



Welcome to The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

A Guide for Incoming Exchange Students



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| ALUM - | Alumni Center - Editing |
| AIEC - | Advance Tooling Engineering Center |
| CESS - | Community Engagement & Student Success Bldg. |
| MCTS - | McCallen Teaching Site |
| MCCTC - | McCallen Transfer Center |
| USTR - | Star County Campus - Rio Grande City |
| UNIS - | University Financial Services |
| VAEL - | Visual Arts Building |

- Zone 1 - Student Parking
Zone 2 - Student Parking
Zone 3 - Faculty/Staff Parking
Zone 5 - Administrator Parking
Resident - The Village & Unity
Resident



All vehicles parked on campus must be registered with the UTRGV Parking & Transportation Office and must properly display an appropriate permit.

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|-----------|--------------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|--|-----------|---|
| 1. ESWOT | Social Work and Occupational Therapy | 17. ESTUN | Student Union | 33. ELARS | University Library | 46. EHAHW | Health Affairs Building West | 57. ELAMR | Lamer E |
| 2. EITTB | International Trade & Technology | 18. EDPXC | Dining & Ballroom Complex | 34. ELABS | Liberal Arts Building South | 47. EHAHW | Health Affairs Building West Classroom A | 58. EFERB | Research Education (School of Medicine) |
| 3. ECOT | Ovile Cox Tennis Center | 19. EPEZC | Health & Physical Education II | 35. ELARU | Arts and Humanities | 48. EHAHW | Health Affairs Building West Auditorium | 59. EMEBL | Medical Education (School of Medicine) |
| 4. ETRAK | Track & Soccer Field | 20. EPORG | Engineering Portable | 36. EARGC | Arch Development Center | 49. ELABN | Liberal Arts Building North | 60. ESTHE | Student Health Center |
| 5. EPACA | Performing Arts Complex A | 21. EENG | Engineering | 37. EGRNH | Greenhouse | 50. EUNTY | Unity Hall | 61. EUREC | University Recreation |
| 6. ESWMH | Southwick Hall | 22. ECASB | Academic Services | 38. EPORG-13 | Portable Buildings 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 | 51. ELARU | Liberal Arts Building North | 62. EUREC | University Recreation |
| 7. ESWMH | Southwick Hall | 23. EPYVS | Physical Science | 39. EPORG-13 | Portable Buildings 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 | 52. ELARU | Liberal Arts Building North | 63. EUREC | University Recreation |
| 8. ESWMH | Southwick Hall | 24. ELARS | University Library | 40. ELARU | Arts and Humanities | 53. ELARU | Liberal Arts Building North | 64. EUREC | University Recreation |
| 9. ESWMH | Southwick Hall | 41. ELARU | Arts and Humanities | 42. ELARU | Arts and Humanities | 54. ELARU | Liberal Arts Building North | 65. EUREC | University Recreation |
| 10. ESWMH | Southwick Hall | 43. ELARU | Arts and Humanities | 44. ELARU | Arts and Humanities | 55. ELARU | Liberal Arts Building North | 66. EUREC | University Recreation |
| 11. ESWMH | Southwick Hall | 45. ELARU | Arts and Humanities | 46. ELARU | Arts and Humanities | 56. ELARU | Liberal Arts Building North | 67. EUREC | University Recreation |
| 12. ESWMH | Southwick Hall | 47. ELARU | Arts and Humanities | 48. ELARU | Arts and Humanities | 57. ELARU | Liberal Arts Building North | 68. EUREC | University Recreation |
| 13. ESWMH | Southwick Hall | 49. ELARU | Arts and Humanities | 50. ELARU | Arts and Humanities | 58. ELARU | Liberal Arts Building North | 69. EUREC | University Recreation |
| 14. ESWMH | Southwick Hall | 51. ELARU | Arts and Humanities | 52. ELARU | Arts and Humanities | 59. ELARU | Liberal Arts Building North | 70. EUREC | University Recreation |
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| 16. ESWMH | Southwick Hall | 55. ELARU | Arts and Humanities | 56. ELARU | Arts and Humanities | 61. ELARU | Liberal Arts Building North | 72. EUREC | University Recreation |
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Why UTRGV?

