



J-1 scholars and students at International Affairs Fall Fulbright Luncheon.

Greetings everyone!

We have over 70 J-1 students and scholars from 29 countries this semester at UNT! I extend a warm Texas-sized welcome to all of you! I trust that your semester is off to an excellent start. Fall is my favorite season in Texas. Every year, I eagerly look forward to the Fall festivities and the cooler weather that comes with it. I encourage each of you to make the most of the chance to participate in a wide range of social activities, both on and off campus, this semester. Let me share with you some exciting on-campus events that await:

Homecoming 2024

Homecoming will be celebrated from October 21–26. This year's theme is SCRAPYPALOOZA! The campus will feel festive, and you will see a lot of Mean Green spirit everywhere! There are daily events organized by the Division of Student Affairs. Homecoming week culminates with the football game on October 26 when UNT will play Tulane at DATCU Stadium. Tickets to the game are available at meangreensports.com.

International Education Week

International Affairs will celebrate International Education Week from November 18-22. Here is a list of programs each day of the week. We encourage all of you to participate in as many programs as you can. My personal favorite is the Parade of Nations which will be held on Monday, November 18 at noon. Come dressed in your national attire and participate in the flag parade!

Please be on the lookout for emails from our office for more details on International Education Week as we get closer to the event!

International Education Week

November 18-22

Monday, Nov. 18

Parade of Nations

12:00 PM

Flag parade starts outside Marquis Hall. Sign-ups will open late October.

Tuesday, Nov. 19

Language Exchange

3:30 PM

Marquis Hall, Room 130

Thursday, Nov. 21

Holiday Pies

1:00 PM - 4:00PM

Swing by Marquis Hall, Room 130 to grab a holiday pie!

Friday, Nov. 22

International Social Hour

12:00 PM

Marquis Hall, Room 130



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
International Student &
Scholar Services

J World News

Eagle Alerts

[Eagle Alert](#) contacts the campus community by phone or text in the event of an emergency.

[@UNTEagleAlert](#) is their X (formerly Twitter) handle.

Update your emergency contact information in the [my.unt.edu](#) portal using the PROFILE tile.

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

Check it Out!

[International Affairs Events Calendar](#)

[International Affairs Facebook](#)

[International Affairs Instagram](#)

[UNT Art Galleries](#)

[UNT College of Music Calendar](#)

[UNT CoLAB Website](#)

[UNT Events Calendar](#)

[UNT Sports Website](#)

[Discover Denton Website](#)

[Denton Community Market Website](#)

[Denton County Transportation Authority Website](#)

Things to do in DFW: [Visit Dallas Website](#)

Local Events

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!](#) 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 during World War I & II and 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 will take place from September 27-October 20 this year. 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 4-6 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 25-27 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 28, 2024) 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 event and it’s a great way to start your Thanksgiving Day and weekend.

The City of Denton also has its own [Turkey Trot](#) on Thanksgiving Day. If you like bicycle rallies, then check out the [Denton Turkey Roll](#) the weekend before Thanksgiving.

Want to connect with nature? The [LLELA Nature Preserve](#) in Lewisville has hiking trails, camp grounds, and more that you can explore!

Check out more events on the [International Programs](#) webpage as well as the [Discover Denton](#) and [Visit Dallas](#) websites.

Reminders

If you will be traveling over the Fall or Winter break:

- You must have a valid DS-2019 with a valid travel signature to re-enter the United States. Travel signatures are valid for 1 year or the end of your DS-2019, whichever comes first. If you need a travel signature, contact jinfo@unt.edu at least 14 days prior to travel date. We will provide you with an electronic travel signature on your DS-2019 and email you the document which you must print, sign, and keep with you while re-entering the US.
- You must have a valid J-1 visa stamp to re-enter the United States (unless you are a citizen of Canada).
- You must have a valid passport that has more than six months remaining of its validity.
- Review immigration updates on our [website](#).
- DS-2019 Extensions should be submitted to jinfo@unt.edu at least 14 days prior to current DS-2019 end date. 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 you contact the International Student and Scholar Services office if there are any changes to your J program.

