

Traveling to the U.S.

Please keep in mind that flights to and from the U.S. are limited and some countries have restricted international flights. For the latest information, please visit:

- [NAFSA's COVID-19 Restrictions on U.S. Visas and Entry](#)
- CDC's summary of [Travelers Prohibited from Entering the United States](#); and
- The International Air Transport Association's [International Coronavirus Travel Regulations Map](#)

You can also download a summary of the latest global immigration impacts and resources from [Fragomen](#) law firm.

In addition, some students from (or traveling through) Brazil, China, Iran, and certain European countries will be subject to an [entry ban](#) unless they have spent 14 days outside any of those countries. Please keep these restrictions in mind when planning your travel to the U.S.

- U.S. Customs and Border Protection has recently issued guidance to airlines that F-1 and F-2 visa holders from, or traveling through, the Schengen Area, United Kingdom, and Ireland during the preceding 14 days may travel to the United States while these Proclamations are in effect. F visa holders subject to these Proclamations have been granted a national interest exception to travel and can be boarded without contacting CBP as long as all admissibility and document requirements are met. We encourage students traveling from these areas to contact immigration@uakron.edu to request a PDF of the CBP statement to keep with them while traveling.
- If you decide to travel to the U.S. without first spending 14 days outside the areas affected by the Presidential Proclamations, we encourage you to [bring along a copy of the DOS statement](#) and be prepared to make alternative arrangements in case you are not allowed entry to the U.S.
- If you successfully enter the U.S. based on the exception, please inform international@uakron.edu and let us know the port of entry at which you entered.

Immigration documents needed to return to the U.S. for Fall 2020

Continuing F-1 students returning to the U.S. will need the following documents to apply for reentry to the U.S.:

- valid passport
- valid F-1 visa (except for Canadian students)
- valid I-20 with travel signature

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We strongly recommend that you bring a copy of your Fall 2020 class schedule demonstrating your full-time enrollment. New students, transfer students, and change of level students coming from abroad should ensure their schedule shows they will be taking at least one class with an in-person component.

Arrival Dates

Due to the 14-day self-quarantine period for international travelers, the dates below are deadlines for arriving in the U.S. to attend classes at UA in Fall 2020:

- New Law students: August 3
- Graduate Assistants (new and continuing): August 10
- All other students (new and continuing) are recommended to arrive in the U.S. by August 10. We will allow late arrivals through August 17.

Students requesting a special exception must send a request to international@uakron.edu for consideration.

Communications while in transit

You will need a phone that can be used in the United States to have while you are in transit – to call for an Uber or Lyft or for emergencies.

- You should be able to use wifi in most places, but we recommend you have some US data while you travel, just in case.

Our recommendations:

- Be sure that your phone works in the USA. To do this, we suggest that you purchase a plan in your home country that permits roaming and will let you make at least a small number of calls from the US when you first arrive, and that your phone company has confirmed this will work.
- Have something available on your laptop and/or phone to call home to let your family know you made it here safely. Most students use WhatsApp, Facetime or Skype, but there are many free options available.

Please note: We can give you a free US SIM card when you get to campus. This is not an endorsement for any specific long-term phone company but is an option to tide you over when

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you arrive. Our SIMs have a relatively inexpensive plan that you can use while you investigate the phone company that is right for your needs.

- Check task 29 in the online orientation. We have more information about cell phones there. We will also cover this subject again in the on-campus orientation after you arrive.

When you arrive at the airport

Be aware that Ohio currently has a [mask mandate](#) in place.

All individuals in Ohio must wear facial coverings in public at all times when:

- At an indoor location that is not a residence
- Outdoors, but unable to maintain six-foot social distance from people who are not household members
- Waiting for, riding, driving, or operating public transportation, such as a taxi, a car service, or a private car used for ride-sharing.

Our recommendation:

- You will be expected to wear a mask at the airport when you arrive, so be sure to bring one with you.

Getting to Akron from the airport

We regret that we cannot provide transportation from the airport this semester due to COVID-19.

Our recommendation:

- Take a Taxi, Lyft, or Uber from the airport. Download the app at home before you travel.
- If you have questions after landing, you can ask people at the *Help Desk* in the airport to assist you in finding transportation.

Please note: If you have a friend pick you up from the airport, you will BOTH be required to self-quarantine for 14 days before coming to campus. Please see here for the [self-quarantine policy](#).

Emergency contact information:

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- Contact the International Center contact for emergencies: Robyn Brown, Exec Dir, Global Engagement: 330-972-6798
- Other emergency number: The University of Akron Police Department may also help, call 330-972-2911 (or 1-330 972-2911 if outside northeast Ohio).

Please note:

Make sure you have activated your UA email before you travel.

If you cannot attend class the first week, you will need to communicate with your professors to let them know you are quarantining.

Quarantine Requirements

Check the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [Traveler's Map](#) to view the current guidelines regarding entry to the U.S. after traveling through your country and any other countries through which you transit. You will be required to follow CDC guidelines and guidance from the Summit County Health Department before coming to campus.

