



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA

**INTERNATIONAL
PROGRAMS** **2018
2019**

PRE-DEPARTURE PACKET

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Omaha

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WELCOME TO THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA!

We are excited to host you at the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO). This interactive packet includes important information and steps you need to take to complete your travels to Omaha, Nebraska.

The table of contents is linked to each page within the packet. Please use it to easily navigate the document. The buttons throughout allow you to access webpages that will help you complete necessary steps.

The arrow indicator in the bottom right corner will return you to this page when clicked so that you may quickly access the table of contents.

It is advised to carry a printed or electronic version of the packet with you when are traveling in case you need a reminder or quick access.



BEYOND BORDERS

The portraits featured in this packet are from a 2016 photo shoot called *Beyond Borders: Celebrating the International Maverick* by UNO Multimedia Specialist Ryan Henriksen. The students featured in this portrait series come from ten countries and each of the six colleges at UNO. Just like you, these students made an important decision to study at UNO. Nearly 2,000 international students from more than 100 countries attend UNO. We are excited that you have chosen the University of Nebraska at Omaha.



SEVIS AND VISAS

PAY THE SEVIS FEE

As soon as you receive a Form I-20 or DS-2019 from UNO, pay the SEVIS I-901 fee to the U.S. government online. Make sure you print a copy of this receipt. A receipt will also be mailed to you.

[PAY SEVIS I-901 FEE](#)

OBTAIN A VISA

As soon as you pay the SEVIS fee, schedule an appointment with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate.

- Check with the U.S. Embassy or Consulate about specific requirements for obtaining your visa.
- F and J students must print their I-901 SEVIS Fee payment receipt and present it as proof of payment at their visa interview and when entering the United States at a U.S. port of entry.
- You may not use an email notice as proof of payment.

[NEAREST U.S. EMBASSY OR CONSULATE](#)



HOUSING AND RESIDENCE LIFE

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS, GRADUATE STUDENTS, AND SCHOLARS

You have many housing options to choose from. International students and scholars can live in on-campus residence halls or in nearby off-campus apartment complexes. Apply for on-campus housing or learn about available off-campus housing options online.

[ON-CAMPUS HOUSING](#)

[OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING](#)

ILUNO INTENSIVE ENGLISH STUDENTS

UNO will help you arrange for your housing. You need to complete a housing request form online. Make your housing request at least **one month before arrival** and notify us of your arrival date so we have time to accommodate you. Please note that on-campus housing fills quickly.

[HOUSING REQUEST FORM](#)





ITEMS TO CARRY WITH YOU WHILE TRAVELING TO OMAHA

- Passport
- Form I-20 or DS-2019
- Copy of bank statement
- Itinerary and other travel documents
- Medical records
- School records
- Birth and/or marriage certificate, if applicable
- Currency
- Items needed for one night in a hotel
- Medication, if needed, with translated and original prescriptions
- Cell phone
- This packet of information

AIRPORT PICKUP FROM EPPLEY AIRFIELD OMAHA (OMA)

PLAN IN ADVANCE

Requests for airport pickup are only guaranteed if you:

- Request a pickup by the deadline by December 20, 2018 by 5:00 P.M. (CDT).
- Request for pickup must be made online.
- Arrive on January 2 from 8 A.M. and 10 P.M. (CDT)
- UNO will Only offer airport pickup for those students living on UNO campus. We are unable to provide service to other parts of the Omaha area.

[REQUEST PICKUP](#)

OMAHA TAXI SERVICE

If you live off-campus, or arrive on a day other than 2 January, there are options available to you such as Uber, Lyft, and taxi services to get you between the airport and your housing.

[UBER](#)

[LYFT](#)

[TAXI SERVICE](#)

RECOMMENDED HOTELS

Depending on your arrival time, you may need to stay in a hotel. Make sure you request the special UNO rate. Expect to pay about \$90 to \$120, including tax for your room.

- **Courtyard Marriott Aksarben Village (Located Near Scott Campus)**
1625 S. 67th Street, Omaha, NE 68106 | 1.402.951.4300
- **Country Inn & Suites (Located Near Eppley Airfield)**
2210 Abbott Drive, Carter Lake, IA 51510 | 1.712.347.5600

IMMIGRATION FORMS AND PROCEDURES

FORM I-94, SEVIS, AND VISAS

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) will issue an electronic I-94. You will need to do the following upon entering the United States:

- Check your passport to make sure that the CBP officer has put an entry stamp indicating that you entered on a certain date, in a certain visa status (e.g. F-1), and can stay until a certain date or D/S (duration of status) in the case of F and J visa holders.
- Print out your I-94 form. You will need it for other purposes.

