

# MIDDLE EASTERN STUDENT EXPERIENCE



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
**UCRIVERSIDE**



## UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS

900 University Ave. • 3106 Student Services Building  
Riverside, CA 92521 • (951) 827-3411 • [admissions@ucr.edu](mailto:admissions@ucr.edu)

# 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.



[admissions.ucr.edu](https://admissions.ucr.edu)

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
**UC RIVERSIDE**



## STUDENT PROFILES

“The UCR community has constantly empowered me and pushed me to hold myself to high expectations ...”



# TAMARA MUSTAFA

Senior, Bioengineering

My four years of involvement with student leaders, organizations, and the diverse Costo Hall Ethnic & Gender [Programs] offices has given me the tools and experiences to be an effective leader who takes initiative and has taught me to be persistent in whatever path I choose to pursue after graduation. The UCR community has constantly empowered me and pushed me to hold myself to high expectations and to pursue what I am passionate about, and I hope to apply these values in my future endeavors whether it is in academia or the professional world.

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# ALI ALSHAHER

Senior, Sociology

I chose UCR because of the opportunity to receive an education at the UC level while also being able to be represented by the diversity that the campus offers. I have benefitted from the Middle Eastern Student Center and other Costo Hall centers as they have provided me with resources that have allowed me to grow as a leader, as a student, and as a person. These centers have provided me with opportunities to connect with not only my culture, but also have provided me with perspectives that have challenged me into expanding my knowledge in all realms of life. The cultural and educational programming put on by these ethnic and gender offices have contributed most to my development at UCR.



“I have benefitted from the Middle Eastern Student Center and other Costo Hall centers as they have provided me with resources that have allowed me to grow ...”



“UC Riverside is a welcoming and diverse environment where I believe I can flourish as someone who is passionate about social justice and advocacy.”

*Samia Alkam, Junior, Political Science and Education*








# FIRST IN THE NATION

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** top performer on social mobility in the nation –  
*U.S. News & World Report 2020 Best Colleges*

**#2** in the nation for performance of students  
receiving Pell Grants – *Washington Monthly 2019*  
College Guide and Rankings

**#12** best college for your money in the nation –  
*Money Magazine, 2019*

**#27** best value college in America – *Forbes, 2019*

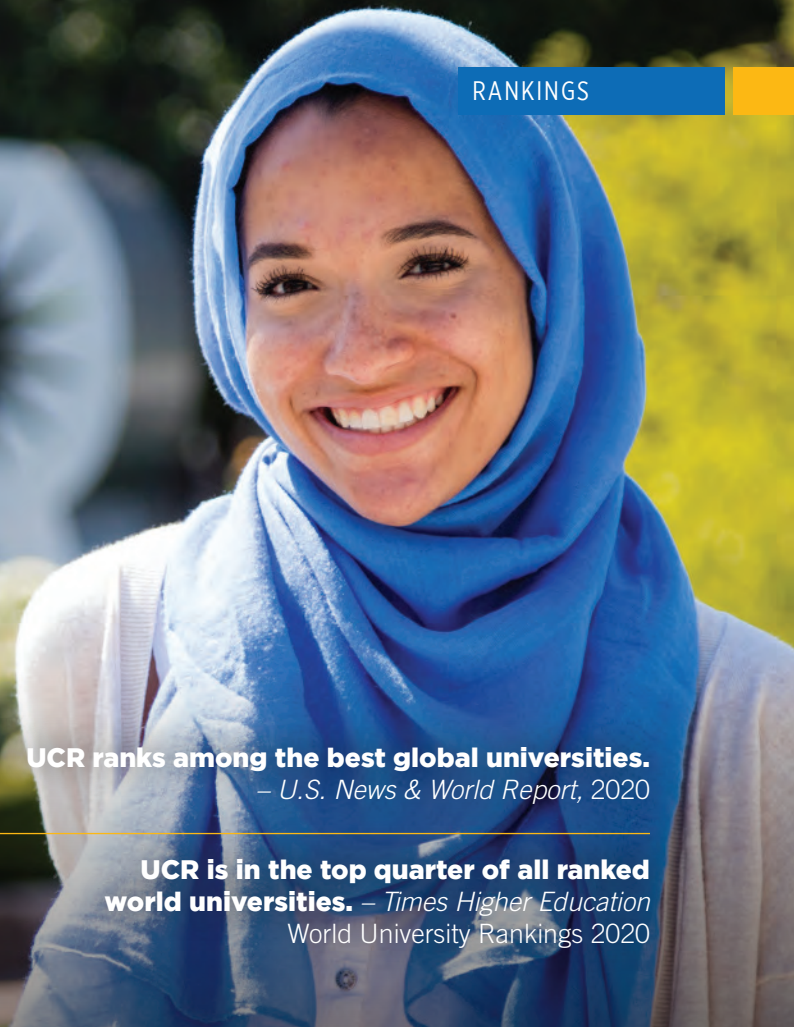
**#28** best college for your money potential in  
California – *PayScale 2019-20*  
College Salary Report

**#31** for sustainability practices in the nation  
– *The Princeton Review 2019 Top 50 Green Colleges*

RANKINGS

UCR ranks among the best global universities.  
– *U.S. News & World Report, 2020*

UCR is in the top quarter of all ranked  
world universities. – *Times Higher Education*  
World University Rankings 2020



# 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* bestseller “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

*Professor and Department Chair 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

*Director of Winston Chung Global Energy Center, Distinguished Professor of Mechanical Engineering, and William R. Johnson, Jr. 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 is among the top 11% of ranked world universities.

