Countdown to Chicago!

PRE-ARRIVAL COMMUNICATION FOR NEW UIC INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

THIS WEEK: UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENT ACCOUNT & HEALTH INSURANCE

As you prepare for this next chapter in your life, it’s important to consider how you will manage the financial and insurance side of higher education in the U.S. Learning about your student account and student health insurance benefit helps to demystify these sometimes intimidating topics.

What is my student account?

University Student Financial Services & Cashier Operations (USFSCO) manages your online student account where you will view tuition and student fee bills. Their website explains how your student account works, how to make a payment, when payments are due, among many other topics. USFSCO even has a Paying Your Bill video series available online!

Is the financial information on my I-20/DS-2019 my tuition bill?

In short, no, the financial information listed on your I-20/DS-2019 is for immigration purposes only and does not represent a tuition bill. This information is intended to communicate to the U.S. Embassy/Consulate abroad how much money a typical student would need to study in a particular degree program at UIC and that the I-20/DS-2019 holder has shown evidence of that funding as required by the visa category. These estimated expenses for immigration purposes are based on generalized reported living costs and tuition and fees for a course load of 12 credits per semester. The tuition and fee bill posted to your student account will vary depending on the number of credits you decide to take each semester (F-1/J-1 students must meet enrollment requirements) and your living expenses may be lower or higher depending on your choice of accommodation. To more accurately estimate your tuition and fee bill for the spring 2018 semester, we recommend that you utilize the UIC Registrar’s calculator for undergraduate and graduate students.

What about health insurance? How do I pay for that?

UIC requires that all students be covered by major medical health insurance while studying at the university. Therefore, eligible students are automatically enrolled for the CampusCare Student Health Benefit Program after they register for at least one class that charges tuition and mandatory fees. The fee for CampusCare will appear on your student account bill and can be paid according to USFSCO payment options.

What can I do if I have my own health insurance and don’t want to pay for CampusCare?

It is possible to waive out of the CampusCare program and have the fee removed from your student account if you can demonstrate that you already have equal or better health insurance coverage of your own. The CampusCare website has information on how to waive out of the program and the strict deadlines by which you must do so. Please note that some international students enrolled in contract programs may not be eligible to waive out of CampusCare.
Countdown to Chicago!

PRE-ARRIVAL COMMUNICATION FOR NEW UIC INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

I’m a student with a J-1 visa. Is there anything special that I need to know about health insurance?
Yes! J-1 students and their J-2 dependents must have health insurance that meets minimum requirements as defined by the U.S. Department of State. Most students will need to purchase private supplemental insurance, in addition to the coverage provided by CampusCare, to meet this requirement. J-1 students must submit physical evidence of adequate health insurance coverage to the Office of International Services during Immigration Check-in. In addition, J-1 students who want to waive out of the CampusCare program must do so directly with CampusCare by their published deadlines.

NEW INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ORIENTATION
All new international students are charged an Orientation & Arrival Fee of $159 during their first semester at UIC. Get the most out of your arrival experience by attending New International Student Orientation events, including mandatory orientation on January 12, 2018! Review the full schedule of events and confirm your participation by completing the online registration form.

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.