

FACT SHEET FOR INCOMING **EXCHANGE STUDENTS** **2022/2023**

Institution	Ferris State University
Country	United States
Address	Ferris State University Office Of International Education 1301 S State Street, IRC 134 Big Rapids, MI 49307 United States
Phone	Office of International Education (OIE) primary line: +1.231.591.2450
Business Hours	8 AM – 5 PM EST Monday – Friday
Emergency Contact Information	Lisa vonReichbauer , Acting Executive Director of OIE +1.231.287.7483 - Mobile and WhatsApp Ferris State University Campus Police +1.231.591.5000 Police services are available 24 hours per day 7 days a week 365 days a year.
Websites and Social Media	ferris.edu/international www.facebook.com/fsuinternational www.instagram.com/ferrisinternationaloffice/ www.youtube.com/user/fsuinternational

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION STAFF

**Acting Executive Director
and International Student
Advisor**

Lisa vonReichbauer
lisavonreichbauer@ferris.edu
+1.231.591.2838



**International Admissions
Coordinator, and
Manager for Exchange
Partnerships**

Valerie Campbell
valeriecampbell@ferris.edu
+1.231.591.2451

Main point of contact for exchange partners. Manages applications, learning plans, and student on boarding. Valerie will accept incoming student nominations, and will communicate directly with students about their applications, learning plans, and arrival. She will also communicate the formal nominations for outgoing Ferris exchange students each semester.



**International
Recruiter and Market Analyst**

Jacob van Laar
jacobvanlaar@ferris.edu
+1.231.591.5444

Assists with communication with incoming students about their applications, learning plans, visa process, and arrival.



EXCHANGE STUDENT NOMINATION PROCEDURES

Nomination Process and deadlines

Exchange students must be nominated by the home coordinator by sending an email to Valerie Campbell international@ferris.edu. Please specify the following:

- Student Name
- Number of semesters (1 or 2) they plan to attend Ferris
- Which semester(s) (Fall and/or Spring) and year they will attend.
(At Ferris, Fall begins at the end of August, Spring begins in the beginning of January)
- Program of Study at Home Institution
- Date of Birth
- Student email address

Nomination Period for Fall Semester is December 1 – June 1

Nomination Period for Spring Semester is May 1 – October 1

EXCHANGE STUDENT APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Exchange Student Application deadlines

Fall Semester (for classes that begin in August) - Application Deadline is June 15

Spring Semester (for classes that begin in January) – Application Deadline is October 15

Exchange Student application procedures

1. Online application

Please visit apply.ferris.edu to complete your online application

2. Learning Plan

The Learning Plan tells your academic adviser at Ferris State which classes you plan to take during your semester exchange. Exchange students are required to be enrolled full time to maintain their visa status. The minimum number of credits to be considered full time is 12 but most students enroll in 15 credits (5 classes) per semester. Exchange students are only allowed to enroll in 1 online course the rest must meet face to face. On your Learning Plan, please include your 4-5 first choice courses along with 3-4 alternate courses. *Instructions for How to Complete the Learning Plan and a Learning plan worksheet will be provided.*

3. E-Mail your documents

To complete your admission and immigration documents, send the following documents to international@ferris.edu

- Copy of your transcripts (in English)
- Copy of a bank statement or letter from the bank showing at least \$6,200 USD if you will be studying for one semester or \$12,400 USD if you will be studying for two semesters. You will also be required to complete a [Financial Sponsor Statement](#) if the name on the bank document is someone other than yourself (the student).
- Copy of your Passport Identification Page
- Copy of your [English proficiency test score](#) such as IELTS or TOEFL. If you do not have an official English test score to submit, you will be required to take an English proficiency at Ferris during orientation. Acceptable test scores IELTS 5.5, TOEFL 61 for full list of acceptable test scores please refer to our [website](#).
- Completed Learning Plan that has been reviewed and approved by your home university advisor. This can be forwarded in a separate email if not complete when you are ready to apply.
- Address to which you would like our office to send your admission package

***Please note, Ferris State University reserves the right to require official/original documents upon request.**

Learning Plan Procedure

Visit the **Course Catalog** to see the different programs that Ferris offers.

