INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ARRIVAL GUIDE: FALL 2019

BEFORE ARRIVAL

What to do before you arrive

CHECK OFF ITEMS ON YOUR TO-DO LIST

1. MAKE A VISA APPOINTMENT.

You should make your appointment for your visa interview as soon as possible after receiving your Form I-20 or DS-2019 and paying the I-901 SEVIS fee. To obtain an I-20, you will need to submit the following to the Office of Admissions: 1) a copy of your passport identification page and 2) a bank statement, signed or stamped by a bank official, showing proof of sufficient funds to cover the cost of attendance for one year. If the bank statement’s original language is not English, you will also need to submit an official English translation that is signed or stamped by the translator.

You can get more information about getting a visa in your country online. We also recommend that you attend one of our free online info sessions that covers visa preparation.

2. LEARN ABOUT COURSE ENROLLMENT.

See pages 20-22 for more details about course enrollment.

3. SET UP YOUR MY.UNL USERNAME AND PASSWORD.

In applying and being admitted, you have likely set up your MyRED credentials, which consist of: your NU ID (8-digit number) and a password you set up. Before you arrive on campus, it is very important to activate your my.UNL username and password, which is different from your MyRED credentials.

You will need this username and password for:

- Connecting to the campus Wi-Fi.
- Requesting a Huskers email account (required for all students).
- Accessing the Canvas platform, which is the academic portal for students.
- Logging in to campus computers.

Because this is a different system than MyRED, you will have a different login/password. To activate your my.UNL account, go to trueyou.nebraska.edu/SelfService, login and click “change password” and select “Account ID – University of Nebraska-Lincoln”, and then type in your new password. If you get a message saying you have already claimed your account, check your email to see if you have been sent your password previously. The username will typically consist of the first letter of your first (given) name and your entire last name (family/surname), plus a number. For example, the username for "Herbie Husker” would be hhusker1.
4. LOG IN TO CANVAS USING YOUR MY.UNL CREDENTIALS.

Visit canvas.unl.edu and log in with your my.UNL username and password. This is the academic portal for students. Each professor will post their class syllabus (which includes all class information), grades, and required assignments in Canvas. You can also contact your professor through this platform.

Additionally, you will gain access to MyPLAN through this portal under the Account → Settings tab, which is how you will set up appointments with your academic advisor.

5. ACTIVATE YOUR HUSKERS EMAIL ACCOUNT.

All students will use their Huskers email account for all university communications. You will need to activate your account before you arrive on campus, and you will need to check it every day. The email address will be your my.UNL username followed by @huskers.unl.edu. You can activate and use your account at mymail.unl.edu.

6. PREPARE FOR YOUR HEALTH REQUIREMENT.

All international students at UNL will need to complete the health requirement. The health requirement has two parts: 1) You must be tested for tuberculosis at the health center and 2) provide records in English that you have received two rubeola measles/MMR shots or that you are immune.

1) Tuberculosis Test

See pages 16-17 for more information.

2) Immunization Records Requirement

If you do not have records of your shots (also called "vaccines" or "immunizations"), that’s OK—you can complete the immunization requirement during your health center appointment. The tuberculosis test and immunization requirement can be completed at the health center for no additional cost to you if you maintain the university’s student insurance plan.

If you do have records of your immunizations in English, please upload a copy into MyRed by clicking on the "Admissions" tab, "Undergraduate" and then the "Health Requirement" link in the bottom right-hand corner. Or, you can bring the records with you to campus and provide them to the health center in person. For more information about the health requirement, visit health.unl.edu/newstudents.

7. SUBMIT YOUR NCARD PHOTO.

Submit a photo for your NCard (student identification card) online at ncard.unl.edu. This will make it much faster for you to pick up your NCard on campus.

8. AFTER YOU HAVE VISA APPROVAL, LOOK FOR A PLANE TICKET.

Be sure to look at the suggested arrival dates listed on this page. Popular sites to search for flights include Student Universe, Expedia and Kayak.
9. SECURE YOUR HOUSING.

Complete your University Housing contract in MyRED before arrival if you plan to live on campus. If you plan to live off campus, we recommend that you contact Student Legal Services before signing a lease. Student Legal Services is a university service that is free, and attorneys there can help you understand a lease and provide you with information about apartment complexes. See the on-campus and off-campus sections of the arrival guide (pages 6-9) for more information.

10. SUBMIT YOUR ARRIVAL INFORMATION.

Fill out the NSE Arrival Form so that we know when you will arrive. Also, decide how you will be transported from the airport to campus or to your off-campus housing. For safety and legal reasons, we do not recommend that you travel with students or other individuals who offer transportation from the airport for a fee or for free, unless the driver is a legitimate friend.

What to pack

DOCUMENTS:

**DO NOT** put these in your checked luggage—these should stay with you at all times during your trip to the US:

- Passport (valid for at least six months following the date of travel) with visa attached
- I-20 or DS-2019
- I-901 SEVIS Fee Receipt
- Document with proof of funds to cover your education (e.g. bank statement in English and original language, if not English)
- Nebraska admissions letter (printed)
- Address of where you will stay in the U.S. (written in English)
- Flight itinerary
- A spare copy of all documents

MEDICAL ITEMS:

- Immunization record that shows you have had two rubeola measles/MMR vaccinations OR a positive rubeola lab result. If you do not have access to your immunization records or have not had these vaccinations, you can get vaccinations on campus. If you have uploaded the records to MyRED, you do not need paper copies. Vaccinations are covered by your student insurance.
• Medication for personal use (bring a written doctor’s prescription and carry the medicine in the original, properly labeled container).