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 students, 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 [HSI 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 on the [FTC Consumer Advice webpage](#).

Your Rights as a Nonimmigrant Visa Holder

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 – 1-866-283-9090 – 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.

Visit the [Travel.State.Gov](#) website for more information.

J-1 Student Spotlight

This Fall, we are excited to spotlight some of the J-1 students enrolled at UNT. Our university is proud to host around 30 J-1 students from 14 different countries. This diverse community includes exchange students, Fulbright scholars, and those sponsored by their home governments. Be sure to give them a Mean Green high-five when you see them!



Otoe Sadamitsu

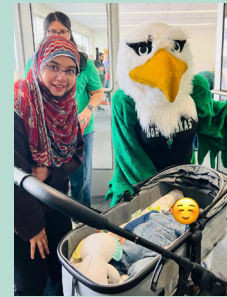
Japan
Two months at UNT
Exchange Student

What do you love most about UNT?
People (other students and the professors of my classes) are kind and friendly.
What is your favorite thing to do in the DFW metroplex?
I like visiting museums.

What do you love most about UNT?
I love the resources my professors provide me for research, and the level of inclusivity.
What is your favorite thing to do in the DFW metroplex?
Lewisville lake!

Fizza Kanwal

Pakistan
Three years at UNT
PhD Management



Nelfrits Christopher



Indonesia
One year at UNT
Master of
Information Science

What do you love most about UNT?
Willis Libraries, for all the fantastic services they've offered!
What is your favorite thing to do in the DFW metroplex?
My favorite things to do (besides hitting the books) are choir practice and Sunday service at a local church downtown.

What do you love most about UNT?
Experienced professors, kind staff, strong support system and beautiful buildings.
What is your favorite thing to do in the DFW metroplex?
Going to the community garden to tend to the plants and checking out books in the bookstore at Denton Square

Khin Su Mon

Myanmar
Two months at UNT
MS in Information
Systems and
Technologies





Adriana Marcela García García

Colombia
Two months at UNT
Ph.D. in Political Science

What do you love most about UNT?
I love the diversity and the efforts for conducting innovative research in peacebuilding.

What is your favorite thing to do in the DFW metroplex?
I haven't had the opportunity to explore the DFW metroplex, but I would love to visit the Dallas Arboretum & Botanical Gardens and the Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum.

Wakana Takahashi

What do you love most about UNT?
Campus!

What is your favorite thing to do in the DFW metroplex?
I enjoy exploring vintage shops.

Japan
Two months at UNT
Business



Ikhlas Abed Reguieg

Algeria
Two months at UNT
International Studies,
Majoring in Human Security

What do you love most about UNT?
I love my teachers and the engaging debates with my classmates.

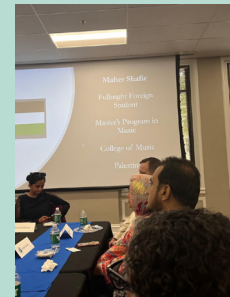
What is your favorite thing to do in the DFW metroplex?
I haven't gone out in the Denton/DFW metroplex yet.

Maher Shafie

What do you love most about UNT?
It's still too early to judge!

What is your favorite thing to do in the DFW metroplex?
Denton Islamic Center.

Palestine
Two months at UNT
Master in Historical Musicology



Amber Sardar

Pakistan
Two years at UNT
Ph.D. with a Major in Marketing

What do you love most about UNT?
I like the professors, and the staff.

What is your favorite thing to do in the DFW metroplex?
Go and eat at Thai food. The place is Noodle Wave Halal Restaurant.



Lara Mueller

Germany

Two months at UNT

Masters in Economics -
Machine Learning

What do you love most about UNT?
The diversity.

What is your favorite thing to do in the
DFW metroplex?
Going to sporting events

What do you love most about UNT?

It's a very green campus, walkable that makes me feel focused. All the activities and attention to the students.

What is your favorite thing to do in the
DFW metroplex?
I don't know much about the town yet.

Sharon Perez

Panama

One year at UNT

Information Science
PhD Program



J-1 scholars and students at International Affairs Fall Fulbright Luncheon.

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