

Exchange Student Fact Sheet 2020-2021

Contact Information

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Office of Global Engagement Contacts

Interim Director	Ms. Kristin Kasting kkaram@georgiasouthern.edu +1.912.344.3042 +1.912.478.6105
Global Education Coordinator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inbound and Outbound Exchanges 	Audrey Faulkner afaulkner@georgiasouthern.edu +1.912.478.5451

Academic Calendar

Fall 2020 Term	Suggested Arrival: August 10 or 11 Orientation: August 12 - 14 Class Dates: August 17 – December 4 Final Exams: December 5 - 10 Commencement: December 11 or 12
Spring 2021 Term	Suggested Arrival: January 5 & 6 Orientation: January 7-9 Class Dates: January 11 – April 30 Final Exams: May 1-6 Commencement: May 7 or 8

Language of Instruction: English

Language Requirements:

All incoming exchange students to Georgia Southern must have sufficient English language skills to be successful in their program of study. Students coming from institutions where the primary language of instruction is a language other than English must submit TOEFL or IELTS scores. Based on their scores, some students may be required to take a language placement exam during orientation and may be enrolled in English language coursework to supplement their studies. This is done to ensure students have the proper support necessary to excel in the academic classroom. Minimum language score requirements are detailed in the table below.

Minimum Language Scores

For Admission	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• TOEFL Paper-based), 193 (computer-based), iBT 69 (internet-based)
For the exemption from the English Language Placement Exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• TOEFL Paper-based, 243 (computer-based), 96 (internet-based)

Student Support:

- Orientation session offered prior to the start of each term
- Cross-Cultural Friendships, International Conversation Hour, English Language Partners, and other similar programs designed to integrate exchange students into the Georgia Southern community
- On-campus visa regulation assistance and support
- Student advising through the Office of Global Engagement
- Access to all services offered on the Georgia Southern campuses: athletic events, nearly 300 student clubs and organizations, health services, counseling services, 24 hour library, tutoring and writing centers, gym and recreation facilities, etc.

Application Procedures:

A full overview of the application procedures, visa requirements, and other information can be found online at:

<https://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/international/iss/exchange/>

This page is written and designed for the students to access information about exchange to Georgia Southern University.

Application Deadlines:**Fall Term and Full Year Applications**

Suggested Nomination Deadline: March 1

Exchange Applications accepted until: May 1*

Spring Term Applications

Suggested Nomination Deadline: September 15

Exchange Applications accepted until: November 1*

*Though the official application deadlines at Georgia Southern are May 1 and November 1, students requiring a J-1 visa for study in the U.S. are encouraged to submit their applications sooner to ensure sufficient time for document processing.

Academics:

Unless specifically outlined in an existing exchange agreement, students studying at Georgia Southern will have access to coursework in all academic departments on both the Statesboro and the Armstrong campuses. The only exception is Nursing. These courses are restricted.

Available coursework in psychology, criminal justice, computer science, and education can be limited due to popularity or course size restrictions. Students in these fields are encouraged to complete the application process early.

Georgia Southern has over 120 academic disciplines housed in eight Colleges (Faculties): Arts and Humanities, Behavioral and Social Sciences, Business, Education, Engineering and Computing, Health Professions, Public Health, Science and Mathematics . All programs offered in Business Administration are AACSB accredited, and programs offered through Engineering and Information Technology are ABET accredited.

Full course descriptions can be found online via the Undergraduate Catalog:

<http://em.georgiasouthern.edu/registrar/resources/catalogs/>

Course listings and time tables for current and upcoming terms can be found here:

<https://my.georgiasouthern.edu/courses/>

Students should submit a list of preferred courses with their other application materials. A guide to using the course search is available on the exchange student section of the website. It is a good idea to include additional alternative courses as well. Georgia Southern will make every effort to enroll students in their preferred courses, but course availability cannot be guaranteed. The Office of Global Engagement will be in contact with accepted exchange students regarding course registration prior to arrival.

Course Load:

Students must be registered as full-time when studying at Georgia Southern. A full-time course load is 4 courses (modules, classes, etc.) or 12 U.S. credit hours. The maximum number of courses that students can take is 6, though 4 – 5 are recommended. Exchange students are generally not allowed to register for online coursework, per visa regulations. These policies are designed to provide students with more opportunity to interact with their peers, and meet the requirements of their student visa.

The academic calendar at Georgia Southern is divided into two terms, each consisting of 15 weeks of class, plus a final exams week. Most courses at Georgia Southern are 3 credit hours, meaning students will meet in class approximately 3 hours per week. Courses are offered through a variety of methods, including lectures, seminars, and laboratory experiences.

3 GaSou credit = 6 ECTS

Georgia Southern uses a traditional U.S. system grading scale:

A = 90-100%, B = 80-89%, C = 70-79%, D = 60-69%, F = 59% and below

Transcripts:

An official transcript will be sent to partner universities after the study period has concluded and final grades are recorded. Students may request an official copy of their transcript via their Georgia Southern WINGS account, or complete paperwork to release their transcript to the GaSou Exchange Coordinator. Transcripts can then be mailed directly to the home institution International Office. Percentage grades can be submitted to accompany the official transcript, if required.

Transcripts for Georgia Southern students who studied at your institution should be sent directly to the Office of International Programs & Services to the attention of Danielle Smith.

General Expenses Estimate per Term

Item	Cost in U.S. Dollars
Accommodation (University Villas on-campus)	\$3,500.00
Meal Plan (Eagle Blue Dining Plan)	\$1,750.00
SOAR Fee (Orientation)	\$110.00
SHIP (Mandatory Health Insurance)	\$870.00/1,206.00 (Fall/Spring)
Books and Supplies	\$350.00
Residence Hall Activity (on-campus housing)	\$20.00

Students should also be reminded to budget for and expect expenses related to: additional lab fees, housing supplies, leisure and entertainment not included with enrollment at Georgia Southern, cellular phones, travel, etc.

Housing:

Both on- and off-campus housing is available to exchange students. Exchange students are encouraged to live on-campus. Student residencies on campus are apartment style with individual bedrooms and shared living spaces, kitchens, and laundry facilities.

Exchange students are also able to purchase an optional dining plan. For a single term fee, students will be provided with unlimited access to the campus dining halls. A variety of grocery stores are available near the campus for students who prefer to cook their own meals. There are additional restaurant options to select from, as well.

Immigration Information:

Issuance of all visas for entry into the United States is the jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of State. Students can find information by getting in touch with the U.S. Embassy, Consulate, or Diplomatic Mission closest to them. Official documents indicating initial eligibility to apply for a U.S. student visa are issued by Georgia Southern University.

Students coming to Georgia Southern for one academic term or year will need to apply for a J-1 Exchange Visitor visa. The exception to this policy is for Canadian students on exchange; they are not required to apply for this visa. The Office of International Programs & Services will issue the documents required for obtaining a J-1 Exchange Visitor visa.

Detailed information related to visa documentation and requirements can be found on the Office of International Programs & Services webpage here:

<https://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/international/iss/exchange/>