MIDDLE EASTERN
STUDENT EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
UC RIVERSIDE
WE CAN’T WAIT TO MEET YOU.

When you go to UC Riverside, you attend the first school in the United States to have an office dedicated to Middle Eastern student support. You’re on a campus where nearly half of the students are minorities, half qualify as low-income and more than half are the first in their families to go to college.

Doors open here. You can access leadership opportunities, conduct undergraduate research, ignite academic passions and make remarkable contributions right away. You’re at a school where students describe their administration as responsive, eager to listen and open to discourse.

Here, you’re part of the most talented, driven student body in the world — known for giving back and changing the world. We can’t wait to meet you and help you do just that.

go.ucr.edu/ME
“I love seeing the diversity in our students and the life that they bring to our university.”
MOHAMED HUSSEIN
Fourth-Year, Neuroscience

I feel happy when I’m on campus. I love seeing the diversity in our students and the life that they bring to our university. My older siblings attended UCR, and they all grew to be passionate and successful individuals. I believe UCR allowed them to find their true passions in life, and so I decided to find mine as well. UCR is a great place to find yourself and to pursue your future ambitions. If there is anything you strive for, UCR can help you achieve it. I learned how to overcome my greatest hurdles, jumping higher every time. If it weren’t for UCR, I wouldn’t have discovered the person I want to be.

CHRISTINE IBRAHIM
Fourth-Year, Sociology

Obviously my first quarter at this school was a huge transition in my life. However, UCR made it very easy to adjust. The diversity makes me feel at home and welcomed, and most importantly, valued. UCR makes me feel like I can really make a difference in the community around me. UCR is the reason why I chose to be a teacher and am now employed to work in low-income schools in the Riverside Unified School District. UCR gave me all of these opportunities to learn so much about the world, and about myself in the world. UCR was the beginning of the discovery of my purpose, and I can’t wait for what my senior year has in store!

“The diversity makes me feel at home and welcomed, and most importantly, valued.”
“Prior to being a student at UCR, I never really had a Middle Eastern community in a school setting. Once I walked into the MESC for the first time, my mind was transformed.”

Christine Ibrahim, Fourth-Year, Sociology
In 2013, our students made history by developing the first Middle Eastern student center in the United States. Fourteen dedicated students worked with administration to create a space that would serve students with ties to the Middle East and North Africa. Today UCR’s Middle Eastern Student Center (MESC) serves more than 20 student organizations, a large and diverse community of Middle Eastern students and the entire UCR campus community as a whole. Born from students, MESC remains student-centered at its heart.
UCR is “recognized nationally as one of the few public research universities with no racial disparity in graduation rates.”

*LOS ANGELES TIMES*
WE RANK HIGH IN WHAT MATTERS.

#1 in the nation for affordability, graduation rates and financial aid — Time Magazine, 2014

#1 in the nation for Pell Grant performance — Washington Monthly, 2016

#2 in the nation for contributing to the public good — Washington Monthly, 2015

#3 best college in the nation for Hispanic students — BestColleges.com, 2016

#3 in the nation for community service participation — Washington Monthly, 2016

4th most diverse college in the nation — Forbes, 2016

Top 10 public research universities with the most low-income students — Brookings Institute, 2017


Top 100 safest colleges in the nation — Alarms.org, 2017
WORK CLOSELY WITH BRILLIANT FACULTY.

Reza Aslan  
*Professor of Creative Writing*  
Aslan is a renowned writer, commentator and scholar of religions. He wrote the No. 1 New York Times best-seller “Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth” and international best-seller “No god but God: The Origins, Evolution, and Future of Islam.” He is a producer on “The Leftovers” and co-founded BoomGen Studios (the premiere brand for creative content from and about the Middle East).

Sherine Hafez  
*Associate Professor of Gender and Sexuality Studies*  
Hafez’s engaging lectures explore gender, women’s activism, Muslim cultures and Arab uprisings. In her book “The Terms of Empowerment: Islamic Women Activists in Egypt,” she questions the applicability of Western notions of empowerment to Islamic women’s activism. In “An Islam of Her Own: Reconsidering Religion And Secularism In Women’s Islamic Movements,” she challenges binary representations of women’s subjectivities in Islamic movements.

Reza Abbaschian  
*Distinguished Professor of Mechanical Engineering  
William R. Johnson Jr. Family Professor*  
As former dean of the Marlan and Rosemary Bourns College of Engineering, Abbaschian was pivotal in connecting UCR to Winston Chung, who donated $10 million to establish the Winston Chung Global Energy Center. As director of the center, Abbaschian helps UCR make global contributions to sustainability and energy storage innovation.

Laila Lalami  
*Professor of Creative Writing*  
Lalami wrote “The Moor’s Account” which was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. It made the longlist for the Man Booker Prize and won the American Book Award, Arab American Book Award and Hurston/Wright Legacy Award (among other accolades). Her work appears in the Washington Post, the Guardian, the New York Times and more. She writes the Between the Lines column for The Nation and is a critic-at-large for the Los Angeles Times.
UCR ranks among the top 10 in the nation for significant faculty awards – ahead of Dartmouth, Duke and Yale.

