



Happy Fall 2025!

This semester, UNT is proud to host over 70 J-1 students and scholars from 27 different countries! I would like to extend a warm, Texas-sized welcome to each of you and hope your semester is off to a great start.

Fall is one of my favorite seasons in Texas—the cooler weather and festive atmosphere always brings so much energy to campus and the community. I encourage you to take full advantage of the many opportunities to get involved, meet new people, and enjoy both on-campus and local events.

Here are a few exciting happenings on campus this semester:

HOMECOMING 2025

Get ready to celebrate **Homecoming at UNT from October 13–18!**

This year's theme is MEAN GREEN ROUND UP, and you can expect the campus to be filled with festive energy and plenty of Mean Green spirit.

The Division of Student Affairs has planned exciting events each day throughout the week, leading up to the big football game on **Saturday, October 18**, when **UNT takes on UTSA at DATCU Stadium**.

[Mean Green Football Tickets](#) | [Mean Green Sports](#)

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK 2025

International Affairs will celebrate International Education Week from **November 17–21**. Here is a tentative schedule for the week. We encourage all of you to participate in as many programs as you can.

All events will be held in Marquis Hall. Review the calendar on the next page.

International Education Week Continued...

Monday, November 17

Parade of Nations at Noon ([sign-up to walk in the parade here](#))
Reception to Celebrate International Education and Exchange at 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 18

Language Exchange at 3 p.m.
Study Abroad Panel at 5 p.m.

Wednesday, November 19

UNT World Fair at 3 p.m.

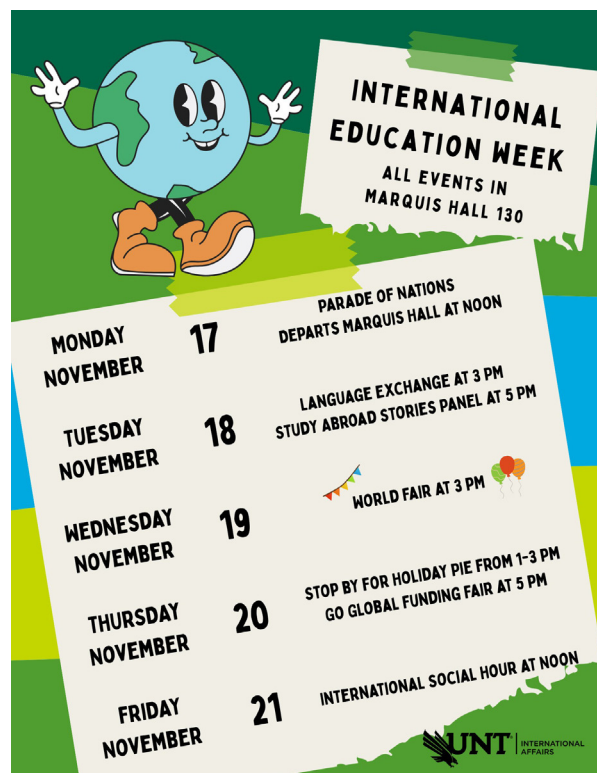
Thursday, November 20

Stop by for Holiday Pie from 1 - 3 p.m.
Global Funding Fair at 5 p.m.

Friday, November 21

International Social Hour at Noon

Please be on the lookout for emails from our office for more details as we get closer to the events.



Here are some off-campus events to consider:

Football is a huge pastime in Texas in the Fall and I encourage you to attend the [UNT home games](#) and maybe even check out the [local high school games on Friday nights](#) – Friday Night Lights is a real thing! If you have the opportunity, you should go watch the [Dallas Cowboys – America's Team](#) at the AT&T stadium in Arlington, Texas.

Your visit to Texas is not complete unless you visit the [State Fair of Texas](#)! It is truly the most Texan place on Earth! The fair which is held at the historic Fair Park grounds in Dallas, celebrates all things Texas and has taken place every year since 1886 except for World War I & II and during the 2020 COVID pandemic. One of the biggest draws of the fair is its mascot [Big Tex](#) and the [food](#) – funnel cakes, Fletcher's Corny Dogs, turkey legs, and all kinds of unique, award-winning fried foods. **The state fair is taking place from September 26 – October 19.** Check out the official fair website to [plan your visit](#)! You can ride the train all the way from Denton to Fair Park via the [DCTA](#) and [DART](#).

The [Denton Arts and Jazz Festival](#) will be held from October 3-5 in Denton's Quaker Park. This event is free of charge to the public and features several well-known local artists.

The [Day of the Dead festival](#) held from October 24-26 at the Denton Square is a super-interesting event. The [coffin races](#) at the festival are a spectacular sight. Maybe you can sign-up and participate as well!

