Countdown to Chicago!

PRE-ARRIVAL COMMUNICATION FOR NEW UIC INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

THIS WEEK: WELCOME TO CHICAGO
Whether you’ve landed in the windy city or your departure is still a few days away, we want you to feel welcome in your new home, Chicago. Here are some tips to help you start strong...

Navigating your new home
Getting around Chicago is easy thanks to its extensive public transportation system, the CTA. See how you can ride the CTA from O’Hare International Airport to the UIC campus in our Welcome to Chicago video and consider purchasing a temporary Ventra card so that you can ride trains and buses until your student U-Pass becomes active. If you would rather not carry your luggage on the CTA, you can always take a taxi from the airport or arrange shuttle transportation in advance.

Getting connected
We know your friends and family will want to hear from you shortly after your arrival in Chicago and that getting connected to Wi-Fi is key. O’Hare’s website provides instructions on how to connect to the airport’s Wi-Fi but warning, students have reported this service to be spotty in some terminals! Once on-campus you’ll be able to connect to UIC’s Wi-Fi after setting up your device.

Explore!
If you arrive a few days before the start of semester, take advantage and explore Chicago or visit one of the city’s famous museums. There’s even a lot to explore on the UIC campus itself!

Staying safe
Personal safety is always important but especially so when you’re in a new place and unfamiliar with your surroundings. The UIC Police Department is in charge of safety on campus but there is a lot you can do to stay safe in Chicago, like any large metropolitan city. Consider sightseeing with a group, avoid unfamiliar streets or alleys in the dark, don’t flash large amounts of cash or expensive technology in public, remain aware of your surroundings at all times, and don’t consume substances that could inhibit your judgement and make you more vulnerable to crime. If you have questions or concerns about safety, feel free to connect with your OIS Advisor. We’re happy to help!

NEW INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ORIENTATION
Campus safety is just one of the topics covered during New International Student Orientation on Friday, January 12. Review the full schedule of events and confirm your participation by following the registration steps located at the bottom of the page.

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