

Stetson University Student Exchange Program 2018-2019

WORLD: THE DAVID AND LEIGHAN RINKER CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL LEARNING

1. When are the dates of the semester?

| Semester | | 2018 Fall Semester | 2019 Spring Semester |
|------------------------|-----------|--|-----------------------|
| Residence Hall | Check in | August 14 (tentative) | January 8 |
| | Check out | December 15 | May 6 |
| Orientation | | August 15-17 | January 9-10 |
| Class Beginning | | August 23 | January 14 |
| Class End | | December 7 | May 1 |
| Finals | | December 11-14 | May 3-4 May 6-7 |
| Vacation Days | | September 3 October 4-5 November 21-23 | March 4-8 April 19 |

[Full list of dates](#)

2. Can exchange students elect to stay either one or two semesters? If only one, can they choose which semester to study?

- A student can choose to stay either one or two semesters. If they chose to stay for only one, they are welcome to choose whichever semester works best for them.

3. What documents are required for me to study in the United States?

- **Documents Needed:**
 - Passport
 - J-1 Exchange Visa
 - I-94 Card (Online, after a student arrives in the U.S.)
 - DS-2019 (for J-1 students and their J-2 dependents)
 - Medical Insurance

Remember to check all passport and visa procedures **well in advance** of your departure date. Depending on your location, rules and procedures for these documents will vary. It is **extremely** important that you are aware of the requirements and due dates for acquiring the appropriate documentation before traveling to Stetson. Please keep in mind that you, as the student, are ultimately responsible for obtaining the appropriate visa for the duration of your program.

For more information on the required documents please consult [passport and visa information](#).

4. Are there any breaks during the academic year?

- Yes, apart from the regular weekends students will have vacation days dispersed throughout the semester. Those dates can be viewed in the table from question 1. Most notably, Stetson offers a four day fall break, a five day Thanksgiving holiday, and a nine day spring break. All other days are singular days consisting of national holidays, values days, and senior research presentation days.

5. What housing options are available for exchange students? What are the costs, deadlines, and required documentation to obtain student housing?

- Stetson University's accommodations are all inclusive, in that all students from various places, spaces and backgrounds have the opportunity to live together and reside together. However, there are also certain residence halls that are pet-friendly, gender neutral, and/or gender specific.
- [List of Available Halls](#)
- [Stetson Office of Housing and Residential Life](#)
 - For more detailed information about housing forms, deadlines, options, and accommodations please refer to the links that appear on the left side of the screen.

6. Does Stetson offer a meal plan for students? If so, is this mandatory for students?

- Stetson University Dining Services (managed by Chartwells, Inc.) knows the hectic life of a college/university student. Dining locations are near the residence halls and classrooms with hours starting at 7:00 am and ending as late as 2:00 am. They have recently implemented a food nutrition analysis program, which offers more low-fat as well as vegetarian and vegan meals, and added flexibility with meal plans, and Chartwells hopes to maintain the highest level of quality food and customer service.
- While exchange students are not required to purchase a meal plan, it is strongly encouraged.
- For additional information regarding your meal plan options, access the [meal plan website](#).

7. How is the international presence at Stetson?

- Stetson's student body currently consists of over 200 international students representing over 50 countries and this number is consistently growing. Our community prides itself on embracing international students and their cultures and making every student feel accepted on our campus.

8. What courses does Stetson offer to exchange students?

- Exchange students can take any classes for which they can prove that they have met the appropriate prerequisites at their home university.
- Approval of prerequisites will be done through the Stetson department chairs by Stetson's WORLD: The David and Leighan Rinker Center for International Learning.
- Incoming students are to submit a form indicating which classes interest them and WORLD: The David and Leighan Rinker Center for International Learning will verify the student's prerequisites and register them for class.
- Students looking to take music courses (non-intro level) will most likely need to audition upon arriving on campus.
- Students should have back-up class choices in mind in case their top choices are full, unavailable, or the pre-requisites haven't been met.
- Stetson operates on a Unit system. A one unit class is equal to 4 credits. Most students take around four classes per semester. All international students are required to take a minimum of 12 credits (or three units) per semester while studying at Stetson.

- To search for classes, please visit our [Class Schedule Search](#) page and select the DeLand & Celebration option for semester in which you will attend Stetson.

9. Do I need health insurance?

- All international students attending Stetson University are required by law to have health insurance which covers them in the United States. During International Student Orientation, you will be required to provide proof of medical insurance in the United States.

For more information about insurance and our on-campus health services, please visit the [SU Health Services Website](#). For information specific to international students (including the minimum coverage required by U.S. law and recommended plans), please visit our [Insurance Information for International Students](#) page.

10. Do I need to take the TOEFL or IELTS (English Proficiency) exam?

- Students who come from non-English speaking countries must show that they have received at least an 80 on the TOEFL iBT exam, or a 6.5 on the IELTS exam. Students who study in degree programs entirely in English or are already native English speakers are exempt from this requirement.
- If you come from an English-speaking country, you may simply write “N/A” in the application question which asks for English proficiency.

