IUPUI International Student FAQ

For basic information regarding student visa, immigration status, academics, activities, living in Indianapolis, and employment options, The OIA’s Guide for International Students is a good resource: http://iservices.iupui.edu/visa-tutorial/.

Current IUPUI students are also available to help you even before you arrive in Indianapolis. Undergraduate students should check out the International Peer Mentoring Program: http://iservices.iupui.edu/welcome/peer-mentoring/. Graduate students should check out the Graduate Welcome Volunteers: http://iservices.iupui.edu/welcome/volunteers/. You can sign up using your iStart account. If you have questions, please email oiaprgms@iupui.edu.

Please find questions by topic areas below:

Admissions
I-20s, DS-2019s, and Visas
Visa Interview
The IUPUI Campus
Medical and Health Insurance
Course Selection
Technology (Accounts, iStart, OneStart, Oncourse…)
Planning for Travel and Arrival
Orientation
Placement Exams
Student Life
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Housing

Admissions
If you do not find your question answered below, you may contact International Admissions directly at:

Undergraduate Admissions contact: oiaunder@iupui.edu

Undergraduate Transfer Credit: tccredit@iupui.edu

Graduate Admissions contact: oiagrad@iupui.edu

Make sure to include your name as written on your application, as well as your student ID number if you have one. You may expect a response within 2-3 days.

Q: How do I accept admission at IUPUI?
A: The Office of International Affairs requires that you log into iStart (http://istart.iu.edu/) and confirm
your intention to enroll at IUPUI on the pre-arrival checklist. However, please be aware that your academic department may require their own confirmation as well.

Q: I have already submitted my application, and wish to know the status of my admission and I-20. Who should I contact?
A: For questions regarding graduate level admission, you should email oiaograd@iupui.edu. Undergraduate applicants should contact oiaunder@iupui.edu.

Q: How do I submit my financial documents to the Office of International Affairs?
A: Graduate students should email documents to International Admissions at oiaograd@iupui.edu. Undergraduate students should email them to oiaunder@iupui.edu. Documents can also be faxed to 317-278-2213.

Q: I have received an email regarding conditional admission. What does this mean?
A: Graduate students: This could mean that your department has recommended you for admission, but your application must be sent to the graduate school office for final and official approval. It could also mean that you have further requirements to meet before the conditions on your admission can be removed. To ask about your specific case, please email oiaograd@iupui.edu.

Undergraduate Students: This probably indicates that International Admissions is waiting for your financial documents or proof of English proficiency before finalizing your admission. To ask about your specific case, please email oiaunder@iupui.edu.

Q: Can I change my major?
A: Graduate Students: Generally graduate admission is for a specific degree program, and cannot easily be transferred to other programs without a new application. If the new degree program is within the same school (Engineering, Science, etc), then contact the school for advice on this issue.

Undergraduate students: Changing majors at the undergraduate level is possible. During your orientation program, you will speak with an academic advisor who can assist you with this process. It is not necessary to make this change on your admission letter and I-20 before arriving, unless your financial sponsorship depends on it.

Q: Is intercampus transfer possible for graduate students?
A: Admissions to IUPUI and to Indiana University or Purdue University are completely separate. Admission to one campus does not indicate admission to any other campus.

I-20s, DS2019s and Visas
Wherever I-20 is indicated below, you may substitute “DS2019” if you will be coming to the U.S. on a J-1 visa.

Q: I received my admission letter, but not my I-20. When will I receive it?
A: When you were admitted, you should have received an email from International Admissions. Look back at this email and see if they asked you to verify your address. If you did not do so, this is probably holding up your I-20 mailing.

When your I-20 was mailed, you should have received an email from International Admissions with the tracking number. Look for that number and check the status of your shipment online.

After taking those two steps, if you still are not sure about the status of your I-20, please email international admissions directly. Undergraduates: oiaunder@iupui.edu, Graduates: oiagrad@iupui.edu.

Q: Why is the field of study that is listed on the I-20 form different than the degree name on my admission letter?
A: The field of study on your I-20 will not necessarily match the degree name on your admission letter. This is because SEVIS has a limited number of field descriptions available. If an exact match for the IUPUI degree name is not on the list, we choose the closest match. This is correct procedure, and does not indicate an error.

Q: I am an F-1 student at another school in the United States. Do I need to pay the SEVIS fee again?
A: If you are already an F-1 student at another school in the U.S., then you have already paid the SEVIS fee and do not need to do so again. You just need to have your SEVIS record transferred from your current school to IUPUI. You should ask your advisor at your current school to help you with that.

Q: I have paid the visa application fee, and have begun filling out the DS-160 online form. Which address should I use if I am not sure where I will be living?
A: You are more than welcome to put the address of the Office of International Affairs, 902 W New York St, Room 2126, Indianapolis, IN 46202.

