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I. University Acceptance and U.S. Immigration Documents

1. Notice of Admission (“NOA”)

- The NOA is required for your visa application and many on-campus processes when you first arrive. Please check that your Date of Birth is correct. Please note that this is a two-sided document.
- Your **University ID Number (UIN)** and **Activation Code** are printed on the back of your Notice of Admission. Your UIN and Activation Code are needed to claim your University of Illinois NetID and email. This is explained further under item II. “Claim your NetID” below.
- **Change your status to committed in your application, but you do NOT need to accept or decline this offer.** Please do NOT go to the Office of Admissions or the iStart websites to accept or decline your offer.
- The **Term/Year** indicates the first semester that you will be at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Please refer to your **Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor (J1) Status** a.k.a. **DS-2019 (Box #3)** to verify that you have been admitted for the correct number of semesters.

2. Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor (J-1) Status (also known as you DS-2019)

- VERY IMPORTANT DOCUMENT required for your visa application as well as to re-enter the United States after your arrival into the country. Do NOT lose this document!
- Your DS-2019 will expire on a set date -- please see the DS2019 for the “From” and “To” dates.

3. Very Important Immigration Information for ALL International Students

- Please read through this single-page document. Please note that all applicants must pay the SEVIS fee to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency (part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security) before they will be allowed to apply for a J-1 visa. Students are responsible for the SEVIS fee. The fee is NOT covered by the University of Illinois. For more information, please visit their [website](#) for more information on mandatory check-in with International Scholars.

II. Visa

All international exchange students are required to obtain a visa before entering the United States. As an exchange student, you were issued a Notice of Admission and a DS-2019 in your admission packet. These documents will allow you to obtain a J1 visa for the duration of your stay. The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign cannot apply or pay for your visa. You are responsible for following the visa application procedures, compiling the necessary documents, following through on the visa application requirements, and paying the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) fee.

When completing your visa application, please provide the following contact information under the required fields:

- Contact at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign: International Student and Scholar Services, 400 Turner Student Services Building, 610 E. John Street, Champaign, IL 61820 isss@illinois.edu.
- Address you will be at in the USA: 210 Engineering Hall, 1308 W. Green Street, Urbana, IL 61801

III. Claim Your NetID and Email Address


Your NetID is a name assigned to you that is unique across all University of Illinois campuses. It serves as your login too many University computing and networking services and determines your University email address, which is netid@illinois.edu.

Your NetID has a password associated with it and many important, secure University services will ask for your NetID to find out who you are and your NetID password to verify that you are who you say you are.

As a University of Illinois student, you will receive instructions for claiming your NetID and setting your NetID password. (If you did not receive this information, please contact the CITES Help Desk at consult@illinois.edu).

After claiming your NetID, you will need to set a password. To claim and set your ID and password, you will need your University Identification Number (UIN) located on the back of your Notice of Admission letter.

Please note that your NetID and NetID password are used for your Illinois email account. <https://netidclaim.uiuc.edu>

ILLINOIS NETID CLAIM 

Log In - Step 1

Enter your University Identification Number (UIN). If you need help you can [get your UIN](#) or contact the [Technology Services Help Desk](#) at (217) 244-7000 or consult@illinois.edu.

University ID Number (UIN)

IV. University of Illinois Email

When claiming your NetID, you will automatically get an Office 365 mailbox. The mailbox will be ready 2 hours after you claim your NetID. This [website](#) has more information on how to access your mailbox.

It is important that you regularly check your University of Illinois email account. A lot of useful and essential information (about registration, classes, etc.) will be sent to you through your University of Illinois email.

V. Course Credits and Course Loads

As part of your J1 visa requirements, you need to remain a full-time student throughout your terms as a J1 visa holder. All international students admitted at the undergraduate level are required to enroll in at least 12 credit hours to maintain full-time status. **However, you need to check with your home university to find out how many credit hours you need to take at UIUC in order to meet your home university's requirements.**

VI. Registering for Classes

After setting your NetID and passwords, you will be ready to register!

