

Rider University

Semester in Los Angeles --- Spring '26

Check out these links for more information about the program:

[Rider in L.A.](#)

[Live & Learn in L.A.](#)

Click [here](#) for the Spring '26 Semester in LA application

Program Description

The Rider University Semester in L.A. program provides students with the opportunity to live, work and study in Los Angeles, California, the center of the film and television industry. Through a combination of internships, courses, and guest lectures by industry experts, students gain the skills and contacts that will help make a career in film, television, music, new media, and others possible. In L.A., students will actively experience the working entertainment industry, and have the opportunity to network with Hollywood insiders. Students will also have regularly scheduled activities such as film screenings, behind the scenes tours, and mentoring opportunities with Rider alumni working and living in Los Angeles. This program will allow students to translate classroom theories into real world experiences, and provide those students interested in working in L.A. upon graduation with an invaluable opportunity to learn how to thrive as a working member of the film and television industry. Financial aid is available.

Curriculum

All students will be enrolled in and must successfully complete FTV 231, a one-credit Resume Workshop. The workshop will run via zoom and begin at end of August '25. Internships in LA for Spring '26 will begin appearing in September '25, and this workshop will prepare students for applying for those internships.

During the Spring '26 Semester, the program offers students a semester of study in the heart of the film and television industries. Students benefit from small classes; participate in internships directly related to their interests; and have access to industry professionals through internships, studio visits and as guest speakers. Rider alumni working in the film and television industry will be frequent guests and provide current students with information, resources, and excellent networking possibilities. Courses can be a mixture of Industry related internships and courses students can use to complete their degree. Students can earn from 9 to 12 credits while participating in Rider's Los Angeles internship program. Depending on the number of CO-OP credits registered for, students will be expected to devote between 25 and 35 hours a week to their internships. Classes are scheduled in the evening or on weekends and students can

easily schedule their internships around classes. Participants in the program must be full-time students enrolled for a minimum of 12 credits.

Students must register for the following courses:

Fall '25

- **FTV 231 LA Resume Workshop**

Spring '26

- **FTV 395 The L.A. Media Experience**
- **FTV 399 The Co-op Experience (Internship) (9-12 credits)**

Acting Majors - In addition, acting majors will enroll in a special 3-credit Film and Television Casting Workshop

The Spring '26 SEMESTER in L.A. program will run from early January through the end of April. Students will take from 12-15 credits and must be full-time students to participate.

The Internship Experience in L.A.

Students participating in the Semester in L.A. program will take 9-12 credits of Internship by registering for FTV 399 the Co-op Experience.

The internship component of the program is key to the L.A. experience by providing an ideal opportunity for learning about the entertainment industry in a focused and experiential manner. Just as important, internships provide students with an invaluable opportunity for networking and building professional relationships. Internships also provide direct and resume-building experiences in the field which will be important in finding employment after graduation.

As with all Internships and Co-ops, **students carry the responsibility of securing their own internship.** Students are encouraged to use the Internet, trade publications (Entertainment Careers.net, *Variety*, *Hollywood Reporter*, etc.), as well as various Hollywood-centered creative directories for specific information on companies. Rider provides a great deal of help and support and has secured the services of media/internship professionals in Los Angeles to aid our students in their search for an Internship. In addition, Rider faculty and staff are available to assist students with their internship search process.

Finding that Internship

Where students intern will be determined by their career interests and preferences. Months before arriving in L.A., students will do research about the companies they might like to work for and internship opportunities they might like to explore. Since internships at many high-profile production companies and television programs can be competitive, students are encouraged to apply early and for a number of different internship opportunities. We generally recommend sending at least 10 to 12 resumes. Students will make contacts and set up interviews in advance, but often will not finalize plans for internships until arriving in L.A., visiting the company and learning more about the internship. With hundreds of film and television companies, thousands of internship opportunities, and an effective and diligent plan, students should have little trouble in securing an internship in LA. **One thing to consider – to this point, every single student that has participated in our Semester in LA program has successfully secured an Internship – many have been offered more than one.**

Depending on a student's field of interest and the number of days they may be required to work at a particular internship, students may even consider having more than one internship. While most students will have a single internship where they will work for 25-30 hours or more a week, there are a variety of reasons why two internships may be of interest and value to students. A second internship may provide a broader understanding of the field and allow students to develop a larger network of professional contacts that can be used when looking for a job.

