



International Student Life
Student Affairs
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



International Student Orientation Fall 2017 Orientation Handbook

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Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 8AM to 5PM EST

Welcome to the University of Georgia!

Greetings from International Student Life!

On behalf of the University of Georgia, we would like to extend a warm welcome to UGA, Athens, and the United States! We hope that you will find this information helpful as you prepare to enter UGA this fall semester. In this handbook, you will be able to find information about the following topics:

- Frequently Asked Questions about International Student Orientation
- Registering for International Student Orientation
- Temporary Orientation Housing
- Permanent Housing Advice & Tips
- Arriving to Athens
- Transportation during Orientation
- University Contact Information
- International Student Resources
- AlcoholEDU & Haven – Required
- Immunizations
- Cell Phones & Bank Accounts
- International Student Life Student Organizations

We are busily working to prepare this year's orientation program to welcome you and the incoming class of international students to the University. Throughout the week of orientation, you can expect to have the chance to tour campus, meet other campus offices that can assist you with your transition, as well as interact with other students from around the world beginning their educational journey at the University of Georgia. Our office has a specially-trained group of students known as World Leaders, who serve as orientation leaders for the international student orientation program. You can expect to hear from your World Leaders via email during the summer, once you have registered for orientation.

As you begin to prepare for your arrival to the University, we encourage you to please keep in touch and let us know if you have any questions. We are here for you! Our office is open Monday through Friday, 8AM to 5PM Eastern Standard Time. We can be reached via email at isl@uga.edu, via phone at +1 706 542 5867, or online at <http://isl.uga.edu>.

We look forward to welcoming you to campus this fall and wish you safe travels as you begin your journey to Athens. Go Dawgs!

All the best,

ISL Staff

Frequently Asked Questions

What is International Student Orientation?

International Student Orientation is a **week-long orientation program** designed **exclusively** for new international students at the University of Georgia. Through interactive sessions, social activities, resource fairs, campus tours, and a group of student volunteers known as World Leaders, International Student Life introduces you to UGA, Athens, and the United States. **We strongly recommend that all incoming new or transfer international students attend this program, even if you have studied in the United States previously.**



When is International Student Orientation?

International Student Orientation is July 31 – August 4, 2017. Orientation Housing will be available from July 31 – August 5, 2017 for an additional fee.



Why should I attend International Student Orientation?

KNOWLEDGE: By the time you complete the week-long international student orientation program, you will be equipped with helpful information and resources to prepare you for success at UGA and in the United States. You will learn about all sorts of topics related to being a UGA student, life in the United States, and how to succeed as an international student. From immigration & visa policies to buying a car in the USA, social security to health insurance, cultural and academic differences, how

to register for classes, UGA sports, and transportation and shopping in Athens, you will be equipped with all of the knowledge necessary to have a successful transition to Athens.

SUCCESS: Attending International Student Orientation gives you the opportunity to adjust to the time, cultural, and academic differences with a group of other students encountering the same adjustment – which will make you more successful during your time at UGA!

RELATIONSHIPS: During International Student Orientation, you will have many opportunities to meet new friends and build relationships with your peers. The World Leaders volunteer for the entire week to make sure you feel welcome, comfortable, and confident as you transition to UGA. They will remain resources and friends to you throughout your time at UGA!

FUN: ISL and the World Leaders spend the summer planning lots of exciting events for you so that you can relax, have fun, and make new friends. Some social events in the past have included a pool party, an evening game of soccer, a trip to the movies, and an excursion to Wal-Mart.



How can I get updated information about Orientation?

Visit our website at <http://isl.uga.edu/orientation>, email isl@uga.edu, and join the 2017 International Student Orientation Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/748394688667473/>.

Registration for International Student Orientation

New international students coming to UGA have two options for orientation registration. You can opt for orientation only, or you can choose orientation PLUS temporary orientation housing. Orientation housing is an additional fee and is available from July 31 – August 5. With either registration, you are able to add-on a breakfast meal plan for an additional fee. All costs below are listed in US Dollars (USD).