I-94 FORM

CUSTOMS

Before landing, you will fill out a customs declaration. Remember the following:

- Certain items such as fruit, vegetables, drugs, and firearms are not allowed in the United States without special permission.
- Report the value of the items you are carrying into the United States.
- Ask the flight attendant if you have questions.
- We encourage students to research what items can be brought into the U.S.

After landing, be ready to present your passport, visa, and Form I-20 or DS-2019 to the immigration officer. They may ask for evidence of financial support, like the copy of your bank statement, and will ask questions about your plans in the United States. You will then go to a checkpoint where your bags may be inspected by a customs official.

U.S. CUSTOMS & BORDER PATROL

IMPORTANT

Be sure to give your correct name (as it appears on the visa page of your passport) to the airlines when purchasing plane tickets.





CURRENCY AND MONEY

INFORM YOUR BANK

Before departing for the United States, tell your bank that you will be traveling. Banks may not process international transactions without receiving authorization from you.

CREDIT AND DEBIT CARDS

Credit and debit cards are the safest and most convenient way to spend money in the United States. Credit and debit cards are accepted almost everywhere. Prior to departure, confirm with your bank that your cards will work in the United States. Make sure your credit limit is high enough if you plan to use a credit card for expenses while in the United States.

ILUNO students should be prepared to pay tuition, fees, and health insurance during the first week of classes.

CARRYING CASH

Carrying large amounts of cash is strongly discouraged. For most students and scholars, \$300 to \$400 in U.S. currency is enough to get settled in Omaha. With this amount, you should easily be able to pay for a night in a hotel, purchase meals, and immediate housing items like bedding and bathroom supplies. Whenever possible, pay other large expenses like housing deposits and/or first month of rent with credit or debit cards.

EXPENSES TO GET YOU STARTED IN OMAHA

It's very important that you consider a financial plan for your immediate needs upon arrival in the U.S. Examples of these include:

- First month of rent and potentially last month of rent for off-campus housing
- Travel emergencies
- Airport pickup (if you are not able to use the UNO shuttle service, refer to page 4)
- Short hotel stay
- Housing supplies
- Meals



STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE POLICY

All international students who are on an F or J visas are required to be enrolled in the UNO Health Insurance Policy. The charge will be added to your tuition and fees bill. Students sponsored by their home country government with a financial guarantee on file at UNO that extends through the end of the semester will not be assessed insurance and do not need to request a waiver. Waivers will only be reviewed for students who have a US based employer plan.

WAIVER INFORMATION

Waivers are difficult to obtain. They are only available to students who are eligible and the non-UNO policy must contain the following:

- Must be a U.S.-based carrier that pays for care in Nebraska
- Deductible must be \$500 or less
- Unlimited major medical coverage including pre-existing conditions
- Unlimited medical evacuation and repatriation coverage
- Meets or exceeds Affordable Care Act requirements
- Coverage premium must be paid in full for the entire semester

POLICY REVIEW

Each policy will be individually reviewed before a waiver is granted and must be submitted through the portal on MavLINK.

[ACCESS MAVLINK](#)



HEALTH SERVICES AT UNO

PROOF OF MMR (MEASLES, MUMPS, RUBELLA)

Proof of two immunizations is required to ensure your health and safety while at UNO. Measles is a serious but preventable disease. To prevent measles outbreaks, UNO requires all new students and scholars to show proof of immunization or immunity. Measles immunizations may be listed on your immunization record as MMR, M/R or Measles. If you prefer to provide a positive measles titer, a record of the lab result must be provided. Immunization records can be obtained from your health care provider. They may also be available from your high school or colleges or universities you have attended. Public health department and military records are also accepted.

- Records must include month, day and year.
- Please attach a copy of your records to the form.
- Please do not send originals.
- If you need the MMR vaccine or blood titer test upon your arrival, you must visit Nebraska Medicine-UNO Health Center in 102 Health and Kinesiology (H&K) on UNO's Dodge Campus. Appointments are needed and the cost is included in UNO's student health insurance.

TUBERCULOSIS SCREENING

All international students, scholars, and ILUNO students must have a tuberculosis screening upon arrival at UNO. This is done during orientation. If you arrive earlier or later than in-person orientation, you may make an appointment with the UNO Health Center Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday to get the test. Chest X-rays will be required for people who test positive. The cost is included in UNO's student health insurance.

