Congratulations on your acceptance to The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill!

You are joining the best and brightest students from more than a hundred countries, and I’m proud to welcome you to the Carolina community. At UNC, you will find the world at your fingertips – with the advantages of a top-tier global research university, and the personal connections of a close, interdisciplinary student body and faculty. We are confident that Carolina will quickly become your home away from home.

Since its establishment as the first public university in the United States in 1789, UNC has earned a reputation as one of the best universities in the world. Our school spirit has been forged through more than two centuries of academic excellence, public service, and athletic, professional, and personal achievement. Often called a ‘public ivy,’ Carolina is consistently ranked among the nation’s best in academic quality, diversity, engagement, and international presence.

At Carolina, you will have access to innovative programs and opportunities to contribute to ground-breaking research and innovative projects. Our undergraduate curriculum offers countless opportunities for students to build a better world by forging connections, breaking down cultural barriers, and working on projects that address some of the world’s most pressing challenges.

Our office of International Student and Scholar Services will welcome you to campus and help you in your transition to Chapel Hill and life in the United States. We have already started preparing for your arrival. We’ll host a variety of activities – from a welcome social to the opportunity to connect with others in a variety of cross-cultural programs. In addition, we are proud to announce an exciting new student-led peer program that will match international students with an American student at Carolina.

We're honored that you are considering our campus as the place where you will achieve your academic goals. We're looking forward to helping you grow as a person too, to find new interests and lifelong friends and mentors.

We also know that, as an international student, you’re bringing something very special to our University – a unique opportunity for us to learn from you. Your voice, your perspective, is one that we need and want on our campus and in our classrooms.

My staff and I have an open door and are happy to assist you in your orientation to life on our campus. I look forward to seeing you soon in Chapel Hill.

With best wishes,
Ron Strauss
Executive Vice Provost
Chief International Officer

A Message from the EXECUTIVE VICE PROVOST and CHIEF INTERNATIONAL OFFICER

There are about 500 international undergraduates studying at Carolina. They come from all over the world and contribute an incredible diversity of perspective and ideas to our community.

*Naitara Viswanath

“The positive, friendly atmosphere at Carolina has been very welcoming; a great relief having come from so far away. There is a passion for learning and for knowledge here that invites you to join in and to explore the vast amounts of curricular and extra-curricular resources Carolina has to offer.”

*Based on 2012-2013 enrollment data
Prepare for life in the U.S.

The Financial Certificate

All international students should complete at least page one of the Financial Certificate: Personal Information (page 2), including a copy of your passport. However, Sources of Support (page 3) is not required for those students who are not requesting Immigration documents from ISSS.

Students transferring their F-1 or J-1 status from another U.S. school must also complete Sources of Support (section 2) in order to request a UNC Form I-20 or DS-2019.

In order for us to issue your documents as quickly as possible, please submit your completed financial certificate, supporting financial documents and a copy of your passport to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions no later than May 28, 2014. Any questions about your immigration status or acceptable sources of funding can be directed to the general ISSS email: oisss@unc.edu.

Mohammed Hajee

"From my very first day at UNC, I was inspired to reach out of my comfort zone and work towards something that is more meaningful than a 4.0 GPA. Carolina is the place where I was awarded the freedom to truly discover myself."

Housing

Residence halls: At Carolina, there are 32 residence halls and three apartment communities housing anywhere from 60-900 students each. Typically, students share a room with one other student and have a communal bathroom. An average room is 15 x 12 ft. (4.5 x 3.6 m) and comes furnished with a twin bed, desk and chair, window coverings, dresser, and a closet or wardrobe. The Residence Hall Association offers linen packages (towels and sheets) that you can purchase and have shipped to campus before you arrive. Please visit rha.unc.edu for more information.

Roommates: You will be able to use the MyHousing portal (myhousing.unc.edu) to search for and communicate with potential roommates. If you choose not to designate a roommate, we will randomly assign you one. On the housing application, you will have the opportunity to indicate whether you wish to live with an international student or a non-international student.