EntertainmentCareers.Net

Rider subscribes to a website you can use to begin your Internship Search:

EntertainmentCareers.Net On this site you can find Internships in the Film and Television Industry in Los Angeles. While you can see the types of Internships available in the LA area, it should be noted that most employers won't begin posting Internships for the Spring semester until around October 1.

	Estimated Costs*	
	in L.A.	@ Rider
Rider University TUITION*	\$19,850	\$19,850
LA Program Fee**	\$2,550	\$0
SEMESTER IN L.A. HOUSING FEE*		
Furnished Apts. (2bed/2bath - 4 Students)	\$7,550	-

Rider Room and Board	-	\$8,615
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Food Estimate LA***	\$1,400	
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TOTAL	\$31,350	\$28,465
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Based on the above figures, the cost for a Semester in L.A. will be \$2885 above what a student would pay for these things if attending classes and living in Rider housing on the Lawrenceville campus. This is less than what a student would pay for a single week-long travel course.

*These are estimated fees and expenses. Final costs for tuition, housing and fees for next year have yet to be finalized. Housing costs in LA have yet to be finalized.

*Tuition and fees are subject to change.

**Program Fees will be used for staffing and program related costs and fees. At other universities with L.A. programs, these fees can range from \$1250 to \$7800.

***While in LA, you and your roommates are responsible for buying your own food, the above is an estimate that you might spend on average \$100 per week on food, and is used for comparison only.. Estimates for meals at other Universities range from \$60-110 per week. Meals for a semester at Rider are based on the cost of a weekly 14 meal plan that is required for resident students.

Similar programs recommend their students budget \$50-170 per month for transportation expenses. Some of these expenses will depend on where students choose to do their Internships and how far away it might be from our apartment complex. More on housing and transportation below

Students may also wish to budget \$75-150 per month for other personal expenses.

Transportation to and in LA are additional expenses. (See below)

Everyone's financial aid situation is different. For more information about your individual Financial Aid package and Semester in LA, please contact:

Amanda Young
Associate Director
Office of Financial Aid
Rider University
Phone: 609-896-5360
ayoung@rider.edu

Housing

While decisions about apartments in Los Angeles are still being made, in past years, students were living at [Ava Toluca Hills Apartments](#) in Burbank, CA, part of Kapi Residencies, an company providing corporate apartments, short term housing, and student residential space. Each apartment has a full kitchen, furnishings, bedding, housewares, TV with cable and Internet (for up to 5 devices) are included.

Arrangements can be made to pre-ship personal items to our apartment complex in Los Angeles

Getting there and Getting around

Students are responsible for their own transportation arrangements to and from Los Angeles and during their stay in the city.

Airfare to L.A.

Round trip airfare to L.A. can vary. It is estimated that if you are departing from a New York or Philadelphia airport that your round trip airfare to L.A. will be between \$600 & \$800.

The Los Angeles Airport or LAX is Los Angeles' major airport, and is located approximately 27 miles from the Ava Apartments. Travel time depends greatly on traffic and can take from 30 minutes to 1 hour 30 minutes. Taxis are available right outside the LAX terminal. An Uber/Lyft ride is an app request away. From LAX to the Ava Apartments, an Uber/Lyft ride will cost you approximately \$35-50. Taking the Super Shuttle will be a less expensive alternative. The cost of the Super Shuttle is approximately \$24 per person. It might be a good idea to reserve the Super Shuttle at least one week in advance by calling (800) BLUE-VAN (800-258-3826) or visiting their website at www.supershuttle.com.

The Bob Hope Airport or BUR is located in Burbank and is 15 minutes/5 miles from the Ava Apartments. Taxis are available outside the airport. Uber/Lyft - an app request away. American, JetBlue, Southwest, United and US Airways fly into Burbank. While flying into Burbank will save you time and Uber/Lyft fare when traveling to Ava, LAX generally offers cheaper flights from the New York/Philadelphia area.