Every accomplishment in life begins with a choice. The bigger the choice, the bigger the accomplishment. When it comes to your potential, your goals, and your future, choosing the right university is as big as it gets.

At UTRGV, we offer a learning experience that we believe cannot be matched.

A Commitment to Academic Excellence

Our more than 120 undergraduate and graduate programs will let you find the major that fits your goals. Our accomplished faculty will form mentoring relationships with you. Our programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) offer ideal preparation for success in a broad range of emerging fields.

An Ideal Pathway to Career Success

We know that the top priority of our students and their families is career success. No matter what professional field you're pursuing, at UTRGV we have the expert, individualized instruction, the facilities, the real-world technology and training, and the industry connections that will get you there.

A Location in the Gateway to the Americas

The Rio Grande Valley, with close proximity to the Gulf Coast, provides unparalleled opportunities to study in areas ranging from international business and cultural border issues to marine biology and environmental science. With the SpaceX launch site planned in Brownsville, the region is also an emerging global hub for the aerospace industry.

Why UTRGV? (continued)

A Bilingual, Bicultural, Biliterate Education

We are the second largest Hispanic-serving institution in the nation, with an emphasis on educating 21st-century leaders and professionals who are culturally fluent and have a deep understanding of the perspectives, languages, and values of different cultures.

A Hub for Innovation and Emerging Technology

Our students find daily opportunities to innovate and collaborate with faculty and global leaders in industry, business, medicine, science, education, and technology. Our facilities, such as the Coastal Studies Lab, Center for Biomedical Studies, Center for Excellence in STEM Education, and many others offer distinctive opportunities for student research.

A 21st-Century School of Medicine

Opening in 2016, our School of Medicine will offer students the most technologically advanced resources, including a 15,000-square-foot Smart Hospital complex. With a multidisciplinary approach to the curriculum and an emphasis on active learning, teamwork, and early patient care, the School of Medicine will be an invaluable resource for UTRGV and the Valley.

A University for the Valley

There's a special kind of pride among the people of the Rio Grande Valley. With campuses and locations in Brownsville, Edinburg, McAllen, Harlingen, and Rio Grande City, a central aspect of our founding mission is to serve our families and communities. From providing first-rate health care, to improving our K-12 schools, to helping local businesses thrive, UTRGV is about making life better for everyone.

General Information

Cost of living per academic year (Spring, Summer and Fall)

	Living On Campus	Living Off Campus
Room & Board	\$8,124	\$8,146
Books & Supplies	\$1,218	\$1,218
Transportation	\$1,170	\$2,260
Miscellaneous	\$2,146	\$2,146
Total Cost of Attendance	\$12,658	\$13,770

Please note: The amounts below for books & supplies, room & board, transportation, and miscellaneous personal expenses are averages and will vary widely depending on the circumstances and needs of each student (e.g. place of residence, miles driven throughout the academic year, personal expenses, eating in a campus residence hall, or cooking for oneself at home, etc.).

Housing on Campus

Room Charges- Fall & Spring Semesters

Residence Hall/Apartments	Room Type	Fall Semester Room Charges	Spring Semester Room Charges	Total (Fall + Spring)
Heritage/Troxel Hall	Double	\$1,850/semester	\$1,850/semester	\$3,700
Heritage/Troxel Hall	Single	\$2,800/semester	\$2,800/semester	\$5,600
Unity Hall	Double	\$2,100/semester	\$2,100/semester	\$4,200
Unity Hall	Single	3,150/semester	3,150/semester	\$6,300
The Village	Four-Bedroom	\$2,500/semester	\$2,500/semester	\$5,000
The Village	Two-Bedroom	\$3,020/semester	\$3,020/semester	\$6,040
The Village	One-Bedroom	\$3,790/semester	\$3,790/semester	\$7,580
Casa Bella	Double	\$1,920/semester	\$1,920/semester	\$3,840
Casa Bella	Single	\$2,400/semester	\$2,400/semester	\$4,800

- Students moving in for the fall semester are required to live on campus for fall and spring semesters representing a 9-month contract.
- All rates are subject to change pending approval from UT System Office
- As a condition of living on campus, All students residing on campus are required to select one of the available meal plans for each semester to be used for on campus dining.
- A meal plan is required for all freshman residents regardless of which building they reside at the Edinburg campus.