OTHER:
• Religious devotion materials (optional)
• Cultural artifacts/souvenirs to share your culture and use as gifts (if you have traditional clothing from your home country, bring it!)
• Photos of friends, family or pets (optional)
• Cell phone (optional—if you plan to use this for your U.S. phone, ensure that it is “unlocked”)
• Laptop computer (you can buy or rent a laptop at Nebraska if you don’t want to bring one) (optional)
• $200-$300 cash in USD for miscellaneous expenses (if you are living off-campus, you should bring enough money to cover your first month’s rent and a security deposit, which is usually equal to one month’s rent)
• Credit/debit card from your home country, if you have confirmed it will work in the U.S. (optional)

CLOTHING:

If you arrive for the Fall semester:
• Shorts (the beginning of the semester is very warm)
• T-shirts (long and short-sleeved)
• Sweaters
• Light jacket
• Sandals (these are good at the beginning of the semester)
• Close-toed shoes (boots are good for late fall)
• Long pants
• Athletic gear if you plan to work out
• Formal/traditional clothing

If you arrive for the Spring semester (The Spring semester begins in winter, when temperatures can reach -18 (yes, negative!) degrees Celsius):
• Heavy coat
• Warm pants
• Hats and gloves
• Boots or other warm shoes
• Scarves
• Sweaters

If you arrive for the Summer term (The summer in Nebraska is quite hot. It is normal for temperatures to range from 32-35 degrees Celsius):
• Shorts
• T-shirts or tank tops
• Sandals

PERSONAL CARE ITEMS:
Only bring what you'll need for the first week or so at Nebraska. All of these products can be bought in Lincoln.
• Toothbrush and toothpaste
• Hairbrush, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, face wash
• Towels
• Contact solution and lenses (glasses and lenses can be obtained at the University Health Center once you need replacements)
• Feminine care products

WHAT NOT TO BRING
• 220-240 volt electric appliances (you'll need to buy a converter to use these if you plan to bring them because the U.S. voltage is 120 volts)
• Local foods and plants (these are prohibited by U.S. Customs and Border Protection)

Weather

DETAILS ABOUT NEBRASKA'S VARIED CLIMATE
Lincoln experiences four distinct seasons throughout the year. Nebraskans often joke that "if you don't like the weather, wait 10 minutes" because the weather can change significantly in the same day.

The extreme climate (very hot in the summer, very cold in the winter) is typical of the Midwestern region of the United States. High temperatures of 85-95 degrees Fahrenheit (29-35 degrees Celsius) are normal in the warm summer months (June, July, August), and high temps of about 32 to 52 degrees Fahrenheit (0-11 degrees Celsius) are normal in the winter months (December, January, February, March). Low temps in winter are usually between 10 and 20 degrees Fahrenheit (-12 to -7 degrees Celsius), but can easily drop below that. It does snow in the winter. The fall and spring seasons are milder, with high temperatures ranging from 40 to 70 degrees Fahrenheit (5 to 21 degrees Celsius).

If you arrive for the Fall semester (August), be prepared for very hot temperatures upon your arrival. If you arrive for the Spring semester (January), you will actually be arriving in winter, so be prepared for very cold temperatures. Please don't arrive in shorts and sandals for the winter! Please see the packing list for suggestions on what to bring with you to Nebraska.

**On-campus housing**

**LEARN THE BASICS OF UNIVERSITY HOUSING**

Living on campus is the best choice for incoming international students. The residence halls provide a supportive environment to aid you in your transition to Nebraska. University Housing has a full-time professional staff member dedicated to supporting international students. Housing also has a staff of multilingual Intercultural Aides, who are current students who assist students upon arrival to the halls and plan events throughout the semester.

All incoming students under the age of 19 or students who have not completed or transferred 27 or more accepted semester hours of post-secondary education prior to the first day of fall semester classes are required to live in University-approved on-campus Housing.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE POLICY](#)

**HOUSING CONTRACT**

Your housing contract must be completed before you arrive at Nebraska. You can access the contract through [MyRED](#).

**RESIDENCE HALLS**
There are three types of university residence halls:

- **Traditional** (shared bedroom and community bathroom with private showers and toilets)
- **Suite-style** (four-person units with double- or single-occupancy bedrooms with an in-unit shower, toilet, living room and snack-prep area)
- **Apartments** (not available to traditional first-year students)

International students should select a "break hall" when completing their contract (spring admits will be automatically assigned to a break hall). Break halls are open during breaks like Thanksgiving and winter break, so students do not have to move out during that time. The names of the break halls on City Campus are Selleck Quadrangle, University Suites, Knoll Residential Center (designated for University Honors Program students), Schramm, Smith and East Side Suites. Massengale Residential Center is a break hall on East Campus.

For more details about housing amenities, hall types, prices and more, please visit the University Housing website. For housing questions, please contact housing@unl.edu.

