Mission Statement

Rio Grande's mission is to maintain rigorous standards in its undergraduate, graduate, and adult education programs; to engage students from a wide spectrum of abilities and backgrounds while consistently preparing students for the challenges of living a fulfilling life, reaching career goals, and being a responsible citizen in a culturally diverse, global community.
Message from Rio

Welcome to the University of Rio Grande Founded in 1876, we are a quality, private, comprehensive university offering students a good balance of a liberal arts education and career preparation and practical training. We offer over 60 academic programs. The University of Rio Grande offers programs meeting the needs of all types of students, including traditional undergraduate and graduate students, and for working adults who seek life-long learning and enrichment. Rio Grande delivers a great education within reach of any family's budget through extensive scholarship and financial aid programs.

Located in Rio Grande, Ohio, the spacious, safe and contemporary campus offers the natural beauty of the Southeastern Ohio region. The University is located just minutes from state and national parks, making it perfect for nature enthusiasts! Our strengths lie in a faculty of full-time teacher/scholars who are dedicated to both the academic and humanistic growth of every student; programs that are academically challenging, and numerous opportunities for extracurricular involvement: including varsity sports (NAIA) for both men and women who participate in the American Mid-South Conference, social and professional organizations, as well as outlets for artistic expression.

Rio Grande's mission is to maintain rigorous standards in its undergraduate, graduate, and adult education programs. We seek to engage students from diverse backgrounds while consistently preparing students for the challenges of living a fulfilling life, reaching career goals, and being a responsible citizen in a culturally diverse, global community. The best way to get to know us is to visit our campus, meet our faculty, make new friends, and learn how we will do everything we can to help place your educational future within reach.
About Rio

The University of Rio Grande is a comprehensive university providing an effective balance of liberal arts education and career preparation and practical training for traditional undergraduate, graduate and working adult students who seek life-long learning and enrichment. Founded in 1876, Rio Grande offers one of the best values in higher education through extensive scholarship and financial aid programs that deliver a great education within reach of every student. The University's contemporary 190 acre campus is located in Rio Grande, Ohio, nestled in the beautiful rolling hills of the Southeastern region of the state offering students the safety associated with a small town. The Rio Grande campus is an oasis of learning, innovation, and technology in the region.

The institution's strengths lie in a faculty of teacher/scholars who are dedicated to both the academic and humanistic growth of every student; programs that are academically challenging and numerous opportunities for extracurricular involvement. Our academic program features:

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<th>College of Professional Studies:</th>
<th>College of Liberal Arts and Science:</th>
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<td>School of Business</td>
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International Student Advising

As an international student studying at the University of Rio Grande, it’s very important to know the persons you will be interacting with. Please feel free to review the following information and to contact our helpful staff members for any questions.

This Office Helps With

Financial Assistance
• Financial Aid information for foreign students
• Budgeting and banking
• Certification for foreign currency exchange/ International Student Fee

Personal Advising
• Academic and cultural adjustment
• Emergency situations
• Married students and dependent concerns
• Roommate concerns
• Liaison with career and counseling services

Immigration Regulations & Federal Laws
• Extension of stay
• Leaving and reentering the U.S.
• Maintaining or changing visa status
• State and federal income tax laws and tax treaties
• Visa information
• On-campus and off-campus employment and practical training at pre- and post-completion stages of study
• Social Security Card application
**Staff and Contact Information**

- **Callum Morris**  
  International Student Advisor/Head Women’s Soccer Coach/Admissions Recruiter  
  Florence Evans Hall: Phone 740-245-7207  
  Email: cmorris@rio.edu

- **Scott Morrisey**  
  DSO (Designated School Official)/Head Men’s Soccer Coach/Assistant Athletic Director  
  Lyne Center: Phone 740-245-7126  
  Email: scottm@rio.edu

- **Aaron Quinn**  
  Dean of Students & Housing Director  
  Berry Center: Phone 740-245-7454  
  Email: aquinn@rio.edu

- **Jeanne Jindra**  
  Director of Welsh Studies  
  Elizabeth Davis House: Phone 740-245-7145  
  Email: jjindra@rio.edu

- **Marshall Kimmel**  
  Accessibility Office  
  Rhodes Student Center: Phone 740-245-7339  
  Email: mkimmel@rio.edu

- **Dena Warren**  
  Director of Student Activities/Prevention  
  Berry Center: Phone 740-245-7396  
  Email: dwarren@rio.edu