CENTER FOR WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS, 2019–20





# YOU CAN'T STUDY ALL THE TIME!

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*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: [recreation.ucr.edu](https://recreation.ucr.edu)



Packed events, big-time athletics, and crazy-fun concerts  
electrify student life at UCR. Learn more: [rside.ucr.edu](https://rside.ucr.edu)  
[gohighlanders.ucr.edu](https://gohighlanders.ucr.edu)



An aerial photograph of a university campus. A tall, slender clock tower stands prominently in the center-right. The campus is lush with green trees and lawns. Several buildings are visible, including a large one with a flat roof to the left of the tower. In the background, there are parking lots and more campus buildings. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

# A CAMPUS OF FIRSTS

**1<sup>st</sup>** professionally staffed Middle Eastern student resource center in the nation

**1<sup>st</sup>** public university in the nation to offer gender-neutral housing

**1<sup>st</sup>** UC campus to have a professionally staffed American Indian student resource center





**1<sup>st</sup>** UC campus to have a professionally  
staffed Black student resource center

**1<sup>st</sup>** 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)

Top 10 “Fastest-Growing Economies”  
in the U.S. (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

23,000+ students

1,200 park-like acres

277 sunny days per year

A group of people are silhouetted against a bright, golden sunset over the ocean. They are standing on a beach, and several of them have their arms raised in the air, suggesting a celebratory mood. The water is shimmering with reflected light.

HOUSING

# LIVE IN PURE SUNSHINE.

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): [visit.ucr.edu](https://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 are 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: [housing.ucr.edu](https://housing.ucr.edu)



# MAKE FRIENDS AND MAKE HISTORY.

## ORGANIZATIONS AND EVENTS

### Middle Eastern Student Center (MESC) [mesc.ucr.edu](http://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*  
*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*

“UCR and the Middle Eastern Student Center have provided me with an enriching and safe learning environment I can thrive in.”

*Samia Alkam, Junior, Political Science and Education*









le Eastern  
ent Center



# WE SEE YOU. WE HEAR YOU. WE SUPPORT YOU.

From our historic Ethnic & Gender Programs, to our forward-thinking Student Health & 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	<a href="http://asp.ucr.edu">asp.ucr.edu</a>
Asian Pacific Student Programs	<a href="http://apsp.ucr.edu">apsp.ucr.edu</a>
Chicano Student Programs	<a href="http://csp.ucr.edu">csp.ucr.edu</a>
LGBT Resource Center	<a href="http://out.ucr.edu">out.ucr.edu</a>
Middle Eastern Student Center	<a href="http://mesc.ucr.edu">mesc.ucr.edu</a>
Native American Student Programs	<a href="http://nasp.ucr.edu">nasp.ucr.edu</a>
Undocumented Student Programs	<a href="http://usp.ucr.edu">usp.ucr.edu</a>
Women's Resource Center	<a href="http://wrc.ucr.edu">wrc.ucr.edu</a>

## More Student Support Services

Academic Resource Center (ARC)	<a href="http://arc.ucr.edu">arc.ucr.edu</a>
Career Center	<a href="http://careers.ucr.edu">careers.ucr.edu</a>
Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS)	<a href="http://counseling.ucr.edu">counseling.ucr.edu</a>
Education Abroad	<a href="http://ea.ucr.edu">ea.ucr.edu</a>
Highlander One-Stop Shop (HOSS)	<a href="http://hoss.ucr.edu">hoss.ucr.edu</a>
International Students & Scholars Office (ISSO)	<a href="http://internationalscholars.ucr.edu">internationalscholars.ucr.edu</a>
New Student Programs	<a href="http://studentlife.ucr.edu/welcome-new-highlanders">studentlife.ucr.edu/ welcome-new-highlanders</a>
R'Pantry	<a href="http://go.ucr.edu/rpantry">go.ucr.edu/rpantry</a>
Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC)	<a href="http://sdrc.ucr.edu">sdrc.ucr.edu</a>
Student Health Services (SHS)	<a href="http://studenthealth.ucr.edu">studenthealth.ucr.edu</a>
Student Recreation Center (SRC)	<a href="http://recreation.ucr.edu">recreation.ucr.edu</a>
University Honors	<a href="http://honors.ucr.edu">honors.ucr.edu</a>
Veterans Services	<a href="http://veterans.ucr.edu">veterans.ucr.edu</a>
The Well	<a href="http://well.ucr.edu">well.ucr.edu</a>

# 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](https://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](https://uctap.universityofcalifornia.edu) to track your progress.

