

Travel, Vaccination, Move-In Frequently Asked Questions

VISA:

- Question:** Embassies in my country are closed, or not issuing student visas. What are my options.
Answer: Given the unusual circumstances of COVID and the impact on U.S. embassies and visa applications, students may consider applying for a third country visa. To do this a student applies and interviews for the F-1 student visa at an open U.S. embassy in the country closest to them. This is called a third country visa because a student from one country is going to a second country to apply for a visa for a third country. NOTE: Generally, this practice is highly discouraged and is viewed with suspicion by U.S. consulate officers. Currently, however, since so many embassies are closed or have long wait times for interviews, students have had some success. The only other option is to defer enrollment until spring or fall 2022.
- Question:** If I'm able to get a visa appointment for September, may I start classes online and come to the U.S. when my visa is approved?
Answer: Yes, *ONLY IF you are enrolled full-time at IWU in online classes*. If you are able to enroll in full-time online classes at IWU (a very small number may be offered and the selection will be quite limited), and obtain your visa later in the semester, you may then make travel arrangements to come to campus later in the fall semester. Those who do not obtain a visa in time to come to campus for International Student Pre-Orientation **and** are not enrolled in full-time online classes, will have to wait until the January or August 2022 to come to campus.
NOTE: If your visa appointment is scheduled for mid-August or later AND you plan to enroll fall 2022, contact our office. We will need to provide an I-20 with an updated Program Start date.

TRAVEL

- Question:** What is the earliest date I can fly into the U.S.?
Answer: 30 days prior to your Program Start Date. Your Program Start date is 8/13/21. The earliest day you can arrive in the U.S. is 7/14/21.
- Question:** Do I have to be vaccinated to travel to the U.S.?
Answer: No.

COVID TESTING

- Question:** Do I need a COVID test to travel to the U.S.
Answer: Yes. ALL travelers, *including fully vaccinated travelers and U.S. citizens*, have to show proof of a negative COVID test taken 72 hours prior to arrival. Carefully [review this information](#) from the Center for Disease Control, CDC, for additional information.
- Question:** What if I had COVID, should I still get the COVID test?
Answer: Review [this information](#) from the CDC.
- Question:** Do I need to take another COVID test after arrival in the U.S.?
Answer: Yes. All travelers, including fully vaccinated travelers, must have a COVID test 3-5 days after arrival into the U.S. OR remain quarantined for 10 days.
- Question:** May I complete the 7-day quarantine living with a friend or relative in the U.S.?
Answer: Yes. If you complete the 7-day quarantine before coming to campus, and take a COVID test 3-5 days after arrival into the U.S. you must move to campus Friday, 8/13.
- Question:** If I am quarantined, how can I get a COVID test? What is the cost?
Answer: People in quarantine may leave to get a COVID test if masked and maintaining social distance. There is no cost for a COVID test.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PRE-ORIENTATION

- Question:** What is International Student Pre-Orientation?
Answer: International Student Pre-Orientation (also known as Pre-O) is a fun, informative and practical program for incoming international students that happens before Rising Titan, first year orientation. Topics covered include cultural adaptation to the U.S., academic success in college, student visa regulations, race in America,

etc. Students are able to open bank accounts, get phones/SIM cards during Pre-O; and meet other students in Pre-O programs. It's also an important time to begin to build community.

2. **Question:** If I have lived in the U.S. for many years with my family and attended high school in the U.S. am I required to participate in Pre-O?

Answer: While Pre-O is required for all incoming international students, some exceptions can be made for students who have lived with their immediate family in the U.S. for several years. Please contact our office as soon as possible to talk to us about this.

3. **Question:** If I attended high school in the U.S. but my family lives in our home country, am I required to participate in Pre-O?

Answer: Yes. International students who attended a residential or boarding high school in the U.S. are required to participate in Pre-O.

NOTE: You will love it~we promise!

MOVE-IN DATE

1. **Question:** When is Move-In day for incoming first year and exchange students?

Answer: Unvaccinated and vaccinated students: Monday, 8/9

Vaccinated students: Friday, 8/13

Unvaccinated students who have completed the 7-day quarantine in the U.S.: Friday, 8/13

2. **Question:** Is the move in date flexible? It's cheaper for me to arrive in the US on Tuesday, 8/10 than it is to arrive Monday, 8/9.

Answer: Move in day is **not** flexible. We have many students to help bring to campus. However, you may arrive in the U.S. 7/14 or after, then move to campus Monday, 8/9.

3. **Question:** Why do vaccinated students have 2 move in options?

Answer: Vaccinated students do not have a 7-day quarantine, thus can choose to move in either 8/9 or 8/13.

4. **Question:** Will someone from the International Office bring me to campus from O'Hare International Airport in Chicago? It's more expensive to fly to Bloomington, Illinois.

5. **Answer:** We will pick students up at the Central Illinois Regional Airport in Bloomington, and at Uptown Station in Normal, Illinois on Move-in dates. Students who arrive at other destinations will need to make their own transportation arrangements to get to campus. Review the Travel section in the [International Student Handbook](#) for additional information. NOTE: We will send you a summer survey in which you need to submit your fill travel itinerary.

NOTE: If Chicago is your final destination, do not book tickets until you check the [Peoria Charter Bus](#) schedule. Currently there is only one bus per day from O'Hare Airport to Uptown Station. This is the easiest way to get to Bloomington-Normal (Uptown Station) from O'Hare Airport. Taking a train from downtown Chicago is complicated and not advised for first time international travelers to the U.S.

6. **Question:** Is there a cost for me to move to campus on 8/9 or 8/13?

Answer: The cost for housing on campus early has been waived this fall. You will have to pay for food. Three meals per day will be prepared and delivered to your residence hall from campus dining services, Sodexo. Your student account will be billed. It will cost approximately \$22/day for meals.

7. **Question:** May I cook my own meals instead of purchasing food from campus dining services?

Answer: Unvaccinated students will not be able to leave campus to purchase food to prepare or to use the kitchen space in the residence hall because they will be in a 7-day quarantine. Fully vaccinated students will be able to purchase food off campus or eat in the dining hall (at their own cost.)

8. **Question:** Can Sodexo accommodate dietary requests such as vegan, vegetarian or Halal meals?

Answer: Yes. Please make your dietary needs known on the summer survey you receive from our office.

9. **Question:** Will I have to pay for meals during International Student Pre-Orientation (Pre-O)?

Answer: No, the International Office will cover the cost of your meals once Pre-Orientation begins. The cost of your meals during Rising Titan will also be covered. Your meal plan will begin on Sunday, 8/22 dinner.

COVID VACCINATIONS

1. **Question:** May I get vaccinated in the U.S.?

Answer: Yes and it is highly encouraged! The vaccination is available to international students in the U.S. and there is no cost.

2. Question: What vaccinations are accepted?

Answer: The [World Health Organization](#) has determined which vaccinations are accepted. Check the World Health Organization's site frequently for updates.