If **Halloween** is your thing, then be sure to check out the [Fright Fest at Six Flags Over Texas](#) - it is guaranteed to be very thrilling!

My personal favorite Fall event is the [Dallas YMCA Turkey Trot](#) held on Thanksgiving Day (November 27, 2025) in downtown Dallas. You can do a casual 5K or a slightly more intense 8-mile walk/run with friends, family, and your pets. It is a very lively and well attended even and it's a great way to start your Thanksgiving Day and weekend. The City of Denton also has its own [Turkey Trot](#) on Saturday, November 8th. If you like bicycle rallies, then check out the [Denton Turkey Roll](#) the weekend before Thanksgiving.

Additional Resources of Interest

[International Affairs Cultural Activities](#)

[Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) Accounts

[UNT Art Gallery](#)

[UNT College of Music Calendar](#)

[UNT CoLAB](#)

[UNT Event Calendars](#)

[UNT Sports](#)

[Discover Denton](#)

[Denton Community Market](#)

[Things to do in DFW](#)

[Trip Advisor / Denton, TX](#)

[Denton County Transportation Authority](#)

[UNT Transportation Services](#)



SCAM ALERT

Did you know that approximately 8% of people in the United States fall victim to scams? International students and scholars are extremely susceptible to being scammed. We have a wealth of information on our [website](#) that describes how to identify scams and how best to protect yourself. The UNT Administration as well as the UNT Police Department will send out emails to the university community when it becomes aware of widespread scams that impact our student, staff, and faculty. Please be sure to pay attention to these email notifications and take the necessary precautions prescribed by the university administration and police.

What can you do if you have been scammed?

- Contact the International Student and Scholar Services office for guidance at 940-565-2195 or jinfo@unt.edu.
- Call the UNT Police Department at 940-565-3000 or submit a police report - [University of North Texas Police Department](#)
- Contact USCIS - [Report Immigration Scams | USCIS](#)
- Report all suspicious calls to the [ICE](#) tip line.
- Contact your banks to let them know that you have given out bank information and ask them what you can do to protect yourself.
- Call your credit card companies and alert them. It is likely advisable to change your credit card numbers, etc. and ask them for advice on further steps you can take to protect yourself.
- Review this link if you believe your identity has been compromised or stolen: [What to Do If Your Identity Is Stolen | Office of the Attorney General of Texas](#)
- Learn more about avoiding and reporting scams at consumer.ftc.gov/features/scam-alerts.

Immigration Reminders!

ALIEN REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT FOR THOSE WHO TURN 14 YEARS OLD IN U.S.

International students and scholars who entered the U.S. after 14 years of age and received an unexpired I-94 (usually D/S is listed on the I-94 for F1/J1 visa holders), do not need to re-register under this new rule. If you have dependents who have traveled to the U.S. with you under the age of 14 and they will remain in the U.S. more than 30 days, they will need to re-register via a USCIS Online Account within 30 days of their 14th birthday.

You can read more about this requirement online here: [Alien Registration Requirement | USCIS](#)

IMMIGRATION DOCUMENT TIMING

Remember - it is important to keep your immigration documents up to date at all times. Please set aside some time to check the following:

- **Passport expiration date** - you should never let your passport have less than 6 months validity left when inside the U.S. Be sure to renew your passport promptly.
- **I-94** - if you have traveled internationally since you received your last approval notice from USCIS, take a moment to download your I-94 from cbp.gov/i94 and verify that the admit until date is "D/S" (Duration of Status).
- **Expiration of status** – the program end date on your DS-2019 indicates the end date of your J-1 immigration status. If you wish to extend your program, please see the DS-2019 Extensions section in this newsletter.
- **J-1 Visa Reminder** - If you plan to travel outside the U.S. during the Fall or Winter break and return in J-1 status, you must have a valid J-1 visa stamp in your passport.
- **As of September 6, 2025, the U.S. Department of State requires all non-immigrant visa applicants to schedule their visa interview appointments at the U.S. embassy or consulate located in their country of nationality or permanent residence.** [For more details, visit the U.S. Department of State's Travel website.](#)

EVIDENCE OF STATUS/IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTS

The law requires all non-U.S. citizens to always carry proof of their immigration status. This includes your valid DS-2019, a print out of your most recent I-94, and your valid passport with a visa stamp. We recommend carrying your original documents with you and making multiple copies for safekeeping. Store these copies in different locations—not all on your person or a single device you are carrying—to minimize the risk of losing all documentation at once.

DS-2019 EXTENSIONS

DS-2019 extension requests should be submitted to jinfo@unt.edu at least 30 days prior to the current program end date listed on the DS-2019. J-1 students requiring an extension must extend for a minimum of 1 year, unless the expected program completion date is sooner.

