FACT SHEET FOR INCOMING
EXCHANGE STUDENTS
2020/2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Ferris State University</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>United States</td>
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<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td>Ferris State University</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Office Of International Education</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1301 S State Street, IRC 134</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Big Rapids, MI 49307</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>United States</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
<td>Office of International Education (OIE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>primary line: +1.231.591.2450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Hours</td>
<td>8 AM – 5 PM EST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Monday – Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Contact</td>
<td>Dr. Piram Prakasam, Executive Director of OIE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information</td>
<td>+1.231.250.9370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lisa vonReichbauer, Assistant Director of OIE</td>
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<td></td>
<td>+1.231.287.7483</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ferris State University Campus Police</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>+1.231.591.5000</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Police services available 24 hours per day 7 days a week 365 days a year.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Websites and</td>
<td>ferris.edu/international</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Media</td>
<td><a href="http://www.facebook.com/fsuinternational">www.facebook.com/fsuinternational</a></td>
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<td><a href="http://www.instagram.com/officialferrisinternational">www.instagram.com/officialferrisinternational</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.youtube.com/user/fsuinternational">www.youtube.com/user/fsuinternational</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION STAFF

Executive Director
Dr. Piram Prakasam
piramprakasam@ferris.edu
+1.231.591.2450

Assistant Director, Chair of WMELI, 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.

Education Abroad Coordinator
Megan Hauser-Tran
meganhausertran@ferris.edu
+1.231.591.2449

Assist individual outbound Ferris exchange students and partner school staff to facilitate their applications, course schedules, and travel.

International Admissions Specialist
Dannielle Truskowski
dannielletruskowski@ferris.edu
+1.231.591.2824

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

International Recruiter
Jacob van Laar
jacobvanlaar@ferris.edu
+1.231.591.5444

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

WMELI Academic Coordinator
Louis Arokiasamy
louisarokiasamy@ferris.edu
+1.231.591.2813

Provides student support during enrolment.
EXCHANGE STUDENT NOMINATION PROCEDURES

Nomination Process and deadlines

Exchange students must be nominated by the home coordinator by sending an email to Valerie Campbell valeriecampbell@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 in August, Spring begins in January)
- Program of Study at Home Institution
- Anticipated Program of Study at Ferris (if known)
- Gender
- DOB
- Nationality
- Student email address
- City of Birth

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

1. Online application

Please visit apply.ferris.edu to complete your online application and submit the $30 application fee.

2. Learning Plan

The Learning Plan tells Ferris State which classes you plan to take during your semester exchange. Most students take between 12-15 credits (4-5 classes) per semester. Exchange students are able to take 1 online class. 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 $7000 USD if you’ll be studying for one semester or $14,000 USD if you’ll 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.
- Include your city of birth in the body of the email. This information is required in order to process the immigration paperwork.
- 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://ferris.edu/HTMLS/fsucatlg/

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’d like to take on your Learning Plan (worksheet will be provided)

4. Review days and times and fill in the sample time table. (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: us.bbcollab.com/collab/ui/session/guest/2817958f762c46519509e765dc1a3595

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 2020

Fall 2020: Orientation dates August 25, 2020 through August 28, 2020 (Mandatory for new students)
First day of class: August 31, 2020
Last date to drop/add classes July 3, 2020
*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 Fall Semester Academic Calendar can be found here:
https://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/academics/calendars/2020.htm

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

Important Dates

Spring 2021

Spring 2021: Orientation dates January 5, 2021 through January 8, 2021 (Mandatory for new students)
First day of class: January 11, 2021
Last date to drop/add classes January 16, 2021
*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.
ARRIVAL INFORMATION

Orientation

It is mandatory that all exchange students attend the International Student Orientation and arrive on time to attend orientation on the first day. All international exchange students will be charged an $85 orientation fee. Students who arrive for orientation late will be charged an additional $85 late orientation fee. We sometimes find that some exchange students try to arrive late for orientation (especially in the spring semester in order to purchase cheaper flights). Arriving late is not allowed and is very disruptive to our orientation and to the students’ ability 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.

Local Airport

Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GRR) [www.grr.org/](http://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 communication with our office staff while connected to Wifi during travel.

Housing

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:
[https://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/studentlife/reslife/Contracts_And_Rates/Housing_Rates.htm](https://www.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:
[https://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/businessoffice/intsp.htm](https://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/businessoffice/intsp.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](https://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/studentlife/dining/mealplans/index.htm)
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.