Q: What type of photo do I need to upload to the DS-160 online form?
A: The photo should have a white background, and be sized to 2 x 2 inches (51 x 51 mm). You can ask the photographer for the US Visa dimension, and request the photo on a USB flash drive. See the U.S. Department of State web page for examples.

Q: What if I cannot upload a photo onto the website?
A: You can still print the DS-160 without your picture on it. Just make sure you bring your passport photo to the consular on your interview day.

Q: What should I put under the “intended length of stay in the U.S.” on the DS-160 form?
A: The duration is mentioned on your I-20. In section 5, "The normal length of study is ________ months." Whatever is in that blank is your duration.

Q: In the DS-160 form, there is a place where it asks whether I have made any necessary plans to travel. What should I enter there?
A: It is possible to book a flight without having a visa yet. By booking early, you may get a better price. If you have not booked any flight yet, just write “No.” If you have, then they will ask for your date of travel and other details.
Q: On the DS-160 form, there is a question asking for present education info. Should I enter IUPUI or the school that I am graduating from in my country?
A: You should fill it out with the school that you are graduating from in your country.

Q: In the DS-160 form, there is a question under the present education info asking me to briefly describe my duties. What should I enter there?
A: All you need to write is “Student.”

Q: How do I return to the saved online DS-160 form?
A: To return to the form, enter your application number, and the answer to the secret question.

Q: After filling out the DS-160 form, is there any way that I can select the day I would like to be interviewed?
A: Yes, after filling out the form, you must visit another link on the official site to schedule the interview. You can only select the date; the time of the interview will be allotted automatically.

Q: I submitted the DS-160, and have been scheduled for a visa interview date. How do I pay the SEVIS fee, and when does it need to be submitted by?
A: The SEVIS fee payment can be made at the following website: www.fmjfee.com. You can pay by credit card, and you will need some of the information included on your I-20 to complete the payment. You will need IUPUI’s school code as well as your own SEVIS ID number (starting with “N00”). The confirmation receipt should be received immediately upon your online payment. Be sure to print out your receipt, since this document is often needed for the visa application process. The SEVIS fee must be paid at least three days before your interview date.

Q: Does the I-20 document require both my signature and my parents’ signatures?
A: If you are under 18, your parents will need to sign the I-20 document. Regardless of your age, your signature is required.

Q: What should I do if I misplace my I-20?
A: Like the visa consul emphasizes, it is extremely important not to lose your I-20. You will need it when you go through U.S. Immigration and Customs. If you ever lose it, you need to contact the Office of International Affairs immediately. Remember to maintain a valid passport too!

Q: What should section #2 of my I-20 look like?
A: If you will be attending IUPUI, this is how section #2 on your I-20 should look. The only difference may be in the name under the heading, “School Official to be notified.” There may be a different person who issues your particular I-20. If anything else is different, you need to contact iadvisor@iupui.edu.
Q: What will my F-1 visa stamp look like?
A: Your F-1 visa stamp should look like this, although yours should be in color (this is just black and white). The N number is your SEVIS record number. If your F-1 visa stamp says Indiana University with Bloomington underneath (instead of Indianapolis), please email iadvisor@iupui.edu right away. The reason that the visa stamp reads Indiana University instead of Purdue University is because the administration is under IU; therefore, everyone is legally enrolled to this school.
**Q:** Should I get all of my documents (bank statement, house certificate, job offer, etc.) translated for the visa interview? Or are the original hard copies good enough?

**A:** Interviewing with full documents (originals and approved English translations) is better, and makes the interviewer feel more confident about you.

**Q:** Once the copies of necessary documents are submitted to the visa office, will I receive a receipt?

**A:** A list of the required documents can be found on the OIA website: [http://iservices.iupui.edu/visas/apply/index.html](http://iservices.iupui.edu/visas/apply/index.html). There is usually some sort of confirmation once you have your appointment set up. However, this varies by embassy and consulate.

**Q:** What documents do I need to bring to the consular visa interview?

**A:** The Office of International Affairs (OIA) webpage lists the information that you need to bring to your interview: [http://iservices.iupui.edu/visas/apply/index.html](http://iservices.iupui.edu/visas/apply/index.html). Procedures may vary between consulates. You can refer to the instructions listed on the US Consulate website.

**Q:** How should I answer questions in the visa interview if I only applied to IUPUI?

**A:** Tell the truth, and describe why you are interested in IUPUI and your subject area. The following link has good advice regarding questions targeted toward only applying to one school: [http://www.happyschoolsblog.com/student-visa-advice-visa-officer/](http://www.happyschoolsblog.com/student-visa-advice-visa-officer/).