**Off-campus housing**

**GET TIPS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LIVING OFF CAMPUS**

Before you begin securing off-campus housing, keep in mind the university's housing policy: All incoming students under the age of 19, or students who have not completed or transferred 27 or more accepted semester hours of post-secondary education prior to the first day of Fall semester classes, are required to live in university-approved, on-campus Housing.

**MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE POLICY**

**WHAT TO CONSIDER**

Students are responsible for finding their own housing if they choose to live in non-university housing. Some students choose to live near campus and pay more for rent. Other students choose to live farther from campus to save money, but then must commute to campus by bus, bike, car or walking. Below are the steps you should take if you do not plan to live in University Housing.

1. Choose the type of housing you wish to live in. Do you want to live in a house with roommates? Do you want to live in an apartment with roommates? Do you want to live alone? How far from campus are you willing to live? How much can you budget per month for rent?
2. Talk to Student Legal Services at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln about what you should look for on a lease and how to read a lease. Student Legal Services is a free university service with professional attorneys who can help you with your lease, or provide information to you about problematic apartment complexes. We recommend that you contact Student Legal Services before you sign your lease to make sure you know what you are agreeing to by signing the contract.

3. Contact the rental companies/apartment complexes that you are interested in and ask them any questions you might have about living there. Questions to keep in mind:

1. Is there a way to see what the place looks like through a video call?
2. Do they provide roommates or do residents need to find their own?
3. Is the place furnished? (Most new students prefer to rent furnished units so that they do not need to purchase furniture.)
4. Who is responsible for maintenance and household repairs?
5. Where can you do laundry?
6. How much is the rent and what does that all include? How much are bills and utilities (internet, cable, heating, cooling, electricity, garbage, water, etc.) each month?
7. Is there public transportation to campus? Can I walk or bike to campus?
4. Review the lease with Student Legal Services to make sure you understand everything you are agreeing to by signing the lease.

Click here for a list of some off-campus housing options.

TIPS FOR LIVING IN THE U.S.:

- Talk with your roommate(s) about living arrangements. Some topics to discuss are:
  - Sleeping schedule
  - Visitors
  - Cleaning of common rooms
  - Smoking/alcohol
  - Food/groceries
- Be aware of alcohol laws
• It is illegal to drink alcohol under the age of 21 in the United States, even if you are in your own home.
• It is illegal to serve or provide alcohol to people under the age of 21, even if you are 21-years-old and in your home.
• It is prohibited to drink or possess alcohol on campus, regardless of your age.

• Be a good neighbor
  • Keep the noise at a decent level, especially between the hours of 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. during the week.
  • If you live off campus, there are people who will live around you who are not students, so be respectful of their lifestyle.

• Be Mindful of Your Budget
  • For most off-campus apartments and homes, you will pay your rent once a month. Additionally, you will pay utilities, which may include internet, water, garbage pick-up, electricity, etc. Students who live in university housing will pay for housing once per semester.
  • You will need to buy your own groceries and household products. Off-campus students can purchase a university meal plan for use in the dining halls if they would prefer to eat meals on campus.

AFTER ARRIVAL

Entering the United States

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ARRIVING IN THE U.S.

You cannot enter the U.S. more than 30 days before the start date on your I-20 or DS-2019. When you arrive in the United States, you will have to pass through passport control and U.S. Customs and Border Protection. The security at the U.S. border might be stricter than what you're used to. It is normal for immigration officials to take your photo and fingerprints. When you reach the border checkpoint in the airport, you should have the following items in your hand:

• Passport (valid for at least six months following your date of travel) with visa attached
• I-20 or DS-2019
• I-901 SEVIS Fee Receipt
• Document with proof of funds to cover your education
• Nebraska admissions letter (printed)
Be prepared to answer a few potential questions from the immigration officer about what you will be doing in the U.S., where you will be living, how long you plan to stay, what you plan to do upon return to your home country and more.

Border patrol agents may ask to search your phone or electronic devices; it is wise to ensure that your devices do not have any questionable or illegal content on them before you enter the U.S. If they ask you for your devices, **it does not mean you are in trouble.** Stay calm and follow the agent’s instructions. Sometimes they request extra time to search the devices, and you could be taken to a separate room while they search your electronics or ask you additional questions. Again, in most cases, **this does not mean you are in trouble.** These types of searches happen to U.S. citizens and international visitors, so do your best to remain calm and answer the agent’s questions!

If you are arriving with more than $10,000 USD in cash, traveler’s checks or foreign currency, you must declare that on your U.S. customs declaration form, which you will receive either in the plane or in the airport after arriving (at some airports, the form can be submitted electronically at a kiosk). You will not have to pay import taxes or fees if you declare the money, but if you do not declare it and it is found upon inspection, U.S. Customs and Border Control can seize the money, so it is important to be honest when you declare your items.

**What to do after you arrive**

**CHECK OFF ITEMS ON YOUR TO-DO LIST**

Once you reach campus, you can start taking care of a variety of tasks to get started at Nebraska.

**1. TELL YOUR FAMILY THAT YOU HAVE ARRIVED SAFELY.**

They’ll want to hear from you after your long trip. If you arrive during one of the three days of the New Student Enrollment airport welcome (usually the three days before International Orientation in the Spring and Fall semesters), the International Welcome Team will greet and assist you at the Lincoln airport.

