“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much”
- Helen Keller

What is the purpose of the Exchange Visitor Program?
The Exchange Visitor Program fosters global understanding through educational and cultural exchanges.
Thank you for being a part of UNT's exchange program!

Fall 2020 - A Fall like No Other!

Face Covering and Social Distancing
UNT requires the use of face coverings inside all buildings and outside in public settings. This applies to places like common workspaces, meeting rooms, laboratories, classrooms, common areas like the libraries, the Union and other buildings. Along with wearing a face covering, remember the importance of social distancing.

Coronavirus Updates
Visit https://healthalerts.unt.edu/ for the most up to date information regarding the UNT response to the COVID-19 global health crisis.

International Travel
UNT requires all members of the UNT community to self-report ALL international travel. If you have recently arrived in the United States or plan to travel internationally, you must complete the UNT International Travel form online at: https://healthalerts.unt.edu/travel-form.

Traveling outside the U.S. during your Program and Travel Endorsements

- Your DS-2019 must be valid
- Your DS-2019 must be endorsed (signed) for travel by a Responsible Officer, see bottom right of your DS-2019 “TRAVEL ENDORSEMENT BY RESPONSIBLE OFFICER”
- This signature is valid for one year or the end of your program (whichever comes first)
- If you need a Travel Endorsement, E-Mail jinfo@unt.edu at least 14 days prior to your departure date
- In order to re-enter the U.S., you will also need a valid visa and passport

When making the decision to leave the U.S., please know that Travel Bans and other immigration situations change rapidly. Please refer to and continue to monitor this site: https://international.unt.edu/content/immigration-updates
On Friday, September 25th, the Department of Homeland Security published a proposed rule to eliminate “duration of status.” This rule is not final and has not gone into effect and we do not recommend making decisions based solely on this proposed rule. Below is a brief discussion of the rule making process and a high-level overview of the proposed rule:

Rule Making Process

1. A proposed rule is published in the Federal Register and the public can comment (this is where we currently are). This period will end on October 26, 2020 for this rule.
2. DHS is required to review public comments and prepare a response to all substantive comments.
3. DHS sends either the same rule or the rule with changes to the OMB for review.
4. The OMB completes their review of the rule.
5. The final rule is published with an effective date.

Brief Overview of Proposed Rule

The new rule proposes to eliminate “duration of status” for individuals in F and J status. Currently, individuals in F and J statuses are admitted for “duration of status” which means they can remain in the United States if they are complying with their F or J regulations. There is not a fixed end date by which individuals in F or J status must depart the United States. The proposed rule eliminates “duration of status” and replaces it with a fixed end date of F or J status. Individuals in F or J status would then need to file a formal extension of status request with USCIS in order to remain in the United States beyond their fixed end date.

Again, this is in the “Proposed Rule” stage.

The public commentary period is open until October 26, 2020. All individuals can submit a comment regardless of immigration status but know that all submitted comments become public record. The final rule could have substantial changes or never take effect. This information is not law and is subject to change. We will keep our website up-to-date here.

We’ve updated our website to include specific information for J Students and J Scholars!

https://international.unt.edu/content/j-1-students
https://international.unt.edu/content/j-1-scholars

Ensuring Exchange Visitor’s Health, Safety and Welfare
is the University of North Texas and the Department of State's Highest Priority

To help safeguard the health, safety and welfare of exchange visitors, there’s an Exchange Visitor Program Emergency Hotline: 1-866-283-9090 This 24/7 toll-free phone number allows exchange visitors to directly contact the State Department in emergency and urgent situations.

Your Rights as a Non Immigrant Visa Holder

Non Immigrant Visa Holder Information
Spring Classes 2021

First day of classes for Spring 2021 will be January 11, 2021. The semester will end one week early with the last day of class being April 22 with April 23 a reading day. Finals are scheduled April 24 through May 1. There will be no spring break in March, but Friday, April 2 is a no class day to give students a long weekend break in the middle of the semester. View the academic calendar here.

Scam Alert

If you are contacted by someone claiming to be with a U.S. government agency, who asks for money to fix an immigration or tax issue, contact ISSS or the UNT police first! DO NOT send money and DO NOT give them personal information!

Helpful resources on protecting your identity and information.

- https://www.usa.gov/housing-scams#item-211837
- https://www.usa.gov/identity-theft
- https://oig.ssa.gov/newsroom/scam-awareness
- https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog
- https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/pass-it-on/imposter-scams#
- https://youtu.be/i4nCy6Xs6R8

Reminder!

Please be sure to contact International Student and Scholar Services if there are ANY changes to your J program.

Fun Fact!

Halloween 2020 will have a full moon. There will be only six Halloween full moons in the 21st century - 2001, 2020, 2039, 2058, 2077, and 2096.

Check it Out!!!

International Affairs Events
Fine Arts Series
Art Gallery
Dance & Theatre
College of Music Calendar
UNT The CoLAB
UNT Calendar

UNT Sports
Discover Denton
Things to do in DFW
Trip Advisor
Denton County Transportation Authority
UNT Transportation Services

J-1s and J-2s are invited to join us each Friday from Noon to 1 p.m. to practice English language speaking and fluency at English Conversation CommUNiTy!

Program is held on virtually on Zoom.

International.Events@unt.edu for more information
My name is Torben, I am a J-1 research scholar from Germany in the lab of Dr. Warren Burggren. I am interested in the evolution of circulatory systems in invertebrates and during my time at UNT, I want to study the influence of the environment on the physiology of the marbled crayfish. This crayfish is especially interesting because it produces genetically identical offspring by a process called parthenogenesis. This means the environmental conditions are the main factor for changes in physiology. My project is funded by a postdoctoral fellowship from the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG).

My wife Any and I arrived in Denton in late January 2020 and we had to furnish our apartment within two days. Dr Burggren helped us out with his car and that is when we got a first great taste of what it means to be part of the UNT family. The next weeks, we settled in our apartment and traveled to parks nearby and the Fort Worth Zoo, while I started to find my way through the lab and to establish my experimental setup. Who could have known what was about to come? The Corona pandemic hit fast and hard, leading not only to a shutdown of the lab but being a cesura in all our lives in general. I was still able to care for the crayfish, research itself, however, was put on hold. In this time, we were having happy hours via Zoom with friends from the department – the UNT family again showed strong cohesion. As planned even before we moved here, Any and I also got a puppy in May. This cute boy helped us a lot during this strange period that likely no one will ever forget.

With UNT opening up again in summer, research was ramped up and I am happy that I am currently gathering data from my experiments. Even though the first six months here were different than expected, my wife and I made the most of it. I am grateful for the support of UNT and the wonderful people here and I am looking forward to the future in Denton and to what is to come here at UNT.

Stay safe!

Torben, we are happy to have you and Anika as part of the UNT family!

Contact

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