

FAQ on Applying for North Carolina Residency

Why do I need to apply to be a North Carolina resident? I like being from “fill-in-the-blank-home-state”?

Applying for NC residency is crucial for the health of our graduate program. Each department is given a certain number of tuition remission waivers (see below for an explanation of what tuition remission is), and each year the department applies to the graduate school for additional waivers because we exceed the number of waivers that we are given. If we exceed our allotment of waivers (even after asking the graduate school for additional ones) we are required to pay the graduate school the tuition remission out of our budget. Therefore in order not to pay the graduate school we need as many students as possible to apply for NC residency as quickly as possible (starting in your second year—see below).

Applying for NC residency helps your fellow graduate student because the money we do not have to pay for tuition remissions can go toward funding department fellowships for students post-prospectus so that they can have a semester off from teaching while writing their dissertations.

Furthermore, there are penalties for not applying for NC residency in a timely fashion—please see the last point on this FAQ.

What, exactly, IS tuition remission?

Tuition remission is the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition. As of Spring 2016, 3.0 credit hours of in-state/NC graduate tuition was \$2,285.75 and 3.0 credit hours of out-of-state graduate tuition was \$6,588.50, which means the difference or the tuition remission is \$4,302.75.

When is the deadline for applying for NC residency/How soon can I apply/How do I apply for NC residency?

Your go-to website for information related to deadlines, Residency FAQ, Residency manual, guide, forms (and more) can be found here: <http://registrar.unc.edu/academic-services/residency/residency-reminder/>

Deadlines for each semester are generally at the beginning of the semester. For example, for Fall it's in early September, for Spring it's in late January, Summer Session I/Maymester it's late May and for Summer Session II it's early July. But please confirm specific dates through the above website. Please plan accordingly, meaning collect all relevant proof of residency ahead of these deadlines. Also for first year students, you won't be able to apply until you have lived in NC for

a year. Therefore, if you moved to North Carolina on July 1, you would apply during Summer Session II or Fall a year after your arrival.

Please be sure to look at the FAQ, manual, guide, forms, and other information relating to residency – you can find them on the bottom left side of the above website – click on “Residency” and you will see a pull-down menu for various helpful items related to applying for NC residency. Again, please go to: <http://registrar.unc.edu/academic-services/residency/residency-reminder/>

I've heard people get rejected on their first, even second time applying—is this true and what should I do if this happens?

It is, unfortunately, true that many students are rejected in their first attempts (and sometimes second attempt) at applying for NC residency. However, most students are successful on a second attempt and we have many more students in our program who have NC residency than who do not, so you will be successful on future attempts to apply for NC residency and you should apply for NC residency the following semester if you are rejected. Please see the first point above for why it's so important for you to gain NC residency.

I am an international student/do not have US citizenship; can I apply for NC residency?

Unfortunately all international students and students who do not have US citizenship will not be able to apply for NC residency and will always have to pay for out-of-state tuition and therefore will always need a tuition remission waiver. If you are a non-US citizen/international student, please consult with the DGS and the Writing Program Director and explain your need for tuition remission waivers while you are a PhD student at UNC Chapel Hill.

I own property in a state outside of North Carolina; can I apply for NC residency?

Owning property in a state outside of North Carolina signals to the powers-that-be that you have a residence outside of the state and therefore will not be considered a resident of North Carolina; therefore, you will not be able to apply for NC residency and will be considered an out-of-state resident and will need a tuition remission waiver. If you own property outside of NC, please consult with the DGS and the Writing Program Director and explain your need for tuition remission waivers while you are a PhD student at UNC Chapel Hill.

What happens if I don't apply for NC residency while I'm a PhD student in the English and Comparative Literature Department?

Starting Fall 2016 the Department of English and Comparative Literature will cover tuition remission (see point #2 above in this FAQ) for PhD students in years 1-5. In a student's sixth year, if a student is not a NC resident and has the ability to attain residency (ie: is not an international student/non-US citizen or owns property in a state outside of NC), the student will be responsible for the cost of 3 credit hours of tuition remission (the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition), which as of Spring 2016 was approximately \$4,300. Additionally students who are not NC residents will not be given special accommodations for teaching assignments.

We urge students to begin applying for NC residency no later than Fall semester of their second year. We know this can be a difficult and frustrating process, but it is also for the overall good of the department and will benefit your fellow graduate students. We thank you in advance!