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**2. CONNECT TO CAMPUS WI-FI.**

You will need your my.UNL username and password to connect your devices to the Wi-Fi network. Find instructions [here](#). If you have not activated your my.UNL username and password, you will need to do that first (visit section 3 of the pre-arrival to-do list of this guide for instructions). If you experience any problems, you can find contact information and locations of the HuskerTech Help Centers [here](#).
3. UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION IN MYRED.

Log in and click on the "Profile" tab, then update your current/local mailing address to the address of your residence hall or off-campus residence. If you have a U.S. phone number, also include that. Ensure that you have activated and accessed your @huskers.unl.edu email account (visit this link for instructions).

4. PURCHASE YOUR TEXTBOOKS.

To see a list of books for your courses, log in to MyRED and click on the "Enrollment" tab. Then click on the blue "Textbook Online Ordering" button. Clicking on the button WILL NOT automatically order your books. On the following page, select the correct academic term and click "Order Now." Again, clicking "Order Now" WILL NOT order your books. It will simply provide you with a list of all the books you need for your courses. You can rent or buy books directly through the University Bookstore or through online retailers.

5. OPEN A BANK ACCOUNT.

You can open a free account by going to Union Bank & Trust in the Nebraska Union on campus before orientation, or you can open an account during the first day of orientation. If you do not want to use Union Bank, you are able to open an account at most off-campus banks in Lincoln, but they will not have the level of expertise in working with international students that the staff at Union Bank & Trust has. Other banks may require you to have a Social Security Card, which new students do not have unless they have previously been employed in the U.S.

6. COMPLETE YOUR HEALTH REQUIREMENTS.

You are required to complete your health requirement during scheduled walk-in hours at the University Health Center (can by found by clicking here). All international students MUST get a tuberculosis test at the health center and provide proof of two rubeola measles/MMR immunizations or a positive rubeola lab result. There are no exceptions. If you do not have your immunization record or have not received such immunizations, you can get immunizations at the health center.

7. PICK UP YOUR NCARD.

Your NCard is your student identification card. The NCard office is located inside the Nebraska Union, 1400 R St. You can pick up your NCard before orientation or during the first day of orientation.
8. IF YOU ARE AN INTENSIVE ENGLISH PROGRAM (IEP) STUDENT, TAKE THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEST.

If you are an Intensive English Program (IEP) student, take the English Language Test (ELT) from 1:30 to 5 p.m. on the first day of orientation (which is Wednesday, August 21 for Fall 2019). The ELT is only for IEP students. If you are an IEP student and have not registered for the exam, register here.

9. ATTEND WELCOME EVENTS AND INTERNATIONAL ORIENTATION.

Orientation includes mandatory sessions on Wednesday, August 21 and Thursday, August 22 (for Fall 2019) for all new international undergraduates (full admit, Exchange, CEAP and IEP). The event occurs on the second floor of the Nebraska Union. Social events take place before and after orientation. Attending social events is not required, but you are encouraged to attend to meet new people and have fun. Find the welcome calendar here.

You are also encouraged to attend the “Big Red Welcome” events designated for the entire university student body. These include social events and informational sessions that occur during the first few days before classes begin, as well as the first six weeks of the school year. Find more information here.

Transportation in Lincoln

LEARN HOW TO GET AROUND LINCOLN

Like most cities in the U.S., Lincoln is very spread out, and distances are usually covered in a car, bus or bike rather than by walking. Campus is located downtown, which has lots of restaurants and entertainment venues, but most students do most of their shopping outside of downtown. In Lincoln, you can get around using the public bus, bikes, private cars, Zipcars, taxis or Uber/Lyft.

BUSES

Lincoln has a public bus system, called StarTran, which is free for Nebraska students. You will receive a free bus pass when you get your student ID card (NCard). You can also download the “Token Transit” app to your smartphone. Find instructions for downloading the app here. To ride the bus for free, you will need to show the driver your NCard and bus pass. Most buses run Monday through Saturday; each route has a different operating schedule. There is no bus service on Sundays. The StarTran website lists all routes with the route schedule and the bus stops on each route. Some of the most common routes used by international students are:
• #24/25—Intercampus routes: These routes run between City Campus and East Campus (Nebraska has three campuses in different parts of Lincoln). These routes also run along Vine Street, near where many international students live off campus, and along 27th street, where many international grocery stores are. These routes do not operate on the weekends nor during university holidays.

• #27—North 27th: This route goes to the North Wal-Mart, where many students buy personal items, housing items, groceries and more. This route has a Monday–Friday schedule and a separate Saturday schedule.

• #44—"O" Street: This route goes to Target (a large department store similar to Wal-Mart where many students buy personal items, housing items, groceries and more), Gateway Mall (a shopping mall good for clothes and shoes shopping) and Best Buy (a large electronics store). This route has a Monday–Friday schedule and a separate Saturday schedule.

• #53—SouthPointe: This route goes to SouthPointe Pavilions Mall, which is an outdoor mall with different stores than Gateway Mall. This route has a Monday–Friday schedule and a separate Saturday schedule.

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BIKES

Lincoln is well-known for having one of the best bike trail systems in the United States. Most of the bike trails run outside of downtown. In downtown Lincoln, it is illegal to ride your bike on the sidewalk. It must be ridden on the road. However, on campus, many students ride their bikes on the sidewalks. Bike racks are located throughout campus and downtown, but you'll want to lock up your bike. Students can rent a one-speed bike for a semester from the Outdoor Adventures Center on campus. Lincoln also has a bike-renting system, called BikeLNK, that is suitable for short-term rentals. There are several rental kiosks on and near campus. Check out tips for biking around campus/downtown. Find more information about bike trails here and here.

