



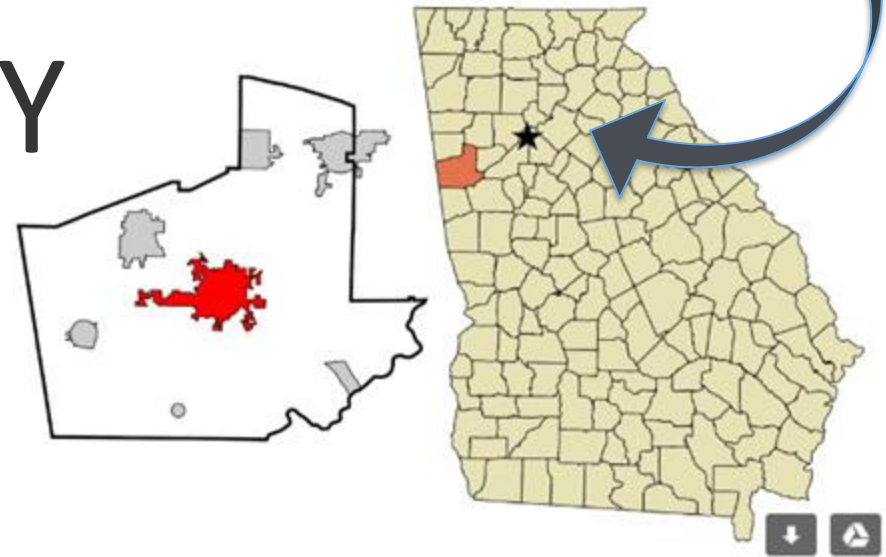
Spring 2025

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ORIENTATION!

Say 'Hello' in the chat and introduce yourselves!

Welcome (x5), Students!

TO THE U.S.A.
TO GEORGIA
TO CARROLL COUNTY
TO CARROLLTON
TO UWG



UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA

We are here to advise and support you!



Paul Sargent
ISAP – Director



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ISAP – Office Manager



Dr. Anne Gaquere-Parker
AVP – Education Abroad



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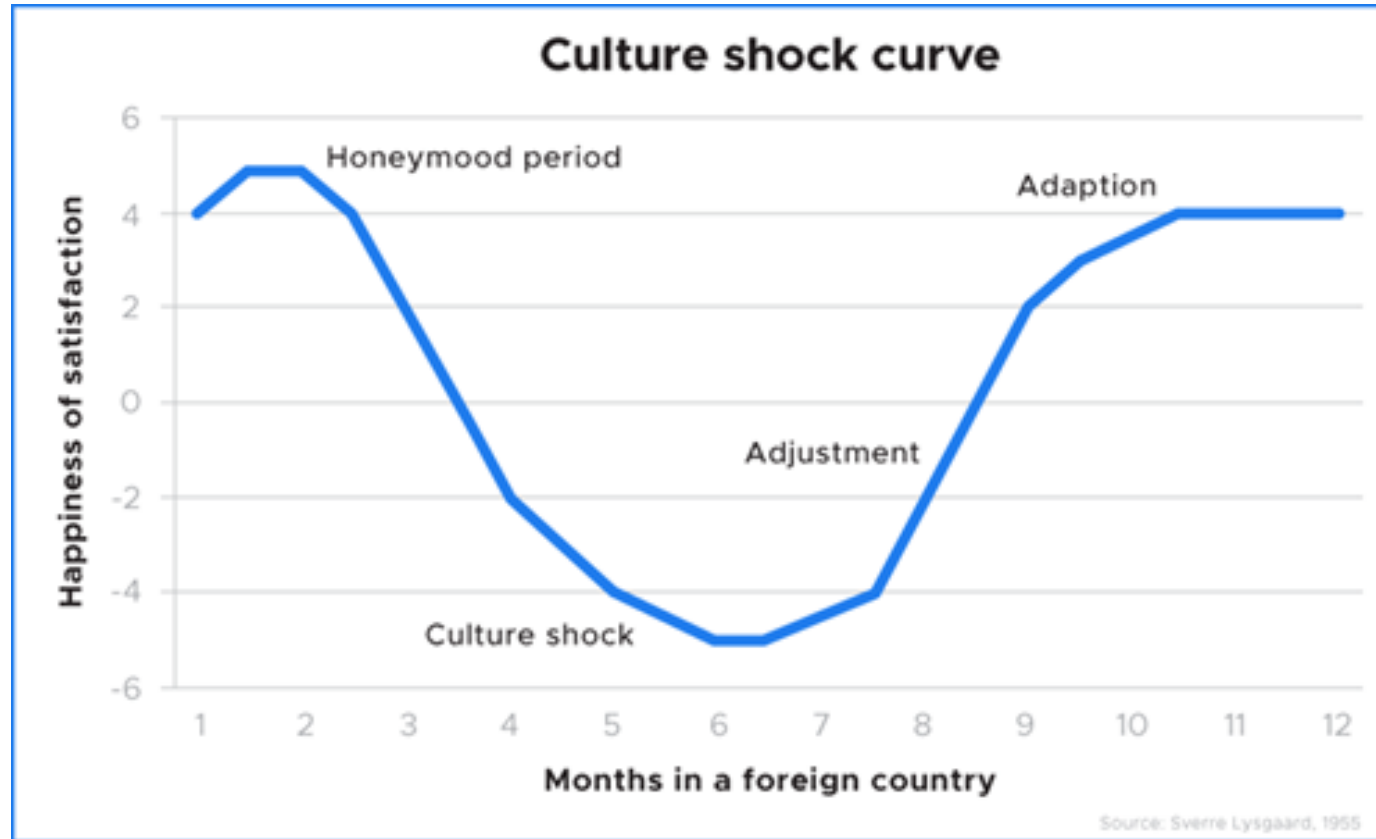
Orientation: Goals and Outcomes

