

International Parents' and Families' Guide to UConn



WELCOME, HUSKY PARENTS AND FAMILIES!

This guide is created by the offices of the Center for International Students and Scholars (CISS) to provide you with information about life at UConn for your student. We know it is a big decision to attend college in another country, and we are excited to welcome your student to campus soon. We hope you find this guide helpful.

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS & SCHOLARS (CISS)

The [Center for International Students and Scholars](#) is a hub for international student support at UConn. CISS houses three units:

- [International Student and Scholar Services](#) (ISSS): visas, adjustment, and advising support for international students
- Intercultural Programs and Support (IPS): programs and services to connect international students with each other and the greater UConn community
- [UCAELI](#): English language and academic skill support for English language learners.

Students may contact international@uconn.edu with any questions they have about coming to UConn as an international student.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY, PRIVACY, AND FERPA

In the United States, students who are at least 18 years old are considered adults, and are responsible for managing all aspects of their daily lives. The University offers many support services to help students navigate their new environment, but ultimately students are responsible to manage their own academic workload, finances, and behavior.

FERPA is a law in the U.S. that protects a student's privacy and rights to their own educational records. This means that the University cannot share information with you about your student's academic grades and other protected information unless they designate you as someone with whom we can share information, and provide you a PIN number. See [FERPA info for Parents and Guardians](#) to learn more.

SAFETY

The safety of students is UConn's top priority. The UConn Division of Public Safety includes the police department, fire department, emergency management, fire marshall and building inspection, and environmental health and safety units. All students have access to a text and email emergency alert system, and emergency phones are located all around campus. Visit [Campus Health and Safety](#) for more information.

If you need to reach UConn police regarding a safety concern, call: +1-860-486-4800.

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ORIENTATION

All international students are required to attend an [orientation program](#) at their campus. Most international students attend the International Student Orientation Program offered during the week before classes begin. There may be other orientation requirements to fulfill throughout the summer. Encourage your student to check their UConn email for information about orientation requirements and registration.

Storrs Campus

August 18: Required move-in date to attend the International Student Orientation Program

August 19-22: CISS Welcome and Support Program

August 23-24: University Orientation

Stamford Campus:

August 22: Move in date to attend International Student Orientation

August 23: International Student Orientation Program

Students attending Waterbury, Avery Point or Hartford campuses will be contacted by their ISSS advisor to attend a required ISSS orientation meeting.

COURSE REGISTRATION

Course enrollment is part of the orientation process. Academic advisors assist students in understanding academic expectations and graduation requirements, selecting courses, and navigating academic life as a UConn student. New undergraduate students also enroll in a [First Year Experience](#) course, which helps students transition to life at UConn. In addition, all students must complete the Guided Placement Survey (GPS) before orientation. At the end of the GPS, students receive a [First-Year Writing \(FYW\)](#) course recommendation to be used when they enroll in their FYW course. Students who seek additional English language support can take evening classes at [UCAELI](#).

HOUSING AND MEALS

On campus housing is offered at the Storrs and Stamford campuses. Living on campus helps your student connect to campus resources and other UConn students. Students apply for housing through the MyHousing login on the [Residential Life website](#).

Most new students who attend the Storrs campus are required to live on campus their first year. Undergraduate students who live on campus at Storrs are also required to have a [meal plan](#), which allows students to eat at any of the dining halls on campus. Some meal plans also include points to "spend" at other on campus cafes. There are no dining halls at Stamford campus; students can buy groceries to cook on their own, or eat at local cafes and restaurants.

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HEALTH INSURANCE, HEALTH CARE, AND IMMUNIZATIONS

Healthcare in the U.S. is very expensive. Therefore all UConn students are required to have health insurance. Health insurance is purchased in advance to cover expenses for routine and emergency medical treatment that occurs throughout the year. Full time students are automatically enrolled in the UConn UConn Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) to ensure sufficient insurance coverage; verify enrollment in the UConn SHIP on your student's fee bill. We recommend your student keep this insurance. International students at the Storrs campus may use the medical services provided by UConn Student Health and Wellness (SHaW) for routine medical treatment and to seek mental health support.

New international students must submit their immunization record or Student Health History Form documenting required immunizations in their Student Health Portal, myhealth.uconn.edu. Students who are unable to obtain required immunizations before travel may be able to obtain them at UConn during orientation week. Deadline: July 1 (Fall semester) and January 2 (Spring semester).

OTHER TYPES OF INSURANCE

A personal liability insurance plan is not commonly purchased in the U.S. However, if your student will purchase a car, they will be required to purchase auto insurance. If your student will live off-campus, they are also recommended to purchase renter's insurance.

TRANSPORTATION

Free UConn shuttles provide transportation around campus and to some off-campus apartments. All UConn students can apply for a U-Pass, which allows them to ride on most city buses and trains within the state of Connecticut for free. All basic necessities are within walking distance of Storrs campus, and buses connect students to local shopping centers. Some international students purchase cars to help with their transportation needs. However, students who live on campus may not park their cars on campus until they have earned 54 credits; this means first year students should not purchase a car, because they will not have a place to park it.

PAYING THE FEE BILL

International payments must be submitted through Convera Global Pay for Students. This is the ONLY way that UConn can receive money from international sources. After your student has arrived in the U.S. and established a bank account, funds can be wired to your student's U.S. account and your student may pay their fee bill through other accepted methods, such as credit card or e-check. Deadline to pay fee bill: August 1 (Fall semester) and January 8 (Spring semester).

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IMPORTANT DATES 2023-2024

August 18	Move-in to attend International Student Orientation, Storrs
August 19-24	International Student Orientation Program, Storrs
August 22	Move-in to attend International Student Orientation, Stamford
August 23	International Student Orientation Program, Stamford
August 24 & 25 (date to be confirmed by Res Life)	Move-in at Storrs for first year students who attended orientation earlier in summer

August 28	First day of class, Fall Term
November 19-25	Thanksgiving Break
December 17	Last day of Fall Term
January 16	First Day of classes, Spring Term
March 10-16	Spring Break
May 4	Last day of Spring Term
August 26, 2024	First day of class, Fall Term 2024

CAMPUS RESOURCES

[Undergraduate Admissions](#)
beahusky@uconn.edu

[UConn Orientation](#)
orientation.storrs@uconn.edu

[Center for International Students and Scholars](#)
international@uconn.edu

[Student Health and Wellness \(SHaW\)](#)
studenthealth@uconn.edu

[SHaW Medical Records/Immunization Compliance](#)
SHaW-medicalrecords@uconn.edu

[UConn Bursar \(Paying bill\)](#)
bursar@uconn.edu

[UCAELI: UConn's English Language Institute](#)
register-ucaeli@uconn.edu

[Academic Calendar](#)
registrar@uconn.edu

[Office of Residential Life \(on-campus housing\)](#)
livingoncampus@uconn.edu

[Dining Services \(Meal plan\)](#)
<https://dining.uconn.edu>

Campus Map
<https://maps.uconn.edu/>