

RISD Global Exchange FACT SHEET 2025/26

Name of the School	Rhode Island School of Design		
Postal Address	20 Washington Place, Providence, Rhode Island 02903-2717, USA		
Institutional Website	https://www.risd.edu/		
RISD Global Website	https://global.risd.edu/		
RISD Global Contacts	All email inquiries should first be directed to the RISD Global Email: global@risd.edu		
	Sarah Croft, Director scroft@risd.edu	Catherine Best, Program Manager cbest@risd.edu	MJ da Cruz, Coordinator jdacruz@risd.edu
Application Deadlines	1 MARCH for the FALL 2025 semester 1 OCTOBER for the SPRING 2026 semester		
Academic Calendar	https://registrar.risd.edu/academic-calendar Fall semester 2025: Fall Semester Begins 9/3/2025 Wednesday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Last day of Fall Courses 12/1/2025 Monday - Reading/ Preparation/ Study Day 12/2/2025 Tuesday - Liberal Arts & Grad Commons Exams 12/3/2025 Wednesday - Studio Review Days/Crits 12/04/25 -12/10/25 Thurs - Wed Fall Semesters Ends 12/12/2025 Friday <i>No Courses Held, Offices Closed</i> Indigenous People's Day 10/13/2025 Monday Thanksgiving 11/27/25 - 11/28/25 Thurs-Fri Spring semester 2026: Spring Semester Begin 2/12/2026 Thursday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spring Break 3/23/26 - 3/27/26 Mon - Fri - Last Day of Spring Classes 5/13/2026 Wednesday - Reading/ Preparation/ Study Day 5/14/2026 Thursday - Liberal Arts & Grad Commons Exams 5/15/2026 Friday - Studio Review Days/ Crits 5/18/26 - 5/22/26 Mon - Fri Spring Semester Ends 5/22/2026 Friday <i>No Courses Held, Offices Closed</i> Memorial Day 5/25/2026 Monday Commencement 5/30/2026 Saturday		
Application Portal	https://admissions.risd.edu/portal/global		
How to Apply	https://global.risd.edu/apply-for-exchange-at-risd		
Application Requirements	Students nominated by their home university for exchange studies at RISD are required to submit an application through the RISD Admissions Portal. A completed application will require: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The statement of purpose (max 500 words). A concise and thoughtful consideration of your goals and reasons for seeking to study at RISD. 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Portfolio selection of 10-15 images, including descriptions of each image, the work's title, medium, and dimensions. - Two letters of recommendation from faculty members who have taught you in the past year (requests can be made through the References + Approvals section application portal). - Your International Office Coordinator/Exchange Advisor will be required to submit a form to verify your nomination to be considered for exchange (requests can be made through the References + Approvals section application portal). - Official transcript (PDF copy) - Curriculum vitae/Resume - Copy of valid passport (expiration 6 months after end date of intended semester) <p>All required documents must be sent through the application portal.</p> <p>Admission is based on the portfolio and artistic quality as well as the number of spaces available in individual studios.</p>
RISD Departments	All RISD departments outlined in the school's bilateral agreement are open to exchange students based on spatial availability. Please confer with your International Office Coordinator/Exchange Advisor to determine which RISD department best matches your home institution department and curricular requirements.
Decisions	<p>RISD Department Heads receive applicants' materials one week after the conclusion of the application. Decisions will be shared with applicants on or near the following dates:</p> <p>1 APRIL for the FALL 2025 semester 1 NOVEMBER for the SPRING 2026 semester</p>
Language	All RISD classes are taught in English. RISD does not offer supplementary language courses for incoming exchange students. No formal documentation of language proficiency is requested at the time of application from the school, however, proof of English proficiency is required for the DS-2019 form to apply for the J-1 visa to participate in the program. RISD reserves the right to terminate students' exchange period should their language ability be unsatisfactory for successful participation in RISD courses.
RISD Course Catalog	<p>https://registrar.risd.edu/registration/course-catalog</p> <p>Prior to your arrival your RISD Department Head and Department Specialist will advise you on how best to select your RISD courses and register for them. All exchange students must maintain enrollment in a minimum of 12 RISD credits while at RISD.</p>
Grading + Transcripts	<p>https://risd.coursedog.com/academics/grading</p> <p>After completion, the student's home university will receive a transcript of records including US Semester credits.</p> <p>https://registrar.risd.edu/student-records/transcripts</p> <p>Students may also request a copy of their transcripts for person records from the RISD Registrar's Office</p>
Visa	<p>https://students.risd.edu/living-risd/international-student-scholar-affairs</p> <p>A student visa is required by US immigration law for all international exchange students who wish to study in the United States. RISD International Student and Scholar Affairs (ISSA) will assist you with the student visa application process, in collaboration with RISD Global.</p> <p>J-1 Exchange Program</p>

Insurance	<p>Every incoming exchange student will be automatically enrolled in our <u>Student Health Insurance Plan</u>. This is the only additional expense for your enrollment.</p> <p>All J-1 exchange visitors (and any J-2 dependents) must maintain health insurance that meets U.S. Department of State requirements for the duration of their program. RISD's Student Health Insurance plan meets this requirement.</p>
Housing	<p>https://students.risd.edu/living-risd/residence-life</p> <p>Students may apply for on-campus housing in RISD's student residence halls, pending availability. Due to the nature of RISD's housing policy for degree-seeking students, however, availability of on-campus housing cannot be guaranteed for incoming exchange students.</p> <p>If students are offered a space to reside on campus, they will be placed in shared spaces such as multi-bedroom apartments or traditional doubles and singles on campus, based on availability. Students with confirmed on-campus housing assignments will receive a corresponding dining allotment, which is included in the cost of the room.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On-campus housing rates can be found on the RISD Residence Life website. - Resources and support for off-campus housing searches are also available. <p>Students who reside off-campus are able to purchase a meal plan to support their dietary needs while in Providence through RISD Dining. Students may utilize their dining plans to access RISD dining facilities around campus (they also accept cash).</p> <p>On-campus housing and meal plans have additional fees which will be billed to students separately and paid directly to RISD.</p>
Additional Information	<p>Visiting RISD https://www.risd.edu/about/visiting-campus</p> <p>Student Hub Find the information you need to succeed and thrive at RISD. https://students.risd.edu/</p> <p>Finding Community https://students.risd.edu/finding-community</p> <p>Health and Wellness https://students.risd.edu/health-and-wellness</p>