

Frequently Asked Questions

The following aims to answer your questions about:

1. Arrival
2. Accommodation
3. Orientation Fee
4. Health Insurance
5. Language
6. Credits
7. Courses
8. UM Global
9. Cost of Living
10. Campus Life

1. Arrival in Uruguay

When should I arrive in Uruguay?

We suggest arriving in Montevideo the week before Orientation Day.

How far is the airport?

Carrasco International Airport is 40 minutes by car from the city center.

Will I be picked up?

We will not pick you up. However, your buddy (a UM student) from the Buddy Program will try to coordinate a meeting with you at the airport.

2. Accommodation

Does the University offer accommodation?

No, the University does not have accommodation. We have a list of suggestions attached to your acceptance letter. You can communicate with these contacts through WhatsApp. We recommend you reserve an Airbnb or hostel room for the first week here and find housing upon arrival. Accommodation is usually easy to find in the city.

3. Orientation Fee

Is it mandatory to pay the orientation fee?

Yes. The USD 80 orientation fee is for the onboarding process and events.

How much time do I have to pay it?

Please pay the orientation fee before arrival, or within the first month.

How do I pay this fee?

You can pay it at this link:

<https://pagos.um.edu.uy/formulario/?unidad=RRII&tr=1&c=Orientation%20fee/tasa%20de%20intercambio&m=840&v=80> (Also found in your acceptance email).

4. Health Insurance

Does the UM require a specific type of international health insurance?

No, we do not require a specific international health insurance. Our only requirement is that you are covered by insurance upon arrival.

What Uruguayan hospital am I covered by?

Please research which hospital your international insurance covers you for before you arrive. You can do this by calling the insurance company to ask.

5. Language

Does the UM offer courses in Spanish to exchange students?

Yes, students can attend UM classes in Spanish. However, we require that you have a level C1 or B2 to participate or demonstrate a high level of Spanish in the Spanish placement test. The UM does not offer Spanish language classes.

How can I take Spanish language classes?

We partner with International House, which offers Spanish language classes at beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels for USD 300 per semester. Taking classes at International House counts as three credits towards your UM transcript.

Is the Spanish placement test mandatory?

Yes, it is mandatory for non-native Spanish speakers. However, it is only meant to help you indicate your level. The outcome does not count towards your transcript or require you to take Spanish language classes. If your test result shows you have a high level of Spanish, but you don't have an official qualification, this is enough to be able to take UM courses in Spanish.

6. Credits

How many credits do I need to take?

As per UM guidelines, international students must take at least 18 UM credits. However, please also check the minimum credit requirements from your university. Most UM students take 30 to 35 credits per semester, and most international students take 18 to 25 UM credits.

What is the course conversion?

1 UM credit = 1,2 ECTS. 1 UM credit is equivalent to 10 hours of class.

What is a seminar?

A seminar is a shorter course than regular courses. It can also contribute to your transcript.

7. Courses at the UM

When do I sign up for courses?

The registration period is specified in the acceptance email.

Is attendance mandatory?

Yes. You must have a minimum attendance of 75% in every class to pass.

What are the requirements to pass a course?

You are evaluated on a scale from 1 to 12. Over the semester, you will be examined on coursework including midterm papers, oral presentations, and class participation. At the end of the semester, you will have a final exam during the exam period. To pass the class, you need a minimum average of 4/12 on coursework and 6/12 on the final exam. Your final grade is weighted as 50% coursework, 50% final exam.

When will I know when my exams are?

The first examination period is specified in the acceptance email.

8. UM Global

The office is located in the CAMPUS's LATU and Central buildings and is open from 10 to 16 hours.

UM Global runs the buddy program. A head of Buddies will be introduced during the orientation session. He/she will lead the program and create a WhatsApp group to send news, proper city and course information, and activities.

Every International student is assigned a buddy, who is a UM student, to help them with their arrival and during the semester.

9. Cost of Living

What is the estimated cost of living per month?

Accommodation costs \$500 - \$750, food costs \$450, and local transportation costs USD 150. We recommend that students bring an International Credit Card. The Fact Sheet in your Acceptance email provides more details.

How can I make my stay more affordable?

On orientation day, you will receive information about ways to save money through discount shopping and markets, as well as advice from Buddy program students.

10. Campus Life

What activities can I join at the UM?

Campus Life (Vida Universitaria) organizes sports, adventure, cultural, wellness, and volunteering activities.

To find out what is offered and who to contact, visit the website at <https://www.um.edu.uy/vida-universitaria> and follow Instagram.

What campus will I use at the UM?

Business and economics, Engineering, Humanities, and education classes will generally take place in the new campus of the LATU in Carrasco (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/1U9SEUydJsc5UNnf6>). Law, Psychology, and Communications classes will be based in the Central Campus at Parque Battle (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/5h4wxKEbjj68LT9z7>). However, please be aware that you might have classes on both campuses.