- **Meau Jones**  
  Multi-Cultural Advisor/Admissions Recruiter  
  Florence Evans Hall: Phone 740-245-7210  
  Email: mjones@rio.edu
**Transporting International Students**

One of the many services we offer to international students is the availability of transportation to and from local governmental offices and airports when the student is arriving or leaving the country. These fees are covered by your international student fee and covers you for the years you attend Rio. In order to maintain this benefit, the following guidelines have been established:

1. The Student Advisor and or DSO will only provide transportation
2. Pick-up/drop-off will be at the convenience of the individual flying.
3. Arrangements for transportation must be made at least one week in advance by the student. Last minute requests may not be able to be met.
4. Students arriving in the country will contact the Advisor/DSO of their arrival and will be met at the airport.

These guidelines have been established for the transportation of international students by the international student advisor and DSO. Any arrangements made independently by the student and/or staff are not required to meet these restrictions.
Frequently Asked Questions

International Students Guide to the University of Rio Grande:

How can I contact the International Student Advisor?
The International Student Advisor is located in Florence Evans Hall on the campus of the University of Rio Grande
Phone: (740) 245.7207 E-mail: cmorris@rio.edu Web: www.rio.edu

Where do I get information about applying to the University of Rio Grande?
Consult the university admission web page: www.rio.edu

International students are requested to submit the following:
• A completed application for admission
• A completed medical physical examination form and completed immunization requirements,
• A transcript of secondary school credits verifying graduation,
• All post-secondary school transcripts (if applicable),
• A copy of your passport
• An official statement from a sponsor or bank documentating financial support and/or a deposit equivalent to $30000 (U.S.),
• Proof of purchase of medical/accident insurance policy from resident country.

International students who are placed in the English Special Services (ESS) reading and writing sequence as a result of testing will be advised as to the next level of the English course sequence they will enroll in following successful completion of the ESS courses. International students exempted from the ESS reading and writing sequence as a result of testing must complete, before enrollment, the normal placement testing for English and a writing sample for placement into the appropriate English composition course.
**Will I be able to move in as soon as I arrive?**

After enrolling in school, a welcome letter with important information will be sent to your email (this is the quickest and most cost efficient way to obtain important information). If you arrive before your scheduled move-in date, you will be responsible to supply your own housing and meals until your scheduled move-in date.

**How can I understand the American banking system?**

There are many local banks in our area including the Ohio Valley Bank which is within walking distance of campus:

• **Checking Account**: money in the checking account can be used freely. There is no fixed term. You can use the money by writing checks or by using a debit card (see below).

• **Savings Account**: money cannot be spent freely until transferred into a checking account. Savings accounts usually have a higher interest rate than checking accounts.

• **Certificate of Deposit (CD) Account**: money that you do not plan to spend in the near future can be deposited into a Certificate of Deposit (CD). CD accounts usually have a higher interest than savings accounts, but require you to sign up for a fixed term contract. During the period of the term, you cannot use the money.

• **Checks Drawn on Foreign Banks**: If you deposit a check drawn on a foreign bank into your U.S. bank account, it may take several weeks before the money is credited to your account. A faster method: have the money wire-transferred to your U.S. account.

• **Debit Cards**: Debit cards are issued by your bank and can be used to make payments at locations, which accept credit cards. Unlike credit cards, the money is taken directly out of your checking account.

• **Credit Cards**: Credit cards allow you to make purchases without cash or checks. You pay the credit card company monthly for "borrowing" the money. You are charged interest for any amount not paid back that month. If you do not pay the bill in full each month you could build
up considerable debt. Tip: shop around for cards with the lowest interest rates and stay within your budget.

• **Cashing Checks**: You may be asked to show some form of Identification when you make a purchase with a check or get cash at your bank from a check. Primary acceptable forms of ID include a passport, U.S. state ID card or a driver's license.

*What if I have health or safety emergencies while at Rio Grande?*

- On-campus, call Campus Police at (740) 245-7286
- Off-campus, call 9-1-1 or the Gallia County Sheriff’s Office at (740) 446-1221
- Inform the international student advisor as soon as possible. For information about Campus Police and escort services: www.rio.edu and click on: campus police

*How can I send international mail?*

The University of Rio Grande Post Office sells postage stamps and handles every kind of mail service you could need, including international mail, mailing and receiving packages, and express mail such as Federal Express and DHL. The mailroom is centrally located in the Rhodes Student Center.

