



## Now you have your I-20 or DS-2019...what are the next steps?

The staff of the Office of International Affairs (OIA) welcomes you! We look forward to assisting you with your immigration and acculturation needs and questions. Hopefully you will find your experience at the University of Chicago both intellectually invigorating and personally fulfilling. Below you will find instructions and information regarding next steps, between now and when you leave home, and once you arrive on campus in Chicago! Have a question? Write to us: [international-affairs@uchicago.edu](mailto:international-affairs@uchicago.edu)

### Next Steps...

**Review your I-20/DS-2019**  
Check your I-20/DS-2019 and dependent documents, for accuracy. Contact OIA immediately if anything is incorrect: [international-affairs@uchicago.edu](mailto:international-affairs@uchicago.edu)

**Pay the I-901 SEVIS Fee**  
Pay the SEVIS Fee and print proof of payment—bring receipt to your visa appointment.

**Obtain a U.S. Visa Stamp**  
To enter the U.S. as a student, you will need a visa stamp (e.g. F-1/J-1) from a [U.S. Consulate or Embassy](#). Schedule an appointment and review the information for the application process on their website.

Bring the following to your visa interview:

- Complete Online Visa Application (Form DS-160)
- I-20 or DS-2019
- Valid Passport
- 2x2 photograph(s)
- Visa Application Fee Receipt
- SEVIS I-901 Receipt (see above)
- Proof of financial support
- Letter of admission from the University of Chicago

Check with the Embassy/Consulate for other specific requirements. More information is available at: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas.html>

**NOTE:** Canadian citizens are not required to apply for a visa stamp, but must obtain an I-20 or DS-2019 and pay the SEVIS Fee (see above).

**Review OIA's [Admitted Students](#) website:**  
For additional information on being an international student at the University of Chicago, review the information located on OIA's website:

### Prior To Traveling...

**Immunization Requirement**  
The State of Illinois and the University of Chicago require students to have proof of immunity and/or vaccinations. Upload your documents to the University of Chicago's Immunization Portal.

**Health Insurance Options**  
All registered students must have health insurance. Students are automatically enrolled in the University Student Health Insurance Plan (U-SHIP). To learn more: <http://wellness.uchicago.edu/page/student-insurance>

To waive U-SHIP, you must provide proof of alternate comparable coverage before the enrollment/waiver deadline.

**Transportation Options to the University**  
Transportation information to the University of Chicago

**Pre-Arrival Newsletters** Check your e-mail for informational newsletters from OIA.

**Digital Copies** Once you have a U.S. Visa Stamp, scan/save copies of all of your important documents including passport, visa stamp and I-20/DS-2019.

**Do not forget to carry-on your immigration documents** You will need to present the following upon entry into the U.S.:

- Passport with Visa
- I-20 or DS-2019
- SEVIS I-901 Receipt
- Proof of financial support
- Letter of admission from the University of Chicago

Do not pack these documents in checked luggage—you will need them BEFORE you access your checked luggage at the airport.

### Upon Arriving...

**Enter the U.S. in your student status**  
Incoming students to the U.S. in F or J status may enter up to 30-days before the program start date listed on the I-20/DS-2019. When you arrive in the U.S. the inspector at the port of entry will verify your I-20/DS-2019. Be sure to have your I-20 or DS-2019, passport, and visa stamp ready for inspection.

**Retrieve your I-94 Arrival and Departure Record**  
Log onto the Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) website to "GET MOST RECENT I-94" – note: an I-94 arrival record will be issued to you each time you enter the U.S. over the course of your program at UChicago. **Best practice:** take a screen grab each time and keep a running document of your I-94's!

**Submit Required Online Check-In Form to OIA**  
Fill out the online check-in form within 5 business days of arrival in Chicago. You will receive instructions within the OIA Portal.

**Check-In with other UChicago Offices**

- Academic Program
- Placement Tests (if applicable)
- Student ID Card & Privileges Office (see back)
- Student Health Center for immunizations (if applicable)
- Update your SEVIS/Physical address in [my.uchicago.edu portal](http://my.uchicago.edu/portal)

**Complete the F-1 and J-1 Online Orientation**  
International students are encouraged to complete the online International Student Orientation by the start of their first quarter at UChicago

**Attend program specific orientations**  
Note dates, times, and locations as specified in emails sent by your academic department.

