

GUIDE FOR INCOMING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Congratulations on beginning a new semester at UL Lafayette in August! As International Students of Lafayette (ISL) group, we wanted to share some resources for accommodation. It is also important to note that there are urgent steps that need to be completed upon arrival in order to be eligible for payment from the university during the first month.

Before or upon your arrival : Accommodation

Some local apartments;

- Eagle Run Apartments <https://www.eaglerunlafayette.com/>
- River Oaks Apartments <https://www.riveroakslafayette.com/>
- The Genesis Apartments <https://www.thegenesislafayette.com/>
- The Quarters Apartments <https://www.thequarters.com/>
- The Edge Apartments <https://www.hpiedgelafayette.com/>
- University House Acadiana <https://uhacadiana.com/>

Rooming subleasing groups;

- Facebook group ULL-roommates apartments and subleasing: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/352375606748183/>
- Facebook group Lafayette (Louisiana) Apartments/Houses/Flats/Rooms/Homes For Rent/Buy
- Facebook group Lafayette, LA Rentals, Apartments, Housing, Rooms, Sublets, Roommates
- Craigslist

Note: The list of apartments has been compiled with the understanding that you are coming from another country. These apartments are located in close proximity to the university campus, are budget-friendly, and managed by property management companies. If you have any questions or specific preferences, please feel free to contact an ISL member. It is important to note that our intention is not to recommend any specific apartment or leasing source, but rather to share some resources. **To avoid any fraudulent schemes, please keep in mind that phone numbers in the Lafayette, LA area begin with 337.**

Upon your arrival:

To receive your payroll check (for Assistantships) from the University, it is essential to acquire your Social Security Number (SSN) and establish a bank account with any American Bank and provide its details to the human resources office.

1- Bank account / first month payment

Some available banks are Credit Union located on campus or any branch of Chase. Documents required: passport or any other ID valid in the US.

- Credit Union (campus location) : <https://www.ulfcu.com/>

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- Chase bank(several branches in the city):
<https://locator.chase.com/la/lafayette>(Pay attention to their offers. It is possible to receive up to 200 dollars for opening a checking bank account with this company.)
- Hancock Whitney(next to Champagne): <https://www.hancockwhitney.com/>
- ATM(campus locations): 141, Rex St, LA 70503 and 2007 Johnston St, LA 70503

In the event that the first salary doesn't arrive on time you can apply for a student loan.
Office of Student Financial Aid: <https://financialaid.louisiana.edu/>

Credit card- It is necessary to have a valid ID, a copy of contract with the University (i20), and a US Bank account are necessary. For incoming International students, generally Discover Student credit card is a good option.
(<https://www.discover.com/credit-cards/student-credit-card/>)

2-Social Security Number

Obtaining a social security number is crucial for enrolling in the university's payroll system. To streamline the process, it is recommended that you make an online appointment and upload the necessary documents prior to your arrival at the social security office. However, if transportation is an issue, both the human resource office and Biology department will organise trips to the social security office on certain days and times for your convenience.

3-New i20 pick up

You are required to pick up a renewed copy of your i20 from the Division of Global Engagement, Student Union, Room 136

4- Phone number

Having a US phone number will facilitate residing and studying in US. Purchase can be made online(maybe before your arrival) or in one of the shops in Lafayette. Make sure to read instructions carefully regarding offers and fees. Remember that you need to pay the taxes with the subscription fees.

- AT&T: <https://www.att.com/>
- Verizon: <https://www.verizon.com/>
- T-mobile: <https://www.t-mobile.com/>
- Mint-mobile: <https://www.mintmobile.com>

5- Free food supplies and hygienic products

Access to dry food(pasta, canned food, etc.) and hygienic products is possible in Campus cupboard. These products are free and available to all students. Make sure to verify hours in advance, availability of products and how many times per month you can use their services.

- Campus cupboard :
<https://studentaffairs.louisiana.edu/services/campus-cupboard>

6- Student Health Insurance

Possessing health insurance is a University requirement. International students are automatically enrolled in **Wellfleet** health insurance provided by University. The insurance

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fees are paid every semester with inscription fees(also mandatory) in total of \$657.50. This amount is generally due by the middle of the semester. Insurance can be used by downloading a document from their site or order their health insurance card.

Most of the services in **Student Health Center**(on campus health centre) are covered by this insurance. In case of an emergency or non availability of appointments on Campus, this insurance is valid in several walk-in clinics near campus.

- Wellfleet insurance site: <https://wellfleetinsurance.com/>
- Walk-in clinic ExpressMED: <http://expressmedcares.com/>
- Office of Student Health Services: <https://studenthealth.louisiana.edu/>

Wellfleet insurance can be waived at the beginning of each semester and replaced by the insurance approved by the University. Health insurance packages of other companies are around \$500 for the whole year.

7- ULID

Making a ULID card provides access to different services and buildings on Campus. With this document you can have discounts, register for events, borrow books from the library, access parking, etc.

- Cajun Card Office: <https://cajuncard.louisiana.edu/contact-us>

8-Transportation

Check Transportation Services website for full schedule

- **Fixed bus routes** Rex, Bourgeois, and Cajun Field
- **On Call shuttles** The Union, Legacy & Heritage Apartments, and Bourgeois Hall; 337-482-5305
- **On Call shopping shuttles** Only Friday Albertsons on Johnston, Rouses on Bertrand Dr.; 337-482-5305

Contact details of ISL members in the Department of