Meal Plans	Dining Dollars Per Semester	Board Rates per Semester	Total (Fall + Spring)
17 Meals/Week	\$50 Dining Dollars	\$1,300/semester	\$2,600
14 Meals/Week	\$75 Dining Dollars	\$1,260/semester	\$2,520
10 Meals/Week	\$100 Dining Dollars	\$1,188/semester	\$2,376
Unlimited Meal Plan	\$25 Dining Dollars	\$1,542/semester	\$3,084

All rates are subject to change pending approval from UT System Office.

* Dining Dollars can be used in the Food Court and/or Convenience Store in the Student Union.

Housing Dining Services

The University Cafeteria, part of the University Center Complex, is conveniently located southeast of the Residence Halls. All residents must purchase the minimum required meal plan per semester. An all-you-care-to-eat dining program is available in the Vaquero Dining Hall. This great food value is available to the entire campus community.

Getting Started

Step 1: Confirm your eligibility

The exchange program is open to students who have completed at least one year of university study and come from one of UTRGV partner universities. Students must also be able to provide proof of a minimum of \$1,250 per month for the period of stay to qualify for the J-1 student visa. However, an amount of \$1500 per month is recommended.

Students from universities that are not exchange partners with UTRGV are not eligible to study at UTRGV as exchange students. You may consider applying to UTRGV as a full-time student via the regular international admission process.

*CONAHEC Consortium member institutions nominations will be treated as exchange program nominations and will adhere to the same procedures.

Step 2: Be selected and nominated by your home university

Before you can apply to UTRGV, you must be selected and nominated by your home institution to participate in the exchange program. Contact the study abroad or international exchange office at your home university for details. Nominations or questions in this regard should be addressed to ipp@utrgv.edu and luis.alcocer@utrgv.edu.

Deadlines for Nominations from Partner Universities

Spring October 1st

Fall April 15

Step 3: Complete your application

Once you have been nominated, you must complete UTRGV's exchange online program application at www.utrgv-horizons.symplicity.com. You will receive detailed instructions about the application process after your nomination is received, but the application documents will include the following:

Nomination from the exchange coordinator/study abroad office at your home university

Transcript of University work

Letter from Advisor Coordinator stating student has English proficiency required by exchange program.

Proof of English proficiency required by the exchange program: TOEFL scores/IELTS Score/Letter from Advisor Coordinator stating the student has the English proficiency required by the exchange program. The minimum acceptable scores are as follow: TOEFL IBT 61, TOEFL PB 500, TOEFL CBT 173, and IELTS 6.

Copies of passport identity page and any other visas if applicable

Copy of the original bank statement as proof of financial support (original bank statement will be presented at the U.S. Consulate visa appointment).

Step 4: UTRGV will issue an invitation letter along with the DS-2019 form once the student is accepted.

Prepare for Arrival

After acceptance to UTRGV as an exchange student, complete the following steps:

Step 1: Activate your UTRGV email account

Step 2: Obtain your J-1 visa

If you do not carry a U.S. passport, you will need to submit a DS-2019 request to the UTRGV Office of International Programs & Partnerships at ipp@utrgv.edu. You will receive additional information and requirements to obtain the J-1 student visa via email once you have been nominated and accepted.

Step 3: Register for classes

At UTRGV, students use our online system called ASSIST for class registration, course information, grades, billing, etc. Once you activate your student account, you can log on to ASSIST to view your student account and browse classes.