<https://www.ferris.edu/catalog/current/programs/program-list.htm>

Each program listing includes a check sheet that lists course offered in that program. You can also look up Course Descriptions on this page which are short explanations of what is taught in each class:

1. **Go to “Look Up Classes” and select term of study:**
https://banner.ferris.edu:9000/pls/GOLD/bwckschd.p_disp_dyn_sched
2. **Choose a subject of classes**
*These will need to be approved and signed by your home university advisor *100 and 200 levels are typically open to everyone, 300+ may require pre-requisite course work
3. **Make a list of classes you would like to take on your Learning Plan** (worksheet will be provided)
4. **Review days and times and fill in the sample timetable.** (Worksheet will be provided)
5. **E-Mail the Learning Plan that has been reviewed and approved by your home university advisor to the OIE at International@ferris.edu**

Application & Learning Plan Assistance

The enrolment team is eager to assist students with any questions they have. Please contact us.

Email international@ferris.edu

Live Chat <https://ferris.edu/international/admissions/>

Student Information Webinars – held each Wednesday at 9am EST

Webinar link: https://calendly.com/international_ferris_state/applied

Visa Requirements

Students are required to obtain a J1 visa prior to entering the US for the period of study. Upon admission, student will be issued an admission letter along with the Form DS-2019 “Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor (J-1) Status”. The Form DS-2019 is the basic document required to support an application for an exchange visitor visa (J-1). For more detailed information about the fee requirements and instructions to apply for the J1 Visa please visit the U.S. State Department website for the Exchange Visitor Program on the following link: <https://j1visa.state.gov/participants/>

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Important Dates Fall 2022

Fall 2022: Exchange opportunities will not be available in Fall 2022 but will resume in Spring 2023.

Important Dates Spring 2023

Spring 2023: Orientation dates January 5, 2023, through January 6, 2023 (Mandatory for new students)

First day of class: January 09, 2023

Last date to drop/add classes January 12, 2023

*Please note, orientation dates are subject to change. We will give notice of any changes that are made.

Attendance of Orientation is mandatory for all new incoming international students.

Full Spring Semester Academic Calendar can be found here:

<https://www.ferris.edu/academics/calendars/2023.htm>

The full orientation schedule will be posted and updated here:
ferris.edu/international/currentstudents/orientation.htm

ARRIVAL INFORMATION

Orientation

It is mandatory that all students attend the International Student Orientation and arrive on time to attend orientation on the first day. All international students will be charged an \$85 orientation fee. Students who arrive late for orientation will be charged an additional \$85 late orientation fee. We sometimes find that students try to arrive late for orientation (especially in the spring semester to purchase cheaper flights). Arriving late is not allowed and is very disruptive to our orientation and to the students' ability to have a smooth transition into the university. If you are unable to arrive to campus in time to attend orientation from the first day, please consider deferring to a future semester as our goal is for you to have a smooth transition into our university.

Local Airport

Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GRR) www.grr.org/
Located in Grand Rapids, Michigan (approximately 60 miles South of Ferris State University, Big Rapids).

Airport Shuttles

Shuttles between the GRR airport and Ferris State University/Big Rapids, MI are provided the weekend prior to orientation. Students will be sent emails regarding the dates and instructions to reserve a seat on the shuttle. Students will also be invited to join a WhatsApp group for an easier mode to communicate with our office staff while connected to Wi-Fi during travel.

Housing

Living on campus is mandatory for exchange students. Ferris State University offers a variety of on-campus housing options. Students can sign housing contracts through their MyFSU accounts. If you have not signed a housing contract before arriving on campus, there will be the opportunity to do so at orientation. Most exchange student choose Bond Hall or the East Campus Suites because they stay open during holidays. Room costs vary and all options may not be available, see the Housing website for complete options and pricing.