**Q:** How do I survive the consular visa interview?

**A:** Try to consider the situation from the consular officer’s point of view. What is it that the officer is looking for you to provide? What would convince you that someone intends to return to their home country? Consider those items, and then do your best to provide them. Some helpful pointers can be found at the following link: [http://www.nafsa.org/resourcelibrary/default.aspx?id=8643](http://www.nafsa.org/resourcelibrary/default.aspx?id=8643). The document is titled, “10 Points to Remember When Applying for a Nonimmigrant Visa.”

**Q:** I got rejected during my visa interview twice. What should I do?

**A:** On the second interview, it’s very important to try to provide information that might have been lacking the first time. If you submit the same thing, it will get denied again. The most common reason for a denial is lack of evidence of ties to your home country. In other words, if they think that you are likely to stay in the U.S. permanently, they will deny the visa. If they see that you own property at home, or have dependents staying back, or perhaps have a job offer to return to, then they would feel more confident in issuing the visa to you. See if you can contact the embassy and request the denial reason. They are required to tell you the reason for the denial. Once you have that information, then it will be easier to decide what documents you should bring next time.

**Q:** Should I change my consulate if my visa keeps getting rejected?

**A:** Changing the consulate just because a visa is rejected is typically not a good idea, and does not improve approval chances. However, if your visa was denied in a consulate not in your home country, it might be worthwhile to apply at a consulate in your home country (country of citizenship).
Q: Is there any resource for information about visa interview experiences?
A: The following blog was written by a student at a different university in the U.S. (not IUPUI). The blog has lots of input about visa interviews, especially from India: http://www.happyschoolsblog.com/.

Q: What advice would you give me for answering the visa interview questions?
A: Be genuine, confident and calm. Answer each question step by step. The most common questions are: “Why do you want to study in the USA,” Why did you choose IUPUI, etc. All these questions should be answered directly. Do NOT go to the embassy without knowing why you are coming to United States to study, or why you chose IUPUI specifically. In addition, you should show to the consulate your intention to come back to your country after your studies.

Q: The Visa Officer took my I-20 and original SEVIS fee receipt. Will they keep it?
A: You will get your I-20 along with your passport (with the visa) from the VFS office. They will send you the pick-up details.

The IUPUI Campus
You will find a lot of general information about IUPUI here: http://www.iupui.edu/about/. Below are some of the more common questions students ask.

Q: What does IUPUI stand for?
A: IUPUI stands for Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, and has programs from both IU and PU.

Q: When was IUPUI founded?
A: Indiana University and Purdue University combined in 1969 to form the IUPUI campus.

Q: Why was IUPUI founded?
A: IUPUI was created by the state of Indiana in response to the need for urban education in the state capital and that the university is under the administration of IU but does have some Purdue degrees awarded.

Q: Which school will I earn my diploma from?
A: Each program at IUPUI is either an Indiana University program, or a Purdue University program. Here is a site where you can see each IUPUI degree program, and whether it is an IU or PU program: http://www.iupui.edu/degrees/.

Q: What will my IU degree from IUPUI look like?
A: Here is an example of what an IU degree will look like (for example: Informatics, Liberal Arts, Public & Environmental Affairs, Nursing, Tourism, Physical Education, Health & Rehabilitation).
Q: What will my PU degree from IUPUI look like?
A: Here is what a sample degree from a Purdue school will look like (for example: Science, Engineering, Technology).
**Q:** What is IUPUI’s current ranking in the United States university system?

**A:** There is no single national ranking system. Rather, U.S. News and World Report annually ranks U.S. institutions in a variety of categories and by program. You can see how IUPUI does by following this link: [http://colleges.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-colleges/indiana-university-purdue-university-indianapolis-1813](http://colleges.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-colleges/indiana-university-purdue-university-indianapolis-1813).

**Q:** How big is the IUPUI campus?

**A:** The IUPUI campus is a very large urban campus with over 30,000 students. It stretches over 200 hectares, and has multiple buildings. An interactive map can be found at this link: [http://www.iupui.edu/map/](http://www.iupui.edu/map/).

**Q:** Where can I find important calendar dates throughout the semester?

**A:** The exact IUPUI Calendar can be found at this link: [http://registrar.iupui.edu/accal.html](http://registrar.iupui.edu/accal.html).

**Q:** Where is the IUPUI Office of International Affairs (OIA) located?

**A:** The IUPUI Office of International Affairs (OIA) is located in the Education/Social Work building (ES) in Room 2129. There is a check-in window in the hallway. Here is a link to the campus map: [http://www.iupui.edu/map/](http://www.iupui.edu/map/). It is just about in the center—right off New York Street.
Medical and Health Insurance

General information about the International Student Health Insurance Plan can be found here: [http://iservices.iupui.edu/health-insurance/students/](http://iservices.iupui.edu/health-insurance/students/).

