.S., we highly value our international students. We are now connecting over 900 international students from over 100 countries to success through our fully accredited academic programs leading to bachelor's, master's, PhD, and EdD degrees.

#### ***How do I apply?***

We invite you to visit our website and apply online or download the international application forms. If you are unable to do this, or if an application packet is not available to you through an overseas advisor, please contact:

**International Admission Office**  
**180 Dickson Street Annex**  
**University of Arkansas**  
**Fayetteville AR 72701 USA**  
**1-479-575-6246 • 1-479-575-4163 (fax)**  
**intlapp@uark.edu (application requests only)**  
**iao@uark.edu (other questions)**

and ask for a graduate or undergraduate application packet. We will quickly send you everything you need to successfully complete the admission process. You may phone, fax, or email your request or any questions you may have.  
***We welcome your questions!***

Graduate applicants in the area of business should request applications and information directly from the Sam M. Walton College of Business Graduate School of Business at [gwb@walton.uark.edu](mailto:gwb@walton.uark.edu). Applicants for graduate programs in law should contact the Law School directly at [jmiller@uark.edu](mailto:jmiller@uark.edu).

Our catalogs are available online at <http://advancement.uark.edu/catalogofstudies/>. The catalogs itemize courses and requirements for the degree programs we offer. For a list of undergraduate programs available, see <http://admissions.uark.edu/majors/index.html>. For a listing of graduate programs, see <http://www.uark.edu/depts/gradinfo/prospective/degrees.html>.

Return the completed application forms to us with a US \$50 application fee. Your check must be drawn on a US bank. Please do not send cash! We do not offer fee waivers. Have your official TOEFL score (institution code = 6866) or your official IELTS score sent and notify your previous schools to send official transcripts. Documents not in English should be accompanied by an attested English translation. Once you have been admitted, we will send you an official acceptance letter, I-20, and arrival and housing information. To reserve a room in one of our residence halls, you will be expected to pay a housing deposit. You will not have to pay tuition until you actually arrive and register for classes. Tuition and campus housing can be paid in four installments throughout the semester.

#### ***When should I apply?***

You should apply one year before you plan to start your studies here. Application deadlines are April 1 for a graduate applicant (May 31 for an undergraduate applicant) for a fall term, October 1 for a spring term, and March 1 for a summer term. We would like to have your application much earlier, though, especially if you are applying for a scholarship or graduate assistantship. We have "rolling admissions," that is, you can be admitted for fall (August), spring (January), or summer (May or July) for most majors. We will process your application as soon as it is received. If we need additional information or documents, we will notify you immediately. You should register to take the TOEFL exam as soon as you decide to study in the United States unless English is your native language.

These documents are needed to consider you for admission:

- A graduate or undergraduate application form
- US \$50 application fee
- Supplemental and Financial Information form
- Summary of Educational Experience form
- Official translated and untranslated academic records
- Official TOEFL score or IELTS score report
- Official SAT and TSE scores (undergraduates applying to Electrical or Computer Engineering, Architecture, or for scholarships)
- TSE score (graduate applicants for teaching assistantships)
- GRE scores (for those departments requiring them)
- GMAT scores (graduate business applicants)
- Letters of recommendation (scholarship or assistantship applicants)
- Graduate assistantship application (if applying)

***What are the requirements for freshman undergraduate admission?***

We will need the completed application forms, a US \$50 application fee, and an official minimum TOEFL score of 550 (paper test) or 213 (computer test), or official IELTS overall score of 6.5, not over two years old at the time of enrollment. We need official secondary school academic records and diploma or exam certificates showing above average performance and a financial statement showing adequate funding.

***What are the requirements for transfer undergraduate admission?***

We need the completed application forms, a US \$50 application fee, and an official minimum TOEFL score of 550 (paper test) or 213 (computer test), or official overall IELTS score of 6.5, not over two years old at the time of your enrollment here. In addition, we need official transcripts of all university work completed to date, showing a minimum overall grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale, and a financial statement showing adequate funding. **We will need course descriptions/syllabi for a transfer of credit evaluation.**

***I have completed two years of undergraduate work in my home country. How long will it take me to complete a bachelor's degree at the U of A?***

If the two years of work were in the same discipline as the bachelor's degree you will complete here, and if the course content is similar, it will probably take you 2 to 2.5 years, but it's hard to say for sure. We would urge you to apply as soon as you can, have official transcripts sent, and provide us with course descriptions/syllabi. As soon as the admission decision is made, an evaluation of transfer credit will be done. The evaluation will be sent to the appropriate advisor in the college of your major for further evaluation. When you arrive, you and your academic advisor will sit down and go through the evaluation together, seeing what credits you have satisfied and what credits you still must earn. If you are coming from one of the American pattern colleges in Malaysia, your in-country academic advisor can probably help you plan your course of study.