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CARS

To own a car, you need a valid U.S. driver's license, car registration and liability insurance. It's best to talk to the Department of Motor Vehicles or the University Police Department before driving in Lincoln to make sure you are complying with laws. It is illegal to drive a personal vehicle without a license, registration and insurance. You can drive a rental car with a foreign license.

During orientation, New Student Enrollment hosts an optional info session about driving in the U.S. You should check out the orientation schedule to find out where and when to attend this session if you are considering owning a car.
TAXI

You will probably notice that there are not many taxis in Lincoln. This is typical of mid-sized American cities, where most people do not rely on taxis. Taxis are a somewhat expensive option for transportation within Lincoln, and they sometimes have long wait times. Generally, you cannot get a cab directly off the street; you usually need to call. HappyCab is a large taxi company. Their phone number is 402-202-2222.

UBER OR LYFT

These are "taxi" apps, but the drivers are not professional taxi drivers. This is generally cheaper than taxis unless it is a very busy time and the prices are surging. To use Uber or Lyft, you will need to download the app on your smartphone and register for an account. Both Uber and Lyft are increasingly popular transportation options for young people in Lincoln.

ZIP CARS

There are ZipCars, which are short-term rental cars, located at a few spots on campus. Students can rent by the hour or by the day. Gas and insurance are included in the cost. Find more info about pricing and procedures at the university’s ZipCar website. Students with foreign driver’s licenses can drive zip cars. Find steps for how to apply using a foreign driver’s license here.

Mobile phone

GET CONNECTED IN LINCOLN.

You have various options regarding mobile phones. You can:

1. Bring a phone from your home country and activate it on a U.S. network using a SIM card.

2. Purchase a new phone in the U.S. and get a 1-year or 2-year contract.

Most international students at Nebraska have phone coverage with one of two main phone carriers: AT&T or Verizon. You might hear about a couple of other carriers, mainly T-Mobile or Sprint. T-Mobile has recently updated their coverage in Lincoln and some students use T-mobile. A small number of students use Sprint, but it requires a 2-year contract.

1. BRING A PHONE FROM YOUR HOME COUNTRY AND ACTIVATE IT ON A U.S. NETWORK USING A SIM CARD:
To do this, your phone must be "unlocked," meaning it can be used on a network that is different from the one you used in your home country. If you are unsure if your phone is unlocked, you should contact your phone carrier in your home country to verify. SIM cards can be used on the AT&T network but cannot be used with Verizon or Sprint.

For the 2019 school year, free SIM cards through Campus SIMs (using the T-Mobile network) will be provided to new international students. If you do NOT receive one upon arrival at the Lincoln airport, please visit the Office of New Student Enrollment (312 N. 14th St) if you would like to pick one up.

SIM cards are not as common or easy to obtain in the U.S. as they are in many parts of the world. Some cards are pay-as-you go, but many of them either come loaded with a certain amount of calling minutes/text messages/data, or you pay an established monthly price for a certain plan. Wal-Mart, Best Buy and Walgreens also sell SIM cards.

2. PURCHASE A NEW PHONE IN THE U.S. AND GET A 1-YEAR OR 2-YEAR CONTRACT:

At the HuskerTech store in the Nebraska Union on campus, students can purchase phones and contracts for Verizon or Sprint service.

Verizon allows students to link with other students on discounted "family plans." Find more details about Sprint and Verizon phones and plans. Most foreign phones, even if they are unlocked, cannot be activated on the Verizon network, so you would most likely need to purchase a Verizon phone if you want Verizon service.

Banking

LEARN HOW TO SAFELY ACCESS YOUR MONEY

One of your most essential needs while you’re in Lincoln will be to access your money. You are not required to open a local bank account, but it is highly recommended. In the U.S., there are two main types of bank accounts: a checking account (a debit card or checks are associated with a checking account) or a savings account (where you can store money to save and gain a small amount of interest).

Union Bank & Trust is the exclusive bank of the university. Union Bank & Trust is conveniently located in the north entrance of the Nebraska Union on City Campus with 10 ATMs (cash machines) on City and East campuses. Union Bank staff are multilingual, and if they do not speak your language, they have a free translation service available in more than 200 languages.
You can open a checking account with Union Bank before International Orientation if you arrive to campus early, or you can open one during International Orientation.

What you should bring with you to open a checking account:

- Passport
- Permanent address in your native country
- Current address in the United States
- University of Nebraska–Lincoln ID number (NUID)
- $50.00 opening deposit for a checking account and $25.00 opening deposit for a savings account

You can open an account with a different bank in Lincoln, as there are several different banks downtown. However, staff at other banks are unlikely to have the expertise of working with international students that the Union Bank staff has, and no other banks are officially connected to the university. Some other banks require individuals to have a Social Security Card to open an account.

**Health requirements**

**GET THE DETAILS FOR IMMUNIZATIONS AND TESTS.**

All new international students have to comply with two health requirements:

1. Take a tuberculosis test at the University Health Center.
2. Provide proof of two rubeola measles/MMR immunizations or a positive rubeola lab result.

