



Pre-Arrival Information for New International Students



UNIVERSITY of
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**Division of
Global Engagement**

Welcome to UL Lafayette!

Congratulations on your admission to the University of Louisiana at Lafayette! We look forward to welcoming you to our campus and hope this information will assist you as you make plans to begin your degree program and relocate to the U.S.

Need help? Contact us at:

ويا@louisiana.edu

+1 (337) 492.6819

or visit our website at:

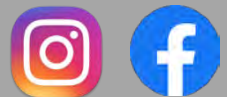
<https://internationalaffairs.louisiana.edu/>



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**Office of
International Affairs**

Follow us!





Pre-Arrival Information

Table of Contents

Immigration & Visa Application	4
Find Housing	5
Course Registration, Tuition & Fees	6
Booking your Flight	7
Weather & Clothing	8
Get Involved	9
When you Arrive	10

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Immigration & Visa Application

Once you receive your SEVIS I-20 (F-1 students) or DS-2019 (J-1 student) from the admissions office, you should check to make sure all of the information is correct and that it matches the passport that you will use to enter the country. Sign page 1 in blue ink next to your printed name. Next, you must pay the SEVIS fee for an initial I-20 or DS-2019. This fee is paid online at [this site](#) and is required in order to schedule your visa appointment at the U.S. embassy or consulate in your home country. This SEVIS I-901 (FMJ) fee is different from visa fees and must be paid BEFORE you schedule your visa interview or entering the port of entry (Canadians or those who are visa exempt). You should pay your I-901 fee and apply for a visa as soon as you are admitted as it can be a lengthy process.

Your I-20 or DS-2019 and supporting documents (admission letter, scholarship information, financial documentation supporting your stay in the U.S.) should be presented to the U.S. visa officer when you attend your visa interview. For more about the visa application process and required documents, please click [here](#).

We advise that you refrain from purchasing airfare to the U.S. until after you have received your F-1 or J-1 visa. Please note that you must enter the U.S. using the same I-20 or DS-2019 that you used to apply for the student or exchange visitor visa. U.S. immigration regulations require that you report to the school listed on the visa stamp for your initial U.S. entry BEFORE the program start date listed on your I-20 or DS-2019, even if you change your mind and decide to enroll at a different school.

If the U.S. Embassy or Consulate has any questions regarding your studies at UL Lafayette, please contact the Office of International Affairs at uia@louisiana.edu.



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Find Housing



UL Lafayette has a [variety of options](#) for on-campus living, making it easier to explore our amazing campus! Living on campus means you have a front row seat to all that UL Lafayette has to offer.

You become part of a student community that spans all backgrounds, experiences, and ideals. With [affordable options](#) available to suit the needs of any student, UL Lafayette has it all!

While international students are not required to live on campus, choosing to live on campus can provide both ease and convenience for students who are new to the U.S. Please keep in mind that when you sign any lease in the U.S., it is a legally binding contract and you may be required to pay money to be released from it. Therefore, it is important to be certain before you agree to lease any type of housing.

Need help? Contact us at:

oncampusliving@louisiana.edu

+1 (337) 492.6471

or visit our website at:

<https://housing.louisiana.edu/>



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Course Registration, Tuition, & Fees

You will receive information from the admissions office (Undergraduate or Graduate) about course registration. Please be aware that you may be required to attend virtual academic advising sessions as well as complete online orientations prior to your arrival. It is important to try to enroll in classes as soon as you receive your visa since most classes have a maximum enrollment. **We encourage students to wait until they receive their visas before registering for courses.**

F-1 students are required by federal law to enroll full-time (12 credit hours for undergraduates and 9 credit hours for graduates). While you may enroll in classes prior to attending your visa interview, it is important to [drop your classes](#) (unenroll yourself) if you are unable to secure a visa. You should do this before the tuition due date in order to avoid being charged tuition. For information on deadlines and important dates, please visit the [Academic Calendar](#) for your semester of admission.

Tuition is typically due at the beginning of the semester. To see how much you owe, please view your statement of account, which can be accessed through the [ULink portal](#). If you have an assistantship that has not been applied, please contact your department. The University does offer payment plans, but you must make sure to review all of the information [here](#) in order to enroll.

Federal regulations and University policies require international students to maintain adequate health insurance coverage. Healthcare in the U.S. is very expensive and insurance coverage helps to cover some, but not ALL of the costs. All F-1 and J-1 students are automatically enrolled in the [University's health insurance plan](#) for international students. Students who have individual coverage and wish to waive the University's insurance, must complete an online waiver before the established deadline or they will be charged for the University's plan.



Booking your Flight



The University of Louisiana at Lafayette is located in Lafayette, Louisiana. Once you have received your F-1 or J-1 visa, you can purchase your airfare.