*How can I contact my family in my home country?*

Each residence hall on campus and every building and outdoor area at Rio, has Wi-Fi, so the use of Face time, Skype, Viber and many more can be utilized.

*How can I purchase airline tickets?*

There are many web sites you can visit to reserve airline tickets as well as hotels, rental cars, etc. as you travel in the U.S. or internationally.

Here are a few commonly used by students:

- Cheap Tickets: http://www.cheaptickets.com
• Expedia: http://www.expedia.com

• Orbitz: http://www.orbitz.com

• Travel For Less: http://www.travelforless.com

• Travelocity: http://www.travelocity.com

**What should I do before leaving the United States for summer vacation?**

• Consult the international student advisor. There may be visa regulations that limit the amount of time you can travel abroad

• Have a DSO sign the travel page of your current I-20 or DS- 2019 (an RO/ARO signs)

• International students will not be given preferential treatment during the scheduling of midterm and/or final examinations

• If you will need to renew your visa at home, request an academic transcript and/or record of registration for the following semester

**What is a DSO?**

DSO stands for Designated School Official. A DSO is required to work with the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service Office to maintain records of every international student at the University of Rio Grande.

The following is a list of things you need a DSO's signature for:

• Letter of eligibility for Social Security number

• Letter for Bureau of Motor Vehicles

• Curricular Practical Training approval

• Optional Practical Training application process

• Travel signatures on I-20 or DS2019 documents
Edits to your I-20 including: change of major/minor, change of program end date, change of address

**Does the University of Rio Grande have a graduate program?**

Yes, there are graduate programs in both Education (MED) and Business Management (MBA). For information on applying to the Graduate Program, contact the Admission Office at admission@rio.edu or contact Jay Godeaux at (740)245-7026 or jgodeaux@rio.edu.

**Am I required to buy health insurance? How does it work?**

International students at the University of Rio Grande must carry health insurance for the duration of their academic program. J-1 visa holders are required by the US Department of State to carry health insurance alternatively or be deemed out of legal status. The cost of health insurance will be added to the student’s bill. The insurance provider will give you an identification card to use as proof of your coverage when you are seeking health care from a hospital or doctor. The company will also provide written instructions for reporting and documenting medical expenses (filing a claim). The company will evaluate any claim that you file, and make the appropriate payment for coverage under your particular policy. In some cases the company pays the hospital or doctor directly; in others the company reimburses the policy-holder after he or she has paid the bills.

The University of Rio Grande international students will receive insurance service from HTH Worldwide Services. For detailed information about HTH Worldwide Services, visit http://www.hthstudents.com. You can log in with your insurance card ID number and find a doctor in the local area, tips for safety while abroad, and get specific details about your insurance coverage. The free multi-lingual customer service number is 1-800-242-4178.

**Am I required to pay and/or file taxes in the U.S.?**

International students in the US are required to file their taxes with the US Internal Revenue Service (IRS), if you are employed on campus. International students must declare the
number of days spent in the US (form 8843). Students must mail their taxes through the campus post office before April 15 of each year.

**What is plagiarism in the United States?**

Plagiarism is a very important topic for international students. In the U.S., students are not expected to work together on assignments unless the professor specifically tells them to work in groups. A student is expected to work alone on exams, homework and papers. A student who copies answers from another student or allows another student to write an assignment or exam for him is guilty of cheating. In the U.S., it is necessary to give credit (cite) all sources of information in your written work. If a student gets some information from the internet or from a book, he or she must list details of that source in his paper.

If any phrases or sentences are used directly from the source, then there must be quotation marks around those words, and the source must be stated. If a student uses other sources of information and does not identify the source, then it is called plagiarism. A student may get a failing grade on an assignment or a failing grade in a course if caught cheating or plagiarizing someone else's work. Students have even been expelled from the University of Rio Grande for repeated cases of plagiarism.

**Where can I shop for general goods in town?**

There are many places to shop in the Rio Grande area. Here are some examples:

- K-Mart – Gallipolis (15 minutes from campus)
- Wal-Mart – Gallipolis (15 minutes from campus)
- Dollar General – Spring Valley (10 minutes from campus)
- Foodland – Spring Valley (10 minutes from campus)
- Pharmacy (medicine, personal items)
- CVS Pharmacy – Spring Valley (10 minutes from campus)
• Fruth Pharmacy – Spring Valley (10 minutes from campus)