Dormitory semester cost: \$2,725 (for a shared room)

Suite semester cost: \$3,134 (for a single room in a 4-person suite)

More information can be found on the Ferris Housing page:

ferris.edu/HTMLS/studentlife/reslife/Contracts_And_Rates/Housing_Rates.htm

Students are permitted to live in off-campus housing if they are 19 years or older.

Wire Transfer And Banking

Ferris State University has partnered with Flywire to offer an innovative and streamlined way to make a payment from the student's home country. More information is here:
ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/businessoffice/intspt.htm

Students are provided with opportunities to open a bank account at a local bank during orientation week.

Tuition

Tuition for exchange students is paid to home institution

Dining Rates

Ferris State University's Dining Services meal plans offer flexibility, convenience, healthy options, and great food value. The Rock Café and the Quad Café incorporate a marketplace concept where diners can visit a variety of venues within the dining hall for one price. Students can choose from a variety of meal plans.

<https://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/studentlife/dining/mealplans/index.htm>

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Health Insurance

All University students are required to have health insurance. GeoBlue is the approved health insurance for Ferris State University and students are automatically enrolled in its plan. This plan costs approximately \$480 per semester and the cost is added to the student account.

MyFSU

MyFSU is the Student Information Service Portal at Ferris State University. Instructions for access will be provided to the student after they have been admitted.
[ferris.edu/admissions/accept/myfsu.html](https://www.ferris.edu/admissions/accept/myfsu.html)

Ferris Student Email

When you arrive on campus you will be expected to access your Ferris email account. You can access your email account through your MyFSU account. You can find instructions to add the account to your device here: <https://www.ferris.edu/it/howto/ferrisemail.htm>

Local/Public Transportation

Ferris Campus Shuttle via DART (Dial A Ride Transportation) – No charge
Public Transportation services for a fee:

- The Rapids Shuttle Bus (231) 591-3947 (provides transportation to between Grand Rapids and Big Rapids during the Fall and Spring semesters only)
 - Dial-A-Ride Transportation (DART) (231) 796-8675
 - Mecosta-Osceola Area Transit (MOAT) (231) 796-4896
 - Indian Trails Bus Line (231) 591-2212
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Campus Map

[ferris.edu/HTMLS/ferrisfaq/maps/Campus_Map_Color.pdf](https://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/ferrisfaq/maps/Campus_Map_Color.pdf)

You can also download the Ferris GO App instructions can be found here
<https://www.ferris.edu/it/ferrisgo/index.htm>

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Grade System

The following grading system and grade point values are used for all courses at Ferris State University:

A (4.0), A- (3.7)
B+ (3.3), B (3.0), B- (2.7)
C+ (2.3), C (2.0), C- (1.7)
D+ (1.3), D (1.0), D- (0.7)
F (0.0)

Grades of CR (Credit), NC (No Credit), AU (Audit), I (Incomplete), IP (In Progress), W (Withdrawal), and AW (Administrative Withdrawal) are not considered in computing grade point averages. Grades of WF (Withdrawal Failing) or AWF (Administrative Withdrawal Failing) are computed as a grade point value of (0.0).

Academic Credit

All credits offered in degree programs are expressed in semester hours.
One semester hour of credit is granted for successful completion of one hour per week of lecture or two or more hours per week of laboratory training for a period of fifteen weeks (fall and spring) or for a period of 12 weeks (summer) or any approved part of term (ex. online accelerated course).

Number of Classes required

Students are required to enroll in a minimum of 12 US credits to comply with immigration requirements. Students normally enroll in between 12-15 credits per semester. Typically, each course has three credits.

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1 US credit is the equivalent of 2 ECTS credits, thus a 15-credit semester in the US would be equivalent to 30 ECTS credits.

English Proficiency Requirements

Students must establish English language proficiency to be considered for admission. Official score report be reported by the testing organization to Ferris. The list of accepted tests and scores along with our English proficiency policies can be found below.