Transportation in L.A.

Bring your own car

Students may choose to bring their own cars to L.A.. Parking will be available at the Ava Apartment complex. Many students who have traveled to and studied in L.A. report that having a car in L.A. can be the best means of getting to and from their Internships and for exploring the sprawling diversity of the Los Angeles metropolitan area. I've driven from NJ to LA and back

again a number of times and have really enjoyed the experience. If you drive you may wish to connect with others and drive to L.A. together and share expenses. Students wishing to take more than one car sometimes caravan to L.A. - following each other to L.A.. There are also options for having your car shipped to LA.

Renting a Car

For those students who would like to rent a car in Los Angeles, Enterprise offers competitive rates, and rents to students under 21. Students may also save money by sharing a rental. Enterprise and others will often allow more than one person to be on the same lease with no upcharge for multiple drivers. Be aware that car rental rates have gone up quite a bit of late. Make sure you do your research to find the best deals.

Public Transportation

Los Angeles actually has a fairly extensive public transportation system that includes subways (the Metro) and buses.

The Metro

[The Metro](#) provides clean, quick and reliable transportation to many spots in and around L.A. and it offers a monthly student pass - Tap Card - which currently costs \$43.00. If you think the Metro will be your primary method of transportation, purchasing a Tap Card will be a great value. **You should apply for the Tap Card at least two months before you arrive in L.A..**

Buses

The [Big Blue Bus](#) with numerous routes covers much of L.A.. Your monthly student Tap Card could work here as well. Also, one bus stops at the main entrance to the Ava apartments and can be ridden north (downhill) into Burbank or south (uphill) into Hollywood. Going south, connect to the Metro rail system at the Hollywood/Argyle stop.

Uber & Lyft

Uber and Lyft have become increasingly valuable modes of transportation in L.A.. In addition, opportunities will be provided for students who need help finding rides to and from work to connect with others in the program who have cars.

Walk or Bicycle

Warner Brothers studios is literally across the street from the Ava complex. Students can and do walk to Warner Brothers. Disney, Universal, CBS, NBC and numerous other production companies, are all a relatively short distance away.

L.A. COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

FTV 395 The L.A. Media Experience – This course is a practical exploration of the workings of the contemporary film and media industries in Los Angeles, California, and

is designed as a required compliment for students enrolled in Rider's Semester in Los Angeles program. Focused on both major studios and independent production companies, this course explores how media are created, distributed and consumed in the U.S. and around the world. Students will examine the role of creativity, economics, an ever-evolving technology and the impact they have on how this industry operates today and where it may be heading into the future. The class will stay current by regularly reading trade publications and, through guest lectures, have many opportunities to hear directly from industry professionals about issues and challenges facing the field. Prerequisite(s): POI (restricted to students enrolled in the Department of Film & Television's Semester in Los Angeles program.)

Students will keep a journal of their experiences in L.A. Entries in these journals will serve as the basis for further discussion.

As a final assignment, students will present a cohesive overview of how their experiences in L.A. shaped, shifted or changed their ideas about the industry and what specifically has added to their knowledge base in terms of skills obtained, professional associations, networking groups, leveraging social media for professional gain, etc. Students will have the option of writing a paper or creating a short video.

FTV 399 The Co-Operative Experience 6-12 Credits

This course provides a significant work experience to support the professional development of the student and complement theoretical and classroom learning. Students will be assessed based on measures as defined in a placement contract mutually agreed upon by the sponsoring faculty member, the organization representative of the placement site, and the student. On average and depending on the number of credits, approximately 360 hours of work will be required as students work typically four days per week over at least eight weeks. The proposed placement contract requires departmental approval and the approval of the appropriate office of the dean. It is expected that the Co-op program will consume the student's academic load for the semester. Final placement will be determined by the organization where the student will work. Rider University does not guarantee that every student applying for a co-op will earn a co-op placement. Contact the appropriate department for additional information. **Prerequisites:** junior standing and 2.75 GPA at the time of registration;