



Cornell University
International Students
and Scholars Office

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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 and programs.

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 19, 2017** 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 21, 2017** from 2:30-4:30 PM in Warren Hall, B-25-auditorium (to be confirmed). International undergraduate, transfer, and graduate and professional students arriving for the *Spring Term* should attend orientation Thursday, **January 18, 2018** from 1:30-4:30 PM in Warren Hall, B 25 Auditorium.

⇒ **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)

⇒ **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/>. Spouses and families are encouraged to visit the **Community ESL at Cornell** website at <http://blogs.cornell.edu/communities/>.

⇒ **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>.
- Visit Frequently Asked Security Questions at <http://www.it.cornell.edu/security/how.cfm/CAT=4>.

⇒ **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. For Cornell policies and best practices that promote a supportive culture for families including details about the Parental Accommodation Policy visit: <http://studentswithfamilies.cornell.edu/students-with-children/>. See also info about the **Child Care Grant** at <http://studentswithfamilies.cornell.edu/students-with-children/student-child-care-grant/>. To obtain a **spouse/partner ID card** visit: <https://registrar.cornell.edu/Student/idcards.html>.

⇒ **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>.

⇒ **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>.

⇒ **Get Involved!**

- There are over 1000 **student organizations** on campus: <http://dos.cornell.edu/sleca/student-organizations>
- **International Students Union**: <http://www.isucornell.com/>
- **LGBT community at Cornell**: <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/>