



Spring 2026



J-WORLD NEWS

Happy Spring 2026!

Even though we are still a couple of weeks away from the official start of Spring, it already feels like winter has given way to the new season, bringing longer days and pleasant weather. I hope you are all enjoying a productive and rewarding Spring semester. Take advantage of this beautiful time of year by participating in on- and off-campus activities and making the most of your exchange visitor experience.

Upcoming Campus Events

University Day- April 17, 2025

We are celebrating [University Day](#) this year on April 17th 11 AM - 1 PM in the Library Mall. The annual party, which includes free food with your UNT ID, commemorates our change from college to university in 1961.

Look at the following university calendars for additional program and events!

[UNT Calendar](#)

[UNT College of Music Events Calendar](#)

Programming hosted by International Affairs

Language Exchange

Practice your conversational skills in languages spoken around the world! Language Exchange is a great place to learn a new language or share your own. Open to all students at UNT!

When and where: Every Tuesday at 3 PM at Marquis Hall, Room 130

International Social Hour

Make connections and meet students and scholars from around the world. Everyone is welcome!

When and where: Every Friday at 12 PM at Marquis Hall, Room 130

Discover TEA with the UNTea Society

When and where: March 20th at 3 PM in Marquis Hall, Room 130

World Fair

When and where: March 27th from 3-5 PM in Marquis Hall, Room 130

International Trivia!

When and where: April 16th at 3 PM at Marquis Hall, Room 130

Check out the [International Affairs program calendar](#) for all the fun, cultural events!

Here are some off-campus events to consider:

Denton Community Market – every Saturday from March through December

The Denton Community Market (DCM) is an art and farmer’s market in downtown Denton featuring live music, kids’ activities, local farms, local artists, food trucks, and a lot more! The market is open every Saturday until late December from 9 AM – 1 PM. Visit the DCM website for more information: <https://www.dentonmarket.org/>

Ennis Bluebonnet Trails and Festival – April 1 - 30

Ennis is the official Bluebonnet City of Texas and has around 40 miles of mapped driving trails to see the spectacular wildflower blooms from April 1-30. The blooming season peaks around the third week of April which coincides with Ennis Bluebonnet Trails Festival which is being held this year from April 17-19. The festival, held in downtown Ennis has a farmers’ market, arts and crafts, food stalls, kids’ activities, and local music bands. More information about the Bluebonnet Trails and Festival and be found on their website: <https://www.bluebonnettrail.org/>

Germanfest in Muenster, Texas – April 24-26

Visit the Germanfest at Muenster which is home to a unique German community of approximately 1500 people in North Texas. Germanfest is a 3-day festival with loads of food, fun, and frolic. There is also a 5K fun-run and a 100K bicycle rally if that is your thing. It is a very hilly but extremely fun route! More information about the festival can be found on the festival germanfestmuenstertx.com

Twilight Tunes – Thursday evenings in May and June

The Twilight Tunes are free concerts organized by The Denton Main Street Association that take place from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Thursday evenings in May and June on the Courthouse Lawn. Check out the [Discover Denton website](#) for more information

North Texas comes alive with art, music and culture in the Spring. Check out the [KERA website](#) for a list of spring festivals and cultural programs in the DFW metroplex.

Also check out the [Discover Denton](#) and the [Visit Dallas](#) websites for events around Denton and DFW.

Important Spring 2026 Enrollment Updates for J-1 Students

J-1 students must maintain a full-time course load during fall and spring semesters.

This means:

J-1 Undergraduate students must enroll in 12 credit hours or more.

J-1 Graduate students must enroll in 9 credit hours or more.

J-1 students may engage in a maximum of one online course per semester

Please contact our office at jinfo@unt.edu if you have questions or clarifications concerning Fall 2024 enrollment guidelines.

ON-CAMPUS ALERTS & EMERGENCIES

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.

If there is an emergency on campus, you will be notified through Eagle Alert, so make sure your contact information is correct and up to date.

IMPORTANT IMMIGRATION REMINDERS

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.*

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 printout 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.

TRAVEL OUTSIDE THE U.S.

Do you have plans to travel outside the U.S. over Spring Break or Summer? 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 ISSS 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.

