

## *Congratulations* on your admission to **The University of**

**Akron (UA)**! Immigration Services at The **International Center** is eager to welcome you to Akron and assist you in achieving your academic goals. The University of Akron and our community will be your new home. We will do all we can to assist you during your time at UA. Please look over this sheet for important information that will help you make an easy transition to university life. **Go Zips!**



## ARRIVAL AND TEMPORARY HOUSING



As an F-1 or J-1 student, you are permitted to enter the United States up to 30 days before the start of your program. For the Summer 2017 semester, you may arrive on or after April 22, 2017. This will give you time to check-in with Immigration Services and to get settled before the start of classes.

Please remember that with a Summer start on your I-20 or DS-2019, you must enroll full-time (9 credits for graduate/12 credits for undergraduate) over the combined summer sessions. Also, only 3 credits may be online or distance learning.

### Arrival:

The two closest airports to UA's campus are:

1. **Cleveland Hopkins International Airport (CLE)** – 40 miles north of campus
2. **Akron/Canton Regional Airport (CAK)** – 17 miles south of campus

### Transportation options:

- **UA Airport Transportation** – The University of Akron offers a free transportation service which will be available May 17<sup>th</sup> at 18<sup>th</sup>, from both airports. **Reserve** your space below **by April 22** at: [https://akron.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_cUzt2WIRjrU75SI](https://akron.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_cUzt2WIRjrU75SI). Pickups will be by the Baggage Claim area in the airports.
- If these dates don't work, other options are available below:
  - Private Taxi or Shared Shuttle** – For information regarding other transportation options from the airports to UA, please visit the appropriate websites below. These services can be very expensive.
    - For the Cleveland Hopkins International Airport (CLE):** <http://www.clevelandairport.com/Transportation.aspx>.
    - For the Akron/Canton Airport (CAK):** <http://www.akroncantonairport.com/ground-transportation/rental>.

### Temporary Housing:

We are fortunate to have some community groups that can match you with a host family for your **first few days** in Akron while you look for permanent housing. Also, local hotels are available.

- **Akron Internationals** – **FREE LIMITED Temporary Housing** is available during the first few days after arrival. **A 10 day advance notice is required for host families.** Go to: <http://thechapel.life/aiservices>
- **Global Ties – First Weekers' Program** – Provides a limited number of host families for your first few days in Akron for a fee of \$75 and **requires a two-week advance registration** (<http://globaltiesakron.org>). Contact Michelle Wilson at [aifciv@gmail.com](mailto:aifciv@gmail.com) or 1-330-612-4693 for more information.



## Mandatory Check-in Procedures

### Undergraduate and Graduate Check In Procedures

- **Check-in is required by federal immigration regulations** as one of your primary responsibilities upon entering the United States. Failure to check-in will result in the termination of your I-20 or DS-2019 record (for F-1 and J-1 students).
- **UNDERGRADUATES AND GRADUATES: Check-in** will take place at **The International Center, Buchtel Hall, Room 202** during business hours, from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. Please stop by and **bring your immigration documents** to be copied: passport, I-20 or DS-2019, F-1 or J-1 Visa. If your dependents have accompanied you to the United States, please bring their immigration documents with you to be copied. **All international students must check in at Buchtel Hall!**



### Mandatory Math Placement for Undergraduates

- **UNDERGRADUATES** (except transfer students who have transfer credits for math) must:
- **(1) Take the Math Placement Test upon your arrival.** You must take the test before you can register for classes. Go to Simmons Hall, Room 205 to get help with registering for the test.
- **(2) See an academic advisor (by appointment only).** Make an appointment by calling (330) 972-7430 or stopping by the Advising Office, Simmons Hall, Room 205.

### Mandatory New International Student Orientation



New International Student Orientation is designed to meet the needs of new international students. At orientation, The International Center staff and student leaders will help you get acquainted with the campus and will cover important topics such as immigration regulations, registering for classes, services offered at UA, campus safety and campus involvement. There are also many social events and activities during orientation week that provide you with the opportunity to connect with other students and people in the community.

**IMPORTANT: Orientation will be held on August 22, 2017, for all students.** You must attend orientation at **Student Union Ballrooms, University Main Campus.** Attendance is mandatory and attendance will be taken at the sessions. **Students who do not attend orientation are in violation of the UA Student Code of Conduct.**



### Health Insurance is Mandatory

The University of Akron requires that all international students have major medical health insurance through UA's student health plan. **When you register for Summer 2017 classes, the mandatory health insurance fee will automatically be added to your student account unless you have insurance through a government sponsored scholarship, or parental/spousal employer coverage for the academic year.**



## Permanent Housing

### On-Campus Residence Halls

All undergraduate students under the age of 21 are strongly encouraged to live on campus in a residence hall. Residence Halls fill up very quickly. For more information on UA's award winning residence halls please go to <http://www.uakron.edu/reslife/> or +1-330-972-7800. You will be responsible for obtaining bedding if you choose the option of living in a Residence Hall. This experience will help international students acclimate to campus sooner and make friends.