Use this [link](#) for step by step instructions on how to register. For a complete view of what courses are available, you should use the [Class Schedule](#). Make sure to look at the semester that you will be coming, as the classes can change between semesters. Registration for new incoming exchange students typically begins at the end of May (for August entrants) and at the end of November (for January entrants).

For some courses, you need to register for both a **Lecture** section and a **Discussion-Recitation** and/or **Laboratory** section. If you do not register for the required sections, you will see a "Linked Section" error, and you will not be able to register for the course. **You must add both the Lecture and the Discussion/Recitation or Laboratory section before you can register for the course.**

Restricted Classes

You will get a message if there is a restriction, i.e. the course is restricted to students in that major only or you do not have the pre-requisites to take this course. If you receive this message, you will have to wait until you arrive on campus to add this course as you will need specific permission from the department to enroll in the course.

Class is Full

This indicates there is no space in the course. You will have to continue to monitor the registration system to see if space becomes available.

NOTE: Register early for as many classes that you are able. DO NOT contact a department about your registration, unless told to by IPENG. During our mandatory orientation, you receive the date and location of your advising meeting. During your advising meeting, you can address all of your course registration issues and questions.

VII. Add/Drop

At the University of Illinois, **students are not guaranteed seats in courses**, even if they are required for a student's graduation. As a result, you may find that courses you need are full or closed even if it appears that there are seats available. In many cases, departments release more seats after they have a clearer sense of student demand. This is normally done just before the start of each semester. In the first two weeks of the semester, students make changes to their schedule, registering for courses that they need and dropping from courses they do not need or want. This period is known as add/drop. It is in this period that you have a chance to register for courses that you could not get into prior to arriving on campus.

VIII. Housing

<http://www.housing.illinois.edu/>

<https://housing.illinois.edu/living-options/special-options/international>

You are responsible for arranging your own housing. International Programs in Engineering does not reserve housing for students. There are many options available to exchange students: Undergraduate Residence Halls, Graduate Residence Halls, University Apartments, Private Certified Housing, and off-campus properties owned and managed by independent property owners. There are pros and cons to each option, so you should carefully weigh your needs and preferences against what the different options offer. To assist you in comparing the University Housing options, go to the University Housing website, click on “Living Options” and then click on “Compare Options.”

Keep in mind that once you sign a University Housing Contract or Apartment Lease, you are legally bound to that contract/lease and you cannot cancel your contract/lease without large financial penalties. Please do not sign more than one housing contract/lease.

As soon as you receive your admission documentation to the University of Illinois, you are eligible to submit your University Housing contract online. The priority deadline for University Housing is May 15th for the Fall Semester. If you apply before the May 15th deadline, you will get to select specific room assignments that you are interested in. However, if you apply after May 15th, a room will be assigned to you based on the preference information you provide, and you will not know your room assignment until the end of June. If you do not like the room assignment you receive, the Housing Office may be able to work with you to get you re-assigned after the start of the semester-but you are still legally bound to your housing contract and cannot cancel because you don't like your room assignment.

To apply for University Housing, you will need an ID, password, and a major credit card to pay the \$150 advance payment and \$50 deposit.

Undergraduate and Graduate Residence Halls

These properties are traditional dormitories for college students. Typically, two or more students share a room. In some cases, you may be assigned to a suite, where there would be three or more students to a room. Sherman and Daniels halls are the only two Graduate Residence Halls and are geared towards older undergraduate and graduate students. Single rooms are few and highly competitive to get.

Therefore, if you choose to live in one of the University's residence halls, you will need to be prepared to live in a shared room.

Here is a [map](#) of all the different locations of the residence halls.

