

[The following email was sent to all international students who have confirmed they will be attending IIT.]

We are so pleased that you have decided to join Illinois Institute of Technology! Below you will find a letter from the International Center, which will help you to prepare over the next few months to join us in August.

All students who have confirmed their enrollment to IIT will receive a packet of information from the Office of Undergraduate Admission; if you have not yet received this information, you should expect to receive it in the next few weeks.

Please make sure to check your email regularly. You will be receiving information from a number of staff and faculty members at IIT about housing, advising and registering for fall courses, placement tests, orientation etc.

Let me highlight a few important dates to assist you as you arrange airline tickets for the fall.

New Undergraduate International Student Early Arrival: Tuesday and Wednesday, August 12-13

New undergraduate international students may arrive as early as Tuesday, August 12, 2008. Only students who will be living on campus during the school year will be permitted to move in during the early arrival dates. Students who move into on-campus housing during this period will be charged a fee of \$37 per day.

New Undergraduate International Student Orientation: Thursday and Friday, August 14-15

All students will be able to move into their room for the school year on Thursday, August 14 for the orientation and welcome week. Students will not incur an additional room charge during this period.

New Undergraduate Student Welcome Week: Sunday to Wednesday, August 17-20

If you have any questions at all please don't hesitate to contact the Office of Undergraduate Admission.

Congratulations again and we'll see you this fall!

Sincerely,

Carolyn Schoen
Assistant Director &
Coordinator of International Admission
Office of Undergraduate Admission
Illinois Institute of Technology

Hello New IIT International Students!

We look forward to your arrival to Chicago in August 2008. Our office, The International Center, is the office that will assist you once you arrive into the United States. Among our many services are immigration advising, assistance with cultural adjustment, orientation, and many educational and social programs throughout the year. The purpose of this e-mail is to help facilitate your smooth and safe entry into the U.S. and your arrival to IIT.

There are 13 parts to this email:

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I-20/DS-2019

Forms I-20 (for F-1 students) and DS-2019 (for J-1 students) are documents issued by the school to students who have admission to the university and have current Financial Affidavits of Support (demonstrating adequate funds to pay for the first year of school) on file. The I-20/DS-2019 that you have obtained from IIT is required when you apply for an F-1 or a J-1 visa. At this time, the admission number field on Page 1 and the travel signature field on Page 3 of your I-20 will be blank, as it is not needed for your first entry to the United States. Also, please note that "*middle name*" is not a required field for an I-20; therefore, your middle name may not appear on your I-20 even if you have one.

For those of you who have not yet received an I-20 or if you have any questions regarding your I-20, please contact the admissions office directly.

SEVIS Fee of \$100

As of September 1, 2004, first-time applicants for the F-1/J-1 visa are required to pay a \$100 SEVIS fee to the U.S. Government in advance of their visa application. Please be aware that this SEVIS fee is a separate fee from the visa fee. To find out more about the SEVIS fee and how to pay this fee, please refer to the following websites:

<http://www.iit.edu/~internat/new%20students/pre-sevis.php>

Note: Illinois Institute of Technology would like to help alleviate the financial burden of these imposed government fees. During your second term of enrollment at IIT, we will provide new degree-seeking students with a tuition credit of \$100 if you can show us a copy of your SEVIS fee receipt. More information about this tuition credit will be given to you after you enroll at IIT.

Applying for the Visa

If you are in the process of obtaining your F-1 or J-1 visa, the following websites may be of help to you as you prepare for your visit to the US Embassy/Consulate:

http://www.nafsa.org/knowledge_community_network.sec/international_student_3/international_student_4/practice_resources_18/10_points_to_remember

<http://www.unitedstatesvisas.gov/>

Deferrals

If you have been issued either a SEVIS I-20 or DS-2019 form by IIT and you are unable to attend for the specified semester to which you were admitted, please contact the admission office that issued your I-20/DS-2019.

Graduate students studying at Main Campus, please refer to the International Student Handbook (http://www.grad.iit.edu/admission/intl_student_handbook.html) for deferral information.

Arrival into the U.S.

If you are currently outside the United States, upon your arrival to the U.S., you will go through a U.S. immigration inspection at the airport. Please be sure to have your passport (containing your valid U.S. student visa), IIT admission letter, SEVIS fee payment receipt and I-20/DS-2019 available at the time of this inspection. We also recommend that you carry proof of your finances as indicated on your I-20/DS-2019.

Canadian citizens entering the U.S. by air are no longer exempt from U.S. passport requirements. Please see the following website for more information: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cbpmc/cbpmc_2223.html

*Please note that new students are not permitted to enter the U.S. earlier than 30 days prior to the program start date listed on your I-20/DS-2019.

