

LAC SCHOLARSHIP Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

How does the LAC scholarship work?

The Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) scholarship functions in two parts.

1. LAC recipients receive in-state tuition rates and are classified as Florida residents for tuition purposes.
2. LAC recipients receive \$500 each Fall and Spring semester (\$1000 per academic year).

How do I submit the application?

Please complete the online [form](#) available on the International Center website. Incomplete packages will not be considered.

What is required for the letter of recommendation?

Letters of recommendation from an academic or professional source are preferable. For the best chances of success, the letter will be on an official letterhead, include a signature from the writer, as well as their credentials. The letter should also include the date, mention the name of the applicant, and reference the relationship of the writer to the applicant. Letters from relatives will not be considered.

I'm from _____, can I apply?

As state in the LAC guidelines, LAC recipients must be a citizen and resident of one of the following countries in Latin America or the Caribbean: Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, Argentina, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Curacao & Bonaire, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, French Guiana, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Martinique, Mexico, Montserrat, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Maarten/St. Martin, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago, Turk & Caicos Islands, Uruguay, U.S. Virgin Islands, Venezuela, or as identified by the UNF Vice President for Student and International Affairs.

What is the difference between in-state tuition and out-of-state tuition?

Students who are residents of Florida pay in-state tuition fees, which are cheaper. Students from other states and international students are typically required to pay out-of-state tuition fees, because they are not residents of Florida. Out-of-state tuition rates are significantly more expensive than in-state tuition rates.

Undergraduate Students (Bachelor's): The estimated cost of attendance for international students at UNF with **out-of-state tuition rates** for one academic year (2 semesters with 12 credits per semester, 24 credits per year) is about \$32,755 (including housing, meals, books, etc.). However, estimated cost of attendance for one academic year paying **in-state tuition** rates is about \$20,255. These in-state rates are what is achieved through being awarded the LAC scholarship. You can compare the different rates (in-state vs. out-of-state) per credit hour [here](#).

Graduate Students (Master's/Doctorate): The estimated cost of attendance at UNF with **out-of-state tuition rates** for one academic year (2 semesters with 9 credits per semester, 18 credits per year) is about \$34,933 (including housing, meals, books, etc.). However, estimated cost of attendance for one academic year paying **in-state tuition** rates is about \$24,033 USD. These in-state rates are what is achieved through being awarded the LAC scholarship. You can compare the different rates (in-state vs. out-of-state) per credit hour [here](#).

Is the scholarship only for one semester?

No. You will be awarded the scholarship for the number of hours required for your degree program for the Fall and Spring semesters. Dependent on budget availability, your LAC Scholarship will automatically renew for Fall and Spring semesters pending sufficient enrollment and academic standing. You must sign a new LAC contract each term you are awarded the LAC.

Funding during summer semesters is very limited and not guaranteed. If you are interested in receiving the LAC Scholarship for the Summer terms, you must submit a renewal application prior to the deadline (April 1). To receive the LAC Scholarship for the Summer term you will need to register for at least 6.0 credit hours. Depending on budget, the courses may need to begin during Summer A and/or Summer C (courses starting in May).

Remember, to maintain eligibility while receiving the LAC Scholarship, you must inform the International Center of any changes in: (1) course load, (2) residency status, and/or (3) academic major change.

What are my chances of receiving the LAC scholarship?

This is a competitive scholarship, but we aim to award as many qualified students as possible. It is worth applying for!

I already have a graduate assistantship or other scholarship that pays my out-of-state tuition fees. Should I apply?

No. The condition of the scholarship is that it waives "out-of-state tuition" fees. We cannot award the scholarship if you have no out-of-state tuition fees to pay. That's great that you already have your out-of-state tuition fees paid for – you do not need the LAC scholarship!

I have not been admitted to UNF yet, can I apply?

Yes, you may apply before you are admitted, but we are not able to award any LACs until the student has been fully admitted to UNF. The LAC is driven by the budget, and most decisions are made after the LAC deadline for the term, to give every eligible student a chance to apply.

I'm a dual citizen from Latin America or the Caribbean holding U.S. citizenship, can I apply?

Yes, dual citizens with US citizenship and citizenship from Latin America or the Caribbean (as outlined in the LAC guidelines) are eligible to apply for LAC. However, eligibility for LAC comes from your residency to the LAC country. For example, if you are a dual citizen of the U.S. and Belize, but live in the U.S., you are not eligible for the LAC. You must be a resident of a LAC country to be eligible.

I have U.S. Permanent Residency (Green Card), can I receive LAC?

No. The LAC scholarship is intended for students that will return to their home countries as their place of residency.

If I am double majoring, will my LAC work for both majors?

As long as your credits are taken at UNF, and are required for your degree programs, then yes, LAC will be effective for both majors (in-state tuition rates).

Do I have to be enrolled full-time? What if I only have one course left in my degree program?

Yes, all LAC recipients must be enrolled full-time (minimum 12.0 credit hours for undergraduate students, and minimum 9.0 credit hours for graduate students).

If you only have 6.0 credit hours of coursework during your last semester at UNF, you are not eligible for LAC, however you may apply for tuition assistance through other [International Center Scholarships](#).

When will I hear a decision about my LAC application?

Decisions are typically made after the application deadline for the given term, to give all applicants an equal chance to apply and due to budget availability. Applicants will be notified of a decision via email.

Deadlines:

Fall = July 1

Spring = December 1

Summer = April 1

I was awarded the LAC Scholarship, but I do not see the \$500 in my account. Why not?

This may happen for several reasons:

1. The LAC is disbursed in two phases, the first phase being removing the out-of-state tuition fees to achieve in-state rates. The second phase is the disbursement of the \$500. The awards process may not have reached phase 2 of disbursement yet.
2. Do you have an unpaid charge on your UNF account? If yes, the \$500 will automatically go to pay for your outstanding balance at UNF. For example, if you owe the university \$100 and your LAC is disbursed, you will only see \$400 in your account, because the other \$100 was automatically used to pay your outstanding balance. So, if you have a \$0.00 balance, then you will get a \$500 refund.
3. Do you have a hold on your account? Sometimes holds on your account, such as SAP (Satisfactory Academic Progress), can prevent your LAC from being disbursed. Please talk to One-Stop Student Services about clearing your holds as soon as possible, and then let the International Center know once it has been cleared.

I have another question about my specific case, who can I contact?

Please reach out to us at intlctrscholarships@unf.edu! We would be happy to assist you.

UNF International Center
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[Building 58](#), Room 2300
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International Center
Division of Student Affairs