

Illinois State University: 2020 – 2021 Exchange Factsheet

Important Dates:

	<u>Fall 2020 Semester</u>	<u>Spring 2021 Semester</u>
Nomination Deadline	March 1	September 15
Application Deadline	April 15	October 1
International Student Orientation	August 10 - 14	January 4 - 8
Academic Semester Dates	August 17 – December 11	January 11 – May 7

Application Process:

<https://internationalstudies.illinoisstate.edu/students-scholars/get-started/apply/exchange/>

1. Nominate students by sending list of nominations to Inbound Exchange Coordinator Lindsey Schmedt: lrvetoe@ilstu.edu
2. Upon approval of nominations, students should submit online [Application for Admission](#)
IMPORTANT: Make sure students follow the [detailed application instructions](#) on our website to ensure they submit the correct application.
3. After successfully submitting an application, students should complete their Application Checklist on their Status Portal with required supplemental material listed below:
 - Official Letter of Nomination and Academic Good Standing from home university.
 - Proof of English Proficiency for non-native English speakers. We do not accept letters to prove English ability. [English Waiver Guidelines](#) should be reviewed for additional information.
 - TOEFL score (minimums: 550 paper/79 internet) or
 - IELTS score (minimum: 6.5 overall band)
 - Academic transcripts in English from home University
 - Declaration of Finances for the entire stay in the U.S.
 - [Undergraduate exchange student estimated expenses](#)
 - [Graduate exchange student estimated expenses](#)
 - Passport photo ID page copy

Pre-Arrival:

Once the student has been admitted a welcome packet will be mailed to your university. The Welcome Packet will include a welcome letter, admission letter, a DS-2019, budget and Pre-Arrival Guide for each student.

How to apply for the J-1 Visa:

Once students have received their welcome packet, they will need to schedule a visa appointment at the nearest U.S. consulate/embassy to obtain their exchange student visa. Students cannot apply for the visa until they have received their Welcome Packet. All exchange students will apply for a “**J-1 Exchange Visitor Visa**”. This type of visa is specifically granted to students and scholars who wish to engage in Exchange Programs in the U.S

All students must pay two fees:

- **A Visa fee:** Students will pay a visa fee to attend an interview with consulate representatives as part of the visa application process.
- **A SEVIS fee:** Students will pay an [I-901 SEVIS fee](#). Students must pay the SEVIS fee before they can attend their visa interview. Students will need to bring a receipt of their payment to their interview. SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System) is an internet system/database that helps the U.S. keep track of international visitors.

Students should review the [Pre-Arrival Checklist](#) prior to departure, it will include all of these steps.

Housing:

Two types of housing are available at Illinois State University for exchange students: (1) on-campus and (2) off-campus. Only the International House (I-House) floors of [Manchester Hall](#) have reserved spaces for incoming exchange students and are open during University closures/vacations when all other residence halls close.

All exchange students will be assigned housing in I-House unless they officially confirm they do not wish to stay there. Students staying on-campus need to submit a [Housing and Dining Contract](#). Please view information about [housing](#) for more information.

Immunization Records:

All students admitted to Illinois State University are required, by Illinois Law, to provide Immunization Records. Immunization Records can be submitted prior to arrival by submitting the records on the Student Health Services [secure web portal](#). Health Services will work with students if any immunizations are missing.

Students will be required to have a Tuberculosis (TB) Screening within ten days of their arrival on campus. Students will have an opportunity to work with Student Health Services during International Orientation on this.

Health Insurance:

All J visa holders are also mandated by immigration regulations to maintain health insurance which meets the Department of State requirements. All students will automatically be enrolled in Illinois State University Health Insurance, which meets these requirements. If students wish to use their own private health insurance, they will need to provide detailed information in English (like a policy plan or brochure detailing the coverage) to the University's Student Health Insurance Office.

The current cost of ISU Health Insurance is \$270 per academic semester.

Billing:

The Office of International Students and Programs will pay tuition after students have arrived and finalized their class schedule. Students will not receive any late fees for this late tuition payment. Students will be sent an email once bills have been released to provide more information about tuition payment. More information about this can be found on the [Student Accounts](#) website.