***Special notes for undergraduate students:***

Students who wish to major in Computer Engineering or Electrical Engineering must submit a Test of Spoken English (TSE) score of 50 or better, or a 7.0 on the speaking portion of the IELTS, and Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) score of at least 1140.

***Are there any scholarships for international undergraduate students?***

There are scholarships available on a highly competitive basis. To qualify for consideration, you **must** apply early (before February 15) and have an outstanding academic background and high SAT scores. You should indicate on your application or in a separate letter that you wish to be considered for a scholarship. Letters of recommendation are very helpful. Please note that scholarships are highly competitive and not automatic. They are awarded only as funds are available. There is not a separate application for scholarships. All applicants to the University of Arkansas with outstanding academic performance are evaluated for possible scholarships consideration.

***Possible scholarships available may include the following:***

**CHANCELLOR'S SCHOLARSHIP** — pays up to a maximum of \$8,000 (plus a waiver of the out-of-state portion of tuition) per academic year, renewable for three years with a 3.0 GPA. Past recipients have had above a 3.9 GPA and 1470-1600 SAT I.

**TRANSFER SCHOLARSHIP** — pays up to \$2,000 per year (plus a waiver of the out-of-state portion of tuition) applied to undergraduate registration fees for students with a 3.5 GPA and at least 45 transferable credit hours. May be renewed for one year with a 3.20 GPA.

***One of my parents graduated from the University of Arkansas. Will I receive a discount in tuition?***

Yes! Please let us know on your application if a parent attended the U of A. We'll need to know the parent's name and date of attendance, and your parent must be a member of our alumni association. Half of the out-of-state portion of your tuition will be waived if you are fully admitted and meet these criteria.

***Is there financial assistance for graduate students?***

Most departments on campus offer graduate assistantships for qualified, outstanding graduate students. Assistantships often pay full tuition plus offer a monthly stipend in exchange for teaching or research for the department of your major. If you wish to be considered for an assistantship, indicate this when you request application materials. We will send you the assistantship application.

***Is the TOEFL or IELTS always required for admission?***

Yes — unless your **native** language is English. If your native language is not English, but your schooling was in

English, the TOEFL or IELTS is still required. Upon arrival, you will take an English placement exam to help you enroll in the correct level English classes. If your scores indicate weak areas in your knowledge of English, English as a Second Language (EASL) courses may be prescribed.

***What if my TOEFL score is below the required 550 (or 213 on the computer test) or below the IELTS 6.5 requirement?***

We have an excellent intensive English program on campus. If you are academically admissible but your TOEFL or IELTS is below our required score, we can offer you admission to Spring International Language Center (SILC). Once you have achieved the required English proficiency, you will be allowed to enroll in academic courses in the next available term. We can issue a dual I-20 for you showing admission into both the U of A and SILC.

***For information about SILC, contact:***

**Spring International Language Center  
300 Hotz Hall  
University of Arkansas  
Fayetteville AR 72701 USA  
1-479-575-7600 • 1-479-575-7673 (fax)  
silc@uark.edu**

***More about the TOEFL:***

When you take the TOEFL, give the U of A institution code to have scores sent automatically to us: 6866. Even if you have not yet applied for admission, we'll hold your score and match it with your application upon receipt. Scores must be less than two years old at the time of enrollment.

***More about the IELTS:***

When you take the IELTS, have the scores sent automatically to the U of A. Even if you have not yet applied for admission, we'll hold your score and match it with your application upon receipt. Scores must be less than two years old at the time of enrollment.

***What are the requirements for graduate admission?***

In addition to the application forms, you must include a US \$50 application fee. You should have a four-year bachelor's degree with at least a 2.7 overall GPA. We will need official transcripts or individual marksheets with confirmation of your bachelor's degree. We will need an official TOEFL score of 550 or better (213 on the computer test), or IELTS of 6.5, less than two years old at the time of enrollment. Even if you are applying for an assistantship, please send in the completed financial statement. The Test of Spoken English (TSE) or IELTS is required for teaching assistantships. Some programs require the GRE; some require the GMAT. See your application packet for details.