Find information [here](#) for where and when you can complete the health requirement before classes start.

You can upload your immunization records in MyRED by clicking on the "Health Requirement" link on the bottom right corner of the "Admissions" tab. You can also bring your records to the health center in person. If you do not have your immunization record or have not received the MMR vaccine, you can get immunizations at the health center.

Tuberculosis testing cannot be done before arrival; the test must be performed at the University Health Center.

International students on F-1 or J-1 visas are automatically enrolled in the university’s student health insurance plan. The student insurance plan fully covers the cost of receiving the MMR vaccination and the tuberculosis test at the health center. For more information about student health insurance, visit [this page](#).
Health insurance

All international undergraduates on F-1 or J-1 visas are automatically enrolled in the student health insurance plan through the university. Because the cost of health care in the United States is much higher than in most countries, it is essential (and required) for international students to have health insurance in order to have affordable access to routine and emergency care. Health insurance is a way for you to pre-pay in advance for your medical care, which results in the care being cheaper when you need it.

You can find details about the student health insurance coverage here. With the student health insurance, most medically necessary services, such as visits to the medical clinic and routine dental and vision exams, are provided at no cost to the student at the University Health Center. With the student insurance, there is no cost for completing the international student health requirement (tuberculosis test and MMR vaccinations/blood test) at the Health Center.

The student health insurance is charged automatically to the student bill once for the Fall semester and once for the Spring/Summer terms. The total cost for the full year is approximately $3,000, which is much cheaper than most insurance providers in the U.S.

All F-1 and J-1 international students must remain enrolled in the student insurance plan, unless they are enrolled in a U.S.-employer-based or government-sponsored plan. If you have questions about student insurance and whether or not you have an employer-based or government-sponsored plan, please call the Nebraska Medicine – University Health Center Insurance Office at +1 402-472-7435 or email Cindy Pickinpaugh at cpickinpaugh@uhcsr.com.

It is recommended that incoming students attend New Student Enrollment's online info session that describes health insurance and health care in the U.S. Find a recording of our most recent health care info session here.

Shopping

SHOPPING MALLS

GATEWAY MALL

6100 O St, Lincoln, NE 68505

Gateway Mall is an indoor mall with lots of stores to shop for clothing, books, games and many other items. There are also a few restaurants.

How to get there on the bus: Take Route 44 and get off at the Gateway Mall stop.

LEARN MORE BY CLICKING HERE
SOUTHPOINTE PAVILIONS
2910 Pine Lake Rd, Lincoln, NE 68516
SouthPointe is an outdoor mall in south Lincoln. It also has stores to shop for clothing, books, sporting items, etc.
How to get there on the bus: Take the SouthPointe bus (#53) and get off at the mall stop.
LEARN MORE BY CLICKING HERE

WHERE TO BUY ESSENTIALS

WAL-MART
4700 N 27th St, Lincoln, NE 68521
Wal-Mart is a department store that carries anything you are looking for from groceries to personal care items to clothing and much more.
How to get there on the bus: Take the North 27th bus (#27) and get off in front of the store.
LEARN MORE BY CLICKING HERE

TARGET
333 N 48th St, Lincoln, NE 68504
Target is a department store similar to Wal-Mart but carries slightly "nicer" items.
How to get there on the bus: Take the "O" Street bus (#44) and get off at the stop on the street in front of Target and a grocery store called Super Saver.
LEARN MORE BY CLICKING HERE

GROCERY STORES

SUPER SAVER
233 N 48th St, Lincoln, NE 68504
Super Saver is a large grocery store where you can buy quality food for a decent price.
How to get there on the bus: Take the O Street bus (#44) and get off at the stop on the street in front of Target and Super Saver.

ORIENTAL MARKET
612 N 27th St, Lincoln, NE 68503
Oriental Market is a comprehensive store with Chinese, Japanese, Thai, Lao, Vietnamese, Korean and other countries' products.

How to get there on the bus: Take the Vine Street (#24) or Holdrege (#25) bus and get off at the 27th Street and W Street stop. You will need to walk south on 27th street to T street.

**VIET HAO ASIAN MARKET**

2416 O St, Lincoln, NE 68510

How to get there on the bus: Take the Holdrege (#25) or O Street (#44) bus and get off at the 23rd and P Street stop. The store is a 3-minute walk from the stop.

**LITTLE SAIGON ORIENTAL MARKET**

940 N 26th St #207, Lincoln, NE

How to get there on the bus: Take the #27, #25, or #24 bus and get off on the 27th and W Street stop.

**SUJI’S INDIAN STORE**

3140 O St, Lincoln, NE 68510

How to get there on the bus: Take the O Street bus (#44) and get off at the 32nd Street bus stop. The store is right across the street.

**LINCOLN GROCERY MART**

2619 Holdrege St, Lincoln, NE 68503

Middle Eastern and African products

How to get there on the bus: Take the Vine Street (#24) or Holdrege (#25) bus and get off at the 27th Street and Starr Street stop. The store is just across the street.

**KAHRAMANA MARKET & BAKERY**

850 N 27th St, Lincoln, NE 68503

Halal/Middle Eastern/European products.

How to get there on the bus: Take the Vine Street (#24), Holdrege (#25), or #27 bus and get off at the 27th Street and W Street stop. The store is at the corner of 27th and Pear streets.

