Dear New International Student (not F-1 or J-1),

The office of International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) wishes you congratulations on your acceptance at the University at Albany! You will be joining more than 1,800 other international students from about 100 different countries. UAlbany is a truly international university that values our multicultural community with opportunities for personal enrichment and intellectual growth. We look forward to personally welcoming you to the University at Albany!

The University at Albany considers you an International Student because you are attending school while on a non-immigrant visa. **If you believe you have received this email in error and you should not be listed as an international student, or that you should be listed as a F-1 or J-1 visa holder, please contact ISSS at ISSS@albany.edu or 518-591-8172.**

Below are some important tips for non F-1/J-1 international students:

- Depending on your visa category, you may contact the Student Accounts Office about a residency appeal (https://www.albany.edu/studentaccounts/residency_appeals_process.php).
- All international students are automatically enrolled in **international health insurance** each semester, as well as medical evacuation and repatriation coverage. For more information on international health insurance, please visit this website: https://www.albany.edu/isss/insurance.php
- UAlbany will be a **tobacco free campus** effective January 2019, meaning smoking and other tobacco usage and/or products won’t be allowed on campus. For more information and resources, please click here: https://www.albany.edu/tobaccofree/FAQs.shtml#q12
- ISSS can only provide immigration advice to F-1 and J-1 visa holders, but we are still here to assist you in your **cultural adjustment** to the United States, or to get a referral to other University and local resources.
- **If you are considering becoming a F-1 or J-1 visa holder**, we recommend you visit ISSS at least one year prior to when you hope to have F-1 or J-1 status (keep in mind that change of status applications in the U.S. are taking 12-16 months or longer).
- ISSS asks all international students to **check in with our office so that we can take copies** of your passport, visa, I-94, and other relevant immigration documents. These copies are helpful for ISSS to have should you ever need our assistance in the future. You may have your documents copied during Orientation or within the first week of classes.

International Orientation is not mandatory for non F-1 and J-1 students, but you are welcome to attend! While international orientation is not mandatory, Freshman Orientation and Transfer Orientation are mandatory for new freshmen and transfer students.

To participate in ISSS Orientation, please review the below:

- **Complete the items on our New Student Welcome Website**
  http://www.albany.edu/isss/new_students.php. This website has vital information for all new international students. Please complete the pre-arrival checklist and review all items before arrival.

- **Participate in the On-line Pre-Arrival Orientation**
  There is so much to plan for, learn and think about before starting your studies so we have set up an on-line pre-arrival orientation that you can review at your own pace. This on-line orientation is delivered through Blackboard, the on-line platform all UAlbany classes use, so this will give you an opportunity to use Blackboard before arriving on campus. Access the Pre-Arrival Orientation here, and get a head start!
  http://www.albany.edu/isss/new_students.php/#preorientation
Arrive at Albany by January 17, 2019.

Students living on-campus can move into the residence halls starting 12:00 noon on Thursday, January 17th, 2019. Please go to your residence hall to check in first, then come to the Campus Center. If you arrive in Albany before the 17th please make a reservation at a local hotel.

Students living off-campus should plan to arrive in Albany prior to the start of the semester so that they can find housing and get settled in and be prepared for orientation on January 17th. Before coming to the U.S. please be sure you have somewhere to stay, even if only temporarily, such as a hotel.

Register for Orientation Programs

Orientations will take place throughout the week of January 17th - January 22nd. Advising and registration for classes are core parts of Orientation. Please be prepared to participate in orientation every day of the week. Your orientation schedule is different, dependent your level of study:

- **Freshman Students** may participate in both International Student Orientation and University Freshman Orientation. University Freshman Orientation is mandatory. Be sure to register for both from our New Students webpage: [http://www.albany.edu/isss/69422.php](http://www.albany.edu/isss/69422.php)

- **Transfer Students** may participate in both International Student Orientation and University Transfer Orientation. University Transfer Orientation is mandatory. Be sure to register for both from our New Students webpage: [http://www.albany.edu/isss/69443.php](http://www.albany.edu/isss/69443.php)

- **Inbound Study Abroad and Exchange Students** will participate in International Student Orientation along with special programming coordinated with Jacqueline Ledermann, Academic Coordinator. Sign up for International Student Orientation on our Inbound Study Aboard and Exchange Student subsection of the New Student page: [https://www.albany.edu/isss/isa_orientation.php](https://www.albany.edu/isss/isa_orientation.php)

- **Graduate Students** will participate in International Student Orientation and Academic Department specific orientation meetings. Refer to your academic department regarding their orientation. Sign up for International Student Orientation on our Graduate Student subsection of the New Student page: [https://www.albany.edu/isss/graduate_orientation.php](https://www.albany.edu/isss/graduate_orientation.php)

Upload a Photo for your Student ID

Your UAlbany ID Card is your key to accessing services at UAlbany. This ID card allows you to ride buses for free, is the key to get into your residence hall, is a credit card for your meal plan and give you access to many other campus services. You must submit a photo prior to coming to the US, so that your ID card will be available when you arrive. Instructions to upload a digital photo can be found at [https://www.albany.edu/welcome/idcard.php?c=fr](https://www.albany.edu/welcome/idcard.php?c=fr)

Attend Orientation and Welcome Weekend from January 17-January 22nd

You may check-in to Orientation on January 17th from 2-4pm in the Campus Center Ballroom.

Once you have read through all of the Welcome Information, please feel free to contact the appropriate department if you have questions or concerns. You can also contact the ISSS at isss@albany.edu.

We look forward to seeing you on January 17, 2019!

Sincerely,

The ISSS Team
Michael Elliott
Tara Evans
Tricia Tierney
Kayla O’Donnell
Jing Zhang-Benavot