11. Are there special organizations for exchange students?

- Stetson recognizes over 150 different student clubs and organizations. These range from clubs with a global focus such as the Stetson International Organization to a variety of club sports teams.
- Stetson attributes much of its campus vibrancy to the large success of student clubs and organizations.
- At the beginning of each semester Stetson holds an “OrgFair” for organizations to come out and promote their club. Students interested in joining clubs are encouraged to come out to the OrgFair to gather information and sign up for organizations that interest them.
- [Complete List of Student Organizations](#)

12. What is the expected budget during my stay in DeLand, Florida?

All numbers are approximate:

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Accommodation | \$900/month |
| Food & Meals (average) | \$500/month |
| Health Insurance | \$100/month |
| Local Transportation | \$50/month |
| Leisure | \$200/month |
| Books & School Supplies | \$400/semester |
| Miscellaneous | \$50/month |

13. Are there any interesting areas to visit in the surrounding area?

- Stetson sits just north of the beautiful historic downtown area of Deland, Florida. Mixing old charm with modern eclectic stores and monthly festivals of all types, the downtown area is an exciting place for students to visit and spend their time. Deland is also lucky to be surrounded by an array of state parks and nature preservation areas open to the public for camping, biking, running, swimming in the springs, or just general recreation. Directly east of Deland by about 20 minutes is Daytona Beach. On the weekends students like to carpool with friends to the beach for some hours enjoying what the Sunshine State has to offer. South of Deland by about 50 minutes is Orlando. Known as “The City Beautiful”, home to Walt Disney World, Universal Studios & Islands of Adventure, SeaWorld, host of the professional NBA basketball team, the Orlando Magic, and a hot spot for concerts and events of all types, Orlando is truly a vibrant city with much to offer for students on the weekends.
- What is listed above only catches the tip of the iceberg of all the possibilities for entertainment at Stetson. For more information on Deland and its surrounding area, please explore the links listed below.
 - [Deland, Florida](#)
 - [Things to Do in Deland](#)
 - [Daytona Beach, Florida](#)
 - [Volusia County](#)
 - [Orlando, Florida](#)
 - [Orange County](#)
 - [Map of Florida](#)

14. Are there any interesting facts about your university and its history?

- Upon its establishment in 1883, Stetson became Florida’s first private university. Originally known as the Deland Academy, named for its founder, Henry Deland, Stetson was renamed after a generous gift from John B. Stetson (yes, the creator of the famous hats!). Over the course of its existence Stetson has continuously pushed the boundary of student success, promoting academic pursuit and campus vibrancy along the way.
- For a more complete list of notable historic events, follow the links below.
 - [Stetson's History](#)
 - [About Our President](#)
 - [Quick Facts](#)

15. What kind of climate and weather should I expect during my stay?

- During the summer months, temperatures in Central Florida can be quite warm. In the fall, temperatures become very temperate and agreeable. Cold winter days are sparse. Even in Florida’s coldest months, temperatures stay fairly moderate, with lows only dipping below freezing a handful of times. In the summer months it rains often, and humidity is very high. In the winter these trends subside and the air becomes very crisp with a majority of days having clear skies and breezy. Because Deland is so close to the coast, the temperature and humidity is lessened due to the sea breeze.
- [More detailed climate information](#)

16. Do you have a website that is made specifically for international students? If so, what is the address?

- Part of our parent website, [WORLD: International Learning](#), there is a section dedicated to our [incoming exchange students](#).

17. How can I apply for the exchange program?

- You must first be nominated by your home university.
- Following your nomination, you will be asked to submit an [online application](#).
- The documents you will need to submit for the application (all digital, no paper copies needed) include:
 - A copy of your transcript in English
 - Proof of English proficiency (if applicable; see question 10)
 - Two recommendations – a character and academic reference. The academic reference should come from a professor at your home university, and the character reference can come from someone who knows you well – a supervisor, coach, advisor, etc. Your recommenders can submit the recommendations through the online application system.
- After your initial acceptance to Stetson, you will be asked to submit more materials, including:
 - A copy of the photo page of your passport
 - Financial information (needed to create the forms you will need in order to apply for your J-1 student visa)
 - Travel information
- The application will ask for your GPA. Stetson University uses a 4.0 GPA scale. To calculate your GPA to the US system, you can use an [online GPA calculator](#).
- The application will also ask for your year in school (freshman, sophomore, junior, senior, graduate student).
 - If you are on a three year system, assume that if you are in your second year, you count as a Junior, third year counts as a Senior.
 - If you are coming from a four-year bachelor's system, Year 1 = Freshman, Year 2=Sophomore, Year 3=Junior, Year 4=Senior.

18. What is your international office's contact information?

- WORLD: The David and Leighan Rinker Center for International Learning can be reached by email at world@stetson.edu.