

Welcome Packet Materials

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1. 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-page 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.
- **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 (J-1) Status** or **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 your **DS-2019**)

- This is a VERY IMPORTANT DOCUMENT required for your visa application and 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.
- We cannot email the DS-2019 to you. The original will be sent by express mail.

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:
iss.illinois.edu/students/incoming/pre_arrival/immigration.html
- For more information on **mandatory** check-in with International Scholars and Services (ISSS), please see:
https://iss.illinois.edu/students/incoming/orientation/sum_orientation.html

2. Claim your NetID and email address

Your NetID will be your most important electronic ID at the University of Illinois and you will use it for just about everything. The most immediate uses will be for making your University Housing reservation and for course registration (subject to College holds and restrictions). Your NetID is a name assigned to you that is unique across all University of Illinois campuses. It serves as your login to University computing and networking services and also determines your University email address, which will be your NetID@illinois.edu.

- To claim your NetID, go to netidclaim.illinois.edu and follow the instructions. You will be asked to enter your UIN and your Activation code. Protect your NetID and NetID password. Do NOT share your NetID or NetID password with anyone.
- Your email will be set up when you have completed the claim NetID process.
- Log in to your email inbox at outlook.office365.com.
- To connect your University email to your mobile device, follow the instructions on this page: <https://answers.uillinois.edu/illinois/page.php?id=47591>
- Set up your Google Apps account: <https://techservices.illinois.edu/services/google-apps-illinois/details>
- Please consult the University Technology Services website for more information or assistance: techservices.illinois.edu

3. Getting to Champaign-Urbana

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

- [Peoria Charter](#) serves many different locations including both Chicago airports (O'Hare and Midway), Union Station in Chicago and a number of Chicago suburbs. You should choose either ISR (Illinois Street Residence Hall) or Armory as both locations are located on campus. In the event your flight is delayed or you miss your scheduled bus, please see the information on Terms and Conditions.
- [Greyhound](#) has daily service between downtown Chicago and Champaign. Getting to University of Illinois Campus from the Local Bus Station or Airport

Use the following public transportation to arrive on campus from Willard Airport or the Illinois Terminal (train/bus depot in downtown Champaign):

- 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. You may ask an airport or Illinois Terminal employee for assistance. Be sure to agree on your cab fare amount before leaving for your destination.

Source: http://iss.illinois.edu/students/incoming/pre_arrival/transportation.html

4. Virtual Pre-Arrival and Mandatory On-Campus Orientation

There is a virtual Pre-Arrival Orientation on Tuesday, June 6, 2023 that you are strongly encouraged to attend. Topics covered will include: University Housing, International Student and Scholar Services, Student Health Insurance, COVID-19 updates, and College Information Sessions. You will receive an email with details and instructions on how to register. Watch your email!

There is also a **mandatory** on-campus exchange student orientation. This orientation is different from the International Student and Scholar Services orientations and all exchange students are required to attend to be in compliance with your J-1 visa status. The mandatory On Campus Orientation will be held in person on Wednesday, August 16th, 2023. Additional details, including time and location, will be sent by email.

5. COVID-19 Information

Exchange students will be required to fully comply with institutional COVID-19 protocols and adhere to any other health and safety measures that will be in place for all other students in accordance with health guidance issued by the Illinois Department of Public Health. Please review the university's current [COVID webpage](#) for the most up to date information.

You **must** show proof of being [fully vaccinated](#) with the primary series of an [accepted COVID-19 vaccine](#) before you board your flight to the United States. Only limited [exceptions](#) apply. Please read more information about all COVID-19 entry requirements [here](#). Students that are not vaccinated against COVID-19 and allowed to travel to the United States by air through an exception need to follow the guidelines listed [here](#). Please account for this when making your travel plans. Fully vaccinated students do **not** need to self-quarantine upon arrival.

6. Housing & Meals in Urbana-Champaign

You are responsible for arranging your own housing while you are at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. You may choose to live in:

- University [Residence Halls](#) through University Housing;
- [Living-Learning Communities](#) (LLCs) through University Housing are great ways to become involved on campus and to develop friendships with local students;
- Apartments through University Housing;
- Private-Certified Housing that are affiliated, but not owned by the University of Illinois; or
- Off-campus accommodation in units that are privately owned and managed.