- TOEFL score of 61 or better on internet-based test
- IELTS score of 5.5 or better
- Duolingo score of 90 or better

The full list: [ferris.edu/international/admissions/englishpolicies.htm](https://www.ferris.edu/international/admissions/englishpolicies.htm)

Textbooks

All Ferris classes will require that you purchase or rent textbooks. Please be prepared for this additional cost of between \$200-\$500 USD. The required books will be available after you enroll. We will go over instructions to buy or rent books during orientation. Ferris has an online bookstore where you can purchase or rent books, or you can rent books from services like Amazon. More information about this can be found here:

<https://www.ferris.edu/admissions/financialaid/textbookinformation.htm>

Academic Support

Ferris State University provides the following services free of charge:

Tutoring: [ferris.edu/HTMLS/colleges/university/ASC/tutoring.htm](https://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/colleges/university/ASC/tutoring.htm)

Writing Center Services: [ferris.edu/arts-sciences/departments/languages-and-literature/writing-center/index.htm](https://www.ferris.edu/arts-sciences/departments/languages-and-literature/writing-center/index.htm)

Transfer Equivalency Guide

Equivalencies for many courses between Ferris State University and our Partner Institutions have been determined and can be located on the Transfer Equivalency Guide found here:

https://banner.ferris.edu:9000/GOLD/FSU_SK_SS_TransEquiv.P_TCEMain

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Transfer Credit Equivalencies (TCE)

Choose a Michigan Institution

Adrian College
Albion College
Alma College
Alpena Cmty College
Andrews University
Aquinas College MI

Submit

Choose an Out of State/International Institution

ACE Army
ACE Sailor/Marine
AMA International
ASA College
Abila State University
Abilene Christian University

Submit

Opportunities on Campus

Center for Student Involvement	We built Ferris for you and The Center for Student Involvement (CSI) puts you at the center of it all. The CSI will connect you with the events, organizations, and experiences that make life at Ferris so dynamic. From energizing events and inspiring traditions to unique student organizations and our fraternities and sororities, the CSI will help you find your people, your place, and yourself at Ferris. https://www.ferris.edu/student-life/center-for-student-involvement/homepage.htm
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On Campus student employment	You may have the opportunity to work on campus only during your exchange semester or year. More information about this opportunity can be found here: https://www.ferris.edu/admissions/financialaid/employment/
Student Recreation Center	At the Student Recreation Center (SRC) students can enjoy intramural and club sports, fitness coaching, cardio and fitness centers, and weight training centers. We are here to help each student meet their fitness and wellness goals. https://www.ferris.edu/student-life/u-rec/homepage.htm

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY FACTS

University History

Ferris was founded in 1884 by Woodbridge and Helen Ferris as the privately-owned Big Rapids Industrial School. It became a state institution in 1950 and a state university in 1987. Since its beginning, Ferris has provided students of diverse backgrounds with educational opportunities for rewarding professional and civic lives. For more information on the history of the university, visit <https://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/alumni/Historical/>

Number of students at Ferris State University

Big Rapids Campus – 9485
Total University enrollment – 13,471

Big Rapids Population

10,601 residents (not including Ferris students)

Links to information About Big Rapids, Michigan

[ferris.edu/HTMLS/bigrapid/homepage.htm](https://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/bigrapid/homepage.htm)
www.bigrapids.org



Ferris Virtual Tour

<https://www.youvisit.com/tour/ferris>

Estimated Costs

	One Semester		Two Semesters
*Room and Board	\$5,134	*Room and Board	\$10,268
Health Insurance	\$470	Health Insurance	\$940
Books & Supplies	\$450	Books & Supplies	\$900
**Refundable Fees		**Refundable Fees	
Racquet Facility	\$16	Racquet Facility	\$32
Student Activity	\$20	Student Activity	\$40
Student Government	\$1	Student Government	\$2
Health Center	\$53	Health Center	\$106
One-time fees			
SEVIS	\$220	SEVIS	\$220
Visa Application	\$160	Visa Application	\$160
Orientation	\$85	Orientation	\$85
Estimated total	\$6,609 USD	Estimated total	\$12,753 USD

*Exchange students are required to live on campus.

**If requested during the first 5 days of each semester, the Refundable Fees can be credited back to the student's account.