For more information about what to expect at the U.S. Port of Entry, please consult the following website: http://www.ice.gov/sevis/factsheet/100104ent_stdnt_fs.htm

Transportation from the Airport to IIT

There are several ways to get to IIT from Chicago's O'Hare International Airport:

1. Airport Meet and Greet Program: Current IIT students will meet you at O'Hare airport and bring you to IIT's Main Campus. Transportation will be provided and there is **no cost** to participate in this program.

Dates: August 11th - August 18, 2008

Where: O'Hare International Airport (International Terminal #5)

Shuttle Bus pick-up times at O'Hare – 5 pm and 7:30 pm daily

There will be an IIT Student Greeter inside *Terminal 5* to welcome you and answer any questions about IIT. You will receive a Welcome packet provided by the International Center.

Sign-up:

You must register in order to participate in this program. Please complete and submit the Airport Meet and Greet Registration Form, available at www.ic.iit.edu

This form will be available online **after June 09, 2008** and must be completed at least **ONE WEEK PRIOR** to your arrival date in Chicago.

***Please note that it may take up to 2 hours to go through customs and baggage claim; please plan accordingly for the appropriate shuttle bus time.*

***Please also note that if you arrive in a different terminal, you will need to take the O'Hare tram to Terminal 5 to meet up with IIT students and take the shuttle bus to IIT.*

2. Taxi: The easiest form of transportation is a taxicab, which can be found on the ground level outside the arrival area of each terminal at O'Hare. The cost is about \$40.00. Journey time to IIT is approximately 45 minutes.

3. Shuttle bus: "Omega Airport Shuttle" provides transportation between Chicago's South Side, including IIT, and O'Hare. The bus leaves from O'Hare Airport, Terminal #1, Door 1G and it departs every 30 minutes past the hour.

The shuttle bus service is available from 6:30am to 11:30pm. The ticket costs \$30 per person, payable to the driver. The shuttle bus stops at the corner of State and 33rd Street; just one block away from the IIT Housing office. Please inform the bus driver where you would like to be dropped off ahead of time.

For more information regarding boarding locations, shuttle schedule or fares, please call the Omega Airport Shuttle at (773) 483-6634 or visit their website at www.omegashuttle.com.

4. CTA- Public Transportation:

Coming from O'Hare Airport: The CTA trains are located at Terminal 2. If you arrive at another terminal, you will need to take the terminal trains to get to Terminal 2. Then, you will take the Blue Line to the Jackson stop and change to the Red Line towards Dan Ryan/95th. The IIT stop will be at Sox/35th Street. You will exit the train station towards 33rd St. Your journey should last approximately 1.5 hours.

Coming from Midway Airport: Take the CTA Orange Line towards the Loop/Downtown until the Roosevelt stop. You will need to change to the Green Line train direction Ashland/63rd. The IIT stop will be at 35th/Bronzeville/IIT. This stop is located 1 block South from the IIT residential campus. If your bags are large and cumbersome, please head right (the direction of the train) and exit at 35th Street, as the exit towards campus is too narrow for large bags and cases.

The current train fare for one ride is \$2.00. For more information, go to www.transitchicago.com

International Student Check-in

All international students must check-in within 2 business days upon arrival to IIT. The International Students Check-in station is located inside of the McCormick Tribune Campus Center (MTCC). Please bring your I-20/DS-2019 form, I-94 card, and passport with you to be processed by the staff from the International Center. This check-in process allows us to remove a special hold from your records, which otherwise will prevent you from registering for classes. The check-in station is open **starting** from July 21st. Detailed information about International Student Check-in will be posted on the web site, www.ic.iit.edu

International Orientation Information for International Students

New student orientation will be held on the following dates.

Undergraduate Students

Undergraduate Orientation Session for international students: Thursday, August 14th and Friday, August 15th

Website: [CLICK HERE.](#)

Direct questions to: Student Activities & Orientation.

Email: orientation@iit.edu.

International Program: Tuesday, August 19th at 1 pm

Direct questions to: International Center

Phone: 312-567-3680

Email: icenter@iit.edu

*** International students are also required to attend this program**

Note: All new undergraduate international students will be charged a \$150 orientation fee. This fee will appear on the first tuition bill. Please note that the orientation fee is non-refundable

Housing Information

Housing Services:

McCormick Student Village, 3241 S. Wabash, #110, Chicago, IL 60616

Phone: (312) 567-5075

Fax: (312) 567-5926

Email: housing@iit.edu

Office Hours: Monday - Friday: 8.30 AM to 5.00 PM.

For more information please go to the Housing web site at <http://www.housing.iit.edu> or email housing@iit.edu.