**Q:** What are the vaccinations required for international students?

**A:** Students who will live on campus are required to show proof of vaccination or immunity to Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR). Information is sent to you with your housing contract. IUPUI is in the process of reviewing its tuberculosis (TB) screening requirements for international students; any new requirements will be sent to you in a separate communication or provided at student orientation. Meningitis is not a required vaccine; however, you will need to complete a simple form in Onestart which verifies you have read the information about it.

The following link is to the IUPUI Health Services Immunization Record: [http://health.iupui.edu/docs/StudentImmunizationRecord.pdf](http://health.iupui.edu/docs/StudentImmunizationRecord.pdf).

**Q:** Do I need to get a vaccine from a government agency, or is a medical practitioner sufficient?

**A:** Getting vaccinated by a medical practitioner is satisfactory. For Measles, Mumps, and Rubella, you should allow plenty of time to get vaccinated, because there is a one month gap between the first and second dosage of the vaccination.

**Q:** Do I need to bring any other medical records with me?

**A:** Be sure to bring your record of immunizations and any other important medical records (translated into English, if possible) for health care providers here to reference. Students in clinical health care programs will be required to undergo health screenings before beginning their programs.

**Q:** Where can I search for information about international student insurance offered by the school?

**A:** That information can be found at this link: [http://iservices.iupui.edu/health-insurance/students/](http://iservices.iupui.edu/health-insurance/students/).

**Q:** Am I required to have health insurance from IUPUI?

**A:** Insurance from your country will need to meet certain requirements before you can be waived from the university insurance. You can find details on the waiver requirements here: [http://iservices.iupui.edu/health-insurance/students/](http://iservices.iupui.edu/health-insurance/students/). The insurance fee is a separate charge that is put on your account after the semester begins. It is not included in the tuition.

Course Selection

**Q:** When will I find out which courses I will take?

**A:** Undergraduate students will meet with an academic advisor during their Academic Orientation program with University College. At that time they will choose their courses and register.

Graduate students should contact their academic department to find out how course registration is handled. If you are not sure how to contact the department you have been admitted into, you can look up your degree on the following website, and find your department’s
website: http://www.iupui.edu/degrees/. Each departmental website has information on how to contact the department.

Q: My admission letter says I am Pre-Engineering. What does this mean?
A: If “Pre” is written before your intended major, this means that you have been admitted to University College before you transition into your degree granting program. University College is the academic home of most newly admitted undergraduate students at IUPUI. Most students are initially admitted to University College and take at least one semester to one year of classes before they can be admitted to their degree school.

Q: How can I contact my academic advisor?
A: if you are an undergraduate student, you will see your advisor during orientation. If you would like to contact them earlier then you can call the Academic and Career Development department of University College at 317-274-4856. Undergraduate students admitted directly into their degree programs should contact their academic department directly. If you are not sure how to contact the department you have been admitted into, you can look up your degree on the following website, and find your department’s website: http://www.iupui.edu/degrees/. Each departmental website has information on how to contact the department. Graduate students should also contact their department directly.

Q: How can I get credits transferred from my previous school in my home country?
A: Transfer credit is handled by the International Admissions staff. Please direct any questions regarding transfer credit to tccredit@iupui.edu.

Q: How many credit hours per semester are categorized as full-time?
A: Undergraduate students must enroll in 12 credits each semester.

If you are a graduate student, it depends on whether you have an assistantship or not. For grad students without assistantships, the minimum is 8 credit hours, whereas for grad students with a certain level of assistantship, the minimum is 6 credit hours. You can choose to register for more than the minimum number of credit hours; your academic department will advise you if that would be a good choice for you to be successful in your program. You can also check with your department about the level of your assistantship to find out how many credits you should register for. The following link has more details: http://iservices.iupui.edu/visas/maintain-status/full-time-student/index.html.

Technology (Accounts, iStart, Onestart, etc)

Q: How do I get an IUPUI email ID?
A: Instructions for creating a university account and obtaining a Network ID for e-mail and other services are available at http://itaccounts.iu.edu.
Q: What is the link to the iStart portal?
A: The iStart portal can be found at https://istart.iu.edu.

Q: How do I log onto iStart if I don’t know my username and passphrase?
A: On the left side of the iStart home page, you will see the option to log in with “Limited Services”. This requires only your university ID number and date of birth. In addition you need your pin number. At the bottom of the Login page, you will find “Email me my Limited Access PIN.” Once you obtain that by email, you can log into the system.

Q: I can’t log onto Onestart. What should I do?
A: Make sure that you have set up your technology account at IUPUI. You will need your username and passphrase to log onto Onestart.

