

UMass**Amherst**

Office of Global Affairs

2026/2027 Fact Sheet

Contact

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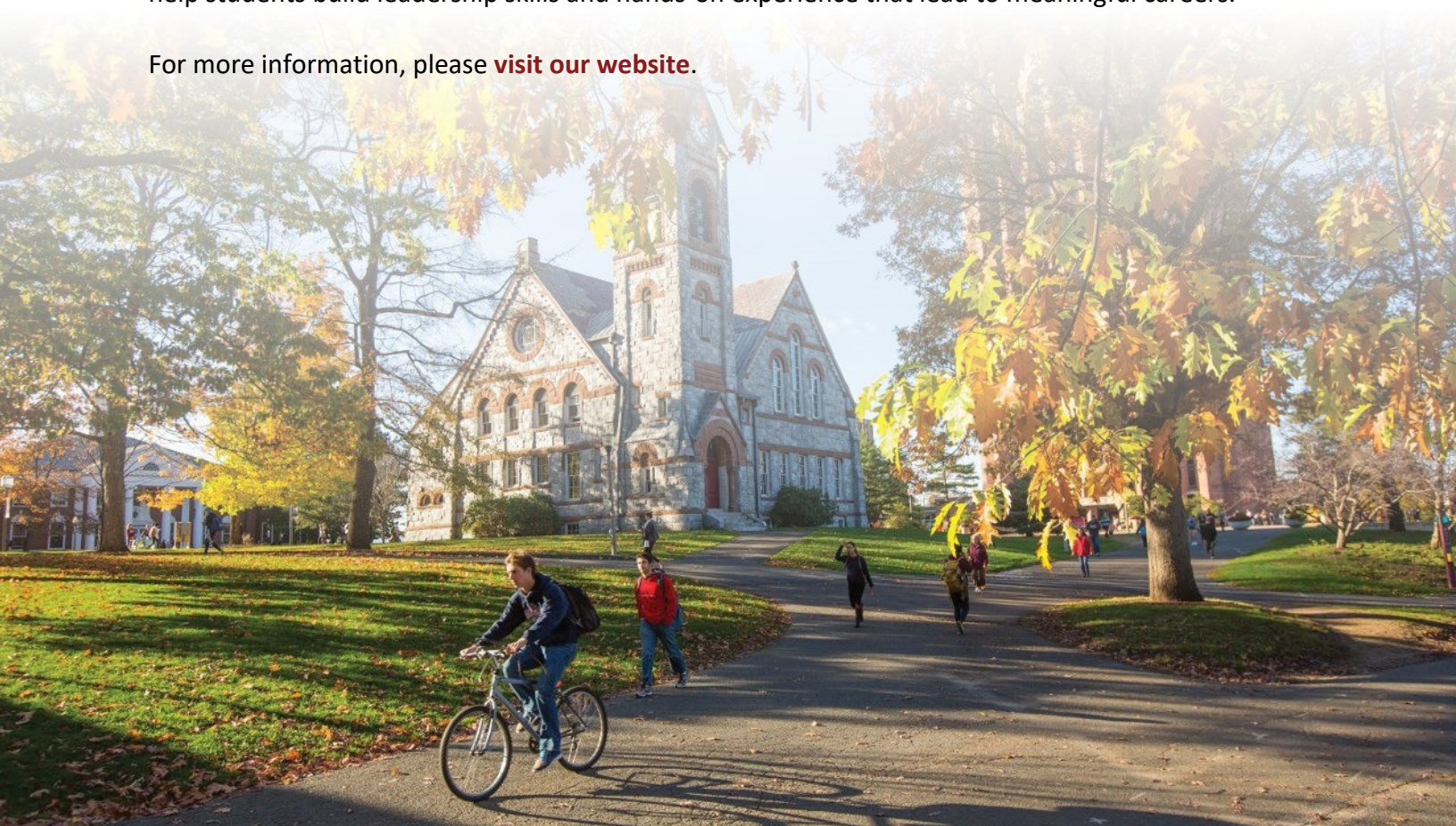
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About

Founded in 1863, the University of Massachusetts Amherst is the largest public research university in New England, distinguished by the excellence and breadth of our academic, research, and community outreach programs. UMass Amherst offers academic and social programming typical of a large, diverse university as well as the close-knit community feel of a small college. Our academic programs nurture scholarship, research, faculty- student collaboration, and experiential education while our campus organizations, living-learning residence halls, and community service programs help students build leadership skills and hands-on experience that lead to meaningful careers.

For more information, please **visit our website**.



Academic Calendar

Access current academic calendars [here](#).

International Student Orientation is usually scheduled for the Wednesday or Thursday before classes begin; please check [the Office of Global Affairs website](#) for updated information.

Undergraduate exchange students typically move in on the Monday before classes begin.

Applicaton Process

Nomination Deadlines	Fall Semester: March 1 Spring Semester: October 1
Application Deadlines	Fall Semester: March 15 Spring Semester: October 15
Admission Notification	Fall Semester: Early April Spring Semester: Early November
Application Procedure	Application materials must be submitted through an online portal; students who are successfully nominated will be given details on how to apply.

