



## Answers to the Global Education Project (GEP)

### A. Eligibility Criteria to Apply

- A1. *Are students required to provide their transcripts to study at UCA? If yes, should all the courses the students have taken be included?*

Yes, students must submit a complete transcript in English when they apply. We understand that they may not have the grades for the Spring 2017 semester (if applying for Fall 2017) or their grades for Fall 2017 (if applying for Spring 2018) and that is acceptable.

Graduate students should be prepared to have a letter from their home university Graduate Dean for taking graduate level courses in order to enroll in graduate level courses in UCA. Graduate students interested in participating in the Global Education Project can apply through International Engagement, but the applications are approved by the UCA Graduate School and the Graduate Program in which they seek to study.

Music students should submit their portfolio to International Engagement before March 15<sup>th</sup> (if applying for fall semester), or September 30<sup>th</sup> (if applying for spring semester).

- A2. *In which academic departments are the students allowed to study?*

Undergraduate students may study in any department on campus if they receive a score at least 500 on the TOEFL PBT, 61 on iBT, or 5.5 on IELTS. Prerequisites and restricted eligibility may require students to receive special permission to take certain classes.

Students without a TOEFL score may study in the Intensive English Program.

Graduate Student may take graduate level courses with approval from specific department at UCA and meet the English proficiency test requirements as of 550 on the TOEFL PBT, 79 on iBT, or 6.5 on IELTS.

- A3. *Is it necessary for students to provide their English proficiency test results first?*

If students plan to study only in the Intensive English Program, then they do not need to take an English proficiency test before applying. Students who wish to take regular university courses must submit their TOEFL or IELTS scores when they apply for admission. If the student scores a minimum of 500 on the TOEFL PBT, 61 on iBT, or 5.5 on IELTS, he/she will be allowed to enroll in regular undergraduate courses taught in English. Only official TOEFL or IELTS scores will be accepted.

The English proficiency test requirements for taking graduate level courses are 550 on the TOEFL PBT, 79 on iBT, or 6.5 on IELTS.

Students who score below the minimum or do not present an official TOEFL or IELTS score will enroll in the Intensive English Program and a combination of other supported curricula.



A4. *Are there any limits on the number of students allowed to apply for study in UCA or in certain departments?*

Some programs have their own admissions standards and many courses have pre-requisites. Please contact us if you have any questions.

### **B. J-1 (Exchange Student) Visa Questions**

B1. *What documents are required to apply for a student visa?*

Students **must** bring the following documents to the US Consulate:

- Official Acceptance Letter from UCA
- Form DS-2019 (provided by UCA)
- Documentation of Financial Support
- Receipt for the payment of the mandatory SEVIS fee.
- For additional information about obtaining a J-1 Student Visa, please check the website of U.S. Embassy in your country.

B2. *Is the SEVIS fee included in the fees paid to UCA?*

No, the SEVIS fee (visa application fee) is not included in the GEP package price. Students are required to pay all visa application fees.

### **C. Tuition & Fees**

C1. *What is included in the GEP package price?*

The package price for one GEP students in AY2017-18 is \$8,150 per semester and includes:

- Tuition and fees for twelve (12) undergraduate credit hours or nine (9) graduate credit hours
- International administration fee that directly contributes to events and activities
- Mandatory health insurance and related health costs
- Double occupancy room rate with a linen package
- An unlimited meal plan in the university cafeteria and \$50 Dining Dollars.
- Airport transportation at beginning and end of semester

C2. *What is **not** included in the GEP package price?*

The package price does not include:

- 2 doses of MMR - \$60 each
- 1 T-spot Test - \$50
- Choosing a private room – about \$700 to 800
- Insurance deductible - \$100
- Books – varies
- Travel expenses



MMR (Measles, Mumps, and Rubella) vaccination is required by law. If students cannot provide documentation in English from a health care professional verifying that the student has received these shots, it is the student's responsibility to pay for it. Two shots are required for MMR and cost \$60 each.

