



Congratulations on your admission to Loyola University Chicago. What's next?

Below is a step-by-step guidance to help you prepare for your academic journey, and ease your transition into the US, Chicago, and the LUC campus.

Pre-Arrival-----

___ 1. Review your I-20 or DS-2019

- Make sure the following items are correct: your name, date of birth, country of birth, country of citizenship, major, degree level, English language proficiency (on the I-20 only) and finances.
- If you see an error, please contact us at iss@luc.edu immediately.

___ 2. Pay the SEVIS I-901 Fee

- Pay your SEVIS I-90 fee at <https://www.fmjfee.com/index.html>
- You will need to pay this fee before going to your visa appointment

IMPORTANT: make sure you have the receipt of your I-901 payment, and keep it. You will need to show this receipt every time you enter the US.

___ 3. Make your appointment

- Fill out the DS-160 and make a visa appointment at your local US Embassy or Consulate.
- Visit <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/study.html> for the most current information regarding your visa type.

___ 4. Educate yourself regarding your visa

- Visit <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/> for the most accurate and updated information about the US student visas, travelling, forms and employment opportunities.
- F-1 visa information: <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/students>
- J-1 visa information: <https://j1visa.state.gov/>
- Note: Students from Canada do not need a visa to study in the US, but must pay the SEVIS fee and show the I-20 or DS-2019 at customs.

___ 5. Sign up for Immigration Check In

- Immigration check-in is mandatory once you arrive.
- Fill out **the Immigration Check-In RSVP** form <https://goo.gl/forms/YnsYC5qGeGLUkjA13> to reserve your spot.

___ 6. Sign up for the International Student Orientation

- Attending the International Student Orientation is mandatory once you arrive.
- Fill out the **International Student Orientation RSVP** form <https://goo.gl/forms/4IGrQE71GvGCgbp63> to reserve your spot.

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___ 7. Housing

- Set up your living arrangements in Chicago. Learn the steps in our [Housing information](https://luc.edu/iss/housing.shtml) <https://luc.edu/iss/housing.shtml>.

___ 8. Register for classes

- Learn about class registration at <https://www.luc.edu/orientation/preparing/class-registration/>.
- Depending on your program of study, you may already have an assigned academic advisor. We encourage you to communicate with your academic advisor to plan out your classes.

___ 9. Complete your immunization requirement

- Proof of immunity is an Illinois state requirement. All Loyola students enrolled in seven or more credit hours must complete the two-step process to verify proof of immunity.
- Incomplete immunization information **will block access to registering or changing classes**.
- Visit The Wellness Center website <https://www.luc.edu/wellness/tools/immunizations/> for information

___ 10. Pay tuition fees

- Once you register for your classes, you will receive your first eBill.
- Visit the Office of the Bursar page <https://www.luc.edu/bursar/index.shtml> for information.

___ 11. Check your LUC email

- Regularly check your LUC email for any updates and information from the International Student and Scholars team, the department of your program of study, and other campus departments.

Traveling to Chicago-----

___ 1. Coming to the US

- We highly recommend that you arrive in the US prior to the start date stated in your I-20, and in time to attend the International Student Orientation. You may arrive as early as, but no earlier than, 30 days prior to the start date.

___ 2. Have the proper documents

- Documents that you **MUST** have on hand when going through immigration customs:
 - ✓ **Passport** (must be valid for at least 6 months into the future)
 - ✓ **I-20 or DS-2019** (must use the one issued by Loyola University Chicago)
 - ✓ **LUC Admission letter**
 - ✓ **SEVIS I-901 fee receipt**
 - ✓ **Proof of financial resources**
 - ✓ **Contact information and emergency number of the LUC Office for International Programs**
773-508-3899.

DO NOT put any of the above documents in your checked baggage!

___ 3. Transportation to campus

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- The OIP does not provide airport pick-ups. However, there are many modes of transportation you can use from the airport to your residence.
 - Taxis
 - Rideshare (Uber or Lyft)
 - Public Transportation (CTA)

Post-Arrival-----

___ 1. Retrieve your I-94 from <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/i94/#/recent-search>

- Once you enter the US, you should be able to access your I-94 from the link above.
- Fill the form, and always keep a record of your I-94 securely (physically or digitally)
- Retrieve your I-94 within one week after your arrival

Note: retrieve your I-94 after each time you enter the US if you travel out of the country throughout your study.

___ 2. Update your address on LOCUS

- Update your mailing address in the US within 10 days of your arrival in Chicago.

___ 3. Attend Immigration Check-In (**Mandatory**)

- Immigration check in is how you will inform the University and the US government that you are in the country and ready to start your academic studies.
- All new students starting a new degree* at LUC must check in with an international student advisor within 30 days of the start date in your I-20 or DS-2019, or your visa will be terminated.

* This includes students who are already in the US for another degree. (E.g. student who have completed Bachelor's degree and pursuing a Master's, etc.)

___ 4. Attend International Student Orientation (**Mandatory**)

- The International Student Orientation will cover crucial information regarding immigration policies, status maintenance and compliancy, and other resources you need regarding your time in the US, Chicago, and LUC.

___ 5. Get Involved! (**We are fun, too. We promise!**)

- Sign up for our Global Engagement programs! Participate in our Global Engagement Programs, which are designed for international and domestic students to interact and engage on campus and beyond.
- Check out <https://luc.edu/iss/globalengagementprogramming/> to learn about our community.
- Check out <https://luc.edu/studentdevelopment/student-experience/> to learn about activities and student organizations you can participate at Loyola University Chicago.

___ 6. CTA Transit Card

- **U-Pass** is available for all students who are enrolled full time. Learn more about how to get your card at <https://www.luc.edu/upass/>

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- If you are ineligible for a U-Pass, **Ventra Cards** are available to purchase at every CTA train stop, or you can get one online at <https://www.ventrachicago.com/>

___ **7. Banking**

- Options: Chase, Harris BMO, Bank of America, Huntington, etc.

___ **8. Phone**

- Options: T-Mobile, Verizon, AT&T, Sprint, MetroPCS, etc.