Housing Services has a variety of campus housing options for undergraduates. IIT is growing and campus housing continues to be a commodity. It is strongly recommended that undergraduate students apply for housing as early as possible.

Undergraduate Campus Housing Eligibility

Housing Services accepts applications from full-time undergraduate students, including visiting & exchange students. Applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. For general information regarding on-campus housing, please review the Housing Services website: <http://housing.iit.edu>.

Residence Halls

Residence Hall housing aims to serve the social and academic needs for undergraduate and graduate students. Residence halls are similar to dormitories/hostels. Going away to a university is much more than attending class and preparing for your professional future. It is an opportunity to meet new people, to exercise leadership and to grow.

Undergraduate students can live in Gunsaulus Hall (Juniors & Seniors only), McCormick Student Village or State Street Village. IIT is strongly committed to the educational value of on-campus living. Because of this commitment, all freshmen not residing with a parent or guardian are required to live in IIT campus housing.

Accommodation

Students with a room assignment in the residence halls will find their room furnished with a twin bed, desk, dresser, and chair. Built-in closets are included. All students are responsible to provide their own blanket, pillows, bed sheets and other linens. The typical IIT residence hall room in McCormick Student Village is approximately 11 feet by 16 feet. Students who reside in the residence are also required to participate in a meal plan.

To learn more about Gunsaulus Hall, McCormick Student Village and State Street Village Accommodations, please view <http://housing.iit.edu>.

Roommates

Roommates are assigned based on gender and space availability. Most halls and floors are coed, while individual apartments are not.

Every effort is made to place students who mutually request each other in the same apartment. It is recommended that students who wish to live together each email housing@iit.edu to make their roommate request.

Applicants will be given priority based on availability and according to the date the completed application is submitted. Assignments are made without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, disability, sexual orientation or veteran status.

Fall 2008 room assignments and roommate information will be distributed in June. Housing Services reserves the right to make assignment changes as necessary. Updates can be viewed at: <http://myroom.iit.edu/>

How to apply

All new, transfer, visiting and exchange students must apply for campus housing upon accepting admission to IIT.

Housing is limited, so accommodations must be booked well in advance. Applications are processed in the order in which they are received.

When to arrive

If you have questions about check-in, room assignment, or housing in general, please contact the Housing Office directly, Email: housing@iit.edu, Phone: 312-567-5075, Fax: 312-567-5926.

Temporary Housing:

Hostelling International Chicago If you plan to arrive earlier than the opening of the residence halls, or prior to the start of your apartment lease or **do not have a room or apartment lined up**, temporary housing may be available at Hostelling International Chicago. Maximum permitted stay is 2 weeks. The hostel is conveniently located about 3 miles from IIT's main campus and is easily accessible by public transportation. For hostel reservations and other information go to their website at <http://www.hichicago.org/> Reservations are

preferred. For more information on public transportation **to and from the hostel to campus**, go to <http://www.transitchicago.com/>

Local Hotels There are also a number of local hotels that provide discounted rates. For information on youth hostel near IIT [click here](#). A number of Chicago area hotels offer discounted rates to IIT students, their families and friends. Please see the [Hotel list](#) for additional information.

Tuition and Fees

Tuition and fees can be paid for upon arrival to IIT and after class registration. Payments should be made through the Bursar's Office. For more information please visit: <http://www.enrollment.iit.edu/bursar/>

Transfer Procedures

If you are coming to IIT directly from another school, university or college in the United States, please visit our website for more information on the transfer procedures. <http://www.iit.edu/~internat/new%20students/pre-transfer.php> Upon your arrival in Chicago, you must report to the International Center to complete the transfer of your F-1 status to IIT. **Please remember to bring all previous I-20s to the International Center for check-in.**

Life in Chicago

To learn more about Chicago and what it's like to live in Chicago, please visit the following website:

* City of Chicago Website: <http://egov.cityofchicago.org/city/webportal/home.do>

Other Helpful Links

Here are some other helpful websites you might want to check out before your arrival:

*New Student Information on the International Center Website: www.ic.iit.edu

* Student Handbook: <http://www.iit.edu/~osa/Handbook>

*Graduate International Student Handbook: www.grad.iit.edu/admission/intl_student_handbook.html

*Registered Student Organizations at IIT: <http://www.iit.edu/~stuact/a-list.htm>

*Graduate Student Association at IIT: <http://www.gsa.iit.edu/>

*International Students' Organization at IIT: <http://www.iit.edu/~iso>

We are looking forward to your arrival to IIT this August!

Sincerely,

The International Center Staff
Illinois Institute of Technology
3300 S. Federal Street, Room 405
www.ic.iit.edu