



# Western Michigan University 2020-2021 Fact Sheet

## University Information

### Name of University:

Western Michigan University

### Address:

Study Abroad Office  
Diether H. Haenicke Institute for Global Education  
Western Michigan University  
1903 W. Michigan Ave.  
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5245, USA

### Websites for Exchange and American University Experience Partners and Students:

- Exchange Program: <http://www.wmich.edu/studyabroad/incoming/exchange>
- American University Experience (AUE): <http://www.wmich.edu/studyabroad/studyabroadwmu>

### Program Contact:

- Study Abroad Specialist for incoming Exchange and AUE Programs  
Yumi Takahashi-Ede  
Email: [yumi.takahashi@wmich.edu](mailto:yumi.takahashi@wmich.edu)
- Director of WMU Study Abroad Office  
Dr. Lee M. Penyak  
Email: [lee.penyak@wmich.edu](mailto:lee.penyak@wmich.edu)

Office email: [study-abroad-incoming@wmich.edu](mailto:study-abroad-incoming@wmich.edu)

All incoming exchange and AUE nomination/application and routine questions should be addressed to Yumi Takahashi-Ede.

## Nomination and Application Process

### NOMINATION PROCESS

Please fill out the online nomination form and the documents listed below for each student to study-abroad-incoming@wmich.edu by the appropriate deadline:

- **A passport scan.** (Passport must be valid for a minimum of 6 months after the end of student's last semester at WMU. The signature should be visible on the passport ID page.)
- **A scan of official university transcript(s) \***
- **A scan of TOEFL or IELTS official test results\*** for non-native English speakers ([English Proficiency Requirements](#))

\*Transcripts and TOEFL results may be submitted later by your office if the results are not available yet.

### APPLICATION PROCESS

After our office receives the online nomination form and nomination materials from partner universities, our online application link and the step-by-step application guide will be sent to each nominated student via email.

	Nomination Deadlines	Application Deadlines
Fall Semester	February 15th	March 15th
Spring Semester	September 1st	October 1st

*American University Experience (non-exchange) applications are accepted through [later dates](#). However, early application completion is encouraged to avoid decreased course options.*



**Emergency Contact:**  
**WMU Public Safety**  
**Phone: +1 269-387-5555 or**  
**+1 269 488 8911**

## Academic Calendar

	Classes Begin	Classes End
Fall Semester	Late August	Mid-December
Spring Semester	Early January	End of April
Summer I Session	Early May	Late June
Summer II Session	Late June	Mid-August

### Mandatory Orientation

International Student Orientation is designed specifically to assist newly admitted international students in adjusting to WMU. It is held prior to the beginning of the entry semester, and attendance is mandatory.

### Orientation Website

<http://www.wmich.edu/internationaladmissions/orientation>

### Academic Calendar Website

<http://www.wmich.edu/registrar/calendars/academic>

## Housing Information

Exchange and American University Experience students are required to live on campus. Students should apply online for campus housing as soon as they have been accepted to Western Michigan University and have received their Bronco NetID and password.

- Residence Life: <https://wmich.edu/housing/>
- Room and Board rates: <http://www.wmich.edu/housing/info/rates>
- Residence Hall options: <http://www.wmich.edu/housing/options/halls>

### Meal Plans

Meal plans can be used at any of the four dining centers conveniently located around Western Michigan University. Dining centers are self-service, so students can choose to eat as much as they like from a wide variety of food and specialty menus.

### Residence Hall Meal Plans

<http://www.wmich.edu/dining/mealplans/halls>

## Course Information

### Courses Available for Exchange and American University Experience Students

Exchange and American University Experience students are eligible to take courses in all programs at Western Michigan University contingent on the student having completed the appropriate prerequisites, having acquired the appropriate level of English-language proficiency, and having submitted all paperwork prior to deadlines.

### Credits Required for Exchange and American University Experience Students

- Undergraduate students may take 12 to 15 credit hours per semester. A minimum of 12 credit hours is needed to maintain visa status.
- Graduate students may take six to nine credit hours per semester. A minimum of 6 credit hours is needed to maintain visa status.

### Course Offerings Website

<https://www.wmich.edu/classlookup/>

### University Catalog

<https://wmich.edu/registrar/catalogs>

### Course Registration Procedure

Students will be contacted by our office regarding their course selection and course in-progress forms after they complete their online application. WMU academic advisors will process course registration for incoming exchange and American University Experience students based on their course selection, course availability, and eligibility.

### Academic Transcripts

Students will need to request and send their official transcript to their home institution after grades have posted. Due to U.S. privacy law (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act), WMU Study Abroad cannot send the transcript on the student's behalf. For more information, please visit <https://wmich.edu/registrar/transcripts>.