Q: I set up my university email account. How do I open it?
A: Your university email account will either be under Umail (https://umail.iu.edu/) or Imail (https://imail.iu.edu/), depending on which system you made your account under.

Q: I am experiencing technology problems. Where can I go for help?
A: If you experience problems, you can email the IUPUI technology service at ithelp@iu.edu or chat with them live at http://ithelplive.iu.edu. They are open 24 hrs.

Q: Where do I find the citizenship verification form?
A: First, log onto Onestart (http://onestart.iu.edu/) using your university username and passphrase. Next, look for a tab labeled “Services.” Click on it, then you should have a link to the citizenship verification form.

Q: When I first try to log onto Onestart, it asks for a citizenship test. Am I supposed to attempt that test after arriving in the United States, or can I do it right away?
A: It’s not a test of your knowledge; it is just a confirmation of your legal status. You should state that you are not a U.S. citizen. Then you will choose the option which verifies you are currently overseas, but will be arriving in the U.S. with a legal status.

Q: I am confused about how to complete the citizenship verification form on Onestart. If I am a non US citizen, then which option should I select?
A: All students complete the citizenship verification before they can enroll for classes. If you are outside the United States at this time, then you should choose option B, which verifies that you will be coming to the U.S. in a valid VISA status. OR, you can fill it out after you get to the U.S. and indicate that you are here in legal status.

Planning for Travel and Arrival

Q: How can I find out if EducationUSA has any pre-departure orientations for students in my country?
A: Here is a website where you can find pre-departure orientations at EducationUSA centers around the
Q: Is there anything I need to do before arriving in the United States?
A: If you go to istart.iu.edu, you will find a checklist of things to do before arriving in the U.S. As your orientation date gets closer, more items will appear, so please keep checking.

Q: Do you have any travel tips for the trip over?
A: We have a page on our website about “What to Bring”: http://iservices.iupui.edu/what-to-bring/index.htm. Also, helpful information related to traveling to the USA (packing suitcase, buying cheap tickets, port of entry, baggage, jet lag, etc.) may be found at the following resource: http://www.happyschoolsblog.com/flight-travel-tips-usa/. That page is written mostly for Indian students, but can be helpful for everyone. Do not forget to register for Frequent Flyer Miles account with the airlines where you book your flight.

Q: What documents do I need at the U.S. airport?
A: You'll need your valid passport, your valid F-1 visa stamp, and your IUPUI I-20. For students entering for the first time in F-1 status, the school name and the SEVIS ID number on the F-1 visa stamp and the I-20 MUST match. For help applying for a visa stamp, see the OIA's website for details: http://iservices.iupui.edu/visas/apply/index.html.

Q: Where can I make reservations for temporary housing before I am allowed to move into on-campus or off-campus housing?
A: You can check out the OIA website for some hotels that are very close to IUPUI: http://visit.iupui.edu/lodging/.

Q: I am in Indianapolis early. Is there anything I need to do before orientation?
A: You are free to go ahead and take your placement tests early. If you are an undergraduate student, you can go ahead and do your academic orientation program with University College (this is separate from the OIA’s immigration orientation). All students are encouraged to enroll in classes as early as possible to assure proper course placement. If you are a graduate student, you should confirm with your department when your departmental academic orientation will be.

Also, starting in August you may go to the Campus Card Services office to obtain your school identification card, called a “JagTag”; this office is in the Campus Center, room 217.

Q: I am arriving in Indianapolis late. Do I need to do anything?
A: Undergraduate students: Please email iadvisor@iupui.edu to request permission for a late arrival. If approved, we will ask you to schedule a late orientation program. The orientation program is mandatory for all students, including those who arrive late. Please do not arrive late for classes without advance approval!

Graduate students: Please contact your academic department for permission to arrive late. If they approve your late arrival, please ask them to notify International Affairs at iadvisor@iupui.edu. OIA will
ask you to schedule a late orientation program. The orientation program is mandatory for all students, including those who arrive late. **Please do not arrive late for classes without advance approval!**

**Q:** Is there transportation offered by IUPUI to get to campus after arrival?
**A:** The Office of International Affairs will provide complimentary (free) transportation with a local company called Carey Indiana. The transportation service runs from the Indianapolis International Airport to the IUPUI Campus or to the downtown area for newly arriving international students. You will receive an e-mail one month before orientation with details about how to request this service via istart.iu.edu. Once we receive your flight information (via the form on iStart) we will send you the confirmation number along with detailed instructions about how to locate the service at the airport. You can get transportation at any time. However, keep in mind the closing time of your destination! If you are going straight to a hotel, you will not need to worry about that. However, apartment leasing offices will usually close at 5pm.