Please send all application materials to the International Admission Office, not the department or Graduate School. The International Admission Office will process your application, and when your file is complete, we will forward it to the department for the admission decision. When the decision is made, your file will come back to us for issuing the I-20. While you can certainly address questions to the department about areas of faculty research, availability of assistantships, etc., your application documents must come to the International Admission Office first to avoid delays in processing. *(The exception: If applying to the Law School or a graduate program in Business, send all materials there instead. These programs process their own applications.)* **Please apply early!** Most departments begin making their assistantship decisions in the month of February for the coming fall term!

***I'm interested in the MBA program. Are the admission requirements different?***

The University of Arkansas MBA program is designed to give students the knowledge, ability, and confidence to make immediate contributions to their organizations upon graduation. The U of A MBA is a 38-hour, lock-step program, beginning in mid-summer, with graduation in mid-summer of the following year. Admission to the MBA program is competitive and limited. Successful applicants are expected to rank in the 80th percentile on the GMAT and possess a cumulative grade point average of 3.4 on a 4.0 scale. International applicants must score a minimum TOEFL of 550 (213 on the computer test) or IELTS of 6.5. **Completed application materials should be submitted by November 15.** All applications received after February 15 will be processed on a space-available basis. All application materials should be sent to the Sam M. Walton College of Business. You may contact gsb@walton.uark.edu for more information.

***What if I am a government or agency sponsored student?***

To accommodate the special needs of sponsored students, we have a special office. Please direct all inquiries to:

**Sponsored Student Programs Office  
300 Hotz Hall  
University of Arkansas  
Fayetteville AR 72701 USA  
1-479-575-6857 • 1-479-575-5055 (fax)  
uassp@uark.edu**

This office will facilitate your admission process, your acclimation to campus, and act as liaison between you and your sponsoring agency. There is a management fee which will be charged to your sponsoring agency.

## ***Deadlines! Deadlines! Deadlines!***

Yes, we have them, but please don't wait until the deadline to apply! "The early bird catches the worm" definitely applies to college admissions, especially if you want a scholarship or assistantship. For admission without a scholarship or assistantship, we must have a complete file for you by April 1 (graduate students) or May 31 (undergraduates) if you want to be considered for a fall term, October 1 for a spring term, and March 1 for a summer term. After these deadlines, we will try—but cannot guarantee an admission decision in time for the term you desire.

## ***How much does it cost to attend the University of Arkansas?***

The figures quoted here are valid for the 2003-2004 academic year, an academic year being a fall and spring term. Only the MBA program includes summer terms.

Undergraduate	Tuition/Fees	Living	TOTAL
AFLS	\$10,121	\$7857	<b>\$17,978</b>
ARCH	\$10,283	\$7857	<b>\$18,140</b>
ARSC	\$10,151	\$7857	<b>\$18,008</b>
WCOB	\$10,647	\$7857	<b>\$18,504</b>
EDUC	\$10,121	\$7857	<b>\$17,978</b>
ENGR	\$10,471	\$7857	<b>\$18,328</b>

AFLS=Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food & Life Sciences; ARCH=School of Architecture; ARSC=J. William Fulbright College of Arts & Sciences; WCOB=Sam M. Walton College of Business; EDUC=College of Education & Health Professions; ENGR=College of Engineering

Graduate	Tuition/Fees	Living	TOTAL
AFLS	\$10,963	\$7757	<b>\$18,720</b>
ARSC	\$10,973	\$7757	<b>\$18,730</b>
WCOB	\$12,458	\$7757	<b>\$20,215</b>
EDUC	\$10,924	\$7757	<b>\$18,681</b>
ENGR	\$11,273	\$7757	<b>\$19,030</b>
MBA	\$25,435	\$11,360	<b>\$36,795</b>

If you are bringing family members with you, you will need to show additional funding available: \$4850 for a spouse and \$3670 for each additional dependent.

## ***How much money should I expect to spend on textbooks?***

Depending on your courses, textbooks may cost from \$300 to \$950 per semester. Textbooks are expensive, but the local textbook stores often have used copies available at a reduced cost. We have a fully-stocked bookstore on our campus for your convenience. There are other textbook stores close to campus, as well as online sources.

## ***Can I find a part-time job to help support myself?***

International students holding F-1 or J-1 visas are permitted to work up to 20 hours per week on campus only. These campus jobs are usually in residence halls or dining services and pay minimum wage. Jobs are not always available. Off-campus employment is restricted by the United States Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS).