At this time, the guidelines provide that travelers from abroad must self-quarantine and monitor for 14 days before interacting with others on campus.

We encourage you to stay with a friend or relative in the U.S. during the quarantine period, if possible – but, first ensure that area of the U.S. does not have a significant COVID-19 outbreak.

If you have a Fall 2020 contract to live in one of the University residence halls, you will be permitted to stay on campus to complete your quarantine.

If you require assistance with finding quarantine accommodation, be sure to complete our [Travel Plans form](#) (also found above).

Arriving in Akron

If you will be quarantining on campus (that is, you have a fall housing assignment) you should already have received instructions from Residence Life outlining how to get your key etc. [Contact us](#) asap if you haven't received this communication.

If you miss your designated time to move into your housing:

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- Notify Residence Life & Housing as soon as possible by emailing reslife@uakron.edu or calling the number they provide you.
- If you do not hear back with new instructions and must arrive on campus at a different time than originally scheduled, call the UA Police Department at 330-972-2911 and ask them to connect you with the Resident Director or Assistant on duty.

If you are living off campus: Please discuss arrangements and expectations with your landlord.

Suggested list of things to bring with you:

Residence Life has a useful list of [What to Bring](#) on their website, however we know that space is limited in your suitcase so many of the items on the Residence Life list will not fit.

Also, note that some websites in the USA do not accept international credit cards.

Our recommendation:

- If you need a **specific product**, we suggest you bring it with you to use during quarantine, as you will not be able to go shopping (other than online) for the first 14 days you are in Akron. This would include things like contact lens supplies or a specific product that you love to use.
- You probably will want to order **bedding and towels** so they are waiting for you when you arrive.
 - [Check our website for more information](#), and order as early as you can. Our vendor does not require either a US credit card or a street address. They can deliver to the University bookstore and we will put your order in your residence hall room before you arrive – *be sure to tell us you placed the order!*
 - If you do not need these immediately, or if you have a US credit card, and/or someone who can take delivery for you, you may want to order online from somewhere like Amazon, Target, Walmart, or Bed, Bath and Beyond and have your purchases delivered directly to your accommodation.

Students who live on campus:

- You will receive 2 masks when you collect your room key.
- We can also supply hand sanitizer, a SIM card, one power adapter (but be sure to bring power cords for all your devices).

Please note: that in the U.S., the power plugs and sockets are [type A and B](#). The standard voltage is 120 and the standard frequency is 60 Hz.

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Other things to bring:

- Something to keep you occupied for 14 days of quarantine.
- We will check in with you frequently, and you are required to attend the virtual orientation sessions, (and you may start classes during quarantine) but you will need to find ways to occupy your time.
- Don't forget: you can start reading the books and other materials required for your classes.
- Materials ordered through the University bookstore and online retailers can be delivered to you while you are in quarantine.

Technology to use while in quarantine:

We strongly suggest that you bring a laptop with you on arrival for use during quarantine.

- Don't forget to bring your own power cords and charger.
- We have a limited number of machines available for use if this is not possible – please let us know if you will need one.

You will be expected to complete the [on-campus orientation](#) virtually while in quarantine, and depending on when you arrive, you may need to start classes from quarantine too.

How to access the University of Akron's wifi:

- UA's wifi is [the Roo-secure](#) network on campus.
- You will need your UAnet ID and password to log in.

Orientation:

- Will be online, synchronous and available while you are in quarantine. Check your email for more information.

Financial challenges associated with being in quarantine:

Please plan ahead to consider how you will access your funds while in quarantine.

- [Due dates](#) for UA related expenses can be found online.
- If you are under 18, be sure to check [our website](#) for more information about banking in the USA.

Paying bills

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Plan ahead: it is possible that you will need to pay your tuition or room/board expenses while you are in quarantine **before** you have opened a bank account.

- [How to pay tuition and fees online.](#)
- UA expenses (tuition, room, board) can be paid from overseas using [Flywire](#) (click on International payments).
- [UA's installment payment plan](#) (click on payment plans). Be sure to pay attention to due dates.
- If you live off campus and have rent due, check with your landlord about payment options and deadlines.

Opening a bank account in the USA

We suggest that you open a bank account in the USA to manage your finances. PNC is the official bank of The University of Akron and has several locations around campus.

- You cannot open a bank account while online (unless you have a US Social Security number).
- Due to COVID-19 the branch of PNC that is located in the Student Union will only be taking appointments, not walk in customers.
- They are available for virtual 1:1 appointments with students to discuss your financial needs. You can start this conversation while you are in quarantine and can open your bank account when your quarantine is over.
- We will advise contact information for PNC during the virtual orientation.

Our recommendations:

- Bring some cash – but not a lot. (Please don't bring big bags of cash!) Be sure to carry any cash in your hand luggage, **not** your checked bags.
- An alternative to cash:
 - Bring a prepaid/preloaded credit card - but be sure you know the PIN number
 - Bring a credit card and make sure it works in the USA.
- Be sure to tell your bank you'll be travelling internationally and that they should approve your purchases.