## Key Offices...

### The Office of International Affairs (OIA)

1427 E. 60th St., Suite 251

Chicago, IL 60637

Telephone: (773) 702-7752

[www.internationalaffairs.uchicago.edu](http://www.internationalaffairs.uchicago.edu)

- [www.facebook.com/ucoia/](http://www.facebook.com/ucoia/)
- Instagram: @uchicagoia

### The Identification & Privileges Office (IPO)

Lobby of the Regenstein Library

1100 East 57th Street, 100F

Chicago, IL 60637

(773) 702-3344

This is where you get your University of Chicago

Student ID Card, which can be used for the following:

- Access campus libraries and check out materials
- Ride the 171 and 172 CTA buses and on campus shuttles for free
- Student Health & Counseling Services
- Receive discounts at some local Hyde Park businesses

### IT Services TechBar

Lobby of the Regenstein Library

1100 East 57th Street

Chicago, IL 60637

(773) 702-5800

In-person technology support and free equipment lending for students such as:

- PC & Macintosh laptops, iPads
- Multimedia Equipment

### Student Health Service

860 E. 59th Street, Suite R-100,

Chicago, IL 60637 (Goldblatt Pavilion Entrance)

(773) 702-4156

Student Health and Counseling offers a full range of services to help students stay fit and healthy. If you need vaccinations, you can make an appointment with a Student Health coordinator.

### Bursar's Office

6030 South Ellis Avenue, 2nd Floor

Chicago, IL 60637

(773) 702-8000

The Office of the Bursar is responsible for generating bills related to student tuition and fee charges.

## Engagement Opportunities...

### Registered Student Organizations (RSOs)

The University of Chicago has over 350 Recognized Student Organizations (RSOs). These student-led groups can help you network and make new friends, provide you a break from your studies and engage in the UChicago community.

### Family Resource Center

A friendly space where students and their families in the university community can access resources, information, and supportive programming and services such as daycare.

### English Language Conversation Hours

The English Language Institute (ELI) hosts conversation hours to help students build English proficiency and communication skills.

### UChicagoGRAD

Resource for graduate students at UChicago with events, career services, webinars on topics like housing, health insurance, and more!

### International House

I-House brings students and scholars into a global community with various programs and activities.

### Gerald Ratner Athletics Center

Student athletic center for exercise, lift weights, dance, and swim. Also learn about extracurricular athletics!

### Campus & Student Life

Provides programs and services to all members of the University community. Learn more about CSL programs and services via the link above.

### Center for Identity + Inclusion

Creates intentionally diverse and inclusive communities and works to provide community to all members of the University community.

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### Did you know?

All international students are assigned an international student adviser at OIA based on their UChicago school or program.

Your OIA adviser can answer questions relating to visa, travel, employment, and much more! To learn more: [internationalaffairs.uchicago.edu](http://internationalaffairs.uchicago.edu)

## Beyond Campus...

### Hyde Park Restaurants

- Giordano's
- Medici on 57th
- The Nile Restaurant
- Thai 55
- La Petite Folie

### Grocery Shopping

- Hyde Park Produce
- Whole Foods Market
- Target
- Jewel-Osco
- Trader Joe's

### Bookstores

- The University of Chicago Bookstore
- 57th Street Books
- Powell's Books Chicago
- First Aid Comics

### Parks and Walking Trails

- Harold Washington Park
- Garden of the Phoenix- Japanese Garden
- Promontory Point

### Mailing Options

- United States Postal Service (USPS)
- FedEx Print and Ship Center
- UPS Store
- Amazon Locker-Hyde Park  
5118 S Lake Park Ave (At Whole Foods)

### Off-Campus Housing Websites

- Apartments.com
- Zillow.com
- Trulia.com
- Apartmentlist.com
- Rent.com

### Transportation

- Chicago Transit Authority (CTA)- Rail and Bus
- Metra - Commuter rail train connects outlying suburbs to downtown
- Divvy- Bike sharing program
- UChicago Shuttles

The Hyde Park community has so much to offer. Listed above are only a few locations to help you get oriented to your new community.