Introduction to Pre-Arrival Orientation

Welcome, International Great Danes!

To help international students prepare for their studies ISSS hosts a required, online Pre-Arrival Orientation via email. We know that as you prepare to arrive and begin your studies you have a lot on your mind: applying for a visa, making travel arrangements, finding housing, and more. This Pre-Arrival Orientation is designed to help guide you on tasks you need to complete before arrival and to prepare you for what you need to know once you arrive.

Every Monday between now and when in-person Orientation starts you will get a weekly email from ISSS covering a new topic. Please read the email carefully each week. Emails will also be logged on the International Online Orientation section of your New Student Checklist.

The required in-person Orientation will take place Tuesday August 15-Friday, August 18. You will have an opportunity to meet faculty, staff and students in person and to delve into the topics we cover this summer in greater detail.

Additionally, the first Friday of each month we will offer a new student drop-in session on Zoom. You can drop in using your Albany Zoom account log in to speak with an ISSS advisor at this Zoom link:

- New Student Drop In Session 1: Friday June 2nd from 9am-9:45am EDT (NY time)
- New Student Drop In Session 2: Friday July 7th from 9am-9:45am EDT (NY time)
- New Student Drop In Session 3: Friday August 4th from 9am-9:45am EDT (NY time)

Use this Zoom meeting information to join:

Join Zoom Meeting
https://albany.zoom.us/j/95531489150?pwd=aTRuT2RjaTMvN3JtZ2N4TC8wRmZEUT09
Meeting ID: 955 3148 9150
Passcode: 591290

Week 1: Visas & Arrival

Before arriving, there are a number of things new international students need to do. We have put together a New Student Checklist to help you keep track of what you need to do between now and August.

Scheduling a Visa Appointment

Please review the information on our website to help you apply for your F-1 or J-1 visa. You can only apply after you have received an I-20 or DS-2019 from Admissions. Visit the US Travel Docs website for the embassy/consulate you plan to apply at. Different embassies/consulates may operate under slightly different procedures and may reopen at different times. You can set up an account; once you have an account, you should be able to view if/when there are open interview appointments available.

We understand that some embassies and consulates are still dealing with backlogs and limited appointments. The procedures for requesting an emergency of expedited appointment vary from embassy to embassy, but you can find a general overview of what to do in this situation on our website here. If you cannot secure a visa by August 15, 2023 (the program start date on your I-20) please contact ISSS@albany.edu to discuss your potential options and/or eligibility for a deferral.
If you already have a F-1 or J-1 visa in your passport that is unexpired email ISSS@albany.edu to discuss further.

**Arriving to Albany**
In-Person Orientation will start the afternoon of August 15, 2023. **Students are expected to arrive on August 15 to Albany.** New students living on-campus may move-in during the afternoon on August 15, 2023. Classes start August 21, 2023. We have tips and resources on our website to help you plan your travel to Albany.

**New Student Checklist**
There are several tasks you will need to complete before arriving to Albany. ISSS is here to help guide you in completing these tasks. Please review your New Student Checklist for instructions on what you need to do before arriving to Albany. Below we will highlight a few tasks you need to complete before you can advance to completing other tasks. Some of the other checklist items, like finding housing, we will cover in other sections of this pre-arrival Orientation.

- **Submit Required Health Forms:** Students cannot register for orientation, classes, or sign up for housing until after their required health forms have been reviewed and approved by Student Health Services. **Please submit your required health documents to Student Health Services now so that they can review them and contact you if anything is missing.** If you are having any trouble meeting these requirements (MMR, required health form) please contact ISSS@albany.edu so that we can assist you.

- **Set Up & Begin Using Your UAlbany Email Account:** MyUAlbany is the online student platform to access a number of services, including your UAlbany email account. You can log into any online services using your NetID and password. Your **UAlbany email** is the official means of communication for the University, and you should begin checking it regularly and using that address to communicate with professors and other campus community members.

- **Download the DuoMobile App:** Anytime you are logging into a UAlbany Portal with your NetID and password you will be prompted to complete a 2-step verification through the **DUO mobile app**. Make sure you download this app on your device. If at any point you are locked out of your account please contact Information Technology Services (ITS) at askIT@albany.edu so that you can regain access as soon as possible.