For more information about housing at Illinois, please use the following resources:

- University Housing Website: www.housing.illinois.edu
- University Residence Halls: www.housing.illinois.edu/living-options/residence-halls
- Map of University Residence Hall Locations: illinois.edu/map/view?categoryId=4
- A few notes about the University Residence Halls through University Housing:
 - ⊖ The fee for University Housing is charged to your student account at the beginning of each semester of your exchange program. Payments for University Housing are made through your student account, and payment in full is due by the 28th day of the month following the start of the semester. (Fall payment due September 28th, Spring payment due February 28th).
 - Undergraduate Residence Halls, except the Global Crossroads LLC, are closed during semester breaks. Illinois Street Residence and Pennsylvania Avenue Area Residence offer housing during the semester break at an additional cost.
 - Sherman and Daniels Halls are open during the semester break at no additional charge.
 - Even if you apply to Sherman or Daniels (Graduate Residence Halls), you may still be assigned to an Undergraduate Residence Hall if Sherman/Daniels are full.

IMPORTANT: If you withdraw or cancel your contract with University Housing after submitting your housing application, you will still be responsible for all related housing fees. The University Housing contract states that you agree to accept any space that is assigned to you. For example, you apply to Sherman Hall, but you are assigned to Busey-Evans Hall. If you decide to decline the assignment, you will still be charged 75% of your housing contract rate.

- University Apartments: www.housing.illinois.edu/living-options/apartments
 - Rent is paid directly to Family and Graduate Housing, not through your University of Illinois Student Account.

- Most units are not furnished or are minimally furnished.

Orchard Downs and Ashton Woods are located south of the campus. Buses into campus are available and typically serve each apartment complex every 30 minutes. Bus service to Orchard Downs terminates after 2 a.m. on weeknights. Bus service to Ashton Woods terminates after 11 p.m. Mondays-Saturdays and after 6 p.m. on Sundays.

- Private-Certified Housing: <https://certified.housing.illinois.edu/>
 - Housing charges are billed directly by the Private-Certified Housing property. You will need to make payments directly to the housing unit, not through your University of Illinois Student Account.
- Off-Campus Accommodation:
 - If you are interested in **living independently**, you may wish to consider subletting from one of our outbound study abroad students. Go to illinois.edu/blog/view/208 for more information (NOTE: You must activate your NetID and Active Directory (AD) password before you can use this website).
 - Items included with furnished apartments will vary, but they typically **do not** include kitchen utensils or pots and pans, towels, linens, window curtains, shower curtains, etc. Be prepared to purchase these items upon arrival.
 - Before signing a lease, please consult with the Tenant Union: <http://www.cutenantunion.org/>

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



- Please see the following website for more information: www.campusrec.illinois.edu/Smoke-Free.

Fall 2023 Move-In & Early Arrival Information

If you choose to live in university housing, please note that the first date for regular move in for the residence halls is August 13, 2023. If you want to stay in university housing before August 13th, you will need to sign up for an Early Arrival move-in, at an additional cost. Please email housing@illinois.edu for details. **Note that you are responsible for any early arrival fees.**

When students are ready to check in to their University Housing room, they can go directly to the front desk of their dorm or dorm complex and the desk staff will check you in and give you your room key, card access to the facility, and other move-in information and materials. **Note: you will need to pick up your [i-card](#) from the Illini Union Bookstore before you can move in to University Housing.**

Meals

- If you choose to live in Undergraduate Residence Halls (through University Housing), you will be required to purchase a meal plan as part of your contract. [Meal plans](#) consist of Classic Meals and Dining Dollars.
- **The exception to this rule is if you live in Sherman or Daniels Halls (part of University Housing) where meal plans are not included in your contract.** However, you may purchase Dining Dollars, which you can use in University Dining Halls and for lunch.
- There are many affordable fast-food restaurants and cafes within walking distance of campus.
- If you live in accommodations off-campus, you will need to prepare your own meals. There are several grocery stores that are within walking distance of campus.

7. Mandatory Fees

- Exchange students receive a full tuition waiver and a partial fee waiver, **but there are a few mandatory fees that exchange student must pay:**
 - Health Service Fee (McKinley Health Center)
 - Transportation Fee (CU MTD)
 - International Student and Scholar Services Fee
 - Health Insurance Fee *(It is very difficult to opt out or waive the University of Illinois Student Insurance, and very few students are successful in opting out. You can find more information about the process [here](#). Note: if your insurance does not meet all of the requirements, you will not be allowed to opt out.)*
 - You can find the current per semester fee amount at <https://registrar.illinois.edu/tuition-fees/tuition-fee-rates/tf-rates-term/>.
- The mandatory fees are billed to your University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign student account. For information about your student account and how to make payments, visit <https://paymybill.uillinois.edu>

8. Academics at Illinois (Course Selection and Registration)

- For information about the Registration Process, please review: <http://www.registrar.illinois.edu/registration-process>.

- To begin looking at the course selection and to register, you will need your NetID and AD password.
- You will register for your courses online through [Student Self-Service](#). The tentative course list you submitted as part of your application does not register you for [classes](#).
- [All](#) students assigned to the Grainger College of Engineering are required to register for [ENG 398 - Grainger Engineering Design Your Experience](#).
- Your exchange coordinator and/or departmental academic advisor are happy to assist you with the course registration [process](#).