**FAMILY FOOD MARKET**

2350 O St #101, Lincoln, NE 68510

Halal/Middle Eastern products.
How to get there on the bus: Take the Holdrege bus (#25) and get off at the 23rd and P Street stop. The store is a 3-minute walk from the stop. Or, take the O Street (#44) bus and get off at the 23rd and O Street stop.

**LOBO’S CITY MEX MARKET CONVENIENCE STORE**

338 N 27th St, Lincoln, NE 68503

Latin American products.

This store is not easily accessible by bus, but you can take the #44 bus, get off at the 27th and O Street stop and walk three blocks to the north.

**GUERRERO’S MARKET/GROCERY**

815 S 11th St., Lincoln, NE 68505

Latin American products.

How to get there on the bus: Take the #56 bus and get off on the 9th and G Street stop (heading south) or the 10th and G Street stop (heading north) and walk toward 11th and G streets.

**Course Enrollment**

**FULL ADMIT**

Fully admitted freshmen and transfer students have met the English proficiency and academic requirements to begin their degree program at Nebraska. For full admits, course enrollment will be handled through the New Student Enrollment (NSE) department.

**Note:** The following instructions are for Spring and Fall admits only. Summer admits do not follow these procedures and should follow the instructions they receive via email.

1. Pay your $250 enrollment deposit through your MyRed account.

2. In MyRed, click on the "Admissions" tab. On the next page, click on the "New Student Enrollment Reservation" link. Then you will verify your major.

   *Freshmen:* The reservation system opens in early April for the Fall semester and mid-September for the Spring semester.

   *Transfers:* The reservation system opens in mid-February for the Fall semester and mid-September for the Spring semester.

3. On the next screen, **do not select a date** in the dropdown menu. Instead, please select the mail-in (online) registration option by clicking the "click here" link that follows the message "If you are not able to attend the on-campus New Student Enrollment program…"
4. On the next page you will write a brief explanation of why you will not register for classes on campus. You can simply write, "I am an international student."

5. Complete your New Student Enrollment Advising Inventory in MyRed, also under the "Admissions" tab. The inventory provides your academic advisor with information about your interests and personal characteristics so that your advisor can do his/her best to select courses that suit your interests, abilities, and degree program.

6. Complete the Math Placement Exam (MPE). The MPE is required for all new students, regardless of your previous math experience. You will not be registered for classes until the MPE and the Advising Inventory are both complete.

7. Once you complete the steps above, a date will automatically be assigned for an academic advisor to review your file and select courses for you. You will not enroll yourself in classes, and you do not need to be present on campus on the date that is assigned to your file. Once you have been enrolled, you will receive an email from a New Student Enrollment staff member informing you that your schedule can be viewed in MyRed.

8. Questions? Contact Teresa Lostroh, NSE Assistant Director, at tlostroh2@unl.edu.

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**CREDIT ENGLISH FOR ACADEMIC PURPOSES (CEAP)**

CEAP students are conditionally admitted students who have an advanced level of English proficiency but have not met proficiency requirements for full admission. CEAP students take three English classes and one elective course. CEAP enrollment is handled by the Programs in English as a Second Language (PIESL) department.

1. Pay your $250 enrollment deposit through your MyRed account.

2. Complete the Math Placement Exam (MPE). The MPE is required for all new students, regardless of your previous math experience.

3. You will receive an email from CEAP advisor Dr. Anh Le with further instructions for course enrollment. Dr. Le will email you at the address you provided on your university application, so please monitor that email address regularly.

4. Questions? Contact Anh Le, CEAP program advisor, at ale10@unl.edu.

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**INTENSIVE ENGLISH PROGRAM (IEP)**

IEP students have not met the English proficiency requirements for full admission at Nebraska. IEP students take English courses exclusively. IEP enrollment is handled by the Programs in English as a Second Language (PIESL) department.

1. Pay your $250 enrollment deposit through your MyRed account.

2. Sign up for the English Language Test (ELT) once registration is available. Registration is required, and you should register before arriving in Lincoln.
3. Take the placement exam in person on campus at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 21.

4. PIESL staff will register you in classes based on the results of your placement exam. You will not enroll yourself in classes and will not be enrolled before arriving at Nebraska.

5. Attend IEP orientation on the first Monday of the semester to receive your ELT placement results and your course schedule. IEP orientation does not replace your university orientation through the New Student Enrollment department. You must attend both orientations.

6. Questions? Contact the Programs in English as a Second Language department at esl2@unl.edu.

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EXCHANGE

Exchange students are at Nebraska for a short-term study abroad program lasting one semester or one academic year.

1. Log in into MyRed and click on the "Enrollment" tab to enroll yourself in courses.
2. If you encounter issues with your enrollment process, contact Allison Hinesley with the Education Abroad office at aphinesley@unl.edu.

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Credit transfer

THE BASICS OF TRANSFERRING CREDIT TO NEBRASKA

Credits from partner institutions, where University of Nebraska–Lincoln has an agreement, are typically reviewed during the admissions process. If your school has a partnership agreement with Nebraska, check out the pre-determined course equivalencies.

