



Welcome to UNI!

Dear Student,

Welcome to the University of Northern Iowa (UNI)! On behalf of the UNI community, I thank you for your decision to study here at UNI. To make the most of your time at UNI right from the beginning, it is extremely important that you attend the orientation sessions during the week prior to the start of your first semester on campus. It is intended that this week of orientation, along with the ongoing support of the International Services Office, will enable you to feel welcome and comfortable, and to be successful at UNI.

We have designed sessions to help you learn how the University works, how to find and use resources that will help you be a successful student, how to protect your immigration status, and how to adjust to life in the U.S. You will have the opportunity to register for classes, open a bank account and learn about how to find a job on the UNI campus. You will have a chance to go shopping, and will have plenty of time to have fun getting to know other international students! We believe the program will serve you well and we look forward to your participation.

Please read the enclosed schedule very carefully, and please do not hesitate to ask questions about the activities and sessions that have been planned for you. We look forward to meeting you when you arrive in Iowa, and to helping you get to the residence hall or apartment where you have chosen to live. Please schedule your travel based upon the information provided in the "Important Points to Remember" pages of the enclosed schedule.

I look forward to meeting you in January!

Sincerely,

Ross Schupbach, International Student Advisor

ross.schupbach@uni.edu
www.uni.edu/internationalservices

IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER

- Make your travel plans so that you arrive on campus on January 4 or January 5. **Please do not arrive any earlier!** **UNI will be closed for the winter break, which means that many services will not be available and residence halls will not be open until January 4.** It will be much better to arrive later if you cannot arrive on January 4 or January 5.
- Please send us your arrival information as soon as you know your travel plans by using the form available at this site: **<http://www.uni.edu/internationalservices/arrivalform.shtml>**. If you have difficulty with the web form above, you may send an e-mail message to **ross.schupbach@uni.edu** to report your arrival information.
 - We will arrange for airport pickups for those students arriving at the nearby Waterloo airport (ALO). **We strongly recommend use of the Waterloo (ALO) airport.** All flights into the Waterloo airport depart from the Minneapolis-St. Paul airport (MSP), a major U.S. air transportation hub. If you are working with a travel agent to schedule your flights, please ask him/her to first book travel to arrive in MSP, then reserve a connecting flight on Northwest Airlines (NW) or Delta Airlines (DL) into Waterloo (ALO). International Services will arrange for transportation from the Waterloo airport to your residence hall, apartment, or hotel when you arrive on or after January 4. The driving time from the Waterloo airport to the UNI campus is approximately 9 minutes.
 - If it is absolutely impossible for you to arrive at the Waterloo Airport, we will be able to make arrangements for your transportation from the Cedar Rapids/Eastern Iowa Airport (CID). This airport is located much further away from UNI in the city of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The driving time from the Cedar Rapids/Eastern Iowa Airport to the UNI campus is approximately 90 minutes. If you wish to arrange and pay for your own transportation from the Cedar Rapids/Eastern Iowa Airport, please visit **www.crshuttle.com** or e-mail **crshuttle@yahoo.com** to arrange for shuttle service. If you choose to do this, please send an e-mail message to **ross.schupbach@uni.edu** indicating that you have done so.
 - Even if you plan to arrive on campus without our transportation assistance, we still need to know when you will be arriving. Please use the form mentioned above to report your arrival date and approximate time, and to alert us that you will not need assistance with airport transportation.
- To report delays, flight changes and other information during your trip, please call the **International Services emergency cell phone number at 319-269-7278.**
- It is your responsibility to make your own housing arrangements before you arrive, unless you would prefer to stay temporarily in a local hotel while you make long-term arrangements. Local hotels will cost approximately \$100 per night. A residence hall application, or “contract”, must be submitted before you arrive if you wish to live in a UNI residence hall. For those who are eligible for a UNI apartment, an application form is required before you arrive. For more information about housing options, go to <http://www.uni.edu/dor/housing.shtml>.

