



Globie is ready for spring in Texas! Photo by Jessica Slovon.

Happy Spring 2025!

Spring is here, bringing longer days, perfect weather, vibrant greenery, and the iconic Bluebonnets—the state flower of Texas! The [history](#) behind the bluebonnet's designation as the state flower of Texas is pretty interesting. I hope you are enjoying a productive and rewarding Spring semester. Take advantage of this beautiful season by engaging in on- and off-campus activities to make the most of your exchange visitor experience.

University Day

Friday, Apr. 4

We are celebrating [University Day](#) this year on April 4, 11pm - 1pm in the Library Mall. The annual party, which includes free food with your UNT ID, commemorates our change from college to university in 1961. The International Affairs office will host the [World Fair](#) which celebrates countries and cultures from around the world in the afternoon from 3pm - 5pm at Marquis Hall.

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

[UNT Calendar](#)

[UNT College of Music Events Calendar](#)

Sneak Peak!

Our J-1 Spotlight this semester features one of ISSS own Student Assistants! Keep reading to meet the J-1 visiting scholar from Burma!

International Affairs Programs

Language Exchange

Tuesdays at 3:30PM

Marquis Hall, Room 130

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!

International Social Hour

Fridays at 12:00PM

Marquis Hall, Room 130

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

Friday, Apr. 4 World Fair

3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Marquis Hall, Room 130

Thursday, Apr. 10 Discover Pakistan

3:00 PM

Marquis Hall, Room 130

Friday, Apr. 18 Discover Japan

3:00 PM

Marquis Hall, Room 130

Local Events

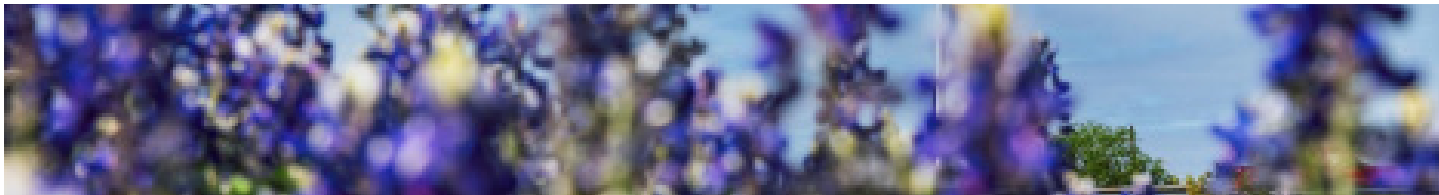


Photo courtesy of [UNT Stock Photography](#).

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 December 21st from 9 AM – 1 PM. Visit the [DCM website](#) for more information.

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 11-13. 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.

Germanfest in Muenster, Texas

April 25-27

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 [Germanfest website](#).

Denton Redbud Festival

May 4

Denton, the Redbud Capital of Texas, celebrates Earth Month on May 4th with the [Denton Redbud Festival](#)—a lively event featuring food, entertainment, and workshops.

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.

Check it Out!

[International Affairs Events Calendar](#)

[International Affairs Instagram](#)

[UNT CoLAB Website](#)

[Denton County Transportation Authority Website](#)

[International Affairs Facebook](#)

[UNT Art Galleries](#)

[UNT Sports Website](#)

[Discover Denton Website](#)

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

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](#).

U.S. Department of State Resources

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](https://travel.state.gov) website for more information.

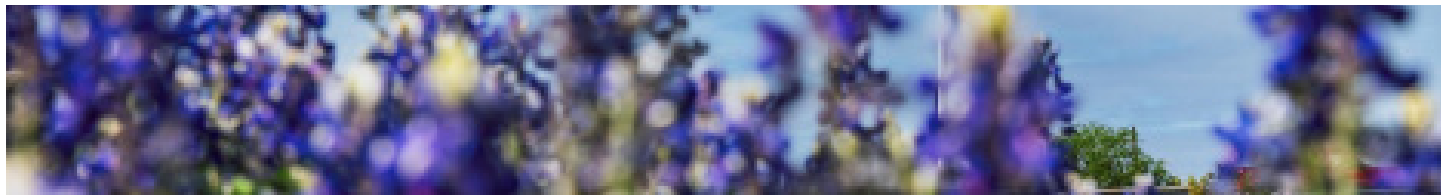


Photo courtesy of [UNT Stock Photography](#).

Important Fall 2025 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 2025 enrollment guidelines.

Important 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.

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 safe-keeping. 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.

Please visit our website for additional information and resources:

J-1 students - <https://international.unt.edu/international-students/j-1-exchange-students/index.html>

J-1 scholars - <https://international.unt.edu/international-scholar-services/index.html>

Travel Reminders

If you will be traveling over the Summer 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.

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!



Photo by Rose Bhaskar.

J-1 Student Spotlight

Meet J-1 student Khin Su Mon from Burma!

Su has been a J-1 visiting scholar at the University of North Texas (UNT) for the past eight months, arriving through the Burma Lincoln Scholarship Program. This opportunity has allowed her to further her education at UNT which stood out to her for its strong curriculum and emphasis on research and innovation.

She is currently pursuing a Master's in Information Systems and Technologies, with a research focus on how technology can enhance business processes. Su is particularly interested in leveraging digital tools to improve efficiency and develop more effective business strategies.

Looking ahead, Su aspires to establish a social enterprise dedicated to teaching IT skills to women from marginalized communities. She firmly believes that access to technology education can open new opportunities and empower individuals to build brighter futures.



Outside of her studies, Su enjoys reading and tending to the community garden, where she finds joy in nurturing plants and connecting with nature. Giving back is also important to her, and she volunteers at the UNT Food Pantry whenever possible. In her free time, she indulges in poetry writing, crocheting, swimming, watching movies, exploring thrift stores, and spending time with friends. Additionally, she has a passion for learning new languages, as it allows her to explore different cultures and perspectives.



One of the things Su values most about her time at UNT is the welcoming environment. From day one, the faculty and staff have been incredibly supportive, making her transition smooth. The university's strong support system for students has made her experience even more enriching.

Su recently joined the International Student and Scholar Services office as a student assistant, and we are thrilled to have her on our team! Be sure to say hello when you see her on campus and give her a Mean Green high-five!

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