### Off-Campus Housing

If you choose to live off-campus in the surrounding neighborhoods, **Off-Campus Student Services** offers assistance to students who choose to live off campus. Please visit their website at: [www.uakron.edu/offcampus/](http://www.uakron.edu/offcampus/). Many apartments in the neighborhoods near the University are listed online at: <http://uakron.loc101.com/>. This is not an exclusive list and many apartments that are for rent may not be listed online. If you choose to live off-campus, we strongly encourage you to thoroughly inspect your apartment/house and make sure that you understand the terms and conditions of the lease *before* you sign the legal Lease Agreement. The UA Police Department offers a free apartment safety inspection for UA students. More information regarding this will be given at orientation.



## Financial Issues

You will have many immediate expenses upon arrival including housing, food, health insurance, tuition and fees. Please plan accordingly. It is not advisable to carry large amounts of cash. Traveler's checks and credit/debit cards are more secure. There are banks on and near campus that will allow you to open an account without a Social Security number.

Please refer to the **Declaration and Certification of Finances (DCF)** form for the estimated cost of tuition. The DCF form is available at <http://www.uakron.edu/international/forms/index.dot>. For a small fee, the Installment Payment Plan (IPP) allows you to pay your tuition fees and health insurance fee over a few months instead of all at once at the beginning of the semester.



## Safety

Safety is a top priority at UA, as evidenced by the wide variety of educational programs and safety services in place to help protect and inform our students. A few examples of the safety services offered by UA are: a university police force providing 24/7 service on-campus and in the surrounding community; over 230 emergency phones placed throughout campus; Campus Patrol - student volunteers escort students to and from their cars, residence halls and classrooms from 5 pm - 2 am; and Z-Alert - a cell phone alert service used to notify students of important safety information. UA also offers numerous crime prevention and safety programs to the university community throughout the academic year. More information on safety can be found at [www.uakron.edu/safety/](http://www.uakron.edu/safety/).



## Weather

Ohio has four distinct seasons: winter, spring, summer, and fall. Summer has average temperatures of 29°C, so it's a good time to arrive in Akron! Winters in Akron can be very cold, with temperatures reaching much lower than 0°C with a lot of snow! A thick coat, gloves, hat, scarf, and snow boots are a must. In spite of the cold, the winter can be quite beautiful and enjoyable with the snow and outdoor winter activities such as ice-skating and sled riding all available near campus. If you do not like cold weather, do not despair! Ohio boasts a temperate spring, a gorgeous summer, and a breathtaking fall with all of the leaves on the trees changing colors.



## New International Student Checklist

Use the checklist below as a guide to help you prepare for your arrival to the USA and your first weeks at The University of Akron. This is not meant to be an exclusive list of all of the things you should do, but simply a guide to you so that you can be prepared.

### Pre-Arrival

- Receive an F-1 I-20 or J-1 DS-2019
- Learn about the requirements of your visa status. Visit <https://www.ice.gov/sevis>
- Pay the SEVIS fee. Print your SEVIS I-901 fee receipt.
- Apply for your F-1 or J-1 visa at a U.S. Embassy.
- Receive your F-1 or J-1 visa.
- You will automatically be enrolled in UA's health insurance plan.
- Book your flight to the USA. Allow time for mandatory check-in and getting settled.
- Request a host family two weeks before arrival to Akron.
- Request a ride from the airport before arrival to Akron.
- Gather any documents needed by the UA Graduate School, UA International Undergraduate Admissions, and/or your academic department.
- Prepare your finances.
- Join University of Akron - International Student Group Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/221229674885260/>
- Pack your bags. Many current international students recommend bringing items from home that might be difficult to find or expensive in the USA, such as medicines, non-perishable food items, and clothing (including traditional clothing). Be sure to pack your passport and a copy of your immigration documents in your carry-on bag so that you have them with you at the port of entry.
- Enjoy your flight.

### Arrival to UA

- UNDERGRADUATES** must take a Math Placement Test upon arrival to the University.
- UNDERGRADUATES AND GRADUATES** – Immigration check-in at Immigration Services – The International Center, Buchtel Hall. The International Center is open Summer 2017 semester, Monday - Friday 8:00 am – 4:30 pm, located in Buchtel Hall, Room 202, Akron, Ohio 44325-4711. Phone 330-972-6349, Fax 330-972-8824.
- ALL UNDERGRADUATES AND GRADUATES** – Must attend the Mandatory New International Student Orientation program on **August 22, 2017**, at **Student Union Ballrooms, University Main Campus, Akron, Ohio**. Lunch options will be provided.
- Register for classes.** Graduate students should meet with their academic adviser in their academic department to establish a class plan. Undergraduate students will need to contact Undergraduate Advising.
- Have a great semester!** Participate in campus activities and join student organizations to make friends and feel more at home.