Dear New Student,

The office of International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) wishes you congratulations on your acceptance to the University at Albany! You will be joining more than 1,800 international students from about 90 different countries. UAlbany is a truly international university that values our multicultural community and provides opportunities for personal enrichment and intellectual growth. We look forward to personally welcoming you to the University at Albany.

While you are getting ready for your new academic adventure, the ISSS team is preparing for your arrival to Albany. Throughout your time at UAlbany, members of the ISSS office will assist you adjusting to your new educational and cultural experiences. We coordinate activities and presentations and provide you with on-going visa and immigration advisement. We are here to support you and help you succeed while at UAlbany, and this starts with our Orientation programs.

To help you get off to a successful start, please follow the checklist below:

☐ **Complete the items on our New Student Welcome Website**  
  [http://www.albany.edu/isss/new_students.php](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 Required On-line Pre-Arrival Orientation**  
There is so much to plan for, learn and think about before starting your studies. To help you, we have created a mandatory on-line pre-arrival orientation that you can review at your own pace. This on-line orientation is available one “Blackboard,” the on-line platform that all UAlbany classes use. It will therefore 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](http://www.albany.edu/isss/new_students.php/#preorientation)

☐ **Plan to arrive in Albany by August 18th, 2019**  
  Students living on-campus can move into the residence halls starting at 12:00 noon on Sunday, August 18th, 2019. Please go to your residence hall to check-in first, then come to the Campus Center to check-in for Orientation. If you arrive in Albany before the 18th, please make a reservation at a local hotel.

  Students living off-campus should plan to arrive to Albany prior to the start of the semester so that they can find housing, get settled, and prepare for orientation on August 18th.

☐ **Register for Required Orientation Programs**  
Orientation is mandatory and will take place throughout the week of August 18th-August 23rd. 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:
**Freshmen Students** will participate in both International Student Orientation and University Freshman Orientation. Be sure to register for both from our New Students webpage:  

**Undergraduate Transfer Students** will participate in both International Student Orientation and University Transfer Orientation. Be sure to register for both from our New Students webpage:  

**Inbound Study Abroad and Exchange Students** will participate in International Student Orientation and participate in special programming with the Education Abroad office, coordinated by Jacqueline Ledermann, Academic Coordinator. Sign up for International Student Orientation on our Inbound Study Abroad 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 orientations within their academic department. Please 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)

**Special Note for Graduate students in the: School of Public Health; Rockefeller College; School of Criminal Justice; College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security, and Cybersecurity; or the School of Social Welfare-** Please register for Orientation, but your Orientation will take place on the Downtown Campus on Monday, August 19th (Rockefeller College; School of Criminal Justice; College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security, and Cybersecurity; or the School of Social Welfare) or the East Campus on Monday, August 19th (School of Public Health). You are not required to attend Orientation sessions on the Main Campus the week of August 18th-August 23rd because we will provide special programming at your school’s campus. If you are not in the above listed program, you must attend Orientation August 18th-August 23rd on the main campus.

☐ **Complete your Health Center Requirements by August 1st**

Students must email the required Health Form to Student Health Services (healthforms@albany.edu). In addition to the form, students must also show documentation that they have met the MMR requirement, requirement for TB testing, and certify that they meet the meningitis requirement in MyUAlbany. More information on these requirements can be found here. The deadline for submitting these materials to Student Health Services in August 1st. Failure to meet the deadline could result in you being unable to register for classes this Fall.

☐ **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. This should be done by August 1, 2018. 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 Mandatory Orientation and Welcome Weekend from August 18th to August 23rd**

You may check-in to Orientation **1:30 pm to 4:00 pm** on August 18th in the **Campus Center Ballroom**. Your participation in all of orientation is **required** as
the official start of your university study. All F-1 and J-1 students should attend orientation, even if you have already attended a university in the U.S. If you are not an F-1 or J-1 student, please contact the ISSS office for more information about orientation.

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 August 18th, 2019!**

Sincerely,

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