Orientation Item/Service	Registration Only	Registration + Orientation Housing
Breakfast meal plan for Bolton Dining Hall <i>not included in registration prices</i>	\$50 extra	\$30 extra (40% discount!)
Lunch and Dinner daily from July 31 – August 4	Included	Included
Orientation supplies and materials, including a t-shirt	Included	Included
Transportation to events and sessions not in walking distance	Included	Included
Convenient, safe, and clean housing accommodations from July 31 – August 5 on UGA's campus. CLICK HERE to view Orientation Housing accommodations	Not Included	Included
Early move-in option for UGA residence halls on August 5*	Not Included	Included

*For students staying in Orientation Housing who will then be transferring to a University Housing residence hall with UGA Housing, including Family & Graduate Housing, you will be able to move in early on August 5. This option is only available for students staying in orientation housing.

Registration Deadline	Registration Only	Registration + Orientation Housing
Early Registration <i>Before July 7, 2017</i>	\$175	\$425
Normal Registration <i>Between July 8 and July 26, 2017</i>	\$190	\$445
Late Registration <i>After July 26, 2017</i>	\$204	Not Available

*Orientation housing availability is only guaranteed for students who register by July 7, 2017. After this date, late housing registrations will only be accepted pending space availability.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Orientation Housing

International Student Life is happy to announce that during orientation, we will offer orientation housing on campus for new incoming international students from July 31 to August 5, 2017. The orientation housing residence hall is in close proximity, within walking distance, to all of the orientation sessions, the International Student Life office, and food options at Bolton Dining Commons.

A prepaid, non-refundable orientation housing fee of **\$250** is required by July 7, 2017, in addition to the \$175 orientation registration fee, to reserve a space in temporary housing. The orientation housing fee covers the total cost of five nights' accommodation from the afternoon of Monday, July 31, 2017 through early Saturday morning, August 5, and includes the following services.



- Five nights' accommodation, with one other person of the same sex sharing your room
- Private bathroom per each room, shared only with your roommate
- Linens (sheets for the bed) – but bring your own pillow!
- Special pass required to enter the building
- Electricity, Water, and Air Conditioning
- Staffing

Once ISL has received payment for orientation and orientation housing, students will receive a confirmation letter via email confirming their registration for the orientation housing option.

Upon arrival/check-in for orientation housing, students will have an \$80 security deposit charged to the UGA student account. This deposit will be removed as long as the room is left clean, undamaged, and the student returns the room key, special access card, and linens (sheets) for the bed.

Important Information about Orientation Housing

- Check-out for all student residing in the orientation on-campus housing will be on Saturday, August 5, 2017 in the early morning. *Students who elect to leave the residence hall earlier than Saturday, August 5 will not receive a refund for the nights they did not stay in the orientation housing building.*
- Participants may NOT leave the orientation housing building prior to Saturday, August 5 unless they have made specific arrangements with ISL staff for an alternate and approved check-out time. Any requests to leave early MUST be arranged at least 48 hours in advance with ISL staff, or students will forfeit their security deposit and may be charged additional early departure fees.
- This housing option cannot accommodate spouses, children, or family members – ONLY UGA students.
- Students will be placed in orientation housing on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Students will be able to move into on-campus housing on August 5th (instead of the August 6th official move-in date) for an additional fee charged by University Housing.

Permanent Housing Options

Many international students find it difficult to secure off-campus housing from overseas because oftentimes they would like to see what is available, what is cost effective, etc. It is our hope that by asking all new international students to come in early August, you will have more time to explore your housing options before classes begin.

During orientation, a few apartment complexes will attend the 'Welcome to Athens' Fair to provide you more information about off-campus housing options. Many graduate students live off campus or within University Village, managed by University Housing, if space available.

For more information about University Village Housing, please visit <http://housing.uga.edu> or email housing@uga.edu.

