

Incoming Exchange Program Fact Sheet

RPI Education Abroad
Spring 2027

Exchange Program Contact Information

Karen Dvorak

Education Abroad Program Manager

dvorak2@rpi.edu

Michael Holderreed, Exchange Visitor Specialist

holdem@rpi.edu

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI)

International Services for Students and Scholars

1528 15th Street

Troy, NY 12180

Institute Website - www.rpi.edu

ISSS Website - <https://issr.rpi.edu/>

Departmental Contact Information - <https://info.rpi.edu/>

University Information

Year Founded: 1824

Academic Schools:

- Engineering
- Science
- Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences
- Management
- Architecture

Full-time Degree Seeking Students:

- Undergraduate – 5600
- Graduate – 1070

RPI Fast Facts: <https://www.rpi.edu/about/quick-facts>

Student Activities: Over 200 student clubs and organizations

Campus: 275-acre campus located in the historic city of Troy, New York

Distance from Major Metropolitan Areas:

- New York City – 150 miles
- Boston – 175 miles
- Montreal – 215 miles

More about Troy:

- <https://www.downtowntroyny.org/>
- <https://discoverupstateny.com/troy/>

Academic Information

Language of Instruction: English

Course Catalogue (for course descriptions): <https://catalog.rpi.edu/>

Academic System and Terminology:

- A course refers to a class or individual unit of study.
- Class format may be a lecture, discussion, group work or a combination.
- Assessment takes place throughout the semester and may include attendance and in-class participation, tests and quizzes, oral presentations, and lab work.
- Classes are typically not recorded, and attendance is usually required.

Courseload

- 14-18 credits hours per semester, typically 4-5 courses
- 12 credit hours required maintain full-time status
- 21 credit max per semester

Restricted Classes

- Exchange students will be notified of any restricted classes in advance of registration.

Student Status and Graduate Coursework

- All exchange students have undergraduate status while at RPI, regardless of their academic status at the home institution.
- Permission is required to enroll in any graduate-level class (6000 level or above).
- Students must typically be in the final year of an undergraduate degree program to be considered for enrollment in a graduate class.

Course Offerings and Availability:

- Course offerings vary by semester, and the availability of any particular class is not guaranteed.
- Class hour schedules can be viewed in the [RPI Student Information System](#) and are typically published in March for fall and November for spring.

Registration:

- Students will receive class registration instructions once their applications have been processed.
- Exchange student registration takes place prior to arrival, and students can make changes to their course schedules during orientation through the first two weeks of the semester.

Nomination Process and Deadlines

Nomination Requirements

- In good academic standing at the home institution
- Minimum GPA equivalent of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
- Completion of at least 2 academic semesters at the home institution
- *Demonstrated English language proficiency and ability to undertake university studies in English

Nomination Deadlines

- Fall or Academic Year – March 15; nominations accepted January 15-March 15
- Spring – September 1 recommended; nominations accepted July 1-September 15

*Proof of English language proficiency must be included with student application.

Nominations should be emailed to RPI Education Abroad with the subject line *Fall 2026, AY 2026-2027 or Spring 2027 Incoming Exchange*. Email to dvorak2@rpi.edu

The following information should be submitted for each nominee:

- Student name
- Student email address
- Field of study
- Academic level (e.g., *2nd year of 4-year undergraduate degree program*)
- Name and email of university officer who should receive academic transcript following the end of the semester

Within two weeks of the nomination deadline, nominees will receive an email with a link to the online RPI application. Exchange partners will be copied on relevant correspondence.

*Date has been changed in response to visa processing times. Nominations will be accepted through the original deadline of September 15, but earlier nominations are encouraged.

Application Process & Deadlines

Application Deadlines

- Fall or Academic Year – April 15
- *Spring – October 1 encouraged

Application Materials

- Copy of the ID page of passport valid for at least 6 months beyond the end date of the exchange
- Proof of financial support (see following pages for details)
- Proof of English language proficiency (see following pages for details)
- University transcript (official or unofficial)

Once applications are received and processed, students will receive acceptance materials including an RPI student ID, student email account, class registration instructions, and immigration guidance.

*Date has been changed in response to visa processing times. Applications will be accepted through the original deadline of October 15, but earlier submissions are encouraged.

Proof of Financial Support & English Language Proficiency

Financial Support

- Applicants must demonstrate financial means of US\$8,600 per semester to cover living expenses during the period of the exchange.
- This amount includes room, board, basic living expenses, local travel, and university fees. It does not include international travel or recreational travel within the U.S.

Financial support can be demonstrated in one of the following ways:

- A letter from student's bank
- A letter from the bank of parent/sponsor verifying funds, accompanied by a letter from parent/sponsor
- All financial documents must be translated into English, ideally with amounts indicated in U.S. Dollars.

English Language Proficiency

Language proficiency can be demonstrated in one of the following ways:

- Native language is English
- Language of instruction at the home institution is English
- Home institution can verify student proficiency by means of an entrance exam or other objective means
- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) - minimum score of at least 88 iBT (*TOEFL iBT Home Edition accepted*)
- International English Language Testing System (IELTS) - band score of at least 7.0
- Duolingo English Test (DET) - minimum score of 115
- Pearson's Test of English (PTE) - PTE score of at least 59

Health Insurance & Other Fees

- Purchase of the RPI Student Health Insurance Plan is required. Travel plans will not be accepted.
- Exceptions will be considered only for students who have comparable health insurance from a U.S. - based insurance company.
- Additional information can be found on the webpages of RPI Student Health and Wellness: <https://studenthealth.rpi.edu/>

Mandatory Fees Per Semester (2025-2026 fees; subject to change):

- Health Center Fee - \$406
- Rensselaer Student Health Insurance - \$1015
- Student Activities Fee: \$407.5

Arrival, Academic Calendar & Transcripts

- **Fall Semester:** Late August-mid-December
- **Spring Semester:** Early January-mid-May
- **Official RPI Calendar:** <https://info.rpi.edu/registrar/academic-calendar/>
- **Arrival Orientation:** A mandatory orientation program takes places several days prior to the start of the semester. Details will be made available to accepted students.
- **Transcripts:** Transcripts are typically released within one month of the end of the semester exam period. Official transcripts are sent via email to the home school. Exchange students may order additional copies from the RPI Registrar.

Housing and Support Services

Housing

- University housing is limited and not guaranteed
- Most exchange students choose to live in private housing close to campus.
- Abundant resources are available to students who choose to live in off-campus housing. Visit the website of Off Campus Services for additional information - doso.rpi.edu/off-campus-services.
- Meal plans are available for students who wish to take their meals in university dining halls.
- The Office of Student Living and Learning manages campus housing. Accepted students will receive additional details.
- Visit the Office of Student Living and Learning website, <https://sll.rpi.edu/>, for more information.

Student Support Services

RPI offers numerous support services to all enrolled students. These include:

- [Student Health and Wellness](#) – campus health center offering physical and mental health services, services for students with disabilities and wellness programs
- [Recreation and Wellness](#) (RecWell)– offering a wide array of activities and programs for the RPI community, including fitness classes, club sports, Stress Relief Days and outdoor programs.
- [Religious and Spiritual Life](#) – focusing on religion, ethics, purpose, and spirituality and offering programming to all students of all faiths.
- [Campus Food Pantry](#) – non-perishable food items to supplement student food sources
- [Student Success Center](#) – academic tutoring and writing lab.