If Nebraska does not have a partnership with your institution, transferring credits is done on a course-by-course basis. After you arrive to the university, you will need to meet with your academic advisor to start the credit transfer process. You can find your advisor’s name and contact information in MyRED by clicking on the "Academics" tab. If you do not see your advisor’s name, you can contact your college’s advising center. Please bring as much documentation as possible that demonstrates the content of the course or courses you would like to transfer. A course syllabus, which is a detailed course outline that includes the course content, assignments and learning outcomes, is especially helpful if you have one.

It is recommended that incoming transfer students attend New Student Enrollment’s online info session that describes the credit transfer process.
Finding a job

FIND OUT HOW TO WORK ON CAMPUS

International undergraduates on F-1 visas are only allowed to work on campus for 20 hours a week. Off-campus jobs are only allowed in specific circumstances and must be approved by the International Student and Scholar Office. If you want to look for a job when you arrive, check out this updated listing of on-campus jobs. Keep in mind that many on-campus jobs might already be filled by older students when you arrive at the beginning of the semester. Some jobs are filled by word-of-mouth and are not posted on the on-campus jobs website. If you are interested in working for a specific department or office, you can contact that department or office directly to inquire about open positions.

Career Services is a department on campus that helps students prepare materials for the job search and prepare for interviews for free. You might want to visit Career Services, located in Room 225 on the second floor of the Nebraska Union, to have them help you develop or revise your résumé (also called a CV) and cover letter (a letter that you include with your application to highlight your interest and skills).

For reference: The minimum hourly wage in Nebraska is $9 per hour.

It is recommended that new students who are interested in working on campus attend the info session during orientation that describes how to get an on-campus job.

Paying your student bill

FIND OUT HOW TO VIEW AND PAY YOUR BILL

You will pay your student bill after arriving at the university. Your bill cannot be paid before you arrive. During the semester, your student bill will be ready in MyRED by the 25th of each month (it often arrives earlier) and is due by the 12th of the following month. So, for example, your first bill at the beginning of the Fall semester would appear in MyRED by August 25th at the latest and would be due by September 12th. For the Spring semester, your first bill will appear in MyRED by January 25th at the latest and will be due by February 12th. You will receive an email each month telling you that your bill is ready to view in MyRED. You will not receive a paper bill. You can view and pay your bill online in MyRED or at the Bursar’s Office if you prefer to pay in person. The Bursar’s Office is now located within HuskerHub, which is located in room 130 of Louise Pound Hall, on City Campus.

- Step-by-step details for paying your bill online
- Different payment options
- Paying your bill with a foreign currency
It is recommended that incoming students attend New Student Enrollment's online info session that describes the bill payment process.

Safety and Laws

The university has its own internationally accredited police department. Though part of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln Police Department’s (UNLPD) responsibility is to enforce the law, much of the department’s work is devoted to keeping campus safe and preventing crime. Police officers are trained to receive reports of crimes from community members, investigate crimes, assess and manage emergencies and implement policies and measures that will keep campus safe.

UNLPD officers have extensive experience working with students, and one of the reasons Nebraska is one of the safest universities in the U.S. is because students contact police when they see unsafe, suspicious or worrisome behavior. Students can report crimes in person at the police department, located at 300 North 17th Street on campus, or by calling 402-472-2222. The police department is open all day and night, and officers patrol campus by car and on foot day and night.

An additional safety precaution that students can take is signing up for UNL Alert, which is an emergency notification system for the university community.

The U.S. has far too many laws for them all to be summarized here, but there are several laws that are important to highlight for international students because they might differ from your home country.

DRIVING A CAR

Though a foreign driver’s license can be used to drive a rental car, you are required to have a U.S. driver's license to own or operate a personal vehicle. (To rent a car, it is best to have a translated version of your license if it is not originally in English.) To legally own a personal vehicle, you must have a driver's license, car registration through the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and valid liability insurance. You will obtain license plates for your vehicle when you register it at the DMV.

Before purchasing a car, it is essential to confirm the legitimacy of the person/dealership from whom you are buying the car. Students have been victims of scams involving fraudulent car paperwork, particularly for luxury cars.

If you plan to drive in the U.S., it is recommended that you attend the "Driving in the U.S." session during International Orientation.
SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

Relationship norms, expectations and gender roles might be different in the U.S. than what you're used to. Sexual harassment, assault, domestic violence and stalking are crimes that are taken seriously at Nebraska and carry serious penalties from the university and the police.

- Threatening or inflicting physical or emotional harm on a romantic partner, child or family member is considered domestic abuse or dating violence.
- Repeatedly contacting someone via electronic means without their permission (or after they have asked not to be contacted) or physically following them to class, work or home is called stalking.
- Sending unsolicited photos, messages, illustrations, etc. of a sexual nature, or making unwanted comments of a sexual nature to or about a person without the recipient’s consent can be considered sexual harassment if the actions create a hostile work or educational environment.
- Forcible sexual contact without a person’s consent (only "yes" means yes and "no" means no) is sexual assault or rape.

ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION

Individuals must be at least 21-years-old to legally consume or possess alcohol of any kind anywhere in the United States. People under 21 are called "minors" regarding alcohol, and "minors" are often prohibited from entering bars after 9 p.m. in Lincoln. If you are 21 or older and, in your home or elsewhere, you provide alcohol to friends or guests who are younger than 21, it is illegal and you can get into serious legal trouble.

Alcohol consumption and possession is not allowed on campus, even for individuals who are 21 or older.