C3. *Are the fees the same for all courses at UCA?*

Tuition is charged on a per-credit hour basis. Most classes are 3 credit hours each (three hours of instruction per week). The package price includes tuition and fees for 12 undergraduate credit hours (usually 4 classes) or 9 graduate credit hours (usually 3 classes).

C4. *Are textbooks included in the GEP package price?*

No. Textbooks must be purchased separately. Depending on course selection, students can expect to pay \$300.00 - \$600.00 per semester for required textbooks. At the end of the semester, students can either keep their books or sell them back to the bookstore at a reduced price. Textbooks may also be rented at a reduced rate.

C5. *How many credit hours can a student take?*

International students must take a minimum of twelve (12) undergraduate or nine (9) graduate credit hours each semester to fulfill the terms of their visa. The package price is designed to meet these 12 undergraduate or nine (9) graduate credit hours. Any additional credits GEP students choose to take will add additional charges to their student account. Please contact us for help in calculating tuition costs for any additional credit hours.

C6. *What does the international insurance cover? When does coverage begin and end?*

The insurance pays for treatment of illnesses and accidents, including prescriptions, doctor and hospital visits, and repatriation of remains in case of death. There is a \$100 deductible per semester, but it will pay any non-excluded expense after that. If the student needs a prescription for medication, they will have to pay for it, but we will assist them in filing the forms to be reimbursed for cost of the medication. This medical insurance does not cover eye glasses, contact lenses or dental care.

For students attending UCA in the fall, the coverage lasts from August 1 to December 31. For students attending UCA in the spring, the coverage lasts from January 1 to May 31.

UCA has an excellent Student Health Center that is staffed by a doctor and two nurse practitioners. They can handle the majority of treatment for students for free or at a very low cost. They are open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

C7. *What do the miscellaneous fees include?*



Miscellaneous fees include books, academic supplies and personal spending money for the student's personal necessities. We recommend students prepare for at least \$1,500 for a semester.

C8. *Are there additional costs for placement testing?*

There is not a fee for English placement testing. However, students who wish to take regular undergraduate classes will be required to take Accuplacer Test in Mathematics, Reading, and Writing for which there is a charge of \$15.00 USD for all three tests. For students who want to take the institutional or iBT TOEFL or other tests during the semester, it is the student's responsibility to pay for it.

C9. *When must students pay for their studies at UCA?*

The International Engagement Office will let the students know when they should pay their account balance. There are three payment methods for students to choose from..

**D. Registration Procedure**

D1. *Are there any courses taught in languages other than English?*

With the exception of foreign language classes, all classes are taught in English.

D2. *What is the procedure for students to register for classes?*

Students with a passing TOEFL score and plan to take specific regular classes are required to pass Accuplacer Tests (Math, Reading, and Writing) first. All three tests costs \$15 dollars. And tests will be provided on UCA campus during Orientation after you arrive.

English language transcripts will be necessary, as some higher level courses have pre-requisites. (We recommend courses beginning with the number "1" or "2"). Please understand that all students who want to take regular UCA courses must also provide English transcripts to the respective departments to confirm that all preregistration requirements have been met. Some departments may require course syllabi in English to assess course contents. We suggest that students, whose English level is above TOEFL iBT 61, PBT 500, or IELTS 5.5, prepare to bring their courses syllabi in English from home university for registration in regular UCA courses.

Students with no TOEFL or IELTS and those with the score under 61 on TOEFL iBT, 500 on the PBT or 5.5 on IELTS will be placed in an IEP Level based on placement test results during the first week at UCA and according to the results be placed in appropriate courses.

D3. *Are students allowed to take fewer than twelve (12) credit hours?*

No. Students must maintain a minimum of twelve (12) undergraduate or nine (9) graduate credit hours in order to maintain their student visa status. Students who drop below the



minimum will fall out of status, and WILL be subject to immigration consequences, including deportation.