STUDENTS UNDER 19 YEARS OF AGE

If you are younger than 19, the UNO Health Center needs authorization from a parent or guardian to provide you with health care services. Have a parent or guardian sign and have notarized the Power of Attorney Form.

[POWER OF ATTORNEY FORM - ENGLISH](#)

[POWER OF ATTORNEY FORM - SPANISH](#)

MENINGOCOCCAL MENINGITIS DISEASE

Nebraska State Law requires students and scholars living on campus read this information on Meningococcal Meningitis Disease and Immunization (Menactra/MCV4 or Menomune/MPSV4). Parents of students younger than 19 are also required to read this information. UNO encourages all students and scholars to consider getting this vaccination and to become knowledgeable about meningitis and its symptoms. The vaccine is available at the UNO Health Center.

Meningococcal Meningitis Disease is a severe bacterial infection of the bloodstream and meninges (a thick lining covering the brain and spinal cord). It is a relatively rare disease and usually occurs as an isolated event. Clusters of cases or outbreaks are possible. The meningococcus germ is spread by direct close contact with nose or throat discharges of infected people. College students who live on campus have a slightly higher risk of getting this infection than others their age.

Students and scholars who do not want the vaccine must first read the information on the website. Signing the immunization waiver indicates that you understand the possible risk or not receiving this vaccine. If you are under 19, a parent must sign the waiver for you.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)



ORIENTATION

ILUNO INTENSIVE ENGLISH STUDENTS, UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS, GRADUATE STUDENTS, AND SCHOLARS

All new students and scholars on F-1 or J-1 visas, including those transferring from another school in the United States and those moving from ILUNO to UNO, must attend orientation. At orientation, you will meet other new students, take a campus tour, and learn about the city of Omaha. You will also receive important information about university services, immigration regulations, health services, culture shock, and special activities and clubs that involve U.S. and international students.

PLACEMENT EXAMS

Taking the English and math placement exams are required for all new undergraduate international students, unless students have English and math credit at another U.S. college or university. If you have English or math transfer credit from another U.S. institution, please contact your academic advisor to see if you need to take the placement exam. All other undergraduate students must take these exams. Graduate MBA students must also take the English placement exam.

We will offer placement exams at the UNO Testing Center as a part of orientation. We will offer the Math Placement Exam on 2 January at the UNO Testing Center at 1:30 PM. Bring your passport to use as a photo ID. Sign up to take the English Placement Exams on MavLINK at your convenience.

[SIGN UP HERE](#)

ACADEMIC ADVISING AND REGISTERING FOR CLASSES

All students in a degree program must meet with an academic advisor to select and register for classes each semester. After contacting your academic advisor, you will register for classes on MavLINK by logging in with your NUID. Your NUID is a unique 8-digit number assigned to you during the application process.

[FIND YOUR ADVISOR](#)

[REGISTER FOR CLASSES](#)

ACTIVATE YOUR EMAIL ACCOUNT

All students enrolled in classes at UNO are given a gMAV email account. Important academic and billing information as well as emails from International Programs and advising information will be emailed to your UNO email account.

[LEARN HOW TO ACCESS GMAV](#)

PICK UP YOUR MAVCARD

After you have enrolled in classes and arrived on campus, you will be able to get your MavCARD. This is your ID card used for functions such as: accessing parking garages, gaining free admission to sporting and cultural events, checking out items from the Criss Library, purchasing food on campus, accessing the residence halls and facilities such as the Wellness Center, and much more. MavCARDS are issued in the MavCARD Services Office on the second floor of the Milo Bail Student Center (MBSC). Your passport is required to obtain your MavCARD.

TRAVEL NOTES

Take this packet of information with you in case you need to reference it later. Use this page for notes and reminders while you travel to Omaha. You may print and handwrite your notes or you may type into the empty lines and save an electronic version.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

UNO International Programs Office: 1.402.554.2293

Emergencies in the United States: 911

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Airline _____

Flight # _____

Date _____

Time _____

Airline _____

Flight # _____

Date _____

Time _____

Airline _____

Flight # _____

Date _____

Time _____

Airline _____

Flight # _____

Date _____

Time _____

DESTINATION UPON ARRIVAL IN OMAHA

OTHER NOTES

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS



6001 Dodge St, ASH 201
Omaha, NE 68182



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world@unomaha.edu



1.402.554.2293



1.402.554.2949



[/unointernationalstudents](https://www.facebook.com/unointernationalstudents)

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