Important: Know the safety information regarding your destination. The U.S. Department of State has a good resource here where you can learn about your destination: [International Travel | Travel.State.gov](#) Perhaps your home country also has a similar online resource.

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.

Your Rights as a Nonimmigrant Visa Holder

[Nonimmigrant Visa Holder Information](#)

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>

EVP EMERGENCY HOTLINE 1-866-283-9090

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 Emergency Hotline. This 24/7 toll-free phone number allows exchange visitors to directly contact the Department in emergency and urgent situations. A Department representative is available 24 hours a day.

SCAM ALERTS

Did you know that approximately 8% of people in the United States fall victim to scams? Scams occur when strangers often impersonating government agency personnel, contact international students and scholars and intimidate them. International students and scholars are extremely susceptible to being scammed. There is a wealth of information available on both the USCIS website and the UNT ISSS website that explains how to recognize common scams and outlines best practices for protecting 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 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 at consumer.ftc.gov/features/scam-alerts

Meet Fulbright-Nehru Scholar Dr. Kumar Biradha!



Dr. Kumar Biradha is a Professor of Chemistry at the Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur whose research focuses on supramolecular chemistry and crystal engineering. His work explores metal-organic frameworks (MOFs), hydrogen-bonded organic frameworks (HOFs), and covalent organic frameworks (COFs), with applications in porosity, electrocatalysis, solid-state reactions, and structural transformations across gel, xerogel, and crystalline states.

In September 2025, Professor Biradha joined the University of North Texas as a Fulbright-Nehru Professional Excellence (FNAPE) Visiting Scholar and will remain through mid-June 2026. During his time at UNT, he has been collaborating with Professor Shengqian Ma in the Department of Chemistry on porphyrin-based MOFs for CO₂ capture and conversion into value-added chemicals. Hosted in Professor Ma's research laboratory, Professor Biradha's visit has fostered meaningful academic exchange, interdisciplinary collaboration, and advancement of his ongoing research. He notes that UNT's intellectually stimulating environment, outstanding facilities, and vibrant academic atmosphere have greatly enriched his experience.

Beyond the laboratory, Professor Biradha has enjoyed exploring Denton with his wife, Satya. They especially appreciated evening walks around Denton Square during the Halloween and Christmas seasons, when the festive decorations create a warm and welcoming atmosphere. The couple has also taken the opportunity to visit cities such as Dallas, Houston, San Antonio, and Las Vegas, making their time in the United States both professionally rewarding and personally enriching.

Meet Visting Assistant Professor Dr. Hannes Jakob!

Dr. Hannes Jakob joined the University of North Texas as a Visiting Professor in the Department of Mathematics in Fall 2025. His connection to UNT began through his academic work with Dr. John Krueger, whose research he engaged with extensively during his PhD studies. This collaboration eventually led to Dr. Krueger serving as an advisor for his doctoral thesis and inspired Dr. Jakob to come to UNT as a Visiting Professor for a three-year term.

Dr. Hannes Jakob currently teaches MATH 4500/5600: Introduction to Topology. His research focuses on Set Theory, a branch of mathematics that studies the properties and sizes of different infinities, such as comparing the size of the natural numbers with the size of the real numbers. Within this field, his work centers on consistency results, which explore mathematical statements that can be neither proven nor refuted within a given system.

Dr. Jakob will be at UNT through Spring 2028. Looking ahead, he hopes to continue his academic career in Europe so he can be closer to family and friends.

Outside of his academic work, Dr. Jakob enjoys reading, playing video games and chess, and staying active through recreational sports, including intramural activities and workouts at the university recreation center. Professionally, he feels fortunate to be part of one of the largest and most respected set theory research groups in the United States. Beyond the academic environment, he also appreciates the warm Texas weather—at least for now—and the wide variety of recreational opportunities available at UNT.



**Be sure to say hello when you see
Dr. Biradha and Dr. Jakob on campus
and give them a Mean Green high-five!**

Please visit our website for additional information and resources:

[J-1 students](#) | [J-1 scholars](#)

[Rekha Gopalakrishnan, Assistant Director, International Scholar Services](#)

Marquis Hall, Room 125 | 1511 W. Mulberry | Denton, TX 76201

Tel: 940-565-2195 | jinfo@unt.edu

Mon-Fri 8:00am-5:00pm