It is important to secure housing before arriving in Lafayette. If you are living on-campus, make sure to communicate with the Housing Office to determine your move-in date before you purchase plane tickets. While there are many hotels near campus, they can be expensive, and the University does not currently offer temporary housing.

As you look for a round-trip flight to the U.S., keep in mind that there are several airports in Louisiana (shown below). Please note that public transportation is limited, and you will have to secure transportation to campus. Students flying into Lafayette (LFT) should utilize rideshare services (Uber or Lyft) or take taxi (information available at the LFT airport) for transportation to your hotel or housing.

We also encourage new students to reach out to our international [student organizations](#) who may be able to provide assistance to incoming students upon their arrival.

Airport – City	Airport Code	Distance from UL Lafayette
Lafayette – Lafayette, LA	(LFT)	1.7 m/2.8 km (5 minutes)
Baton Rouge - Baton Rouge, LA	(BTR)	63.5 m/102.1 km (1 hr, 3 mins)
New Orleans – New Orleans, LA	(MSY)	123.1m/198.1 km (2 hours)



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Weather & Clothing

Because Louisiana is located in the southern part of the U.S., our climate is a mild-subtropical one with temperatures ranging from 94.3°F (34.6°C) in the Summer to 44°F (6.6°C) in the winter. The summers are long, humid, and hot and the winters are generally short, windy, and rainy. All of our classrooms and residence halls are air-conditioned due to the summer heat. It is important to know that hurricanes and tropical storms frequently occur in Louisiana due to its location near the Gulf of Mexico. Atlantic hurricane season is the period of the year from June through November when hurricanes form in the Atlantic Ocean and sometimes venture into the Gulf of Mexico. Here in Louisiana, we are accustomed to these storms and your orientation packet contains information on how to best prepare.

Students dress casually and comfortably on campus. Make sure to pack a jacket/coat for fall/winter weather. If you have a distinctive national dress, we encourage you to bring it to wear at one of our international events.

Don't Forget to Bring Your...

- ✦ Valid passport
- ✦ Valid U.S. visa
- ✦ Form I-20 or DS-2019
- ✦ Proof of financial support
- ✦ Prescriptions/medications that you take
- ✦ Plug adapters/voltage converters
- ✦ Charging devices for your electronics
- ✦ Spending money (credit card and small amount of US currency)
- ✦ Umbrella/raincoat
- ✦ This guide
- ✦ Copy of your flight itinerary
- ✦ The street address of your residence hall/apartment
- ✦ Transportation arrangements from the airport to campus





Get Involved!

**Fast
Fact**

University students who are involved in at least one student organization or extracurricular activity are more likely to complete their degree programs and graduate from college.

We have over 230 student organizations that you can join at UL Lafayette! Whether you want to connect with other students from your part of the world, forge friendships with American students, learn new skills, or share common interests – UL Lafayette has student organizations to suit the needs of our entire student body!

Learn more and find additional information about student organizations on the University's [Pathways](#) website. Sign in using your ULID and your password. Pathways is a platform for students to connect with student organizations they are interested in, keep up-to-date with events around campus and vote in school elections. It also includes other new and exciting features to keep you connected!

Visit getinvolved.louisiana.edu for more information.

Email: getinvolved@louisiana.edu

Phone: +1 (337) 482-6272



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When you arrive in Lafayette, you will need to check into housing if you are living on-campus. Housing staff and Residential Life staff will be available to help with the process. Please check your louisiana.edu email [via ULink](#) for arrival information. Click [here to access maps](#) of our campus.

Office of International Affairs

All international students studying on F-1 and J-1 visas are required to check in with the Office of International Affairs (OIA) once they arrive to campus. This is done by completing our online orientation accessed through Moodle ([in ULink](#)). This orientation will include important information about campus services, banking, driving, obtaining a Social Security number, and immigration regulations. You will be required to upload a copy of your passport, U.S. visa, I-94 (once you arrive in the U.S.), signed I-20 or DS-2019, and F2 dependent information (if applicable). You will also need to complete several forms that are required by U.S. law so that our office can activate your I-20 or DS-2019 in the Student Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS).

The OIA and the Division of Global Engagement (DGE) coordinate services and support for international students enrolled at UL Lafayette. Our staff can provide assistance with immigration, personal and cultural adjustment, and other topics you may need assistance with. Our office is centrally located in the Student Union at 620 McKinley Street, room 136.

Visit internationalaffairs.louisiana.edu for more information.

Email: ويا@louisiana.edu

Phone: +1 (337) 482-6819



Have a safe trip!

We look forward
to seeing you on
campus very
soon!

Questions?

Contact us at

oa@louisiana.edu

or schedule a virtual
advising appointment

[here.](#)



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Hi! I'm Sofiat from Nigeria
and this is the UL sign.
Geaux Cajuns!