Benefits of living in a University Residence Hall:

- Rooms are already furnished.
- Utilities are included in the housing charge, so you will not need to worry about arranging and paying additional fees for electricity, heat, water, sewage, trash removal, internet, and basic television (although you will need to get a digital box to decode digital programs).
- Meal plans are included in the Undergraduate Residence Hall contracts, so you will not need to worry too much about groceries, cooking, or washing dishes (except for that occasional toast or bowl of cereal). If you are assigned to Sherman or Daniels Halls, you will not need to purchase a meal plan, although they are available for purchase if you need them.
- If you choose to live in one of the Living-and-Learning Communities (LLC), you will find a community of other like-minded students. LLCs are geared towards students with specific interest: Leadership, the Arts, Engineering and Science, Global and International Studies, Social Justice, Health Professions, as well as Innovation and Entrepreneurship. Students in these halls are typically very involved on campus and are keen to meet other students, whether international or from the US. For more information on the LLCs, visit this [website](#).
- There are computer labs in each hall, most of which are open 24 hours a day, while classes are in session.
- Guaranteed to be on or within a 5-minute walk to a bus line.
- There are Resident Assistants and Resident Directors who can advise you on any matter, 24 hours a day.
- If you are enrolled at the University of Illinois for only one semester, you can be released from your housing contract without needing to find someone to sublet from you. There is also no penalty for canceling your contract after your first semester. **NOTE:** If you are at Illinois for TWO SEMESTERS, you cannot cancel your University Housing contract after your first semester on campus. You will be financially penalized for canceling your contract. This also applies to students who are initially accepted for one semester, but who then extend their stay at Illinois by one more semester.

Drawbacks of living in a University Residence Hall:

- Meal plans are part of your Undergraduate Residence Hall contract. You cannot opt out of the meal plan. Sherman and Daniels Hall contracts do not include a meal plan.
- There are **NO kitchens** in the Undergraduate Residence Halls and limited cooking amenities in Sherman and Daniels Hall.
- There are rules that are enforced and that residents will need to adhere to, e.g. pertaining to underage drinking and quiet hours.
- It can be noisy.
- You will most likely live in shared rooms.
- **You will need to share showers and bathrooms communally**
- Some students, in the past, have reported that living in a University Residence Hall is more expensive than living off-campus. Go to the University Housing website to check rates.

Private Certified Housing

An alternative to the University Residence Halls are **Private Certified Housing**. These halls are managed by external property companies, but have been "approved" by the University of Illinois. The rooms in these halls are typically bigger, but some can be more expensive. Several of these are also religiously affiliated, e.g. Catholic for Newman Hall and Presbyterian for Presby Hall. **NOTE: Private Certified Housing does NOT bill the University Student Account for housing charges.** Rents and any associated fees have to be paid directly to the housing unit.

Off Campus Housing

If you seek a more independent living environment, you may consider sub-leasing an off-campus apartment from an Illinois student who will be studying abroad. Many students post their subleases on Facebook.

You could also consider leasing an apartment through Family and Graduate Housing. Applications are made directly with the Family and Graduate Housing (look under "University Apartments"). You may also sublease an apartment by signing up to be a roommate with another resident.

Please note that off-campus apartments, including those through Family and Graduate Housing, do NOT bill the University Student Account for housing charges. Rents and any associated fees have to be paid directly to that property's management.

Off-campus housing is handled separately and independently from the University. You will need to contact the appropriate individuals or property management company directly to set up private housing. You are strongly encouraged to hold off signing any leases until (1) you have seen the apartment unit yourself and (2) have had the lease/contract reviewed by the [Tenant Union](#). If you are interested in private housing, you should arrive at least one full week before orientation.

Private housing offers the most independence, as you have your own room, and share a kitchen with roommates, just like any other apartment. There is a wide variety of options available, with the quality of the apartments varying for price levels. If subleasing, ask the student for current pictures of their room before making a decision.

Smoke Free Campus

Please note that the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is a smoke-free campus, which means that smoking inside university owned buildings is prohibited.

Please see the following [website](#) for more information.

