

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ORIENTATION

Fall 2021 Orientation Handbook



International Student Life
Student Affairs
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



Welcome to 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*
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- *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 islu@uga.edu, via phone at +1 706-542-5867, or online at 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 Sunday, August 8 - Thursday, August 12.

Early arrival housing on Saturday, August 7 is available for an additional cost.

How can I get updated information about Orientation?

Visit our website at isl.uga.edu/orientation, email isl@uga.edu, and be on the lookout for messages coming from ISL throughout the summer.

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.

Registration for International Student Orientation

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Registration Deadline	Undergraduate Students	Graduate Students	Exchange Students
Early Registration By May 31	\$385	\$199	\$435
Registration By July 3	Early + \$26	Early + \$26	Early + \$26
Late Registration After July 3	Early + \$66	Early + \$66	Early + \$66

Your registration fee covers everything listed below for all students:

- Lunches and dinners from Sunday, August 8 through Thursday, August 12
- Orientation materials and supplies
- Orientation t-shirt
- Transportation during orientation
- Social events and activities during orientation to help you meet other incoming international students and the World Leaders

Staying in Orientation Housing:

- Students living in on-campus housing in fall 2021 will move into their permanent space at the beginning of orientation.
- Students in University Village OR students who need temporary accommodation will be assigned a room in the [Georgia Center Hotel & Conference Center](#).

Advantages of staying in Orientation Housing also include:

- Movement into your permanent space for fall 2021 early.
- The safety and security of UGA's campus and residence halls
- The ability to build new friendships with fellow orientation participants and current UGA students serving as your orientation leaders (World Leaders)
- Breakfast in Bolton Dining Commons from Monday, August 8 to Thursday, August 12. *Breakfast meals in the Dining Hall are only available to those students staying in Orientation Housing or in the Georgia Center*
- A linen package delivered to your room, including a pillow, sheets, blankets, towels, and wash cloth (University Housing)
- Transportation of you and your luggage to your on-campus permanent housing assignment

Further Information

- Students staying in the Georgia Center are responsible for any damages or purchases made to the individual room.



Are you a graduate student interested in staying in orientation housing?

This option is available for you! Please add \$236 to the registration cost listed above to stay in Orientation Housing. You will have the option to register for Orientation Housing in the registration form below. Should you choose to stay in Orientation Housing, all of the above conveniences will be available during orientation.

Early Arrival Housing

For students with travel arrangements bringing them to Athens prior to Sunday, August 8, Orientation Housing is available starting at 12:00PM EST on Saturday, August 7. If you are interested in adding early housing (only available for the night of Saturday, August 7), the cost is \$55. You will have the option to register for early arrival housing in the registration form.

Important Information about Orientation Housing:

- Check-in for on-campus Housing, if you are living in a UGA residence hall during fall 2021, will be available on Saturday, August 7.
- This housing option cannot accommodate spouses, children, or family members - ONLY UGA students.
- Housing in the Georgia Center for University Village residents or off-campus students is available on a first-come, first-served basis and is not guaranteed.
- Students moving into permanent housing for fall 2021 on Saturday, August 7 or Sunday, August 8 (instead of the August 12 official move-in date) for an additional fee of **\$25** 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 Campus & Community Resources 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 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 - www.apartmentfinder.com/Georgia/Athens-Apartments
- Flagpole Magazine, classifieds section - flagpole.com
- Red and Black Student Newspaper, classified section - redandblack.com
- Apartment List - 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.

Your rent payment will be significantly less if you choose to live with a roommate. Please visit our website [here](#) to learn more about selecting and successfully living with a roommate.

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE ISL OFF-CAMPUS LIVING GUIDE](#)

ISL has published an off-campus living guide for students who will be searching for accommodation off-campus. This guide includes a map of common places many students choose to live, price points, how to inspect a property, the elements of a lease in the United States, how to set up apartment utilities, how and where to purchase furniture, and much more. This guide is updated as we receive more information from off-campus housing providers.

Please note that this guide is not all-inclusive and prices/rates may have changed since the most recent update. This is not meant to be an all-inclusive guide but will be a great starting point in your off-campus housing search.



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.groometransportation.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 at a cost of \$25 for the week (Sunday-Thursday), including a pickup from your residence in the morning and a ride home at the conclusion of all orientation activities (2 rides per day).

For those staying in Orientation Housing, the Groome Shuttle stop 'Georgia Center' is located directly adjacent orientation housing and is walking distance from the shuttle stop.

Pick-up service for fall 2021 will be available beginning Sunday, August 8th. 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.

Orientation check-in will be located directly adjacent to the Georgia Center for Continuing Education Groome Shuttle stop. On Sunday, August 8, World Leaders will be available to walk you from this stop to the 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 reservation 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>Universtiy Housing Housing Assignments Office</p> <p>Phone: +1 706 542 1421 Email: housing@uga.edu Web: housing.uga.edu</p>	<p>International Student Life For all non-immigration questions</p> <p>Phone: +1 706 543 5867 Email: isl@uga.edu Web: isl.uga.edu</p>	<p>Graduate Admissions For all graduate student admissions questions</p> <p>Phone: +1 706 543 1719 Email: gradadm@uga.edu Web: grad.uga.edu</p>
<p>University Health Center AlcoholEDU/Haven, Immunizations</p> <p>Phone: +1 706 542 1162 Web: 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: international.uga.edu</p>	<p>Undergraduate Admissions For undergraduate admissions questions</p> <p>Phone: +1 706 542 8776 Email: adm-info@uga.edu Web: 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 isl.uga.edu/resources. These resources and topics will be discussed at greater detail during international student orientation.

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

AlcoholEDU and Sexual Assault Prevention

As part of our comprehensive health and safety program, UGA REQUIRES each member of the **first year undergraduate 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 Sexual Assault Prevention by the following deadlines. AlcoholEDU and Sexual Assault Prevention can be found online here: uhs.uga.edu/alcholedu/intro.

Semester Starting At UGA	Dates Available	Required Completion Date
Fall 2021	TBD	TBD

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:* uhs.uga.edu/info/immunizations. Additionally, you can view the required forms for incoming students related to the Health Center at 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 Sunday, August 8 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 isl.uga.edu/international-student-organizations/.