Academic breaks: Most residence halls close over Thanksgiving Break, Winter Break, and Spring Break. The halls that remain open are Craige, Graham, Aycock, Ram Village, and Odum Village. If you anticipate needing local accommodations over any of the breaks, we encourage you to preference Craige on your housing application, so you will not have to relocate to break housing when halls close. Break housing information is available at housing.unc.edu/current-residents/break-housing.

Transportation: You can get around Chapel Hill quite easily without a car. The campus is very walkable, and the Chapel Hill Transit bus system is free. To get to the airport, you can use the regional bus system (www.triangletransit.org) or the ride-sharing website for Carolina students (zimride.unc.edu). Many student organizations also offer free airport shuttle service around academic breaks.

Cooking: Each residence hall has at least one community kitchen for students to prepare meals. You can check out cooking equipment from your hall’s community office at no charge. Many students have mini-refrigerators in their rooms, which you can lease through the Residence Hall Association’s Move-In Marketplace (rha.unc.edu).

Laundry: OneCard-operated laundries are located in every residential community. In communities with multiple buildings such asLower Quad and Upper Quad, your laundry room may be in a neighboring building.

Orientation

The Office of New Student & Carolina Parent Programs is here to support you and your family as you transition to Carolina. We look forward to welcoming you during summer orientation program.

First-Year Student Orientation: First-year students are required to attend a two-day New Student Orientation program. There are sessions in June and July, and a session August 14-15 for international students and students who are unable to attend an earlier session. Please visit nscpp.unc.edu for registration information. International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) will also facilitate two required meetings for international students. On August 13th, there will be a check-in and welcome session with ISSS; then later, ISSS will facilitate an International Student Orientation regarding your immigration status and other social adjustment matters. Time/location updates will be posted on ISSS website.

Transfer Student Orientation: All new transfer students are required to attend a one-day Transfer Orientation program. Transfer Orientation sessions will be offered June 6, June 13, July 28, and August 13. Please visit nscpp.unc.edu for registration information. ISSS will coordinate a required International Transfer Student Check In and International Transfer Student Orientation Session on August 14.
Transfer Credit from Non-U.S. Institutions

If you have taken courses at a college or university outside the U.S., we ask that you have your transcripts evaluated by an accredited evaluation service.

Any service that is a part of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (naces.org) can perform this evaluation. Once your transcripts have been evaluated, please send the original transcripts as well as the course-by-course evaluation of credit provided by the evaluation service to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions.

Test Credit

We award placement and course credit for many AP, IB, and A-Level scores. To have this credit awarded, please send an official score report to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. Placement credit is generally awarded at the beginning of the fall semester. It is helpful to bring all score reports to your orientation session so they may be considered as you plan your first-semester coursework.

Resources for International Students

International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) serves all international students, research scholars and visiting professors at Carolina. ISSS assists international students and scholars in obtaining and maintaining valid immigration status in the United and provides programs and services to help international students adjust to life in the United States.

ISSS
FedEx Global Education Center, Room 2004
oisss.unc.edu
oisss@unc.edu
Phone: (919) 962-5661
Fax: (919) 962-4282
Twitter @ISSS_UNCCH

FedEx Global Education Center
The FedEx Center houses many offices and organizations dedicated to connecting all current students with the global community.

Other Important Resources

Office of Undergraduate Admissions
admissions.unc.edu
unchelp@admissions.unc.edu
(919) 966-3621

Housing and Residential Education
housing.unc.edu
housing@unc.edu
(919) 962-5401

Academic Advising
advising.unc.edu
(919) 966-5116

Office of Student Activities and Organizations
carolinaunion.unc.edu
carolinaunion@unc.edu
(919) 966-3128

Jason Wang

Carolina students around me were so engaged and enthusiastic from my first day at Carolina; they helped me discover what kind of person I am and encouraged me to be involved in the vibrant campus. I have never been regretful for my choice of being at Carolina.”

Get ready to join our academic community.
Inspiring professors. Encouraging classmates. Unexpected friends.

The only way to find out what your UNC circle will look like is to start building it.