Please be sure to check your UNT email frequently since all official university communication is sent to the UNT email. Please also let us know if your address or phone number changes during your stay in the US.

TRAVELING OUTSIDE THE U.S. OVER FALL OR WINTER BREAK?

J-1 exchange visitors who wish to travel outside the U.S. should request the ISSS office for a travel endorsement on their DS-2019. Travel endorsements are valid for 1 year or until the program-end date on the DS-2019, whichever comes first. Please email the ISSS office at jinfo@unt.edu at least 7-10 days prior to the travel date to request a travel endorsement. In addition to a valid travel endorsement, please be sure to have the following immigration documents prior to re-entering the U.S.:

- Valid J1 visa stamp to re-enter the United States (unless you are a citizen of Canada).
- Valid passport that has more than 6 months remaining of its validity.

Note: The U.S. Department of State allows the international office to apply digital signatures on the DS-2019. The ISSS office may digitally sign and transmit the DS2019 to the J-1 exchange visitor via their UNT email address. Exchange visitors must then print, sign (by hand), and present the paper version of the DS-2019 when re-entering the U.S.

YOUR RIGHTS AS A NONIMMIGRANT VISA HOLDER [Nonimmigrant Visa Holder Information](#)

EVP EMERGENCY HOTLINE

Ensuring the health, safety and welfare of all exchange visitors is the University of North Texas and the Department of State's highest priority:

To help safeguard the health, safety and welfare of all exchange visitors, there is an Exchange Visitor Program (EVP) Emergency Hotline is a 24/7 toll-free telephone number that allows exchange visitors to directly contact the Department in emergency and urgent situations. A Department representative is available 24 hours a day.

EVP Emergency Hotline: 1-866-283-9090

EAGLE ALERTS

Eagle Alert contacts the campus community by phone or text in the event of an emergency.

@UNTEagleAlert is the social media handle.

Update your emergency contact information in the my.unt.edu portal using the PROFILE tile.

You can also text 'UNTPOI' to 888-777 and follow the prompts to add yourself to Eagle Alerts.

If there is an emergency on campus, you will be notified through Eagle Alert, so make sure your contact information is correct!

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND RESOURCES:

J-1 students - <https://international.unt.edu/content/j-1-students>

J-1 scholars - <https://international.unt.edu/content/j-1-scholars>

Visitor Spotlights



RESEARCH SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT

The University of North Texas continues to welcome outstanding J-1 research scholars whose work spans colleges and departments. The Fall 2025 spotlight highlights the scholars in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering and the Center for Agile & Adaptive Additive Manufacturing (CAAAM), where they are driving cutting-edge research and innovation.

From left to right in featured photo: Drs. Sudip Sarkar, Jitesh Kumar, Narendra Dahotre, & Krishna Kamlesh



Dr. Sudip Kumar Sarkar (Ph.D., Homi Bhabha National Institute) joined CAAAM in May 2025. His research spans magnetic, high-entropy, and titanium-based alloys, using advanced techniques like 3D Atom Probe Tomography to engineer nano-scale structures.

Dr. Krishna Kamlesh Verma (Ph.D., IISc Bangalore) joined CAAAM in November 2023 with experience across academia, national labs, and industry. His work focuses on additive manufacturing of refractory alloys such as tungsten, W-Re, and molybdenum, aiming to design alloys for aerospace, defense, and nuclear applications.

Dr. Jitesh Kumar (Ph.D., IIT Kanpur) became part of CAAAM in June 2023. He studies refractory and complex concentrated alloys, integrating experimental methods with computational modeling to develop next-generation materials for aerospace and energy.

Dr. Nachiket Keskar (photographed above) (Ph.D., Homi Bhabha National Institute) joined Prof. Raj Banerjee's group in May 2024. His research explores phase transformations in titanium, high-entropy, and refractory alloys, advancing structural, magnetic, and high-temperature materials. Outside of research, he enjoys Texas culture, hiking, browsing the shelves at Recycled Books Records CDs in Denton Square, indulging in ice cream at Beth Marie's, and connecting with UNT's diverse community.

Together, these research scholars are making significant contributions to advancing materials research and strengthening UNT's global research impact.

FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT

Maher Shafie, a Fulbright scholar from Ramallah in the West Bank, is pursuing graduate studies in music at UNT with a focus on music history and pedagogy. His research explores inclusive teaching methods for visually impaired students, aiming to make music history education more accessible and engaging.

Beyond academics, Maheer enjoys performing on the oud, blending Middle Eastern traditions with diverse musical styles, and sharing his culture through community engagement. He values UNT's supportive and diverse environment, which has fostered both his academic growth and personal connections.

Be sure to give our spotlighted J-1 exchange visitors a Mean Green high five when you see them!



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