Students have the opportunity waive the GeoBlue policy if they hold a policy that provides coverage in the United States which is equivalent or better than the Ferris approved policy.

ferris.edu/international/admissions/healthinsurance.htm

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

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 – 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

Campus Map

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 enrol in a minimum of 12 US credits to comply with immigration requirements. Students normally enrol in between 12-15 credits per semester.
1 US credit is the equivalent of 2 ECTS credits, thus a 15 credit semester in the US would be 30 ECTS credits.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English Proficiency Requirements</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students must establish English language proficiency to enter an academic program. 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• TOEFL score of 61 or better on internet based test</td>
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<tr>
<td>• IELTS score of 5.5 or better</td>
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The full list: [ferris.edu/international/admissions/englishpolicies.htm](http://ferris.edu/international/admissions/englishpolicies.htm)

If a student does not have an official English test score to submit, he or she may opt instead to take an English proficiency test free of charge at Ferris State during orientation to confirm English proficiency or for proper placement in Intensive English program.

Many exchange students take advantage of the opportunity to improve their English while on exchange by taking at least some English classes even if they are not required to. English classes at Ferris include MyPLACE (My Program for Language and Culture Exchange), a unique conversation partner program that matches international students with American Partners for group conversation and project-based activities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West Michigan English Language Institute (WMELI) at Ferris State University</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The West Michigan English Language Institute (WMELI) provides English language instruction to non-native speakers to help them develop the essential English language skills to successfully pursue their academic and career goals. It also fosters global awareness, intercultural communication, and appreciation of diversity among students, faculty and staff.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beginning Level: Designed for students who are true to false beginners.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level 1: Designed for students who are high beginning to low intermediate.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level 2: Designed for students who are the intermediate level.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level 3: Designed for students who are the high intermediate to low advanced level.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bridge Level: Designed for advanced English learners. Students take two Level 3 courses, bridge course, and an academic course.</td>
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[ferris.edu/international/intensiveenglish](http://ferris.edu/international/intensiveenglish)

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<tr>
<th>Text Books</th>
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<tr>
<td>All Ferris classes will require that you purchase or rent text books. Please be prepared for this additional cost of between $200-$400 USD. The required books will be available after you enroll. We will go over instructions to buy or rent books during orientation. We have a bookstore on campus or you can also rent books from services like Amazon. More information about this can be found here: <a href="https://www.ferris.edu/admissions/financialaid/textbookinformation.htm">https://www.ferris.edu/admissions/financialaid/textbookinformation.htm</a></td>
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<tr>
<th>Academic Support</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ferris State University provides the following services free of charge:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tutoring: <a href="http://ferris.edu/HTMLS/colleges/university/ASC/tutoring.htm">ferris.edu/HTMLS/colleges/university/ASC/tutoring.htm</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing Center Services: <a href="http://ferris.edu/arts-sciences/departments/languages-and-literature/writing-center/index.htm">ferris.edu/arts-sciences/departments/languages-and-literature/writing-center/index.htm</a></td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transfer Equivalency Guide</th>
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<tr>
<td>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: <a href="http://ferris.edu/HTMLS/statewide/apply/transferequiv.htm">ferris.edu/HTMLS/statewide/apply/transferequiv.htm</a></td>
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Opportunities on Campus

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<tr>
<th>Global Ambassador Program</th>
<th>The Office of International Education offers an opportunity to all incoming Exchange Students to engage with domestic as well as other international students on campus in a meaningful way, visit local sites, and get involved in special events during the semester. It is called the Global Ambassador Program (GAC). We will talk more about this during orientation, but your participation is encouraged. There is no additional cost for this program. It is a not a credit bearing course, but instead a co-curricular activity that can result in a Global Ambassador Certificate awarded by the Office of International Education at Ferris at the end of the semester.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On Campus student employment</td>
<td>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: <a href="https://www.ferris.edu/admissions/financialaid/employment/">https://www.ferris.edu/admissions/financialaid/employment/</a></td>
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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 been dedicated to providing 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/](https://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/alumni/Historical/)

**Number of students at Ferris State University**
- Big Rapids Campus – 9485
- Total University enrolment – 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
www.ci.big-rapids.mi.us
www.bigrapids.org

Ferris Virtual Tour
https://www.youvisit.com/tour/ferris