IX. Temporary Accommodation

If you applied to and are assigned to a residence hall with University Housing, you may need to reside in temporary accommodation until the official start of your University Housing contract. These contracts usually begin three to four days before the start of classes. Depending on your residence hall, you may be permitted to move in early. However, you will be charged a nightly fee until the official start of your University Housing contract. In other words, you will have to pay a nightly charge for the early move-in days. For more details about early move-in through University Housing, please visit University

Housing's website (www.housing.illinois.edu). Additional options are available from International Student and Scholar Services (www.iss.illinois.edu).

X. Academic Calendar

Make sure to be aware of all dates on the [academic calendar](#). When scheduling your travel to University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, you must arrive in time to attend all **mandatory** orientations. When scheduling your travel at the end of your exchange program, you should schedule your date of departure after the last day of exams.

XI. Student Finances

All exchange students receive tuition and some fee waivers. **However, there are certain fees that will be billed to your student account that you are required to pay.** During our mandatory orientation, we will go over in detail which fees are waived, which fees may be refundable, and which fees must be paid.

Waived Fees

Service Fee, General Fee, Student Initiated Fees, AFMFA, and Library and Technology

Refundable Fee (fee is charged to your student account but you can request a refund)

Health Insurance Fee (show equivalent or better alternative coverage),

Mandatory Fees

Health Service Fee, Transportation Fee (MTD Bus), ISSS New Student Fee, Housing (if in University Dorms along with meal plans if purchased)

For more information on an explanation of the [fees](#) and the [rates](#), look online.

XII. Getting to Urbana Champaign

Airplane

- [The University of Illinois Willard Airport](#) (Airport Code: CMI) serves the Champaign-Urbana area.

Train

- [AMTRAK has service between downtown Chicago and Champaign.](#)

Bus/Shuttle

- [University of Illinois O'Hare to Urbana-Champaign Shuttle Service](#) - service provided by the university's International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) office for new incoming international students. This shuttle service will run in August 2018.
- [Peoria Charter](#) serves many different locations including both Chicago airports (O'Hare and Midway), Union Station in Chicago and a number of Chicago suburbs.

When arriving at either Willard Airport or the Illinois Terminal (train/bus depot in downtown Champaign), there are a few options on how to get to campus:

- Group taxi services cost an average of \$8 per person. If you are not part of a group, the average cost for a taxi is \$15.
- The CUMTD Bus, which costs about \$3 per person.

XIII. Checking-In and Orientation

The first thing you should do upon arriving at UIUC is check-in with International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS). Depending on when you check-in, you will either check-in at the ISSS office 400 Turner Student Services Building, 610 E. John Street, Champaign, IL 61820 or the Illini Union. Please check the [ISSS website](#) to determine where they are holding check-in on the day you arrive.

Checking in with ISSS is mandatory to comply with U.S. Department of Homeland Security regulations.

After taking care of your necessary check-ins, you will want to obtain your i-Card. **You can find more information about obtaining your i-Card [here](#).**

International Programs in Engineering will hold a **mandatory orientation** for all exchange students coming into the College of Engineering. Please read your Grainger College of Engineering admission letter for the date and location of the **mandatory orientation**. We will cover a lot of valuable information that will help you have a successful start to your study abroad experience. As mentioned previously, you need to schedule your travel so that you arrive in time to attend the mandatory orientation.

International Programs in Engineering will also hold a mandatory Student Life Orientation. The Student Life Orientation is handled by our student assistants who are University of Illinois students who have also studied abroad. They will be able to answer your questions about student life, places to eat, things to do, etc. This orientation also is a wonderful opportunity to meet other international exchange students who are studying at UIUC. You will also meet your buddy group here for the first time!

XIV. iPals

Before you arrive at campus, you will be placed in a buddy group. The iPals Buddy Program connects current UIUC students who have previously studied abroad with incoming exchange students to assist with the transition to daily life and academics at UIUC. A variety of fun events are held throughout the semester to expose students to all that UIUC has to offer.