WASHINGTON MONTHLY
Ashkan Khosravi guards the goal with laser focus. When he graduated in 2016, he ranked first in UCR’s career record books in goalkeeper wins and goals against average, and second in shutouts, saves and minutes played.
Run, climb, lift weights and swim at your incredible Student Recreation Center. Learn more at recreation.ucr.edu.

Packed events, big-time athletics and crazy-fun concerts electrify student life at UCR. Learn more at rside.ucr.edu and gohighlanders.ucr.edu.
A CAMPUS OF FIRSTS

1st professionally staffed Middle Eastern student resource center in the nation

1st UC campus to have a professionally staffed American Indian student resource center

1st public university in the nation to offer gender-neutral housing
UC campus to have a professionally staffed Black student resource center

1st campus in California to have a professionally staffed LGBT resource center

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, RIVERSIDE

Founded in 1954

Part of the prestigious University of California system

Located in Riverside, CA

Top 10 “Coolest Cities” in the U.S. (Forbes)


23,000+ students

1,200 park-like acres

277 sunny days per year
When you live at UCR, you’re within driving distance of the best beaches, mountains, deserts and cities in Southern California. Explore UCR! Schedule a tour (or take a virtual one) at visit.ucr.edu.
Live in the Markaz special-interest theme hall to connect with fellow Middle Eastern students and build unity within the community. Attend exclusive networking events, workshops, social functions and cultural events. Additional theme halls and seamless living-learning communities include Stonewall, Gender-Inclusive, Únete a Mundo, PATH, Honors, CHASS, Enginuity, SiMS and Pre-Business.

UCR Dining offers halal options and Ramadan to-go meals, too.

Learn more at housing.ucr.edu
Middle Eastern Student Center (MESC) mesc.ucr.edu
As the first Middle Eastern student center in the nation, MESC is a place to unite in friendship, celebrate culture with the campus community and find common ground. MESC will connect you to everything from leadership opportunities and student org programming support, to peer mentor programs and paid internships. MESC events include M.E. Week, the True Life Student Speaker Series, the MESC Gala and more.

BE ACTIVE
STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS
- Afghan Student Association
- Armenian Student Association
- Coptic Orthodox Christian Club
- Euphrates Club
- Empowered Arab Sisterhood (Sorority)
- Hillel at UCR
- Iranian Student Association
- Iranian Graduate Student Association
- Lebanese Social Club at UCR
- Students Organized for Syria
- Student for Justice In Palestine
- Middle Eastern Student Assembly (MESA)
- Muslim Student Association

BE SUPPORTED
SERVICES
- MESC Mentors
- MESA’s Women’s Circle and Men’s Circle
- MESC Community Garden at the R’Garden
- Professional/academic conference funding
- MENA-specialized psychologist/counselor
- Halal meats
- Ramadan to-go meals
- Paid internships at MESC

BE PRESENT
EVENTS
- Fall Mixer
- MESCafé
- Film & Speaker Series
- True Life Student Speaker Series
- M.E. Week
- Additional themed weeks: Syria Week, Afghanistan Week, etc.
- Cooking, calligraphy, Dabke and Attan workshops
- Syrian refugee awareness events
- MESC Gala

“Through the Middle Eastern Student Center, I have made many friends who share my values. Ever since, UCR has felt like a home away from home.”

Mohamed Hussein, Fourth-Year, Neuroscience
WE SEE YOU.  
WE HEAR YOU.  
WE SUPPORT YOU.

From our historic Ethnic and Gender Programs, to our forward-thinking Student Health and Wellness Services — you have a safety net at UCR. So many people are here for you, ready to be your advocates, your encouragers, your listeners and your guides.

Ethnic & Gender Programs

African Student Programs
Asian Pacific Student Programs
Chicano Student Programs
LGBT Resource Center
Middle Eastern Student Center
Native American Student Programs
Undocumented Student Programs
Women’s Resource Center

More Student Support Services

Academic Resource Center (ARC)  arc.ucr.edu
Career Center  careers.ucr.edu
Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS)  counseling.ucr.edu
First-Year Programs  studentlife.ucr.edu
Highlander One-Stop Shop (HOSS)  hoss.ucr.edu
International Students & Scholars Office (ISSO)  internationalscholars.ucr.edu
Peer Mentor Programs  well.ucr.edu
R’Pantry  go.ucr.edu/rpantry
Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC)  sdrc.ucr.edu
Student Health Services (SHS)  studenthealth.ucr.edu
Student Recreation Center (SRC)  recreation.ucr.edu
Study Abroad  studyabroad.ucr.edu
The WELL  well.ucr.edu
University Honors  honors.ucr.edu
Veterans Services  studentlife.ucr.edu/veterans
APPLYING IS EASY.

First-Year Students

Admission Requirements
- 15 completed “a-g” high school courses
- GPA of 3.0 or higher (3.4 out-of-state) in “a-g” (grades C or above)
- Scores from ACT with Writing, SAT or SAT with Essay. SAT Subject Tests are optional.
- Learn more about the “a-g” requirements at hs-articulation.ucop.edu/agcourselist.