## ***Where will I live while attending the U of A?***

Single students can find residence hall accommodations readily available in a variety of settings. Meals are available on campus for all meals except the Sunday evening meal. The cost for housing for an academic year (fall and spring semesters) with the full meal plan is about \$4656, though it varies by residence hall. Off-campus housing is available, but you must make your own arrangements and some restrictions apply (freshman under 21 must live on campus unless special permission has been obtained from University Housing). Family housing is available, but space is limited, so apply early once you are admitted.

Off-campus living quarters can cost as little as \$200 per month for a furnished sleeping room with kitchen privileges in a private home or rooming house, or over \$500 a month for a spacious modern apartment in a complex of apartments with swimming pool and other facilities. However, unless utilities are part of the rental fee, you will be paying separately for electricity, gas, water, and trash service. This can be difficult when you first arrive in Fayetteville. We recommend on-campus housing, especially at first. This will give you time to seek out alternatives at your leisure. It will also give you a chance to meet others who may want to live off campus and might want to share an apartment with you to cut expenses.

Our University Housing office will assist you in securing on-campus housing. For more information, contact:

### **University Housing Hotz Hall**

**University of Arkansas**

**Fayetteville AR 72701 USA**

**1-479-575-3951 • 1-479-575-8450 (fax)**

**hotzdsk@teamwork.uark.edu**

## ***Will I be the only student from my country at the U of A?***

Probably not! We have over 900 international scholars representing over 100 countries, and we have an excellent Office of International Students and Scholars (ISS) which will assist you in getting comfortable on campus and making friends. Our cultural organizations include:

African Student Association

Arab Student Association

Bangladeshi Students Association

Hong Kong & Macao Student Association

Friends of India

Indonesian Students Association

International Students Christian Association

International Christian Fellowship  
International Students Organization  
Korean Student Association  
Latinos Unidos  
Malaysian Student Association  
Moslem Student Association  
Pakistan Culture Club  
Chinese Student Association (R.O.C.)  
Chinese Culture and Language Club  
Chinese Student & Scholar Association  
Sri Lanka Circle  
Vietnamese Students Association

There are over 200 general campus organizations and lots of campus activities for your entertainment. We have an excellent recreation facility complete with racquetball courts, swimming pool, weight room, volleyball courts, and more. You can also participate in intramural sports.

A thorough orientation is offered to you upon arrival to campus by the ISS. You will learn everything there is to know about the U of A, make new friends, learn your way around, and even register for your classes during the ISS orientation sessions. The first day of classes will find you well prepared for your college experience. A variety of other services especially for international students is available through the ISS. If you would like more information about the ISS, or if you would like to find out if there are students here from your home country, contact:

**Office of International Students and Scholars**  
**104 Holcombe Hall**  
**University of Arkansas**  
**Fayetteville AR 72701 USA**  
**1-479-575-5003 • 1-479-575-7084 (fax)**  
**iss@uark.edu**

### ***Do I have to have a car to “get around”?***

The University of Arkansas has bus routes all around campus. The buses run on time and often. We also have bus service to all major shopping areas in Fayetteville. There are grocery stores, restaurants, banks, and bookstores within walking distance. Several restaurants deliver to campus. The Office of International Students and Scholars also plans fun trips to area attractions. A variety of medical services is available on campus at the Student Health Center. Many off-campus apartment complexes are on University bus routes. If you live in an off-campus apartment which is not on any U of A bus routes, however, transportation will be difficult without a car or bicycle.

### ***Is Fayetteville accessible by air?***

The University of Arkansas is serviced by the Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport (XNA). If you let International Programs know your correct arrival information, they will arrange transportation for you from the airport to campus.

Be sure your travel agent understands that we are in Fayetteville, **ARKANSAS**. There is also a city named Fayetteville in the state of North Carolina!

### ***How big is Fayetteville?***

Fayetteville, Arkansas, is a town of about 52,500 people, not counting the student population of about 15,000. While of this size might seem small to some, every convenience is here. Some of the best things about Fayetteville include its low crime rate and good climate. We have all four seasons here, with no long dry or rainy season. It will snow at least twice in the winter and get hot in the summer, but rarely over 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

The larger Northwest Arkansas area includes Springdale, Rogers (famous poultry production towns), Bentonville (headquarters of Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.), Beaver Lake, Devil’s Den State Park, and scenic White Rock Mountain. Other recreation areas are nearby for camping, hiking, canoeing, and other outdoor sports. Our campus recreation facility offers outdoor equipment for rent at a nominal cost.