MORE IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER

- Please note that you can bring your own linens or you may purchase a full set (bed sheets, pillow, pillowcase, blanket, towel and washcloth) upon arrival for \$45.
- International Services will pay for residence hall housing from January 4 through January 8.
- For eligible students who have arranged to live in UNI Apartment housing, please note that these apartments are not furnished. You will need to obtain a bed and other furniture when you arrive.
- As soon as possible after you arrive on campus, please bring your travel and immigration documents to the International Services Office in 113 Maucker Union, in the center of the UNI campus. International Services is located inside building number 27 (Maucker Union) on the campus map available at <http://www.uni.edu/infosys/campusmap/index.shtml#>. We are on the upper plaza level. Office Hours are 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- During Orientation, we will pay for two lunches and four dinners. You will be responsible for paying for all the other meals before the start of classes. Restaurants and eating establishments on College Hill (adjacent to campus) and limited on-campus facilities will be open for meals and snacks.
- A mandatory New Student Program fee of \$157 will be charged to your account. This fee is required for **ALL** new international students with no exceptions. This fee funds services that are available especially for new UNI students.
- Graduate students are not assigned a specific registration time. They should contact their respective departments prior to arrival and arrange for a time to meet with a faculty advisor for assistance in this process.
- **ALL** new international students must be screened for tuberculosis (TB). This screening will take place on Wednesday, January 13. There is a \$118 fee for this testing. All or part of this fee may be covered by your health insurance coverage, including the UNI Student Health Insurance Plan.

ORIENTATION SCHEDULE

Spring Semester 2010

Tuesday, January 5

- 4:00 p.m. **Campus Tour:** *Meet at the International Services Office, Maucker Union*
Enjoy a look around UNI's beautiful campus and learn where to go for your classes, activities and other parts of your campus life. The tour will stop at the Department of Residence Office, where you can get your official UNI Student ID Card.
- 6:30 p.m. **Welcome Dinner:** *Meet at the International Services Office*
Dine with UNI International Staff members, your peer advisors, and members of the International Student Association in a festive event to welcome you to UNI and to prepare you for our important International Student Orientation!

Wednesday, January 6

- 8:00 a.m. **Evaluation of English Proficiency:** *Meet at International Services*
This is a mandatory session for all provisionally or conditionally admitted students. Students participating in English testing will register on Thursday morning.
- 8:00 a.m. **Registration for Exchange Students:** *Check-in at International Services*
It is very important that you are ON TIME for registration!
- 10:30 a.m. **Navigating the U.S System of Education:** *Maucker Union State College Room*
To "navigate" means to find your way. The U.S. system of education can be quite different than the system in your home country. Learn what "grades" mean, what a "program of study" is, and many other useful tips.
- 12:00 noon **Lunch:** *Meet at International Services*
International Services will provide lunch for orientation participants.
- 1:30 p.m. **Find a job:** *Maucker Union State College Room*
Would you like to take advantage of your eligibility to be employed on campus and earn some extra money? If so, this session will inform you of where to look and what to do. A representative from the Financial Aid Office will help you get started and answer your questions. You will also learn about what a "Social Security Number" is and how to get one if you become employed at UNI.
- 2:15 p.m. **Travel and Transportation in Cedar Falls:** *Maucker Union State College Room*
This session will show you where things are in Cedar Falls and neighboring Waterloo, and how to travel by foot, bicycle, bus or car to the places you want to go.

- 2:30 p.m. **Paying your “E-Bill” & Managing your Money:** *Maucker Union State College Room*
Find out how you will pay your tuition and fees and how to view your account online in this session with an expert from the UNI Office of Business Operations. We will also discuss some tips about how to manage your money while in the U.S.
- 3:00 p.m. **Money and Banking:** *Maucker Union State College Room*
Representatives from a local financial institution will tell you about their services for students. Following a general banking presentation, you will have the opportunity to open an account and even deposit money. Be sure to bring your money to deposit, your I-20 form or DS-2019 form, and your passport with I-94 card.
- 5:00 p.m. **Dinner as a group:** *Piazza Dining Center*
Please join us for a complimentary dinner at one of UNI’s most diverse dining locations. Meet at the International Services Office if you would like to walk to the Piazza with the group.
- 7:00 p.m. **Country and Culture Celebration:** *Meet at International Services*
Come and share your talents and tell us a bit about your country and culture. We’ll have a blast learning more about each other and celebrating the unique people who make up our orientation group!