For off campus housing, you can expect to pay anywhere from \$400 - \$1,000 or more per month, depending on the location, amenities, and size of the apartment. When searching for off campus housing options, the rent cost for the apartment will likely not include utilities. Required utilities would include water/sewer service, electricity, water, and possibly gas, depending on your unit. Optional utilities would include cable television or internet. Make sure when you are searching for off campus housing options, you ask what if any utilities are included in the monthly rent payment. Most apartment complexes lease units for a period of 12 months, and leases are legally binding documents.

You may wish to research apartments online before you arrive; the following sources may be helpful.

- Apartment Finder – <http://www.apartmentfinder.com/Georgia/Athens-Apartments>
- Flagpole Magazine, classifieds section - <http://flagpole.com>
- Red and Black Student Newspaper, classified section – <http://redandblack.com>
- Apartment List – <https://www.apartmentlist.com/ga/athens#map>

At times, private landlords or property owners may reach out to ISL with vacancies in different apartments or homes in Athens. Feel free to email us at isl@uga.edu to see if we have any information to pass along.

Below, you will find a list of apartments that current or former international students have lived in. Please know that ISL is not promoting any of these apartments and are not able to comment on their amenities, management, or experience.

- Riverbend Club
- The Redlands
- The Park – Lakeside
- The Reserve at Athens
- The Lodge of Athens
- Moose Club
- Abbey West

Your rent payment will be significantly less if you choose to live with a roommate. Please visit our website to learn more about selecting and successfully living with a roommate:

https://isl.uga.edu/content_page/international-student-resources-content-page.

Getting to Athens

When you fly to the United States, the closest airport to Athens is Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport (ATL). Once you arrive in Atlanta, you have several options to consider for getting to Athens.

Groome Shuttle	MegaBus	Private Car/Uber/Lyft
<p>Many students choose to use the Groome Transportation Shuttle service to get from Atlanta to Athens. A one-way ride costs \$39 (subject to change) and depart for Athens multiple times per day.</p> <p>To purchase a Groome Shuttle ticket, please visit their website: http://athens.groometranspotation.com.</p> <p>For students who plan on going directly to orientation after their shuttle ride, you should indicate your drop-off point as the 'Georgia Center'.</p>	<p>The MegaBus service offers affordable bus rides from Atlanta. MegaBus has strict restrictions on the amount of luggage that passengers can carry. More information can be found here: http://us.megabus.com/luggage-allowance.aspx.</p> <p>For departure locations, times, and costs, please visit http://us.megabus.com.</p>	<p>This option is generally not used by students and ISL does not recommend it due to cost.</p> <p>To take a private car service, taxi, Uber, or Lyft to Athens, it could easily cost over \$100.</p>

Transportation during Orientation

ISL offers a pick-up service from various locations in Athens for new international students. This service is offered by ISL free of charge *but with certain restrictions, including time and distance*.

Pick-up service for fall 2017 will be available beginning Monday, July 31. The registration form for pick-up service will be sent out to those who have registered for orientation in early July. If you are unable to access this form once it becomes available, please email isl@uga.edu.

If you arrive to Athens via the Groome Shuttle or MegaBus on Monday, July 31, please indicate this in the above registration form and ISL will pick you up from your drop-off location and bring you directly to orientation check-in.

All pick-up arrangements must be made at least TWO WEEKS in advance of the pick-up date. ISL cannot

guarantee pick-up service for individuals who request a reservations with less than two weeks' notice. Students will be sent an email confirmation for their Athens pick-up.

Students who register for the pick-up service and who do not notify ISL staff of changes to their arrival schedules or cancellations in a timely fashion may be assessed a service fee for failure to cancel or inform ISL staff of your changes in travel plans.