## **E. Room & Board**

### **E1. *What are the residence halls like?***

Each student will share a residence room with a roommate of the same gender. Each room is equipped with two single beds, two desks, two dressers and a closet. Bathrooms/showers are down the hall. Halls are composed of students of the same gender only. There is also a small kitchen on the first floor of each residence for student use.

Students who are 21 and over are encouraged to choose a UCA apartment. There is a living room and kitchen in each apartment. Normally each bedroom in the apartment includes two beds, desks with chairs, and chest of drawers, and closets. All furniture is moveable. Cable TV service, Internet access, and air conditioning/heating are also available at no extra charge.

### **E2. *Are the residence halls far from where classes are held?***

The residence halls are located in the middle of campus, so students will have a very short walk to class.

### **E3. *Does the meal fee include three meals every day? Is the cafeteria open during the weekends and holiday?***

The meal plan covers unlimited meals in the cafeteria. There are 3 meals per day served during the week (Monday through Friday). On the weekends, there are only 2 meals per day served (brunch and dinner). The cafeteria is designed buffet style, so students may eat as much as they desire. The cafeteria is open on weekends but is closed on holidays. Therefore, students will need to make their own meal arrangements during those times.

The meal plan also includes \$50 in Dining Dollars or also called Bear Bucks which can be for use in the Christian Cafeteria, Student Center Food Court, Java City, Einstein's Bagel Brothers, Starbucks, the C-Store or the Bear Express.

### **E4. *Will I have an American roommate?***

Global Education Project students will most likely be paired with a full-time student roommate. However, in case of full capacity, GEP students may be placed with other international students.

### **E5. *Is it possible to change my roommate?***

If students have any complaints about their roommates, they can go to the Housing Office to ask for a change two weeks after the beginning of the semester.

### **E6. *What is included in the Care package?***



- extra-long fitted sheets
- 2 extra-long flat sheets
- 4 standard pillow cases
- 2 extra-fluffy pillow
- 1 extra-long reversible comforter
- 1 extra-long quilted mattress pad
- 1 extra-long egg crate pad
- 2 all-cotton bath towels
- 2 matching cotton hand towels
- 2 matching cotton wash cloths
- 1 pop-open hamper
- 1 bedside buddy

Some items may vary depending on availability.

E7. *Can I stay in my room during Fall or Spring Break?*

The campus will remain open during Fall and Spring Break. However, UCA Housing will charge for the residential housing for Fall and Spring Break. (Currently \$15 per night). If it is decided that the campus will close, special arrangements must be made to stay in the apartments and a few residence halls that will remain open. If you stay in your dorm past the departure date at the end of the semester, you will be charged reasonably by UCA Housing.

E8. *Can I change my room?*

Yes, you can request a room change after arriving in UCA, but the room change is not guaranteed. UCA Housing will do its best to meet your request. However, the room change request cannot be accepted in the first two weeks of semester. The International Engagement will inform you when you can start to apply room change. In addition, there are some details you need to know about the room change:

- There is no additional cost for changing your room.
- If you request a private room, you will be charged extra.
- Students under 21 are required to live in residential halls.
- Students over 21 are expected to live in apartments.
- If you feel like your situation gives you a reason not to comply with this policy, you can make your case on your Room Change Request application.

**F. Classes**

F1. *Will international students be in classes with other international students or will they be in classes with American students?*

International students who have the minimum required English proficiency will be placed in regular classes with full-time students who are both US and international students. International students with lower-levels of English proficiency will be placed in IEP classes or other approved curricula. International students taking Intensive English Program courses will be in classes with students from other non-English speaking countries.

F2. *Must I take Intensive English classes?*



Yes, if you have not provide a test score high enough TOEFL or IELTS score, you will take an English Placement test during orientation. Based on your score, you will take a mixture of Intensive English and approved curricula. Students who meet the TOEFL or IELTS requirement, will not take Intensive English courses. These students can take general UCA classes.

