

University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Nursing

**WELCOME • BIENVENIDOS • HUAN YING • MERHABA • WILUJENG • BENVENUTO • PARI YEGAK • WELKOM • VELKOMIN •
BIENVENUE • IRASHAIMASU • WILLKOMMEN**

International students

What is the international student profile at UNMC?

UNMC participants (including students, scholars, researchers, house officers, observers, etc.) represent 64 countries. Students are studying in more than 15 different UNMC programs. Besides studying at UNMC, College of Nursing students travel internationally to study as well. Students and faculty from UNMC College of Nursing have visited China, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Guatemala. We cultivate international programs to share and disseminate nursing knowledge and practice across borders and cultures including Armenia, China, Jordan, Sweden, Afghanistan, Guatemala and South Korea. Study abroad opportunities allow students to gain culturally diverse medical/health experiences during their course of study at UNMC.

What are the admission requirements for international students?

In addition to the requirements for all students applying for admission to the University of Nebraska Medical Center, international students must also complete the following:

TOEFL TESTS: Official scores on the TOEFL English examination or other English examinations are needed for admission. The Institute Code for the University of Nebraska Medical Center is 6896. By entering this number on your answer sheet, your score can be sent directly to UNMC. The minimum acceptable scores on the TOEFL examination are 550 (paper-based or PBT and TSE minimum score of 55) or 220 computer-based or CBT and a TSE minimum score of 55) or 83 (internet based or IBT with no TSE required.) For more information on the TOEFL exam, visit <http://www.ets.org/toefl/>. The TOEFL requirement is waived ONLY if you have received a degree from a U.S.-based university or if you have studied at a university inside the U.S. for more than one year.

English proficiency is required of all foreign applicants whose English is not their primary language. In addition to the TOEFL, international applicants must present scores on the Test of Spoken English (TSE). Applicants whose language is not English must present current (within the last two years) scores from instruments that measure listening, structure, reading, writing, and oral communication competency in the English language. The TOEFL or the MELAB and the TSE or the SPEAK or the MELAB Speaking Test for Oral Communication competency in the English language will be accepted. For more information on the TSE exam, visit <http://www.ets.org/tse>. The following are the scores needed: 77 for the MELAB, 55 for the TSE and 55 for the SPEAK.

FOREIGN STUDENT FINANCIAL DATA SHEET: You will need to fill out and submit the foreign student financial data sheet to the Office of Academic Records certifying that you have the funds necessary to finance your own education.

How do I get my transcripts evaluated and what if I need to take courses before being accepted at UNMC?

Many of our students take pre-requisite and nursing support courses through the University of Nebraska system which includes the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO), Lincoln (UNL), Kearney (UNK), and Chadron State. They have supportive international departments and work closely with our four nursing campuses in Omaha, Lincoln, Kearney and Scottsbluff. The websites are as follows:

www.unomaha.edu

www.unl.edu

www.unk.edu

www.csc.edu

Before our advisors can help you determine what college courses will transfer in, you'll need to have them evaluated at either World Education Services (W.E.S.) at www.wes.org or Educational Credential Evaluators (E.C.E.) at www.ece.org. They can then advise you on what will transfer in and what courses you may need.

What if I am already a nurse and want to study in the U.S.?

If you are enrolling in any clinical courses at UNMC College of Nursing or are doing a nursing intervention for a research study in the U.S., you must be licensed in the U.S. Here are the steps:

Step 1: Contact the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS)

CGFNS is an organization that helps foreign nurses obtain licenses to practice in the United States and around the world. The majority of the U.S. State Boards of Nursing require that foreign educated nurses complete the CGFNS Certification Program, Credentials Evaluation Service, or Credentials Verification Service prior to obtaining registration/licensure as a nurse in the United States. For more information, visit <http://www.cgfns.org>.