**Orientation**

**Q:** When does my orientation begin?
**A:** If you are a freshman admitted for the Fall semester, then you must attend the Summer Academy Bridge program which begins two weeks prior to the start of the Fall semester. (Details available here: [http://iservices.iupui.edu/welcome/bridge/](http://iservices.iupui.edu/welcome/bridge/)) You will have your weekends free. Before this date, you need to take your placement tests and complete your University College orientation.

All other students may find their orientation schedule here: [http://iservices.iupui.edu/welcome/orientation/](http://iservices.iupui.edu/welcome/orientation/). The Fall schedule is normally updated on the website in June.

**Q:** Why do I see orientations in June and July on the IUPUI website?
**A:** The orientations you are seeing are for incoming American students. They have the option of attending orientation starting in April and throughout the summer.

**Q:** I am a freshman. Since I attended the Bridge program, do I need to attend the International Orientation with everyone else?
**A:** Freshmen attending the Bridge Program have their own International Student Orientation which is part of the Bridge program.

**Q:** How many orientations do I need to attend?
**A:** Attendance at the Office of International Affairs (OIA) orientation is mandatory. Undergraduate students also attend an Academic Orientation Program. If you are a graduate student, your department may have another orientation planned; therefore, you should also check with them.

**Q:** As a second degree seeking student, do I really need to do the new student orientation?
**A:** Yes, you need to attend the orientation as mentioned in your admission letter.
Placement Tests

Q: What placement tests are offered at IUPUI?
A: The only placement tests are in Math and English.

Q: What does the EAP (English for Academic Purposes) test actually test?
A: It is a very general test for grammar, composition, and listening. It does not test vocabulary in a specific area.

Q: Do I need to study for the EAP test?
A: You do not need to do anything to prepare for the EAP test. Placement tests are not meant to be prepared for; they are meant to determine your current knowledge. Therefore, there is no specific way to prepare for them. However, a general overview of the subject material would be helpful. You can find more information here: http://liberalarts.iupui.edu/english/index.php/academics/eap/eap_tests/.

Q: When/how should I register for the placement test?
A: Your admission letter will tell you which tests you need to take. You should take the math placement exam online before arriving in Indianapolis: https://www.iupui.edu/~tcdata/aleks/. The EAP exam can be taken at any COMPASS testing facility, or it can be taken after you arrive at IUPUI. Most students take the EAP exam during orientation week. During the OIA’s immigration orientation, you can schedule a time to take the EAP exam on the following day. Complete information will be sent to you by email.

Q: Where do I find which placement tests I am supposed to take?
A: The second page of your letter of admission will tell you what specific placement tests you will need to take for your major.

Q: Can I take the placement tests online?
A: Only the “ALEKS” math placement test can be taken online, and should be taken before you arrive in Indianapolis.

Q: Do I still need to take the English Placement Test (EAP) if I have already taken the TOEFL or IELTS?
A: Undergraduate students with a TOEFL (internet based) score of 95 or higher, IELTS score of 7.0 or higher or SAT Critical Reading score of 550 or higher are exempt from taking the EAP exam. Graduate students with a TOEFL (internet based) score of 100 or higher, and those with an IELTS score of 7.5 or higher are exempted from EAP testing. All other international students must take it. It is not to prove your proficiency—that is what the TOEFL and IELTS are for. Rather, the placement test is to place you in any further English classes you might need. The results might also show that you need no further instruction.
Q: I already finished level 109 at an ELS Language Center. Do I still need to take the placement test?
A: Yes, you will need to take the placement test. Most students finishing at ELS still have some English courses they need to take. In fact, if you are at an ELS center which is not in Indianapolis, then it is highly recommended that you take the EAP test in advance at a remote location before coming to IUPUI. More information about this option will be provided by email if you qualify for this service.

Q: I was admitted without a TOEFL score. Is there any problem with this?
A: Due to your nationality, you may appear on a list of countries for which IUPUI does NOT require a TOEFL score. Here’s our website explaining our policy; you can use this information at your interview: http://iapply.iupui.edu/graduate/toefl-exemption/.

Student Life

Q: Where can I play table tennis?
A: The Campus Center Recreation Room has a place to play table tennis

Q: Where can I play cricket?
A: The Indian students here frequently get together to play. You can contact the Indian Students Advisory Council to find out when they will have another game. You can find them on Facebook.

Q: How do I sign up for the International Peer Mentoring Program (IPMP)?
A: The International Peer Mentoring Program (IPMP) is intended to assist incoming undergraduate international students. IPMP mentors are current IUPUI students who are trained to volunteer their time and energy toward orienting new students to life at IUPUI. If you would like a team of peer mentors, you must go to your iStart account and sign up for it. You will find it under the tab that reads "Admission and Orientation" on the left hand side of the page. Please email oiaprgms@iupui.edu if you have any questions about getting a mentor. If you are a graduate student, we have a separate program from IPMP.