- Use [assist.org](https://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: [go.ucr.edu/tag](https://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 Aug 1. Submit it Nov. 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:  
**[admissions.ucr.edu](https://admissions.ucr.edu)**



# TURN YOUR PASSION INTO YOUR PROFESSION.

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

Find your program: [admissions.ucr.edu/majors](https://admissions.ucr.edu/majors)



# 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 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) each year at [fafsa.ed.gov](https://fafsa.ed.gov) by March 2 to qualify for aid. If you're an undocumented California resident, complete the California Dream Act Application at [dream.csac.ca.gov](https://dream.csac.ca.gov) by the March 2 deadline. If you attended high school or community college in California, make sure your school completes your Cal Grant GPA Verification Form so you can qualify for the Cal Grant.

## It costs less than you think.

At UCR, about 91.2% of undergraduate students receive some form of financial aid, and about 70% of those who receive aid have their full fees covered by grants and/or scholarships — funds that don't need to be paid back! Visit [go.ucr.edu/estimate](https://go.ucr.edu/estimate) to see what aid you could qualify for at UCR.

## Tuition, Cost and Fees.

UCR's undergraduate tuition and fees are \$15,565\* — nonresident students pay additional fees. See a breakdown of UCR's cost for all populations: [admissions.ucr.edu/cost](https://admissions.ucr.edu/cost)

*\*Tuition, fees, and charges are estimates based on currently approved amounts. These figures may not be final. Actual tuition, fees, and charges are subject to change by the Regents of the University of California and could be affected by State funding reductions. Accordingly, final approved levels (and a student's final balance due) may differ from the amounts shown.*

**Please Note:** Some or all instruction for all or part of academic year 2020–21 may be delivered remotely. Tuition and mandatory fees have been set regardless of the method of instruction and will not be refunded in the event instruction occurs remotely for any part of the academic year.

See how affordable a UC degree can be!  
**[admissions.ucr.edu/cost](https://admissions.ucr.edu/cost)**



## WAYS TO PAY

If you qualify, the Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan covers **100% of your systemwide tuition and fees!**

Learn more: [universityofcalifornia.edu/blueandgold](https://universityofcalifornia.edu/blueandgold)

If you qualify, the Middle Class Scholarship covers **up to 40% of your systemwide tuition and fees.**

Learn more: [csac.ca.gov/mcs.asp](https://csac.ca.gov/mcs.asp)

**Complete a FAFSA** at [fafsa.ed.gov](https://fafsa.ed.gov) and a GPA form at [csac.ca.gov](https://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](https://dream.csac.ca.gov) and a GPA form at [csac.ca.gov](https://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: [financialaid.ucr.edu](https://financialaid.ucr.edu)

## DATES & DEADLINES

**Aug. 1** Access the UC Application.

**Oct. 1** Access the FAFSA (or CA Dream Act application) and GPA form.

**Nov. 1-30** Submit your UC Application.

**Nov. 30** Deadline to submit your UC Application.

**March 1** Admission notification begins.

**March 2** Deadline to submit your FAFSA (or CA Dream Act application) and GPA form.

**April 2** Deadline to submit additional financial aid documents (tax forms etc.), if selected for verification.

**May 1** **First-Year Students:** Deadline to submit your Statement of Intent to Register (SIR).

**June 1** **Transfer Students:** Deadline to submit your Statement of Intent to Register (SIR).

**July 1** Deadline to send your transcripts.

**July 15** Deadline to send your test scores.

## FOLLOW UCR



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LifeatUCR



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mescucr



mescucr



MESC UCR



MESC UCR



mescucr

*Students perform at the MESC Culture Show.*

Visit UCR! [visit.ucr.edu](https://visit.ucr.edu)





*Arzo Kaderi, UCR grad and former president of the Afghan Student Association, performs at the MESO Culture Show.*

Apply now! [admissions.ucr.edu/apply](https://admissions.ucr.edu/apply)

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
**UCRIVERSIDE**



# FIRST IN THE NATION

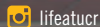
UCR students made history by developing the first Middle Eastern student center in the United States.

[admissions.ucr.edu](https://admissions.ucr.edu)

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This information is accurate and reliable at the time of publication but may change without notice. Please contact Undergraduate Admissions for the most up-to-date information. (08/20)

As part of UC Riverside's federal reporting requirements under the Clery Act, you can access our Annual Security and Fire Safety Report at [go.ucr.edu/CleryAct](https://go.ucr.edu/CleryAct). A full list of Consumer and Safety Information Disclosures is also available at [go.ucr.edu/ConsumerSafety](https://go.ucr.edu/ConsumerSafety).