Step 2: Obtain your license to practice nursing within the state of Nebraska

The Nebraska State Department of Health and Human Services Regulation and Licensure lists the requirements for foreign educated nurses to gain licensure for practicing nursing in the state of Nebraska. Here are the steps:

1. Submit proof of graduation from an RN program with education that is comparable to RN education in the U.S. Official transcripts must be submitted directly to the Department by the nursing program or by CGFNS.
2. Submit proof of having taken the Canadian Licensing Examination or the CGFNS examination and for English Proficiency. CGFNS will conduct an evaluation of the applicant's education and a review of the applicant's licensure status in the foreign country prior to granting permission to take the CGFNS examination.
3. Complete the licensure application and submit the licensure fee.
4. Take the NCLEX-RN exam and pass. The NCLEX-RN exam is a test given to everyone who desires to become a licensed nurse in the United States. It is used to "measure the competencies needed to perform safely and effectively as a newly licensed, entry-level registered nurse" (www.ncsbn.org). For more information on the NCLEX-RN exam, visit <http://www.ncsbn.org/testing/generalinformation.asp>. You may also visit the National Council of State Boards of Nursing website at <http://www.ncsbn.org>.

For more information regarding obtaining RN licensure in the state of Nebraska, go to <http://www.hhs.state.ne.us/crl/nursing/foreign.htm> and: www.ncsbn.org/InfoINTLRevised.pdf. It is also in Spanish at: www.ncsbn.org/pdfs/InfoForeignSpanish.pdf.

Nursing licensure in the U.S. is not required for PhD students however if you are enrolling in any clinical courses at UNMC College of Nursing or will be collecting data for a research study, you must be licensed in the U.S.

What undergraduate nursing programs do you have?

RN to BSN

In the U.S., the Bachelor of Science of Nursing (BSN) program is 4 years in length. Some of your international courses may transfer in and you may only need to complete 2 ½ years of nursing at UNMC. Most international nurses want to get their BSN and take NCLEX. You also need a BSN in the U.S. to obtain a Master's degree in Nursing or MSN. After you work with the Commission of Graduate Foreign Nurses (CGFNS) and take NCLEX, you can work with a UNMC advisor on one of our 4 campuses and apply online at <http://net.unmc.edu/apply>. You must come to Nebraska for this program.

RN to BSN/ MSN

The RN to MSN program is an opportunity to begin graduate courses while working on your BSN degree. Some of your international courses may transfer. You must come to Nebraska for this program.

LPN to BSN

If you are already a licensed practical nurse or LPN, you can work towards a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree. In the U.S., an LPN is *not* an RN or registered nurse. *You must come to the U.S. for this program.*

Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)

This program is for students who are NOT nurses but who want to become one. A Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) is a four year college degree program. *You must come to the U.S. for this program.*

Accelerated BSN

This program is for students who already have a 4 year bachelor's degree in one area but want to study to become a nurse. An accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) is a 12 month accelerated nursing degree program for individuals who already have a 4 year college degree. The curriculum is the same as the traditional BSN program but at an accelerated pace. *You must come to the U.S. for this program.*

How about graduate nursing?

Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)

The purpose of the Master's program in nursing is to prepare you for advanced practice or administration. The UNMC College of Nursing offers several specialty programs. Contact develoff@unmc.edu for details.

Post-Master's Certificate (PMC)

The purpose of the Post Master's certificate in nursing is to prepare you for advanced practice or administration in a second specialty area. *You must come to the U.S. for this program.*

Fast-track BSN to PhD

The Fast-track BSN to PhD admission option is designed to allow a full-time student with a BSN to progress more rapidly through graduate studies to the PhD. *You must come to the U.S. for this program.*

Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing (PhD)

The PhD program is a research degree that prepares you to be a research scientist and scholar who is prepared to enhance the health of clients through the development, testing, and dissemination of knowledge. *You must be willing to come to the U.S. for part of your study for this program.*

Where is Nebraska anyway?

The state of Nebraska is located in the middle of the U. S. Temperatures range from -18 C in winter to 32 C in summer. For more information, visit <http://www.nebraska.gov>.

Omaha: Omaha is an urban community in Eastern Nebraska with a population of over 800,000 people. Omaha has a diverse population and offers a wide range of cultural and recreational activities. For more information, visit <http://www.omahachamber.org>

Lincoln: Lincoln is a smaller urban community in Eastern Nebraska with a diverse population of more than 250,000 people and is the Nebraska state capital with arts, entertainment, sports and dining experiences. For more information, visit <http://www.lcoc.com>

Kearney: Located in the center of Nebraska, Kearney has a rural population of 28,000. There are also a wide variety of recreational activities, restaurants, and shopping areas for you to enjoy. For more information, visit <http://www.kearneycoc.org>.

Scottsbluff: In the Western part of the state and a rural population of 23,000, Scottsbluff has all the charm of a mid-sized rural community and all the conveniences of having a major academic nursing program supported by a regional medical facility. For more information, visit <http://www.scottsbluffgering.net/>

Where are your campuses?