We are about three hours away by car from Little Rock, our state capitol and largest city in Arkansas.

### ***Do I have to bring my own computer?***

No. There are computer labs in several locations across campus, some available 24 hours a day, with state-of-the-art programs and services and international networks.

### ***What about medical records and health insurance?***

Like most U.S. universities, we require immunization against measles and rubella. Be sure to bring your immunization record in English to prove you have had these shots or we’ll have to give them to you again! Also, health insurance is required. If you already have health insurance, you should bring proof. If you do not have health insurance, you will be given information upon your arrival. When you register and pay your fees, you will be assessed a \$164.40 student health fee for the academic year. This fee entitles you to visit our campus clinic for free. (You will have to pay for any medicines, labwork, or x-rays obtained from the clinic.) Health insurance is estimated to cost \$737 per year. This insurance will protect you from the devastating cost of major medical care in a hospital should the need arise.

***What about academics? Are all programs fully accredited? Nationally recognized? What is the average class size? What is the faculty/student ratio?***

All academic programs on our campus are fully accredited by their disciplines' national accreditation organizations and many are nationally ranked.

- *Fortune* magazine listed the U of A as one of the top 66 schools in the country that produce chief executives of major American companies.
- Our programs in creative writing and translation are ranked among the best five in the country.
- Our Bell Engineering Center is a world-class facility.
- Our Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences Honors Studies Program was highly praised in a recent edition of *How to Get an Ivy League Education at a State University*.
- Our College of Education implemented the 5-year Master of Arts in Teaching degree program—the most dynamic and innovative program in the state.
- Our School of Architecture takes great pride in its successful graduates, among whom is E. Fay Jones, winner of the AIA's highest honor for life-time achievement. He was the school's first dean and continues to lecture here as Emeritus Professor.
- Our College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences features the Center of Excellence for Poultry Science offering the finest training for poultry scientists in the country.
- Our Law School has the only agricultural law master's degree (LLM) program in the U.S.
- On April 11, 2002, the University of Arkansas received the ***largest gift in the history of American public higher education*** — a ***\$300 million*** commitment from the Walton Family Charitable Support Foundation of Bentonville, Arkansas, to establish and endow an undergraduate honors college and to endow the Graduate School.

The average class size is difficult to pinpoint. It depends on the class and your year in school. For example, a freshman honors class might contain as few as 8 students, but a freshman English class could contain 25 students. A general Chemistry lecture class might have as many as 300 students (but the lab would be a much smaller group).

The average ratio of faculty to students is 1 to 18.

***What if I don't do well at the University of Arkansas?***

First of all, our admission standards are designed to admit above average students. If we didn't think you would succeed here, you wouldn't be admitted! We want you to do well and have a great American university experience. Your professors also want you to succeed. Every professor has office hours so that you can go to them for help. Campus tutors are available to you for extra help. International undergraduate students must take 12 academic credit hours during the fall and spring semesters to remain "in status" with Immigration. Often, however, our super international students will sign up for 18 semester hours (maybe more with advisor's permission) and find themselves overwhelmed. You see, for every hour spent in class, a student should expect to spend at least three hours in study and preparation for that class. That's a lot of studying! If for any reason a student starts to fall behind in a class, the student has the option of "dropping" the class within a certain period of time. For example, this fall classes begin August 26. The last day to drop a class is November 1, well beyond the midterm exam period. You will know by then if you need to drop a class. Of course, if the class is required for your degree, you will have to take it again at some point—but you will have a better idea about what is expected and can choose your classes that term around this challenging class.

The International Admissions Office and Office of International Students and Scholars, as well as your academic advisor and professors, realize what a major step you have taken in coming to our country to study. We want you to succeed and will do everything we can to help! If you find yourself unhappy with your progress here, you must reach out to the many people who are here to help!

***Is the campus safe?***

Yes, this is a safe campus, with very few crimes against persons. All public sidewalks are well lighted. Emergency phones are located prominently all over campus. The University Police are student-oriented persons who have met all state training requirements. Your safety and security are their number one priority. We also have a special patrol composed of police officers and community service cadets who are available on call in the evenings to escort you wherever on campus you need to go. Residence halls are monitored and guests must be accompanied by a resident of that hall.

All of these precautions are just good **proactive** measures to keep you safe! Remember, Fayetteville is a city with a very low crime rate. All it will take to secure your personal safety and property is your own good common sense.