

MICA INCOMING EXCHANGE PROGRAM FACT SHEET

Contact Information

MICA Office of International Education

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Services

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Website: <https://www.mica.edu/iss/exchange/>

Exchange Program Terms and Academic Calendar

Two 15-week terms:

Fall semester: late August to late December

Spring semester: mid-January to mid-May

In the exchange acceptance letter, the Office of International Education will specify the date that we expect students to arrive at MICA. Usually this will be the first day of International Student Orientation.

Students who will live on campus will not be able to move into campus housing until it officially opens. We will notify students of this date in the acceptance letter; it is typically the day before International Student Orientation begins. In planning travel, also note that J-1 visa regulations require international students arrive no more than 30 days before their academic program begins. Official J-1 visa information can be found at the BridgeUSA website: <https://j1visa.state.gov/>

Students must plan to attend for the entire semester

Academics

*More information
about course
offerings [here](#).*

Exchange students must enroll in a full-time course load of at least 12 credits. Students typically enroll in 15 credits (five classes) – usually three studio classes and two academic classes. Exchange students may take classes in their major area and in any other studio area for which they are qualified, space permitting. ***We do not recommend more than 3 studio art courses since the time commitment is great, and it will hamper students' ability to do other cultural***

activities and to explore the MICA campus community. Please advise your students accordingly.

Studio classes generally meet once per week for six hours, and most academic classes meet once per week for three hours. Students should expect to spend approximately 45 hours per week engaged in learning activities both in and out of class. In most studio classes, students will do studio work and will participate in critiques and presentations. Exchange students are expected to attend all class meetings and complete all course work. MICA also considers attendance to be a part of the grading experience, and all exchange students should anticipate attending all classes to get the most out of their educational experience.

Official Grade Reports

Upon completion of the student's exchange period at MICA, the Office of International Education will send an official transcript (record of courses and grades) to the exchange program coordinator at the student's home institution.

Mandatory Health Insurance

More information about health insurance [here](#).

MICA health insurance is now required for all exchange students. Exchange students will automatically be enrolled and billed directly for this cost. The cost is approximately \$1100 per semester and will be billed directly to the students' MICA student account.

All health insurance inquiries must be directed to the agency that manages the MICA Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP), Q&M Services. Please have your students contact our institutional plan manager, Rachel Norris: rachel.norris@qmservicesinc.com

Accommodations: On-Campus Housing Policy

More information about housing options [here](#).

MICA operates on-campus student housing facilities for our exchange students, [Meyerhoff](#) and [The Gateway](#) Halls. **All exchange students are required to live on MICA's campus.** Campus residences are designed apartment-style with private or double-occupancy bedrooms and a shared kitchen, bathroom, and furnished living room. MICA offers an *optional meal plan* for the cafeteria and cafés located on campus.

Students admitted for exchange will receive detailed information about housing options, including a link to an online housing application.

Costs and Financial Resources

More information about costs and financial resources [here](#).

Tuition is waived in accordance with MICA's exchange agreements with partner institutions. Exchange students will be charged a Student Life, Technology, and Health Insurance fees. Students should budget for all expenses they may incur during their study at MICA, including room, meals, health insurance and health care, local travel, art supplies, personal expenses, etc. The estimated total cost of one semester in Baltimore is U.S. \$10,500, but this will vary depending upon individual spending habits and is subject to change based on cost-of-living adjustments.

Visa and Immigration Information

International students accepted for exchange at MICA are required to obtain a J-1 visa, and should research the latest information on how to obtain this visa. To begin this process, students first submit financial

documents to MICA to obtain a Form DS-2019 — a required part of the J-1 visa application process. Admitted exchange students will receive detailed information about the J-1 visa application process with their acceptance letter or DS-2019. Consult the BridegUSA website for J-1 student visa specifics: <https://j1visa.state.gov/>.

EXCHANGE APPLICATION TIMELINE

FALL SEMESTER <i>Study period: August to December</i>	SPRING SEMESTER <i>Study Period: January to May</i>
Application deadline: April 1	Application deadline: October 1
Decision confirmation deadline: May 15	Decision confirmation deadline: November 15

HOW TO APPLY

First, contact Mike Rini, mrini@mica.edu, to nominate your students. Then, please share this link (<https://www.mica.edu/iss/exchange/>) to our Exchange Student information page with your prospective students. The link to our application portal and detailed instructions can be found on that webpage – absolutely everything is there for students to research and make informed application decisions. Your students will be responsible for submitting the following types of information in the online application portal:

- **Exchange application**
- **Statement of Interest**
- **Official or certified university transcript** showing all current and prior courses and grades
- **Portfolio of artwork:** 10 images of your selected artwork. Identify 10 pieces of art that best define your artistic pursuits, especially those that are inclusive of your major.
- **Official financial documents, such as original bank statements**, indicating sufficient funds of at least \$10,500 USD to live in Baltimore, Maryland (please see application for further details).
- **Copy of passport biographical page**
- **Proof of English language proficiency:** In accordance with new J-1 student visa requirements, prospective exchange students need to demonstrate English language proficiency, if your native language is not English. MICA requires a score result on The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) of at least 550 PBT (paper-based test), or equivalent 213 CBT (computer-based test), or 80 IBT (internet-based test). MICA also accepts a band score of at least 6.5 on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS).
- **Agreement and understanding to purchase semester or academic year health insurance.** All international students attending MICA are subject to the mandatory health insurance requirement - there are no exceptions.

SEMESTER EXCHANGE APPLICATION DEADLINES

Your complete application must be submitted through our online application portal by the following dates.

FALL SEMESTER <i>Study period: August to December</i>	SPRING SEMESTER <i>Study Period: January to May</i>
Application deadline: April 1	Application deadline: October 1

DECISION

When the Office of International Education receives your completed application for exchange, shortly after our exchange application deadline, we will convene to review applications and then send decisions to students. Decisions can take 2-4 weeks, but most of the time, it takes up to 2 weeks for our office to return a decision to you and your nominated students.

EXCHANGE STUDENT CONFIRMATION / ACCEPTANCE OF OFFER

If your application for exchange is approved, and you are extended an offer from the Office of International Programs, to accept the offer, you must email your decision to Mike Rini, mrini@mica.edu, by the respective deadlines below. In the subject line of your email, please indicate: "Exchange Offer Accepted", or "Exchange Offer Declined". If you decline your acceptance offer, please indicate your reasons for declining in your email.

FALL SEMESTER <i>Study period: August to December</i>	SPRING SEMESTER <i>Study Period: January to May</i>
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Please note that your students may be responsible for any fees incurred if they withdraw after these deadlines.