UNMC has four campuses across the state of Nebraska. Each campus has up-to-date learning resource centers equipped with computers and skill labs. The Office of Student Equity and Multi-cultural Affairs promotes diversity on all UNMC campuses. Personal and professional academic counseling is provided by Student Services. Each campus has a low student/faculty ratio of 8:1. Safety of our students is always a priority. All campuses have well-lit walkways and parking lots.

In addition to our campuses, we also have students who study across the country and the world in both undergraduate and graduate programs. Some graduate students study at UNMC from their home countries. UNMC has several student organizations including the Student Alliance for Global Health that you can join. Please visit our website at: www.unmc.edu/nursing

Omaha

The college is located in a newly remodeled building on the UNMC campus with a research center, learning resource center, classrooms and an extensive medical library on campus along with the Durham Research Center and the Lied Transplant Center. It is affiliated with UNO who has 124 student organizations who help international students network.

Lincoln

The college is located in a newly remodeled building. It is affiliated with UNL's comprehensive diversity plan that promotes diversity through events organized through the Culture Center and the Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs. Eleven libraries across campus offer plenty of materials and space for study.
(Picture of Lincoln building).

Kearney

The College of Nursing is in the newly remodeled West Center building on the UNK campus. The library's automated integrated system has an online catalog, automated circulation system and financial/management system. The student union has many activities for student involvement. There are over 160 student organizations on the UNK campus.

Scottsbluff

The College of Nursing is in the University Complex. The library offers hundreds of journals and a beautiful, quiet study atmosphere. Student Senate, extracurricular activities, and others offer plenty of opportunity for student involvement.

How do I get financial aid for study in the U.S?

UNMC is one of the most affordable universities for international students in the U.S. and tuition rates are well below the national average. The cost of living is very economical. You and your family or sponsor are responsible for all of your student expenses throughout your college career. Please review your financial status to ensure that you have adequate funds available to you prior to applying for admission as you must be able to show evidence of finances when applying for a visa as well as when you apply for admission. According to federal regulation, prior to issuance of Form I-20, UNMC is required to obtain certification that you will have adequate financial resources to provide for all expenses related to our nursing program. There is also information that needs to be completed on the form if you wish to bring a spouse or child/children to the U.S. If you are on a visa and are not a U.S. citizen, it may be difficult to get a private loan from a bank in the U.S. You may be eligible for some nursing scholarships based upon your U.S. cumulative GPA (grade point average.) You can have your transcripts officially evaluated by sending them to either W.E.S. or E.C.E. There is a fee involved. The code number for UNMC is 006895. The same official transcript can then be used for your online application. Scholarships are awarded only after you have applied and have been accepted and may vary yearly. You may also be eligible for a non-resident tuition waiver which is the same as what Nebraska residents pay.

Here are several other websites that might be helpful to you regarding financing your education:

Financing College in the U.S.: <http://www.edupass.org/finaid>

NAFSA: Association of International Educators: <http://www.nafsa.org>

Financial Resources for International Students: <http://usjournal.com/en/students/info/finaid.html>

International Educational Financial Aid: <http://www.iefc.org>

IEF Corporation: <http://www.iefc.org>

Other money matters ...

When you arrive in the U.S., you will have many expenses. To avoid problems, bring U.S. currency and traveler's checks or international bank notes with you. The expenses you can expect soon after your arrival will include tuition, housing, books, food, and personal items. In addition, it will be helpful for you to learn how to transfer funds from your country.

What about housing and dining?

There are several different housing options available to you while you study. UNMC operates residence halls, houses and apartments on the Omaha campus. There is no application deadline, but there is a waiting list. People are entered on the list depending on the date they notify housing that they are interested. The sooner you notify them of your interest, the better your chances of getting into on-campus housing. Contact Esther Collins at ecollins@unmc.edu.

In addition to on-campus housing on the Omaha campus, there are many apartments and houses within walking distance. Visit <http://www.omahachamber.org> for other housing options in the Omaha area. In Lincoln, there are residence halls available on campus. There are also several homes and apartments available within walking and close driving distance from campus. Visit <http://www.unl.edu> for campus housing and <http://www.lcoc.com> for off-campus housing. Kearney campus also offers on and off-campus housing. Visit <http://www.unk.edu> for on-campus housing and <http://www.kearneycoc.org> for off-campus housing options. Students on our Scottsbluff campus live in housing off campus. Many apartments are within walking distance to the hospital and many small towns offer quiet, residential living within a 10-15 minute drive from the college. Visit <http://www.panhandlelearningcenter.unl.edu> and <http://www.scottsbluffgering.net/> for off-campus housing and restaurant options in the Scottsbluff /Gering area.