Transfer Students

Admission Requirements
- 60 semester (90 quarter) transferable units with minimum 2.4 GPA (2.8 out-of-state). (Some majors require a higher GPA.)
- 14 semester (21 quarter) units may be Pass/Not Pass.
- Completed (with C’s or better) UC Seven Course Pattern: two English, one math, four from two of: arts/humanities, social/behavioral science, physical/biological science. Classes must be transferable and at least three semester (four to five quarter) units. Use uctap.universityofcalifornia.edu to track your progress.
- Use assist.org to find out if your classes will transfer and see the prerequisites and minimum GPA for your major (all transferable coursework will be taken into account).
- Did you know that by meeting certain requirements you can guarantee your transfer admission to UCR? Learn more at go.ucr.edu/tag.

How to Apply (All Students)
1. Gather transcripts, test scores, income, social security number (if applicable), payment method, and activities and achievements notes.
2. Answer the personal insight questions.
3. Complete the UC application starting August 1. Submit it November 1-30. You may apply to waive the $70 fee.
4. Print your receipt and watch for an email about how to access your MyUCR admission portal account — the fastest way to check your admission status.

Learn more at admissions.ucr.edu!
TURN YOUR PASSION INTO YOUR PROFESSION.

Choose from nearly 100 majors, four colleges and three graduate schools — including the newest medical school in the UC system.

Find your program at admissions.ucr.edu/academics.
WE CARE ABOUT YOUR DREAMS, NOT YOUR WALLET.

Every student, regardless of income, who dreams big and works hard should be able to graduate from the greatest public university system in the world. That’s why we will do everything we can to help you pay for school.

Apply for financial aid no matter what.

Complete a FAFSA at fafsa.ed.gov and a GPA form at csac.ca.gov to apply for the most aid. If you are an undocumented student, complete a CA Dream Act application at dream.csac.ca.gov and a GPA form at csac.ca.gov to apply for the most aid.

It costs less than you think.

70 percent of UCR undergrads have their tuition and fees fully covered by grants and scholarships, and about 85 percent of UCR undergrads get financial aid. Visit go.ucr.edu/estimate to estimate the aid that you would get at UCR.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuition &amp; Fees:</th>
<th>$13,917-15,675</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Out-of-State:</td>
<td>$43,689</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Room &amp; Board:</td>
<td>$6,100-17,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These are estimates based on average student expenses. Actual charges are subject to change. Get the details at admissions.ucr.edu/cost.

We’re #1 in the nation for Pell Grant performance.

That means that we admit students who meet our high standards, but aren’t necessarily wealthy. Nearly half of UCR undergrads qualify as low-income, and we enroll more low-income students than all of the Ivy League institutions combined.

UCR is a good investment.

Within five years of graduating, Pell Grant recipients typically earn more than their families. UCR students graduate with a salary potential in the top 12 percent of 461 leading public universities.

Sources: Washington Monthly, The Brookings Institution, UC Accountability Report, UC Institutional Research, UC Federal Governmental Relations, PayScale.com
WAYS TO PAY

If you qualify, the Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan covers 100 percent of your systemwide tuition and fees! Learn more at universityofcalifornia.edu/blueandgold.

If you qualify, the Middle Class Scholarship covers up to 40 percent of your systemwide tuition and fees. Learn more at csac.ca.gov/mcs.asp.

Complete a FAFSA at fafsa.ed.gov and a GPA form at csac.ca.gov to apply for the most aid.

Dreamers: If you are an undocumented student, complete a CA Dream Act application at dream.csac.ca.gov and a GPA form at csac.ca.gov to apply for the most aid.

You are automatically considered for scholarships when you apply to UCR, including the $10,000 Regents’ Scholarship and $8000 UCR Achievement Scholarship for out-of-state students. Learn more about how to pay for school without going into debt at finaid.ucr.edu.

DATES & DEADLINES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 1</td>
<td>Access the UC Application.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>October 1</td>
<td>Access the FAFSA (or CA Dream Act application) and GPA form.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 1-30</td>
<td>Submit your UC Application.</td>
<td>Deadline to submit your UC Application.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 30</td>
<td>Admit</td>
<td>Admission notification begins.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1</td>
<td>Deadline to submit your FAFSA (or CA Dream Act application) and GPA form.</td>
<td>Deadline to submit additional financial aid documents (tax forms etc.), if selected for verification.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2</td>
<td>Deadline to submit additional financial aid documents (tax forms etc.), if selected for verification.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2</td>
<td>Deadline to submit additional financial aid documents (tax forms etc.), if selected for verification.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>First-Year Students: Deadline to submit your Statement of Intent to Register (SIR).</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 1</td>
<td>Transfer Students: Deadline to submit your Statement of Intent to Register (SIR).</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 1</td>
<td>Deadline to send your transcripts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 15</td>
<td>Deadline to send your test scores.</td>
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</table>
Students perform at the MESC Culture Show.

Visit UCR! Go to visit.ucr.edu
Arzo Kaderi, UCR grad and former president of the Afghan Student Association, performs at the MESC Culture Show.
UCR students made history by developing the first Middle Eastern student center in the United States.