Dear New F-1 or J-1 Student,

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!

While you are getting ready for your new academic adventure, the ISSS team is preparing for your arrival in Albany. Throughout your time at UAlbany, members of the ISSS office will assist you in 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.

Special Note: 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

☐ 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 Mandatory 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. Pre-Oriential is mandatory; as part of pre-Orientation you are required to complete 3 pre-arrival quizzes. 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 is mandatory and 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** will participate in both International Student Orientation and University Freshman Orientation. Be sure to register for both from our New Students webpage: http://www.albany.edu/issss/69422.php
- **Transfer Students** will participate in both International Student Orientation and University Transfer Orientation. Be sure to register for both from our New Students webpage: http://www.albany.edu/issss/69443.php
- **Inbound Study Abroad and Exchange Students** will participate in International Student Orientation along with special programming coordinated with Jacqueline Ledermann, Assistant Director and International Partnerships Manager. Sign up for International Student Orientation on our Inbound Study Aboard and Exchange Student subsection of the New Student page: https://www.albany.edu/issss/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/issss/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

Attend Mandatory 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. Your participation in all of orientation is required as the official start of your university study. All F-1 and J-1 students must attend orientation, even if you have already attended a university in the U.S. If you are not a 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 issss@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