Why Attend Orientation?

- Meet your classmates (and hopefully in person next week)!
- Help prepare yourself for 'Culture Shock'
- Ease your transition to living in the USA
- Understand immigration rules and responsibilities of F1/J1 students
- Understand US Tax Requirements



Culture Shock



Student Resources

Need to talk to someone?

- We are always happy to listen to you in ISAP!
- Confidentiality
 - We will keep anything you share with us confidential
 - Exceptions apply to “Mandatory Reporting Laws”



Student Resources

Mandatory Reporting Laws

By law, we must report conversations with students that involve:

- Title IX Violations
 - Harassment, Discrimination, Sexual Violence, Abuse, etc.
- Federal Laws
 - Illegal work, immigration violations, failure to maintain status



Student Resources

Counseling Center

Mental Health Professionals are available at UWG!

- Services are included in your fees, use them!
- Exempt from some Mandatory Reporting laws



How to Get Help?

International Student Admissions & Programs

Mandeville Hall, Ground Floor

www.WestGA.edu/ISAP

Phone: 678-839-4780

Email: Global@WestGA.edu

Office Hours: 9-11 & 1-4 Mon-Fri



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IMMIGRATION & REGULATIONS TO MAINTAIN STATUS



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What is SEVIS?



Student
Exchange
Visitor
Information
System



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What is SEVIS?

SEVIS is a federal database with all the information about you and your dependents (F2s/J2s) such as:

- Address
- Degree Program/Dates
- Finances
- Sponsors
- Employment Authorizations



What is SEVIS?

- SEVIS is used by institutions to create your I-20 or DS-2019
- Every F1/J1 SEVIS ID Number is unique, and yours
- Must be kept updated to ensure your I-20/DS-2019 remains valid!
- Grants you the ability to travel and apply for a visa
- Must remain active until you complete your program to remain legally present in the USA



What is a I-94?

- The I-94 is your Arrival Record
- Shows when/where you last entered the USA
- Can be obtained for free through Customs and Border Protection
- <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov>

The screenshot shows the U.S. Customs and Border Protection website interface for I-94 Number Retrieval. The header includes the agency logo and name, along with OMB No. 1651-0111 and an expiration date of 11/30/2014. The main content area displays the following information:

- Admission (I-94) Record Number: [REDACTED]
- Admit Until Date (MM/DD/YYYY): D/S
- Details provided on Admission (I-94) form:
 - Family Name: [REDACTED]
 - First (Given) Name: Federico
 - Birth Date (MM/DD/YYYY): [REDACTED]
 - Passport Number: [REDACTED]
 - Passport Country of Issuance: Italy
 - Date of Entry (MM/DD/YYYY): 05/11/2013
 - Class of Admission: F1

Below the form details, there are three informational notes:

- ▶ Effective April 26, 2013, DHS began automating the admission process. An alien lawfully admitted or paroled into the U.S. is no longer required to be in possession of a preprinted Form I-94. A record of admission printed from the CBP website constitutes a lawful record of admission. See 8 CFR § 1.4(d).
- ▶ If an employer, local, state or federal agency requests admission information, present your admission (I-94) number along with any additional required documents requested by that employer or agency.
- ▶ Note: For security reasons, we recommend that you close your browser after you have finished retrieving your I-94 number.



What is a I-20?

The I-20 is the Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Students

- This gives you 'lawful presence' in the USA to study
- Must be presented, along with your visa, for entrance to the USA
- Ensure the accuracy of all of the information printed on your I-20!
- DO NOT let it expire prior to the completion of your studies!
- Ensure a valid 'Travel Signature' is present before travel!



MAINTAINING STATUS



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Document Requirements

Your documents are your responsibility – Follow these rules!