Thursday, January 7

- 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. **Registration for Undergraduate Freshman, Transfer Students and Conditionally Admitted Undergraduate Students:** *Check-in at International Services*
It is very important that you are ON TIME for registration!
- 12:00 noon **Lunch on your own**
- 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. **Advising and Registration available for students who need further assistance**
Academic Advising Office, 102 Gilchrist Hall
- 1:30 p.m. **Safety, Security and Student Services:** *Maucker Union Elm Room*
The UNI and Cedar Falls community is considered a safe place. This session will teach you some safety tips to help you keep yourself safe and out of trouble. Meet an officer from the UNI Public Safety Team and find out how you can work with them. You’ll also get to meet someone from the Dean of Students’ Office who will tell you about the services available at UNI to help you have a safe and successful experience!
- 2:30 p.m. **How to Get Involved:** *Maucker Union Elm Room*
There is much more to the UNI experience than attending classes. Find out just how much fun you can have and how much there is to do to enrich your life as a student. The Northern Iowa Student Government President will stop by to let you know all about our student government system and how you can become involved.
- 3:30 p.m. **The Student Health Clinic & Health Insurance:** *Maucker Union Elm Room*

Why does UNI require health insurance for international students? How does the U.S. health care system work? What can the UNI Health Center do for you? Find out answers to these questions in this session!

5:00 p.m. **Night on the town:** *Meet at International Services*
Please join us for a complimentary dinner at a local restaurant, followed by a fun social activity to be announced!

Friday, January 8

- 9:00 a.m. **Rod Library Tour:** *Meet at International Services*
Sign up in the International Services office to participate in a tour of Rod Library. Get a head start and find out where things are, who to ask with library questions, and where the best places to study are located. Space is limited, so sign up early to reserve your place!
- 10:30 a.m. **SEVIS, Status, and Reporting – Oh My!** *Maucker Union State College Room*
This very important session will highlight the basics of your immigration status and what you need to do to stay in good standing with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. New developments in the handling of student information will be discussed, and the importance of following the rules of your visa status will be emphasized. Bring your questions! Presented by Ross Schupbach, International Student Advisor.
- 12:00 noon **Lunch with People from UNI!** *Maucker Union Hemisphere Lounge*
Please join us for lunch! Meet and eat with members of the UNI community who keep the University going.
- 1:30 p.m.
to 3:30 p.m. **Intercultural Communication:** *Maucker Union State College Room*
Life in the U.S. may not be quite like it is at home. Learn how to become comfortable and how to communicate in your new surroundings from an expert who will have some great advice to share. You will explore cultural awareness, gain knowledge about cultural differences, and learn strategies for intercultural communication.
- 3:30 p.m. **Catch Up Session:** *International Services*
Did you arrive too late for the beginning of our orientation week? Did you miss a session? This will be an excellent chance for you to pick up materials from earlier sessions this week and ask any questions that you might have.
- 6:00 p.m. **Pizza Party:** *Wellness Recreation Center*
Join returning international students for pizza, soda and other goodies!
- 6:30 p.m. **Friday Fun Night at the WRC:** *Wellness Recreation Center*
Bring your exercise clothes, sport shoes and swimwear for an evening of recreation, relaxation, sport and social time. The entire WRC will be open just for us!

Saturday, January 9

- 9:00 a.m. to **Household Item & Furniture Giveaway:** *International Services*
9:30 a.m. If you need any household cond-hand items such as dishes, cups, towels, pots, lamps or furniture, come check out the wide variety of donated items! Everything is FREE!
- 10:00 a.m. **Cedar Falls Driving Tour and area Shopping Trip:** *Meet at International Services*
Following a guided driving tour of Cedar Falls aboard a comfortable motorcoach, we will be ready to take you shopping for supplies, clothing, gifts, snacks and more. We will visit local shopping areas, which include a mall, a large discount store, and a second-hand store. We will return to campus in the afternoon. Please reserve your seat in advance by signing up in the International Services Office.

Monday, January 11 **Enjoy your first day of classes!**

Wednesday, January 13

- 8:00 a.m. to **Tuberculosis Screening for all new International Students**
9:30 a.m. Health Clinic personnel will be on-hand to perform tuberculosis screening during this 90-minute time period. This is mandatory for all international Students. **PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR HEALTH FORMS WITH YOU TO THIS SESSION.** You must report for screening during this time. If you have classes scheduled, please make arrangements with your instructor/s so that you can be tested for TB.

Friday, January 15

- 3:30 p.m. **First Friday Party:** *International Services*
Celebrate the end of your first week of classes and compare experiences with your new friends. Refreshments will be provided!