9. Student Injury and Sickness Insurance Plan

- All exchange students are automatically enrolled in the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Student Insurance Plan; you do not need to complete any forms to be enrolled in this plan. You are, however, advised to obtain travel insurance and coverage for your personal property since the Student Insurance Plan does not cover travel and personal belongings.
- **LEARN MORE about the Student Insurance and Sickness Insurance Plan here:** <https://si.illinois.edu/>.

10. Required Immunization and Medical History Form

You must complete the Medical and Immunization History Form prior to your arrival on campus. You can download the form and read instructions for completing the form at the following website: <http://mckinley.illinois.edu/new-students/immunization-information>.

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. **If possible, you should receive all immunizations prior to your arrival to campus. If you are unable to receive all of the required immunizations prior to your arrival to campus, you may receive them at McKinley Health Center but make sure your Illinois insurance has started before you receive the immunizations.** You need to submit the completed form to the McKinley Health Center prior to or upon arrival to campus. If you have not submitted a completed Immunization and Medical History Form by the 10th day of class, McKinley Health Center will place a hold on your student account resulting in your inability to make course schedule changes until the form is turned in.

11. Mandatory University Training

You are required to complete **Sexual Assault Prevention Training**. This training cannot be completed until you receive an invitation through your official university email account.

<https://www.ethics.uillinois.edu/cms/one.aspx?portalId=1216&pageId=344237> You will continue to receive reminder emails until you have successfully completed the training.

12. DRES (Disability Resources & Educational Services)

The Division of Disability Resources & Educational Services 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. You can find more information and instructions for applying for services at

<https://www.disability.illinois.edu/applying-services>.

13. Important Campus Contacts

<p>International Programs in Engineering</p> <p>Jana Gadbury Assistant Director International Programs in Engineering 3211 Digital Computer Lab 1304 W. Springfield Avenue Urbana, IL 61801 EMAIL: jgadbury@illinois.edu</p>	<p>International Student and Scholar Services</p> <p>Student Office 400 Student Services Building MC-306 610 E. John St. Champaign, IL 61820 TEL: 217.333.1303 ext. 1 EMAIL: iss@illinois.edu</p>
<p>McKinley Health Center</p> <p>1109 South Lincoln Avenue, Urbana, Illinois 61801</p> <p>TEL: 217-333-2701 24/7 Dial-A-Nurse Tel: 217-333-2700</p>	<p>University of Illinois Police</p> <p>TEL: 217-333-1216 SafeWalks service: 217-333-1216 SafeRides service: 217-265-7433 Emergency: 911</p>

14. Campus & Community Resources

Champaign-Urbana has much to offer and is considered a 'micro-urban' community. We encourage you to take advantage of what the community has to offer. The following websites will get you started:

<http://www.visitchampaigncounty.org/>

<http://champaignil.gov/>

<http://www.urbanainillinois.us/>

Additional campus resources:

<http://illinois.edu/arts/index.html>

<http://illinois.edu/athletics/index.html>

<https://studentengagement.illinois.edu/>

<http://illinois.edu/resources/calendars.html>

Campus Map: <http://illinois.edu/map/view>



FALL 2023 IMPORTANT DATES

August

- University Housing early move-in August 13
- University Housing move-in August 16
- Mandatory [ISSS Check-In](#) August 14-25
- Mandatory Exchange Student Orientation August 16
- Instruction Begins August 21
- Deadline to add a first 8-week course August 25

SEPTEMBER

- Deadline to add a full-semester course: September 1
- Labor Day – no classes September 4
- Deadline to drop a first 8-week course September 15
- Student Account payment due in full September 28

OCTOBER

- Deadline to drop a full-semester course October 13
- Second 8-week courses begin October 16
- Deadline to add a second 8-week course October 20

NOVEMBER

- Deadline to drop a second 8-week course November 10
- Fall Break November 18-26

DECEMBER

- Instruction Ends December 6
- Reading day (no classes) December 7
- Final Exams: December 8-15

******DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE******

More at: <https://registrar.illinois.edu/academic-calendars/fall-2023-academic-calendar/>

IMPORTANT ACTION ITEMS

- Pay the SEVIS fee and schedule your visa appointment: Search [U.S. Embassies](#) by country. Take the required documents to your entry visa interview as listed on the embassy website.
- Claim your Net ID at netidclaim.illinois.edu
- Complete your [Immunization and Medical History Form](#)
- Plan your arrival in Illinois for no later than August 14, 2023
- Make your University Housing Reservation (or plan alternative accommodations)