Q: Am I required to sign up for the International Peer Mentoring Program (IPMP)?
A: No, you are not required. However, many students find them very helpful for getting acquainted with the city, meeting new people and understanding the academic resources available. It is your choice if you would like to sign up.

Q: How do I get in touch with students from my department?
A: You can email your department directly, and they can probably put you in contact with a current student. You could also try contacting the various cultural associations on campus.

Q: Where can I buy a mobile phone?
A: There will likely be a few cell phone companies at the Services Fair that takes place on the first day of orientation. T-Mobile, Sprint, and Revol have been represented before. You can get something like an iPhone if you use it for multimedia purposes, or get a normal phone if you use it only to call. If you want to get a cell phone on contract (usually two years), you will need to apply for a Social Security Number
(SSN). Your monthly phone bills may be higher, but the benefits are that it will help you build your credit history and you may be able to buy the phone for a cheaper price. Until you apply for an SSN, you can purchase pre-paid calling time or share someone’s family plan. You could also just buy a phone in your country and bring it to the United States.

Q: Is bike riding allowed on-campus?  
A: Absolutely! Actually, many of our city streets have bicycle lanes, which make it much safer.

Q: If I have an international driver’s license, would I be able to drive in Indianapolis?  
A: You can use the international driver’s license TOGETHER with your home country license. You cannot use the international license by itself.

**Financial Matters**

Q: Do I have to pay extra charges for confirming my admission?  
A: IUPUI does have an enrollment fee; however, it is waived for international students.

Q: How do I apply for scholarships?  
A: For undergraduate students, some scholarships are “Admissions Based,” which means that you are considered automatically. Others are competitive, which means you have to apply for them. You will find more information here: [http://iapply.iupui.edu/scholarships/](http://iapply.iupui.edu/scholarships/). For more information about major-specific scholarships, you can contact your program office.

Financial assistance for graduate students is offered through the academic programs directly.

Q: What is the Plater Scholarship?  
A: This scholarship is designed for incoming freshman. Information about the Plater International Scholars Program can be found at the following links: [http://honorscollege.iupui.edu/scholarships/plater/](http://honorscollege.iupui.edu/scholarships/plater/) and [http://www.iupui.edu/~scentral/freshman/intnlmajorspecific.html](http://www.iupui.edu/~scentral/freshman/intnlmajorspecific.html).

Q: How can I apply for the Hoosier Connection Scholarship in Engineering and Technology?  
A: Information about this scholarship can be found at this link: [http://www.iupui.edu/~scentral/freshman/intnlmajorspecific.html](http://www.iupui.edu/~scentral/freshman/intnlmajorspecific.html).

Q: What are the specifics of IUPUI tuition and fees?  
A: You pay for one semester at a time. You can estimate your tuition and fee payment at the following link: [http://bursar.iupui.edu/apps/costestimator.aspx](http://bursar.iupui.edu/apps/costestimator.aspx). Your payment options can be found at the following link: [http://bursar.iupui.edu/paymentopts.asp](http://bursar.iupui.edu/paymentopts.asp).

Q: What are the general fees that are separate from the tuition fees?  
A: The following document describes some of the general fees you may be charged: [http://iapply.iupui.edu/expenses/](http://iapply.iupui.edu/expenses/). Please be aware that tuition and fee costs for IUPUI have
just been updated by the university, but these pdfs are not updated yet. For the most up-to-date tuition and fee figures, see http://bursar.iupui.edu/apps/costestimator.aspx. Updated insurance fees can be found here: http://iservices.iupui.edu/health-insurance/students/.

**Q:** How do I pay for university fees?
**A:** The following is a link where you can learn from the IUPUI Bursar when bills are due each term: http://www.bursar.iupui.edu/calendar.asp. You can pay your fees by check, or you can wire transfer your money from your country directly into bursar account. You can also wire transfer your money into your account here and then write a check to IUPUI. Another option is paying by credit card but in that case, you will have to pay service charge. Once your bill is generated you will get to know the exact amount to pay.

**Q:** How can I apply for assistantships?
**A:** You will want to contact your program office for opportunities in this area.

**Q:** Would an international driving license be helpful in opening up a new bank account in Indianapolis?
**A:** You do not need a driver’s license to open up a bank account. A passport and I-20 would be sufficient for opening up a bank account.