- Maintain a valid passport
 - Must be renewed before you reach the final 6-months
- Keep your I-20 active
- Ensure you have your original documents if travelling
- Maintain your own copies in a secure and safe location



F1 & J1 Students – Maintaining Status

Keep ISAP Updated of Changes!

- Legal name changes
- Citizenship Status
- Program of Study/Degree Level
- Funding Sources
- Address/Phone Number Changes



F1 & J1 Students - Maintaining Status

Do Not Let Your I-20 Expire!

- Following the 'Program End Date' on your I-20, your status is automatically terminated by the US Government
- To extend your I-20/DS-2019, you must work with ISAP and your academic advisors **BEFORE** the 'End Date'

PROGRAM OF STUDY			
EDUCATION LEVEL DOCTORATE	MAJOR 1 Economics, General 45.0601	MAJOR 2 None 00.0000	
NORMAL PROGRAM LENGTH 72 Months	PROGRAM ENGLISH PROFICIENCY Required	ENGLISH PROFICIENCY NOTES Student is proficient	
PROGRAM START DATE 01 SEPTEMBER 2015	PROGRAM END DATE 31 MAY 2021		
FINANCIALS			
ESTIMATED AVERAGE COSTS FOR: 9 MONTHS		STUDENT'S FUNDING FOR: 9 MONTHS	
Tuition and Fees	\$ 23,000	Personal Funds	\$ 3,000
Living Expenses	\$ 6,000	Scholarship and Teaching Assistantship	\$ 29,000
Expenses of Dependents (1)	\$ 3,000	Funds From Another Source	\$
Other	\$	On-Campus Employment	\$
TOTAL	\$ 32,000	TOTAL	\$ 32,000
REMARKS			
Orientation begins 8/25/2015. Please report to ISSS upon arrival.			



F1 & J1 Students - Maintaining Status

Address Requirements

- **Local Address:** Temporary U.S. address (Do not use a P.O. Box)
- **International Foreign Address:** Your home country address.
- **Mailing Address:** Where you will receive paper mail.



F1 & J1 Students - Maintaining Status

Address Requirements

- **Line 1:** Street # and Street Name Only
- **Line 2:** Apt, Room, Suite
- **Line 3:** City, State, Postal / Zip Code

Example: 458 Hays Mill Rd.
Apt. A9
Carrollton, GA 30309



Keep Your I-20 Active – Follow the Rules!

The most common reasons an I-20/DS-2019 is terminated:

- Failure to maintain a full-time & in-person course load
- Spend more than 5 months outside of the USA
- Academic Suspension/Expulsion
- Criminal Activity or Illegal Work



Keep Your I-20 Active – Follow the Rules!

Full-Time Enrollment:

- Undergraduate Students: 12 Credit Hour Minimum
 - At least 9 credit hours must be face-to-face in Carrollton
- Graduate Students: 6 Credit Hour Minimum (9 Recommended)
 - At least 3 credit hours must be face-to-face in Carrollton
- All: Summer is considered an optional term*



Keep Your I-20 Active – Follow the Rules!

Reduced Course Loads Authorization allows you to take less classes

- An RCL can be authorized in very limited circumstances!
 - First Semester:
 - Improper Course Placement
 - Initial Difficulty with Reading/English
 - Unfamiliarity with U.S. Teaching Methods



Keep Your I-20 Active – Follow the Rules!

Reduced Course Loads Authorization allows you to under enroll

- An RCL can be authorized in very limited circumstances!
 - Medical Condition/Illness
 - Must be authorized by a doctor/clinical psychologist
 - Cannot exceed 12 months authorization
 - Final Term of Study



Traveling While Studying

To Travel Outside of the USA, you must:

- Ensure you have a valid 'Travel Signature'
 - Request a signature at least 2-weeks before you travel
 - Travel signatures are valid for a period of 12-months
- Make sure your passport and visa are valid/unexpired
 - If your visa is expired, you will need to renew it before re-entering

Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

I-20, Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status
OMB NO. 1653-0038

SEVIS ID: N0004705512 (F-1) NAME: John Doe Smith

EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION

EMPLOYMENT STATUS	TYPE
EMPLOYMENT START DATE	EMPLOYMENT END DATE
EMPLOYER NAME	EMPLOYER LOCATION
COMMENTS	

CHANGE OF STATUS/CAP-GAP EXTENSION

REQUESTED VISA TYPE	REQUEST/PETITION STATUS	RECEIPT NUMBER	BENEFIT START DATE/REQUEST DATE
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EVENT HISTORY

EVENT NAME	EVENT DATE
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OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS

AUTHORIZATION	START DATE	END DATE
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TRAVEL ENDORSEMENT

This page when properly endorsed, may be used to certify that the student will attend the same school after a temporary absence from the United States. Each certification signature is valid for one year.

