Now That You Are Here…
New International Student Arrival Guide

You can also access this info online at http://isso.cornell.edu/life-cornell/new-student-arrival-guide

Welcome new international students! The ISSO is pleased that you have chosen Cornell. Our office is here to:

• advise you on federal immigration, tax, and labor regulations
• provide counseling on personal, academic and cultural matters
• promote cross-cultural awareness through various programs, workshops and activities
• provide information and referral services to help you get acquainted with the Cornell and Ithaca community

Our office provides walk-in advising services Monday-Friday from 9:00 AM-4:30 PM. No appointment is necessary! If your case is particularly complicated, we may ask you to schedule a follow-up appointment. We are closed Wednesday mornings until 1:00 PM, and no advisors are available daily from Noon-1:00 PM.

We can also be reached by telephone at 607-255-5243, and by e-mail at isso@cornell.edu. We encourage you to take advantage of our extensive website by visiting http://www.isso.cornell.edu/. There, you will find answers to most of your questions about immigration issues, taxes, and ISSO services.

Below is a list of resources and tips to help you get started at Cornell:

⇒ International Student Orientation: http://isso.cornell.edu/life-cornell/orientation
Orientation for international graduate and professional students arriving for Fall Term will be held Saturday, August 20, 2016, from 3-7:00 PM in the auditorium in Statler Hall. If you are not able to attend, or if you are an undergraduate student who did not participate in the PREPARE pre-orientation program, please attend our general orientation session on Monday, August 22, 2016. International undergraduate, transfer, and graduate and professional students arriving for the Spring Term should attend orientation on Thursday, January 19, 2017.

⇒ ISSO Programs: http://isso.cornell.edu/life-cornell/programs-trips
The ISSO organizes a number of fun activities, trips, and informational workshops. Fall highlights include a day trip to Niagara Falls, and a three day trip to New York City over fall break. Spring highlights include a spring break trip to Washington, D.C.. We also have a weekly International Coffee Hour, held each Thursday from 3:30-5:30 PM in the Big Red Barn. Spouses and family members are encouraged to participate in all ISSO programs.

⇒ ISSO Electronic Mailing Lists: http://isso.cornell.edu/about/electronic-mailing-lists
All currently registered international students are automatically added to ISSO-NEWS-L. The ISSO uses this list to send students important immigration-related updates and reminders. Join iPrograms-L to receive announcements about ISSO trips, programs, and non-immigration services. Consider International-L to post announcements of upcoming events, find information, meet new friends, or discuss current events and issues of local or global concern.

⇒ Resources for Academic Success
• Undergraduates can find tips for academic success at: http://isso.cornell.edu/life-cornell/academic-issues/making-grade. Topics covered include the syllabus, changing classes, and where to get help if you need it.
• Graduate and professional students will find a list of resources and support information at: http://gradschool.cornell.edu/life-cornell/resources-and-support.
• For Cornell’s code of Academic Integrity, visit http://isso.cornell.edu/life-cornell/academic-issues/academic-integrity. Topics include plagiarism and the difference between documentation, citation, and reference.
• Library Resources: Library staff can assist you with all aspects of using the library and finding materials for your research papers and course assignments. For information on navigating and connecting to online resources, and borrowing materials and books visit https://www.library.cornell.edu/international.

(see next page for additional resources)
⇒ U. S. Social Security Number
The Social Security Administration issues a Social Security Number (SSN) to all who are work-eligible as a way to identify and track individuals for taxation purposes. Although the SSN is intended only for employment purposes, some public and many private institutions, such as banks, phone companies, and utilities have adopted the SSN as a unique identifier for its customers. If you are going to work in the USA, you must obtain a SSN. If you are not employed, you will not be eligible. For more information visit http://isso.cornell.edu/financial/social-security-number.

⇒ Transportation
New-to-Cornell students automatically receive free, unlimited TCAT bus access in their first year as a matriculated student. Visit http://transportation.fs.cornell.edu/commuting/busservices/students.cfm for information about transit passes, bus routes and schedules, parking, traffic laws, rideshares, and much more. You should also know:

- New York State honors valid driver’s licenses from other countries, though you must carry a certified translation of your driver’s license if English is not included on the license. For certified translation, visit http://isso.cornell.edu/sites/isso.cornell.edu/files/isso/documents/translations.pdf.
- To apply for a New York State driver’s license visit http://isso.cornell.edu/life-cornell/practical-matters/driving-us.
- If you already have a driver’s license, you can find information about the convenient Ithaca Car Share program at http://www.ithacacarshare.org/, or learn how to buy a used car of your own at http://isso.cornell.edu/life-cornell/practical-matters/how-buy-used-car.

⇒ English Classes
Cornell and Ithaca offer a variety of courses to help you improve your written and spoken English. For a complete list of options visit http://isso.cornell.edu/life-cornell/practical-matters/english-programs. The English Language Support Office (ELSO) offers writing and speaking support for Cornell's degree-seeking multilingual and international graduate and professional students. Visit: http://cornellelso.weebly.com/.

⇒ Computers and IT Security
- For a wealth of information covering topics such as email, Internet service, Cmail, Cornell Box, Blackboard, computer security, and support and training, visit the Cornell Information Technologies (IT) website at http://www.it.cornell.edu/security/alerts.cfm. Review information about filesharing and copyright issues at http://www.it.cornell.edu/policies/copyright/index.cfm.

⇒ Family Resources
For information about childcare services, schooling, immunizations, child safety, sexual and reproductive health services, parenting resources, volunteer opportunities, and links to fun activities for families, please visit http://isso.cornell.edu/life-cornell/practical-matters/families. Additionally, the Students with Families website provides information for spouses and partners, expectant parents, students with children, and includes a resource directory. Information is also available on Cornell policies, best practices that promote a supportive culture for families including details about the Parental Accommodation Policy. Visit: http://studentswithfamilies.cornell.edu/students-with-children/.

⇒ Other Practical Matters
- Cornell International Friendship Program (CIFP) matches new international students and scholars with local alumni and other community members to provide cultural, educational and social support. Popular activities may include sharing holiday dinners, sightseeing, etc. Visit http://isso.cornell.edu/life-cornell/cornell-international-friendship-program.
- Off-Campus Housing Office is ready to assist you with your search for off campus housing, or any landlord issues that arise. Visit http://dos.cornell.edu/off-campus-living.

⇒ Get Involved!
- There are over 1000 student organizations on campus: http://dos.cornell.edu/sleca/student-organizations
- International Students Union: http://orgsync.rso.cornell.edu/org/isu/About
- LGBT community at Cornell visit: http://dos.cornell.edu/lgbt-resource-center
- Asian and Asian American Center: http://dos.cornell.edu/asian-asian-american-center
- Cornell Outdoor Education: https://www.coe.cornell.edu/