Application Requirements

Transcripts	Official transcript(s) of all completed courses, as well as a list of current courses.
Study Proposal	Your study proposal should clearly state your academic and career goals and explain how a semester or year at UMass Amherst will help you achieve them. Describe specific courses you have taken at your home university and explain how they provide the academic foundation for the UMass courses you plan to take. Focus on academic objectives and preparation — do not include personal matters, travel plans, or comments about improving your English.
English Language Proficiency	Required for all students. When reviewing applications, we do not superscore language tests. • TOEFL, minimum score of 80 • IELTS, minimum score of 6.5 • PTE Academic, minimum overall score of 53 • Duolingo English Test, minimum overall score of 105 For Native English speakers, please provide a letter from your home institution stating your language abilities.

Course Information

Course Catalog	Students can browse course offerings by semester without a UMass NetID by visiting www.spire.umass.edu and clicking “Search Classes/Catalog” under the heading Catalogs & Schedules .
Registration Period	Students will enroll in classes starting in April for the fall semester and November for the spring semester. The first week of each semester is called the “Add/Drop” period, where students can freely add classes or drop out of classes without any record.
Course Restrictions	For graduate students, there are a limited number of exchanges spaces within many UMass departments; some may accept applications on a first-come, first-served basis, while others may use other criteria for approving candidates. For undergraduate students, the following restrictions apply: • Art, Computer Science, Dance, Music, and Nursing courses are closed to all exchange students. • Independent study or online courses are not permitted. • Isenberg School of Management students are limited to 3 courses within the school per semester. More information on restrictions can be found on the exchange program website.
Course Load	Undergraduate exchange students must be enrolled for a minimum of 12 credits and a maximum of 16 credits each semester; graduate exchange students must enroll in a minimum of 9 credits per semester, and 6 of those 9 credits must be 500+ level. Review the University Course Numbering System.

Acquiring a Visa

Upon applying to the International Exchange Student Program, students will receive information on how to secure a DS-2019 form from UMass’s International Students and Scholar Services; the DS-2019 is needed for students to apply for a J-1 Exchange Student Visa. For more information, visit [their website](#).

Financial Documentation	Current bank statement(s) are required from either the student, financial sponsor, or both. Bank statements must be dated within the last 6 months. The financial sponsor statement (same as the name on the bank statement) must be signed and submitted online with the application.
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Campus Life

At UMass you're joining more than a university — you're joining a community. With about 30,000 students (including roughly 4,000 international students and 150 exchange students each year), UMass Amherst combines global perspectives with New England spirit.

Dining

UMass is home to America's most awarded dining program, earning the coveted No. 1 spot on *The Princeton Review's list of Best Campus Food* for an unprecedented eighth consecutive year! Students can find UMass Dining at every corner of campus: with four dining commons, eighteen retail cafes, Kosher and Halal options, two food trucks, a delivery service, the bakeshop, UMass Catering, concessions, and the University Club, UMass Dining is ready to welcome your students with open arms.

All students living in residential housing (except North Apartments) are required to have a meal plan; information about the various types of **meal plan options** are on the **UMass Dining website**.

Housing

UMass guarantees housing for undergraduate international exchange students in accordance with instructions from **Residential Life**. Undergraduate students needing housing when campus is closed for breaks should refer to instructions from Residential Life about their options. All housing information will be sent via email to students through Residential Life. Students **contact them** directly with questions and concerns.

Currently, there is no available graduate housing on-campus: all graduate students, including international graduate students, are expected to find accommodations in the community. For more information and resources, visit the **Off-Campus Housing website**.

- We recommend students research housing options within walking distance to a **Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA)** bus route. PVTA buses are free for UMass students while classes are in session.

Location

Located in Amherst, Massachusetts, our campus offers the quintessential New England experience: enjoy the changing seasons, explore nearby cities, and embrace the charm of this historic region. Amherst is located approximately 2 hours from Boston, MA, and 3.5 hours from New York City, NY.

Campus Life, *continued*

Student Organizations

UMass is home to over 500 student organizations that students can join through **Campus PULSE**. From hobby clubs to professional networking organizations, there's something for everyone and all are welcoming to international and exchange students.

Sports & Recreation

UMass is home to many sports teams—including, but not limited to, football, basketball, and hockey. There are official recruited university teams where students can buy tickets and attend games, but there are also many club and intramural teams that anyone can join! Our campus is also home to state-of-the-art recreation facilities, which are available to all students; for more information, **visit the Campus Recreation website**.

Semester Expense Statements

All exchange agreements with the University of Massachusetts Amherst cover **all costs associated with university tuition**. These expenses are paid by the Office of Global Affairs and will appear as a payment on the students Bursar bill. The bill must be paid before the start of each semester. Some agreements include additional waivers.

Mandatory Health Insurance

All full-time students are automatically enrolled in and billed for the mandatory and non-waivable **Student Health Benefit Plan**.





UMASS
UNIVERSITY of MASSACHUSETTS

THE
COMMONWEALTH'S
FLAGSHIP
CAMPUS

Founded
1863

UMASS