You will have a wide variety of dining options at each of the four UNMC College of Nursing campuses. In Omaha, you will have access to the three cafeterias at University and Clarkson hospitals. In addition, there are many restaurants offering both local and international cuisine within walking distance of the campus. In Lincoln, the two student unions offer dining restaurants, a coffee shop, and a bakery. Meal plans are available at the Lincoln campus. In addition, there are many restaurants within walking distance of the campus in Lincoln. In Kearney, the student union offers many dining opportunities and also offers meal plans for students. There are also restaurants within walking distance of the campuses in Kearney.

What about jobs?

The Nebraska Medical Center hospitals and clinics are educational affiliates of UNMC so international undergraduate nursing students can work as summer student partners and our international graduate students who are licensed can work as nurses. This employment can be integral to your education. For graduate students, you may be eligible to work as a graduate or research assistant in the College of Nursing.

COMING TO THE U.S.

The following information should be helpful to you as you plan to come to the United States to study.

What is SEVIS?

SEVIS is the acronym for the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System. SEVIS is an internet-based system that allows schools and the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) to exchange data on the visa status of international students. Accurate and current information is transmitted electronically during a student's academic career in the United States. U.S. embassies and consulates also have access to SEVIS.

SEVIS requires UNMC to notify them when an international student is admitted. CIS then grants the request by UNMC to issue form I-20 or DS-2019. UNMC has a request form for I-20 issuance and this document is used by you to obtain an F-1 student visa. SEVIS must be notified by UNMC before you can receive your I-20 or DS-2019 allowing you to study in the United States. You must then pay the SEVIS fee to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. When you visit the U.S. consulate in your home country, the consulate verifies through SEVIS that your I-20 is valid before he or she issues your visa. A CIS officer at the airport reports your entry into the United States to SEVIS when you arrive for school. When you arrive on campus, you must report to the UNMC International Students Office so that the school can confirm your enrollment through SEVIS. The office of UNMC International Studies and Programs will provide regular electronic reports to SEVIS throughout your academic career. For more information on SEVIS, visit <http://www.ice.gov/graphics/sevis/>.

What is a visa?

The visa stamp in your passport lets people know that you have been granted entry to the United States for the purpose of studying as an F-1 Student or J-1 Exchange visitor. You need to apply for the visa within your home country at the U.S. Consulate office. Please be prepared for wait times as your visa is processed due to enhanced security reviews of all applicants. In addition, please be prepared for an in-person interview with the U.S. consulate's office to be included in the visa application process. For more information on visas, please visit the U.S. Department of State's website at: <http://travel.state.gov/visa/visa> or www.uscis.gov/graphics/index.htm. For questions regarding applying for a visa or transferring your current visa to the University of Nebraska Medical Center, please contact the Office of International Studies and Programs: international@unmc.edu or (402) 559-6414.

Helpful Links:

Here is a list of other links that might be helpful to you as you plan to study with us!

1. Foreign Consulates in the United States: <http://www.state.gov/s/cpr/rls/fco/>

2. U.S. Department of State: <http://www.travel.state.gov>
3. U.S. State Department Travel Advisories: <http://travel.state.gov>
4. U.S. State Department Study in the U.S.A.: <http://www.educationusa.state.gov/>
5. University of Nebraska at Lincoln International Students Page:
<http://admissions.unl.edu/international.html>.
6. University of Nebraska at Kearney International Students Page:
<http://www.unk.edu/international/index.php>
7. University of Nebraska at Omaha International Students Page: <http://world.unomaha.edu/admprocess/>

Who will help when I get there?

The staff at the International Studies and Programs Office at the University of Nebraska Medical Center will assist you with international students matters once you arrive on campus. Certain immunizations will be required prior to registration. For more information, visit their website at <http://www.unmc.edu/isp>.

For more information, please call Dani Eveloff at (402) 559-5184 or (800) 626-8431, ext. 9-5184 or email her at: develoff@unmc.edu

Thank you and hope to see you at UNMC College of Nursing!