University Contact Information

<p>University Housing Housing Assignments Office</p> <p>Phone: +1 706 542 1421 Email: housing@uga.edu Web: http://housing.uga.edu</p>	<p>International Student Life For all non-immigration questions</p> <p>Phone: +1 706 542 5867 Email: isl@uga.edu Web: http://isl.uga.edu</p>	<p>Graduate Admissions For graduate student admissions questions</p> <p>Phone: +1 706 542 1719 Email: gradadm@uga.edu Web: http://grad.uga.edu</p>
<p>University Health Center AlcoholEDU/Haven, Immunizations</p> <p>Phone: +1 706-542-1162 Web: http://uhs.uga.edu</p>	<p>Immigration Services – Office of International Education (OIE) For all immigration questions</p> <p>Phone: +1 706 542 2900 Email: immigration@uga.edu Web: http://international.uga.edu</p>	<p>Undergraduate Admissions For undergraduate admissions questions</p> <p>Phone: +1 706 542 8776 Email: adm-info@uga.edu Web: http://admissions.uga.edu</p>

International Student Resources

ISL is pleased to offer an online library of resources to assist you with your transition to the United States. Below, you'll find a list of resources available for you to use and download online at https://isl.uga.edu/content_page/international-student-resources-content-page. These resources and topics will be discussed at greater detail during international student orientation.

Academic Honesty	Immigration Services
Athena & Registering for Classes	Opportunities for Learning English (ESL)
Banking in Athens	Roommate Tips
Buying a Used Car	Social Security Card Application Information
Cross-Cultural Adjustment: Culture Shock, American Customs, Educational Differences	Student Health Insurance
Financial Aid Tips for International Students	Studying & Being Academically Successful at UGA
Food – Local Stores & Dining Halls	Tax Resources for students classified as a NON-RESIDENT for tax purposes
Getting Around Athens	Tax Resources for students classified RESIDENT for tax purposes
Getting Connected – Phones and Mail	UGA Important Phone Numbers
Georgia Driver's License – How to Apply	UGA Sports & Sports Culture
Identity Theft & How to Prevent It	Writing a Check in the United States

AlcoholEDU and Haven

As part of our comprehensive health and safety program, UGA REQUIRES each member of the **first year class AND incoming transfer students** to complete *AlcoholEdu* and *Haven*. Whether you drink or not, *AlcoholEdu* will empower you to make well-informed decisions about alcohol and help you better cope with the drinking behavior of your peers. The *Haven: Understanding Sexual Assault* program will address the critical issues of sexual assault, relationship violence and stalking, which impact as many as 1 in 4 college women during their time in higher education.

You MUST complete Part 1 of AlcoholEDU and Haven by the following deadlines. AlcoholEDU and Haven can be found online here: <https://www.uhs.uga.edu/alcoholedu/intro>.

Semester Starting at UGA	Date Available	Required Completion Date
Fall 2017	July 17, 2017	Monday, August 14

Immunizations

In order to be a UGA student and register for classes, there are certain immunizations that all students on campus must have. If you are able to obtain these in your home country prior to arriving at UGA, please bring a copy of your medical records, in English, to confirm your immunization. You can also obtain these immunizations once you arrive to Athens at the University Health Center. **The required vaccines are listed online with the University Health Center here: <https://www.uhs.uga.edu/info/immunizations>. Additionally, you can view the required forms for incoming students related to the Health Center at <https://www.uhs.uga.edu/info/forms>.**

Cell Phones & Bank Accounts

We know that one of the biggest concerns when you arrive to the USA is how to set up a mobile phone/SIM Card and a bank account. ISL is happy to provide the opportunity to obtain a SIM card on Monday, July 31 as a part of the orientation check-in process. Additionally, you will be able to receive further information about bank accounts and schedule appointments with a local bank to complete your bank account application once orientation ends.

International Student Life Student Organizations

International Student Life advises a collection of student organizations on campus, many of which are culturally-based. All student organizations are open to any UGA student regardless of cultural background or affiliation. For more information about ISL student organizations, please visit https://isl.uga.edu/site/student_orgs.