Please keep in mind that you will not be able to register for courses online until you have activated your UTRGV email. The classes you would like to take at UTRGV must be approved by your institution.

Step 4: Plan housing and living arrangements

Shortly after your admittance, we will contact you with instructions regarding the on-campus housing application and procedure should you choose to live on campus.

Step 5: Plan your trip

J-1 Students may not arrive to the U.S. more than 30 days before the start date on your I-20/DS-2019. If you decide to come earlier than this, you will enter as a tourist and will need to leave the United States so that you may enter in the correct J-1 status no more than 30 days before the start date listed on your document. Also, if you are living on campus, make sure to coordinate your travel planning with the move-in and move-out dates of the dorms.

Step 6: Insurance.

We strongly recommend to get the insurance provided by ACE American Insurance Group, however, a waiver can be submitted.

The University of Texas System Board of Regents passed Regent Rule 50402, which as of Fall 2015, requires international students to have medical insurance compliant with the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). The UT Student Health Insurance Plan (UT SHIP) meets these requirements.

Academic Health Plans administers the Student Health Insurance Plan (UT SHIP) that is underwritten by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas. All international students (any student who is in the U.S. on a non-immigrant visa) are required to have UTSHIP. If you plan submitting a waiver, you will have to apply <https://utrgv.myahpcare.com/waiver>. You will have up to a certain date that varies every semester to submit an alternate insurance coverage. If the provider determines that the alternate insurance policy submitted is approvable, the waiver will be granted. If the provider determines that the insurance policy submitted does not meet the minimum requirements, the waiver will be denied. For coverage information please go to: <https://utrgv.myahpcare.com/>

Welcome to UTRGV

Arrival:

Please make sure to check in to the Office of International Programs & Partnerships either in Edinburg or Brownsville within 30 days of arrival. After you arrive, there are many opportunities to connect with our office: Attend IPP events such as our study abroad fairs and help promote your home institution as well as a resource for UTRGV students preparing to study abroad at your home institution.

Follow IPP on social media for news on everything happening in our office.

Facebook @utrgvIPP

Twitter @Intl_progUTRGV

Returning Home

Steps for returnees

As you are preparing to leave UTRGV, there are some required steps you must take. Once you return to your home country, there are many ways to remain connected to UTRGV and to share your experience with other students.

Cancel your housing contract

If you live on campus, you will need to cancel your housing contract. Be sure you move out of the building by the required date and check out.

Complete an evaluation

IPP will send you a link to an online evaluation form. Your feedback is important in improving the experience for exchange students.

Check your student account

Access your student account in ASSIST to make sure you have a zero balance. An outstanding balance will put a hold on your account, which will prevent UTRGV from releasing your transcript. Please note that charges incurred close to your departure date may not appear on your student account until after you leave UTRGV. It is therefore very important to pay attention to any emails you receive from UTRGV, even after you leave campus.

Comply with visa requirements

All exchange students must comply with visa requirements. This includes, but is not limited to, leaving the United States within 30 days of your program end date and obtaining acceptable health insurance coverage for any period of time that you will be in the United States after your program ends.

Request your transcript

IPP will send one official copy of your UTRGV transcript to your home university, for the purpose of transferring credit. If you wish to request additional copies of your transcript, follow the instructions for requesting a transcript through the Registrar's Office. Unofficial copies can be printed through ASSIST. Keep your student ID number on file as well, as you will need this to order transcripts.

Set up email forwarding

Your utrgv.edu email account will remain active even after you leave UTRGV, and any official communication from the university will be sent to your UTRGV email address. Be sure to have your UTRGV email account forward messages to your personal email.

Stay connected with UTRGV & Serve as a resource for future exchange students

As part of an exchange, UTRGV will likely be sending students to your home university. We'd love for you to connect with our students and help them adjust and succeed. Also, your home university will be sending students to UTRGV in future years. Because of your experience, you can serve as a great resource for UTRGV-bound students.