In order to form the groups, a quick survey will be sent before you arrive at UIUC. Fill this out to the best of your ability, so you can be placed in a group of people with similar interests! Like mentioned above, you will first meet your iPals group at the Student Life Orientation.

XV. Student Insurance

All students are required to carry health insurance and will be **automatically** enrolled in the [University of Illinois Student Health Insurance](#). If you plan to use your own insurance, you may petition to opt out of the Student Health Insurance. The Student Insurance office will accept petitions to opt-out *after the start of classes*. Your policy must be **equivalent to or better** than the Student Health Insurance in order to opt-

out. The Student Insurance office will decide if your insurance is equivalent to or better than the UIUC Student Insurance, so bring copies of your insurance policy (in English) if you plan to complete an application to opt-out.

PLEASE NOTE: Health insurance for each semester has to be in effect until the beginning of the next semester. Example: If you are going to be at UIUC for the Fall semester and are interested in opting out of the UIUC student health insurance, your personal health insurance policy has to be in effect until the start of the Spring semester. Even if you plan to leave the U.S. at the end of the Fall semester (mid-December), your insurance has to be in effect until the start of the Spring semester (mid-January).

XVI. McKinley Health Center

[McKinley Health Center](#) provides services to help keep you healthy and, if you are ill, to help you get better. Most McKinley services are covered by the health service fee, so you can make an appointment without worrying about payment. If you have a medical problem beyond the Health Center's scope, staff members at McKinley can refer you to treatment off campus. McKinley is accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare organizations and its staff includes doctors, psychiatrists, nurse practitioners, nurses, technologists, pharmacists, health educators, and counselors. In addition to the medical clinic, McKinley offers an immunization and travel clinic and services in women's health, wellness promotion, and mental health.

The Dial-A-Nurse is available 24-hours a day to answer your questions. A pharmacy is on-site to fill prescriptions. Their website, www.mckinley.uiuc.edu, provides information about many health issues, as well as McKinley's hours and services. You can also use the web to make appointments or request refills on prescriptions. Appointments are recommended, if possible, and can be made over the phone or on the web.

Illinois law requires that all entering students document a minimum level of immunization. **You must complete the Medical and Immunization History Form prior to your arrival on campus.** You can download the form and read instructions for the completing the form at the following [website](#). Please read the instructions before completing the Medical and Immunization History Form. You will need your home doctor to sign the Medical and Immunization History Form, so you will need to complete it ***before*** you leave your home country. You will need to submit the completed form to the McKinley Health Center at the University when you arrive on campus.

XVII. Special Needs

The Division of Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES) is the University designated office that certifies eligibility for services, determines reasonable accommodations, obtains and files disability-related documents, and develops plans for providing these accommodations for students with disabilities. Students with disabilities must contact DRES to request and obtain disability-related assistance. Students anticipating the need for disability-related assistance are asked to contact DRES at least six weeks prior to the first day of classes in order to allow adequate time to make the necessary accommodation arrangements. For more information, contact the DRES Office at (217) 333 4604 (V/TTY) or via email at disability@uiuc.edu.

XVIII. Important Campus Contacts

<p>International Programs in Engineering 210 Engineering Hall 1308 W Green St Urbana, IL 61801 TEL: +1 (217) 244-0054 EMAIL: ipeng@illinois.edu</p>	<p>International Student and Scholar Services Student Office 400 Student Services Building MC-306 610 E. John St. Champaign, IL 61820 TEL: 217.333.1303 ext. 1 EMAIL: isss@illinois.edu</p>
<p>McKinley Health Center 1109 South Lincoln Avenue, Urbana, Illinois 61801 TEL: 217-333-2701 24/7 Dial-A-Nurse Tel: 217-333-2700</p>	<p>University of Illinois Police TEL: 217-333-1216 SafeWalks service: 217-333-1216 SafeRides service: 217-265-7433 EMERGENCY: 911</p>