

University at Albany
International Student & Scholar Services
TRAVEL TO ALBANY

Air Transportation: Many of our international students arrive in the U.S. at John F. Kennedy (JFK) International Airport in New York City or Newark (EWR) International Airport in New Jersey. Students coming from Asia are advised to book their trips through Chicago (ORD), Detroit (DTT), or other airports with good connections to Albany. If you are continuing by airplane to Albany, use only a direct, non-stop connecting flight from your arrival airport to Albany.

United States Customs: You will be asked to present your passport, non-immigrant visa and I-20/DS-2019 form to Customs upon arrival. Be sure to carry these items on your person, along with your UAlbany letter of admission and proof of funding. The I-94 form (arrival-departure record for immigration) is now automated, and you will not receive a paper copy. As soon as you can after arriving in Albany, you should go to www.cbp.gov/I94, print out a copy of the I-94 and keep it safe with your other important documents.

You will need to claim your luggage and walk with it through U.S. Customs. If you will be flying to Albany, you will need to recheck your luggage before boarding the next flight.

JFK or Newark Airport to Albany via Shuttle Van: Premier Transportation Group offers an Express Shuttle Van on a daily basis. The van departs either airport at 6:30 pm. The JFK van arrives at the Albany International Airport at 11:00 pm and the fare is \$65, and reservations are required. The Newark Van arrives at the Albany International Airport at 9:00pm and the fare is \$60. You may call 518-459-6123 (outside the U.S.) or 800-515-6123 (inside the US). For additional information, please visit www.premierelimo.com.

JFK or Newark Airport to New York City – Then by Train to Albany: The “Airtrain” travels from both of these airports to Penn Station in New York City (you must make one connection in Jamaica). The fare is about \$18. For more information on this option, go to www.panynj.gov/airtrain.

New York City to Albany via Train: (New York-Penn Station (NYP) to Albany-Rensselaer Station (ALB) via Amtrak Train) Penn Station, in New York City, is located on 8th Avenue between 31st and 33rd Streets under Madison Square Garden. Amtrak trains leave Penn Station daily from 7:00am–7:00pm, and it is about a 3 hour trip to Albany. The fare runs from \$40-\$70. Most credit cards are accepted. Reservations can be made online, by phone, or you may buy a ticket at the Station. Up to two pieces of luggage may be checked at no charge, with a weight of 50 lbs. total. Up to three additional pieces may be checked upon payment of \$20 per piece. For more information regarding reservations and baggage, please visit www.amtrak.com.

JFK or Newark Airport to New York City – Then by Bus to Albany: Several companies (including NYC Airporter (<http://www.nycairporter.com/>)) offer reliable, direct bus connections between the two airports and the Port Authority bus station in New York City. You may purchase a one-way ticket for about \$16 at the “Ground Transportation” counter in the baggage claim area. The trip to New York City takes about an hour. *We recommend that you do not hire a taxi: travel time is longer, it is much more expensive, and there may be other problems.*

If you plan to travel from New York City to Albany by bus, be sure to get on a bus routed to the “Port Authority Bus Terminal.”

New York City to Albany via Bus: The Port Authority Bus Terminal is located at 625 8th Avenue, between 40th and 42nd Streets. Two companies, Adirondack Trailways and Greyhound, provide reliable, direct bus service to Albany. The trip takes about 3 hours, and the fare is about \$26. For additional information, please go to www.trailwaysny.com and www.greyhound.com.

Transportation from Albany Airport, Amtrak Station or Bus Station: After your arrival at the airport, train station or bus station, you will need to take a taxi cab to the place you will be staying for the night. The cab fare will be about \$15. You must pay in cash and should tip the driver about \$1-\$3. Have the address of your destination written down in English.

Travel to Albany by Automobile: If you will be traveling to Albany via automobile, it is suggested that you take advantage of any number of internet maps, such as www.mapquest.com or www.googlemaps.com.

Travel Tips: Before you depart, photocopy all of your important documents (passport, visa, I-20, etc.) Put copies in a different place such as your carry-on and checked luggage.

For your safety and convenience, do not book a flight into the U.S. that arrives late at night.

Never leave bags unattended or carry any article given to you by a stranger. While in an airport, train or bus terminal, ignore non-uniformed persons offering to assist with baggage or transportation. Go to ground transportation information counters, bus stops and taxi dispatchers for safe and legitimate transportation.

Always trust your instincts. If something doesn't feel right, avoid it. Be aware of your surroundings at all times, and remain alert and focused.