SCHOOL OFFICIAL	TITLE	SIGNATURE	DATE ISSUED	PLACE ISSUED
		X		
		X		
		X		
		X		



Employment in the USA

On-Campus Work

All students on a valid and active I-20 are allowed to work on-campus!

- 20 hours/week permitted as a Student or Graduate Assistant
- F-1s - No ISAP authorization is required, but you will need a SSN
- J-1s – ISAP authorization is required, but simple to obtain
- On-Campus positions pay a minimum of \$9.50/hour
- Find available jobs at: <https://www.westga.edu/hr/index.php>



Employment in the USA

Off-Campus Work

Never accept off-campus work without obtaining authorization first!

- Authorization is possible in limited circumstances
- Participation in a CPT/OPT workshop is required before obtaining authorization
- You may qualify for CPT/OPT after completing both a Fall and Spring semester of study



Employment in the USA

Off-Campus Work

CPT – Curricular Practical Training

- Allows current students to work off-campus during your studies
- Must be for a credit-bearing internship class
- Must be related to your major, and authorized by your advisor/ISAP
- Allows for 20 hours/week; you must maintain full-time enrollment
- Can be a paid, or unpaid internship position



Employment in the USA

Volunteering

'True Volunteering' is Allowed

- Unpaid positions involved in 'giving back' to the community
 - Volunteer at: Food Bank, Animal Shelter, Blood Donations, etc.
- Must not be involved in a 'professional' role
 - A graphic design student cannot build websites for a Food Bank
- An unpaid professional position still requires CPT authorization



Employment in the USA

Identification in the USA

The USA does not have a National Identification Card

- Each state has a Driver's License/State ID
- A license can be obtained through GA DDS
- The process to apply for a license can vary:
 - Previously licensed, or first time?
 - Do you have a SSN number, or not?



Employment in the USA

Social Security Numbers (SSNs)

Required for those obtaining jobs in the USA

- Used to identify an individual
- Used to withhold and pay taxes to the IRS

Only students who are working in the USA
are required to obtain a SSN



Employment in the USA

Social Security Numbers (SSNs)

Obtaining a Social Security Number

- Step 1: Apply for jobs!
- Step 2: Interview, and be offered a job!
- Step 3: Provide ISAP the Offer Letter
- Step 4: Submit application to SSN Office
 - Wait 2-weeks after arrival to apply!



Taxation in the USA

If you earn money in the USA, expect to pay tax

- Not all 'standard' taxes apply to F1/J1 students
- Many factors determine your tax rate
- Taxes are due April 15th, each year
- Be sure to attend an ISAP Tax Workshop!



Taxation in the USA

Some scholarship types are taxable!

- Even if you do not work, you may still owe taxes
- Scholarships covering more than the cost of tuition are taxable
 - Athletes are most commonly impacted
- You may require an ITIN (Individual Taxpayer ID Number)



Taxation in the USA

ITINs and you!

- If you will be paying taxes, but don't work, how do you get a SSN?
- The ITIN is an alternative to the SSN, in this situation
 - Must be applied for through the IRS
 - It can take up to 7 weeks to be approved
 - You must have it on/before April 15th to pay your taxes



Important Deadlines

Add/Drop Deadline: Jan. 17th

Payment Deadline: Jan. 21st

Withdrawal Deadline: March 6th



Bill Payment

▼ Tuition		\$10,320.00
UG-Tuition-In State	12/31/24	-\$561.00
UG-Tuition-Base Rate	12/31/24	\$561.00
UG-Tuition-Out of Country Prem	12/31/24	\$1,503.00
UG-Tuition-In State	12/31/24	\$561.00
UG-Tuition-Base Rate	12/31/24	\$2,244.00
UG-Tuition-Out of Country Prem	12/31/24	\$6,012.00
▼ Mandatory Fees and Special Course Fees		\$2,505.00
UG-Technology Fee	12/31/24	\$55.00
UG-Athletic Complex Fee	12/31/24	\$130.00
UG-Athletic Fee	12/31/24	\$195.00
UG-Activity Fee	12/31/24	\$59.00
United Health Ins. Inter - Spr	12/12/24	\$1,705.00
➤ Housing		\$3,550.00
➤ Meal Plans		\$2,491.00
▼ Miscellaneous Fees		\$135.00
International Orientation Fees	1/7/25	\$85.00
Sevis	12/31/24	\$50.00

Ensure your bill is complete and

If something is missing, email global@westga.edu right away!



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Payment Instructions

Payment Portal:

- TouchNet PayPath – MyUWG Account
- Credit Card Payment (2.85% processing fee)
- E-Check (ACH) Payment
- Physical Check or Money Order
- [FlyWire](#) or TransferMate (International Bank-to-Bank Transfers)

PAY NOW
WITH *flywire*



TransferMate
GLOBAL PAYMENTS



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Conclusion

We are very happy to have you here!

Welcome to the University of West Georgia!

Questions?



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