Countdown to Chicago!

PRE-ARRIVAL COMMUNICATION FOR NEW UIC INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The Office of International Services, and many UIC offices, will be closed for winter break starting the afternoon of Friday, Dec. 21, 2018. OIS will reopen at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2019.

THIS WEEK: REGISTERING FOR CLASSES
While you won’t register for classes until after your arrival in Chicago, it’s helpful to know what to expect in terms of when and where class registration will take place.

First step? Complete your Immigration Check-in with OIS!
Upon admission, a SEVIS hold is placed on all international student records. Along with other holds, the SEVIS hold prevents you from registering for classes. To remove the SEVIS hold, you must successfully complete the in-person Immigration Check-in with OIS. We recommend that you complete your Immigration Check-in as shortly after arriving in Chicago as possible. Remember, you may have holds from other departments which could block registration; you will need to follow up with those departments directly to have the hold removed.

When do graduate students register for class?
Masters, PhD, and Professional Program students will register for classes with the assistance of their academic departments. Each department handles this process differently. Some may advise you to self-register through the UIC Portal, others may require you to meet with a departmental advisor or professor to choose classes. Connect with your academic department to find out how your class registration will be handled but don’t forget that you must successfully complete your Immigration Check-in with OIS before you can register for class.

When do undergraduate students register for class?
First-year and transfer undergraduate students will register for classes during their undergraduate orientation program hosted by UIC Orientation. During this orientation program you will meet with an academic advisor from your department who will help you select your classes. In order for this process to go smoothly, it’s extremely important that you complete your Immigration Check-in with OIS prior to your UIC Orientation date.

What happens if a class I want is full?
There is a strong possibility that a class you want may be full by the time you register, especially during your first semester. However, there are strategies to handle this situation. Check out our Welcome to UIC video on Orientation, Registration, and Student Organizations to learn about one!

APPLYING FOR YOUR VISA
If you haven’t already, we encourage you to schedule your visa appointment with your nearest U.S. embassy or consulate as soon as possible. Visa appointment and processing wait times are always changing but do have the possibility of increasing significantly if a U.S. government shutdown occurs.
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INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ORIENTATION
If you haven’t already, review the Spring 2019 International Student Orientation schedule of events and confirm your participation by registering online.

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?
Send specific questions to our New International Student Team at newintl@uic.edu or give us a call at +1 (312) 996-3121. Or, if you're already in Chicago, feel free to visit us during Open Advising.

Check out previous Countdown to Chicago pre-arrival communications along with additional arrival resources on the OIS website.