

Our mission is to build and develop the interaction between our student body and the rest of the academic community by providing academic services and fulfilling students' needs; contributing to the students' personal and professional growth, allowing them to enrich their experience inside and outside the classroom.

The Dean of Students Office, through its different departments offers, among others, the following services:

- Academic Advising and Personal Counseling
- Sports and Cultural activities (such as: Drama club, guitar lessons, Modern dance, Tennis, Martial Arts, basketball team, etc.)
- Student Organizations - Students have the opportunity of displaying their interests throughout these groups.  
If you are curious about the Environment – Gastronomy – Diversity – Literature – Movies – you can join one or more of our student groups.  
Interested in something else?...You may start your own!

### **STUDENT AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT**

To help the new students get the best out of this experience, we organize an Orientation Week (OW) every semester the week before classes start.

**ORIENTATION WEEK - SEPTEMBER 2009**  
**Will be held August 26 -27**

During this week, we assist new international students in getting to know each other, UNIBE and the Dominican Republic. Students receive details about what to expect from their new life in our country.

The purpose is to make you feel confident and comfortable with your new environment. It's a fun week as we organize interesting activities.

The Student Affairs Department can assist the students in the following matters:

- 1. Information on student services**
- 2. Housing**
- 3. Information on Student Visas/immigration**  
(go to [http://www.unibe.edu.do/estudiantes/decanato/decanato\\_visa\\_est.asp](http://www.unibe.edu.do/estudiantes/decanato/decanato_visa_est.asp))
- 4. Issues related to the U.S. Embassy (official Warden)**
- 5. Questions about university and the Dominican Republic**
- 6. Information on popular sites and places where you can spend leisure time**
- 7. Extracurricular activities**
- 8. Helping organize school activities**
- 9. Student Rules and Regulations**

10. **Health insurance** – All international students are covered by our health insurance plan, this is a service included in the tuition.

Once a student registers, he/she must fill out a form and turn it in along with a copy of their passport. Insurance is only active when students are active, please remember to repeat this process if at any point you are separated from the school for one or more semesters.

## About Housing...

UNIBE does not offer living accommodations. However, the Student Affairs Department can help the students to secure a place to live by providing an updated list of apartments, houses, studios and rooms available in the Santo Domingo area as well as other information regarding this issue.

You should know...

- Apartments, houses and rooms can be rented either furnished or unfurnished.
- Prices vary based on the number of bedrooms, location, size, services included, etc.
- Prices range between US\$ 350 and US\$ 1000 a month.
- There is usually a 2 or 3 month deposit required.
- Apartments are subject to longer lease agreements (six months/one-year term. In most cases the apartments include utilities (electricity T. V. Cable and water bills).
- Some students share houses/apartments in order to share these expenses. Renting a house is very similar to renting an apartment. Prices can be similar too.
- You may visit [www.supercasas.com](http://www.supercasas.com) – this is a very helpful website where you can find available housing anywhere in the country and can be browsed in English or Spanish.
- You may also visit [www.unibe.edu.do/estudiantes/decanato/decanato\\_hospedaje.asp](http://www.unibe.edu.do/estudiantes/decanato/decanato_hospedaje.asp) - this is a link to the UNIBE Dean of Students Office website where we post some of the housing options we receive.

**Brokers** – the following are some of the most recognized and reliable brokers, they can also assist students. They usually have a service charge/commission. Please be aware that the University is NOT affiliated with these services.

- Remax Metropolitana  
Phone Number: 809.541.2020  
Website: [www.remax-metropolitana.com.do](http://www.remax-metropolitana.com.do)
- Time Homes  
Phone Number: 809.565.6262  
Website: [www.timehomes.com](http://www.timehomes.com)
- Century 21 / Juan Perdomo  
Phone Number: 809.571.2100  
Website: [www.juanperdomo.com](http://www.juanperdomo.com)

## About Student Life...

Average expenses:

- US\$5,400.00 Tuition first semester
- US\$4,500 Tuition /plus US\$500.00 Administration fee (Total US\$5,000.00) after 2<sup>nd</sup> semester (Sept.09)
- Your daily expenses (meals and transportation) will be around RD\$500.00 (eating out, we recommend to buy groceries and eat at home).
- Taxi rides are around RD\$150.00
- Public cars and buses are a more affordable option (albeit less comfortable)
- Average monthly bills: Electricity US\$50.00 – Telephone (w/internet) US\$35.00 – Cell phone US\$50.00
- Groceries: the average is around US\$150.00 a month (one person)
- US\$1.00 = RD\$36.50 (sept.09)

General recommendations:

- Start looking for a place to live *at least* two weeks before school starts (The Student Affairs Dept. has a Housing List (also available on our website). *Don't rush into moving!*
- Find out if there is a Dominican Consulate in your area. You will **need** to obtain the Student Visa. You may obtain that prior to arriving in the country or once you get here. You can find more details in the Dean of Students Office website ([www.unibe.edu.do/estudiantes/decanato/decanato\\_estudiantes.asp](http://www.unibe.edu.do/estudiantes/decanato/decanato_estudiantes.asp))
- In order to get the Visa you are going to have to bring in a Police Report and a Health Certificate from your country, you will need two sets (originals): one for school and one for the Visa.
- If you wish to transfer credits from another institution, we advise you to bring a School Catalog or some validation of the courses you've taken.
- Keep in mind that you will need cash in order to pay deposits for apartments (at least 2 or 3 months worth of rent) therefore you might want to have your money in money orders; this is an easier and less expensive way.
- We recommend you bring cash, money orders or debit cards, this will make payments easier.

## **Security**

The University provides security services within the campus through the Security Department. This area, along with other institutional units, is responsible of carrying out all security policies, including the following services:

- Protective watch on school facilities 24/7.
- Supervision and control of campus access.
- Encouragement of students, employees and other university community members to be responsible for their security.
- Orientation on security measures, prevention of crimes and other emergencies in coordination with the Dean of Students Office.

The Mission of UNIBE's Security Department is to promote the safety of every member of the university community and its visitors. The Security Department staff has the commitment of providing a safe environment protecting lives and property. UNIBE Security is responsible for investigating every incident to guarantee the compliance of institutional regulations and local laws, also of identifying and eliminating risks and opportunities for crimes and setting up prevention programs for the whole academic community.

In order to achieve its mission, the Security department requests that every member of our community reports any crime or irregular activity. Prevention is the responsibility of each and every one of us.

### ***Security Measures***

- As a security measure to prevent crime, 46 security cameras have been installed with an ongoing monitoring center that keeps a 30-day information record and backups.
- Permanent maintenance and patrolling of the buildings and other areas to eliminate crime activity risks.
- Access control to the campus during and after working hours.

## **Drug and alcohol Policy**

UNIBE promotes prevention of addictions in the members of its academic community through different programs and educational activities regarding the hazards related to drug, narcotics and alcohol abuse.

Consumption, possession, distribution or sale of narcotics, drugs and/or alcohol on campus is a violation of UNIBE's Disciplinary Regulations and country laws. These actions are prohibited under Article 15 sections "a" and "b" of the Rules and Regulations handbook that every student receives after registering at UNIBE.

## **Communication**

There are three mayor communication service providers in the Dominican Republic. They offer Different options (internet, land lines, celphones).

Claro ([www.claro.com.do](http://www.claro.com.do))

Orange ([www.orange.com.do](http://www.orange.com.do))  
Viva ([www.viva.com.do](http://www.viva.com.do))

## About our Country...

**Capital:** Santo Domingo

**Climate:** Maritime semitropical, with an average yearly temperature of 80 F. Humid.

**Currency:** Dominican Peso

**Ethnic groups:** Caucasian - 16% African origin - 11% Mixed - 73%

**Government:** Representative Democracy

**Independence:** February 27, 1844 (from Haiti)

**Language:** Spanish

**Phone Code:** International access code-809 / 829

**Population:** 8,950,034 (as of July, 2005)

**Official Religion:** Roman Catholic (95%)  
Other - Protestant, Seventh Day Adventist, Baptist, and Mormon

Information from: [www.godominicanrepublic.com](http://www.godominicanrepublic.com)

### Holidays

Since 1997 the Dominican Government established by law that all non-religious holidays to be celebrated on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and/or Fridays be moved to the following or previous Monday.

For a detailed list of holidays celebrated in the D.R. please check out the Ministry of Labor website: [http://www.set.gov.do/legislacion/dias\\_feriados.asp](http://www.set.gov.do/legislacion/dias_feriados.asp)

**Hotels** – the following is a list of hotels in the UNIBE area that you may use for your stay during your first days in the country. Please be aware that the University is NOT affiliated with these hotels.

- a) Lina Hotel (5 stars) (809) 563-5000 (ask for UNIBE students rate)
- b) Marriott (809) 685-1010
- c) Carey House Hotel (809) 688-4808
- d) Turey Apart-Hotel (809) 412-2809
- e) Plaza Colonial Apart-Hotel (809) 687-9111
- f) Greenhouse Apart-Hotel (809) 682-1111

For general information about the Dominican Republic, you may access the following websites:

<http://www.godominicanrepublic.com/>

<http://www.hispaniola.com/>

<http://www.tiscali.co.uk/reference/encyclopaedia/countryfacts/dominicanrepublic.html>

<http://www.turq.com/dominicanrepublic/info.php>

<http://www.dr1.com/>