**Q:** How can I open up a bank account or buy a cellphone without a Social Security Number (SSN)?
**A:** Once you get to Indianapolis, you’ll come to orientation and there will be a services fair. At the fair, we’ll have a table where you can get a letter to take to banks so that they can help you open an account. Having an SSN is not required to open a bank account with most banks. The Credit Union on our campus does not require an SSN at all. With regard to cell phones, you will not be able to get a contract with a U.S. cell phone company without an SSN, but you can purchase pre-paid calling time.

**Q:** How do I get a Social Security Number (SSN)?
**A:** The international student orientation includes information on applying for a U.S. Social Security Number (SSN). You can get it once you arrive in the United States. More information can be found at this website: http://iservices.iupui.edu/employment/social-security/index.html.

**Q:** Upon reaching Indianapolis, I plan on buying a laptop and cellphone. Since I do not have a SSN number yet, will I be paying heavy taxes on my purchases?
**A:** Your SSN is not related to your purchases. Sales tax is the same whether you have an SSN or not, and is unaffected by whether you have a bank account or not. Currently the tax rate in Indiana is 7%. With regard to cell phones, you will not be able to get a contract with a U.S. cell phone company as it needs credit history. But still you can either go for prepaid or be on someone's family plan.

**Q:** How can I access my IUPUI bursar account?
**A:** First, log in to onestart.iu.edu, and choose Student Self Service from the menu on the left. You should be able to access your Bursar account information from this page.
Q: What is credit history?
A: Credit history is based on the timeliness with which you pay your bills. It is a way to show you are a reliable person especially when it comes to loans. The interest rates tend to depend on the credit history you build.

Housing

Q: Where should I look for information about on-campus housing?
A: The IUPUI Housing & Residence Life website is a good resource for questions about on-campus options: [http://life.iupui.edu/housing/](http://life.iupui.edu/housing/). There are academic major or residential based learning communities like Kelley House, Herron House, Honors House, and International House.

Q: How should I apply for on-campus housing?
A: It is best to apply online at [http://life.iupui.edu/housing/apply/index.html](http://life.iupui.edu/housing/apply/index.html). If that is not possible for some reason than you can scan and e-mail the application, but you would still need to pay the application fee—the housing office can provide you with a link that you can pay online. You may contact them at ResLife@iupui.edu.

Q: Where do I find International House on the on-campus housing form?
A: It is located in an area that says "Residential Based Learning Community." You should also select 4-bedroom apartment as an option under "room type preference".

Q: I applied for on-campus housing after the recommended date. Is there still a chance that I will be accepted?
A: There is still a good chance that you will be able to get on-campus housing. It might not be your first choice, but you’re still likely to get an offer. It will probably be awhile before you hear anything back from the Housing Office.

Q: I am applying really late for on-campus housing. What should I do?
A: You can still apply for on-campus housing. The best thing to do is select all options that you are willing to accept. If you only select one option as your preference and that option is not available, then you most likely will not be considered for anything else.

Q: When will the on-campus housing decision be sent to me?
A: The result should come sometime in July or sooner.

Q: Should I live on campus during my first year?
A: Students who live on campus in their first year feel happier and tend to do better in their academics. Living on campus gives you the opportunity to meet more people and take advantage of more of the campus resources and activities. If you can afford it, it is recommended that you live on campus.

Q: Who is allowed to live in Ball Hall or the Tower?
A: Both Ball Hall and the Tower are for first year undergraduates only. It fills very fast. While there is still
a chance that someone might get a spot due to a cancellation, it is unlikely that anyone who didn’t apply quite early (before April) would get a spot in Ball Hall.

**Q:** Ball Residence Hall lists a computer as one of the things to bring. Is that compulsory? Or is there a computer lab we can use?

**A:** You can use the computer lab, but since it might be very busy at points, it would be more convenient to have your own laptop.

**Q:** Where should I look for information about off-campus housing?

**A:** The IUPUI Student Advocate has some resources online for students to refer to when looking at off-campus housing. It is found at this link: [http://studentaffairs.iupui.edu/campus-living/off-campus-services/property-listings/index.shtml](http://studentaffairs.iupui.edu/campus-living/off-campus-services/property-listings/index.shtml). The International Peer Mentors may also have some good recommendations. Some off-campus apartments near IUPUI include:

- The Avenue ([http://www.theavenueindy.com/Avenue/Index.aspx](http://www.theavenueindy.com/Avenue/Index.aspx))
- Canal Square ([http://www.canalsquareapartments.com/](http://www.canalsquareapartments.com/))

By logging onto [One.iu.edu](http://One.iu.edu), you can check the Classifieds for “Roommates & Sublets” to find students looking for roommates or who are subletting their apartments:

**Q:** Is the campus housing contract for the entire academic year?

**A:** All on campus housing contracts are for an academic year. If you move out early (break the contract) you will need to pay the $1,500 fee for breaking the contract. Unfortunately, campus housing does not allow subleasing.