### Grading Scale

The student receives one grade in each course taken. This grade combines the results of course work, tests, and final examinations. Grades are indicated by letters, each of which is assigned a certain value in honor points per hour of credit. For more information, please visit

<http://www.wmich.edu/registrar/policies/grades>.

## Estimated Program Costs

Please refer to the brochures on the following webpages for the information on **estimated** program costs for Exchange and American University Experience students.

- **Exchange students:** <http://wmich.edu/studyabroad/incoming/exchange>
- **American University Experience students:** <http://wmich.edu/studyabroad/studyabroadwmu>

These brochures are also included in the WMU Promotional Materials digital folder: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/OB2iiaRLf5IXfS0xJeUZWRURwOVk>



## Getting Around WMU Campus and Kalamazoo

Most classes are within walking distance from on-campus housing, making walking the most common transport for students to get to class.

### Transportation Options

- Bronco Transit (WMU campus): <https://wmich.edu/broncotransit/>
- Metro Transit Buses (in greater Kalamazoo area): <http://www.kmetro.com/>
- Uber: <https://www.uber.com/>
- Lyft: <https://www.lyft.com/>

## Health Insurance Requirements

### Health Insurance

All international students must have health insurance coverage in effect on the first day of classes. The University cannot purchase health insurance on the student's behalf and apply the cost to their student account.

### J-Visa Holders Insurance Requirements

- Students entering the United States on a J-Visa must have health insurance that meets the minimum requirements set by U.S. Department of State regulations: <http://j1visa.state.gov/sponsors/how-to-administer-a-program/>

### Other International Students Not on J-Visa

Health insurance for all other international students must meet the same requirements as the J-Visa holders, plus:

- Inpatient and outpatient medical coverage for hospitalization, emergency room, urgent care, maternity, physical therapy, and mental health services.
- Prescription (medication) coverage.
- Pre-existing condition clause not greater than 6 months.
- The insurance policy must be written in English, in U.S. currency, and have a U.S. billing address and phone number.

### Tuberculosis Testing Requirement

Beginning Jan. 2020, incoming students from countries identified by the CDC as high-risk for tuberculosis exposure will be required to have testing done at WMU's health center. Sindecuse Health Center only offers the highly-reliable Quantiferon Gold test for M. tuberculosis exposure. A [worksheet](#) is used to determine risk level, and includes a list of affected countries. For more information on this requirement and cost of testing and assessment, please visit <http://www.wmich.edu/healthcenter/clinic/services/tb>.

# University Facilities

## Health Services

Sindecuse Health Center: <http://www.wmich.edu/healthcenter/>

Located on the main campus, WMU's Sindecuse Health Center offers convenient, cost-saving services with an experienced, multidisciplinary staff dedicated to maintaining and improving patient health.

## Counseling Services

Counseling Services at Sindecuse Health Center: <http://www.wmich.edu/healthcenter/counseling/>

Counselors help students identify challenges and make changes to manage the emotional and social difficulties that might complicate college life.

## Academic Support Services

- **Academic Success Programs:** <https://wmich.edu/academicsuccess/>

The Center for Academic Success Programs enhances teaching and promotes student learning through collaborative, effective research-based programs.

- **Student Success Services:** <https://wmich.edu/arts-sciences/academics/student-success>

Student Success Services in the College of Arts and Sciences at Western Michigan University provides academic support programs and connects students to resources they may need to achieve their academic and personal goals.

## Special Needs and Accommodations

Disability Services for Students: <https://wmich.edu/disabilityservices>

All students deserve the chance to succeed regardless of issues, challenges, or conditions. DSS advocates for students to be provided with the appropriate tools to allow them to reach their potential. Those tools, academic accommodation or adjustment, facilitate learning while maintaining the integrity of course content and outcomes.

## Exercise and Recreation

- **Student Recreation Center:** <http://www.wmich.edu/rec/>  
This center promotes healthy life-style choices, team building, leadership skills, and opportunities for positive social interaction.
- **Lawson Ice Arena and Gabel Natatorium:** <http://wmich.edu/lawson/lawson-ice-arena-and-gabel-natorium>

Students access facilities at this location for free or at a discount with their WMU ID cards. Students can use the pool, go ice skating and watch hockey games.

## Fun Facts

### WMU Student Population

- University Wide: 22,500+
- International Students: 1,700+

### Nearest Airports

- Kalamazoo/Battle Creek (AZO) - 6.5 miles/10.5km
- Detroit Airport (DTW) - 123 miles/198km
- Chicago O'Hare (ORD) - 168 miles/271 km

### International Events

- The International Festival brings 5,000 students and community members together each year to experience the music, dance, food and fashions of a sampling of the 100 home countries of WMU's international students.

### Alumni

- WMU has more than 250,000 alumni worldwide, living in all 50 U.S. states and over 100 other countries.