F3. *How long do the classes last?*

General courses at UCA last for one 16 week semester. The Intensive English Program (IEP) consists of two 8 week sessions (Fall I/Fall II and Spring I/Spring II). Your 12 undergraduate credit hours will be divided between these two 8 week periods.

Meanwhile, some IEP courses are 16 weeks.

Fall I is from August 24 – October 13; Fall II is from October 16 – December 15.

Spring I is from January 11 – March 2; Spring II is from March 5 – May 4.

There is *not* a large break between the two IEP sessions.

**G. Others**

G1. *Is transportation from the airport to UCA provided to students?*

Yes. We will arrange to pick the students up at the Little Rock National Airport and bring them to campus. This service will only apply to Little Rock National Airport. We will not pick up students from other airports. There is no charge for this service within a given time period. Students must submit an arrival form online (See “Arrival Information Form Guide”) no less than 2 weeks prior to the arrival of their flight to receive this free service.

G2. *Is there any orientation and campus tour provided by UCA?*

Yes. We will provide a thorough orientation and campus tours during International Student Orientation. The orientation includes a variety of sessions that will inform students about life at UCA and help them adapt to US culture. International Programs will also schedule shopping trips and events throughout orientation week to introduce international students to other university students.

G3. *What are the demographics of the international student population at UCA?*

There are over 580 international students studying at UCA at this time: eighty from the Bahamas with the next largest group from Cote d’ Ivoire, followed by China, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Niger and Nigeria. We currently have students representing 73 different countries studying at UCA.

G4. *What should I do if I arrive before the recommended arrival date?*

If you **must** arrive in the US before the recommended arrival dates (Fall 2017 arrival is August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016 and Spring 2018 arrival is January 6<sup>st</sup>, 2018), please be prepared to make your own transportation and housing arrangements.

G5. *What should I do if I arrive after orientation?*



It is quite important for you to make your arrangements to arrive to campus before orientation begins. However, if you must arrive after orientation, you should contact the International Engagement Office in the McCastlain Hall immediately after your arrival (Office Phone: 501-450-3445, Email: armstrongyh@gmail.com). We do not guarantee transportation from the airport for students arriving outside the recommended time frame, but please still submit the arrival information form to let us know you will be arriving late. Students arriving after the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of classes may be sent home (see the “Late GEP Arrival Acknowledgement”).

G6. *Can I transfer to UCA to study for degree?*

Global Education Project (GEP) is a short term visiting program for partner universities’ students at UCA. GEP is not a degree-seeking program. Without GEP partner universities’ official approval, UCA may not be able to accept transfer applications from GEP students.

In order for a student to transfer, UCA must receive official approval from the student’s home university.

G7. *Are there activities for International Students?*

The International Engagement organizes weekly shopping trips and monthly activities. Each semester the activities vary depending on student participation and holidays. We strongly encourage international students to become involved in other (non-international) organizations and clubs on campus. Below are just a few of the events planned for the students over the year:

- Pumpkin carving and Hay Ride (Conway, Arkansas)
- International Education Week (Conway, Arkansas)
- Local festivals trips (Conway, Arkansas)
- Thanksgiving Potluck (Conway, Arkansas)
- Petit Jean State Park (Morrilton, Arkansas)
- Clinton Presidential Library (Little Rock, Arkansas)
- Arkansas Capitol (Little Rock, Arkansas)
- Little Rock monthly shopping trip (Little Rock, Arkansas)
- River Market and Ice Skating trip (Little Rock, Arkansas)
- Central High School National Historical Museum (Little Rock, Arkansas)
- Hot Springs city day trip (Hot Springs, Arkansas)
- Crystal Bridges Museum (Bentonville, Arkansas)
- Trip to Silver Dollar City (Branson, Missouri)
- NBA game in Memphis (Memphis, Tennessee)
- Memphis Zoo (Memphis, Tennessee)
- Six Flags theme park, Aquarium and shopping (Dallas, Texas)