Welcome
# Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic Calendar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center for International Education</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparation Checklist</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obtaining Your U.S. Student Visa</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Host Friend Program</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparing to Arrive</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotels and Taxis in Eau Claire</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orientation Week</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banking &amp; Insurance</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Money Matters</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paying Bills at UW-Eau Claire</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancellation Policy</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On-Campus Housing</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Organizations and Recreation</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where is Eau Claire?</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share Your Culture</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Academic Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 21</td>
<td>Arrival (if you are participating in the Host Friend Program)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 21-24</td>
<td>Host Friend Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 24</td>
<td>Move into Residence Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>No early move-in</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 24-28</td>
<td>Orientation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Attendance required. All students must arrive by August 24th!</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2</td>
<td>Classes Begin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 26–29</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Break <em>(no classes)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 30</td>
<td>Classes Resume</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 14-18</td>
<td>Final Exam Week</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Center for
International Education (CIE)

Address: Schofield Hall 3, Eau Claire, WI 54702-4004
Hours: 7:45 a.m.- 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday
Telephone: 1-715-836-4411
Fax: 1-715-836-4948
Email: esl@uwec.edu
Web: www.uwec.edu/esl

CIE Staff
Ms. Catherine Lee  
IEP Coordinator  
thompsc@uwec.edu

Ms. Stacy Woodward  
IEP Program Assistant  
woodwasl@uwec.edu

Dr. Karl Markgraf  
Director  
markgraf@uwec.edu

Ms. Shu-Chuan Cheng  
Chinese Program Coordinator  
chengshu@uwec.edu

Ms. Jodi B. Simek  
Senior International Student Adviser  
jbseqmek@uwec.edu

Ms. Maria Carvalho  
International Student Adviser  
carvalmc@uwec.edu

Services of the CIE
- Visa advising
- Orientation
- Cultural adjustment
- Cultural programs

Students are encouraged to take advantage of these services and meet with the advisers about concerns.
Preparation Checklist
Below is a list of important tasks that you need to complete before you arrive in Eau Claire.

- Receive your F-1 or J-1 visa to study in the United States.
- Complete a student profile for the Host Friend Program. Learn how to apply to the Host Friend Program on Page 8.
- Buy an airline ticket to arrive in Eau Claire on the start date of the Host Friend Program or before the start date of orientation. See page 3 for more information.
- If you do not participate in the Host Friend Program and/or arrive early, you should make hotel reservations.
- If you arrive at the Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport, you should make a reservation with Chippewa Valley airport shuttle service. See page 10 for more information.
- Email your host friend of your arrival date, time, and place.
- Email your arrival date, time, place, and flight number to the CIE at hostfriend@uwec.edu.
- Pay the program fees by the dates listed on your invoice. Learn about payment methods on page 14.
- Keep your host friend’s phone number and address with you if your flight arrives early or is delayed.
- Bring pictures, traditional clothing, and other items from your country to share with your host family and new friends.
- Visit the Intensive English Program’s website at: www.uwec.edu/esl
- Visit and like the Intensive English Program Facebook page at www.facebook.com/uwec.iep
Obtaining Your U.S. Student Visa

Your I-20 or DS-2019 Document
- Allows you to apply for your F-1 or J-1 student visa
- You must apply at a U.S. embassy or consulate
- Applying for a visa can take one day to four weeks, or longer

SEVIS Fee
- The SEVIS fee must be paid and fully processed before you arrive at the embassy or consulate. You will not be issued an F or J visa until you pay this fee
- Payment is be made by credit card, debit card, check or money order
- When you have paid the SEVIS Fee, print the receipt (I-901 Form) and bring it with you to the visa interview
- If you do not need a visa, bring the receipt to the U.S. port of entry
- If you cannot print a receipt or do not receive a mailed receipt before your visa interview you can still go to your interview

Fee payment process: http://www.ice.gov/sevis
Fee payment & online I-901 Form: http://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901/index.htm
Video tutorial: http://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/2013/10/i-901-sevis-fee-payment-tutorial

Entering the U.S.
- To enter the United States, you need your I-20 or DS 2019, passport, and visa.
- Ask your local embassy or consulate if there are other entry requirements specific to your country.
Obtaining Your U.S. Student Visa

Tips for the Visa Interview

1. Tell the truth
   • Be honest. Do not lie. You can be denied a visa for not telling the truth.

2. Show strong ties to your home country
   • You must show that you want to return to your home country.
   • “Ties” to your home country are things that keep you attached to your home town, homeland, or current place of residence.
   • This can be a job, family, a home, money, and more.

3. Financial support
   • Bring proof that you have enough money to support yourself in the U.S.

4. English
   • The interview will be in English, not in your native language.
   • Practice English with a fluent speaker before the interview.
   • Do NOT prepare speeches!
   • Explain how English will be useful for you in your home country.

5. Know the program and how it fits your career plans
   • You need to be able to tell how studying in the U.S. will relate to your future professional career.

6. Employment
   • Your main purpose in coming to the United States should be to study, not to work in the U.S. before or after graduation.

Please visit the website of the U.S. Consulate in your home country for further information about preparing for your visa interview.
Host Friend Program
Deadline to Apply: June 30
Program Dates: August 21-24, 2015

What is the Host Friend Program?
- Live with an American host for 3 days before the start of orientation.
- Your host will introduce you to life in the United States and you will get to know each other.
- Stay in contact with your host while you are at UW-Eau Claire.

How do I join?
2. Click on the “Apply Now” button.
3. Complete the information and click “Submit”.

What is next?
- After you apply, you will be matched with a host friend.
- The name and contact information of your host friend will be emailed to you before you arrive in Eau Claire.
- Email your host friend once you have their contact information and introduce yourself.
- Include your arrival information: the date, time, place, and flight number of your arrival in your email.
- Your host will meet you when you arrive in Eau Claire.
- If you have questions, contact the Host Friend Coordinator at hostfriend@uwec.edu.
Host Friend Program

Expectations and Responsibilities

What You Should Do:

- Be kind and respectful towards the host
- Be on time for scheduled meetings with hosts
- Reply to any emails the host will send you

What the host friend will not do:

- The host will not pick you up at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport
- The host will not loan or give you money
- The host will not provide housing for you over breaks or vacation periods
- The host will not help you with immigration or visa problems
- The host will not provide housing for your visiting family or friends

If you have any questions, please contact the Host Friend Coordinator at hostfriend@uwec.edu
Preparing to Arrive

- Host Friends will only pick up students in Eau Claire
- You must plan your trip all the way to Eau Claire

**If you arrive at Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport (MSP)**

- Make a reservation with Chippewa Valley Airport Service
  www.chippewavalleyairportservice.com or call: 715-830-9400
- Email arrival date, time, place, shuttle arrival time and flight number to hostfriend@uwec.edu and your host friend
- Your host friend can pick you up from the Chippewa Valley Airport Service Terminal in Eau Claire

**If you arrive at Chippewa Valley Regional Airport (EAU)**

- Your host friend will pick you up at Chippewa Valley Regional Airport
- Email arrival date, time, place, and flight number to hostfriend@uwec.edu and your host friend
- For more information, visit: www.chippewavalleyairport.com or call 715-839-6241
Hotels and Taxis in Eau Claire

Students cannot move into the residence halls before orientation.

Below are hotels located are near UW-Eau Claire and range in price from $70-$100 per night.

**Hotels**

**America’s Best Value Inn**
www.americasbestvalueinn.com/
A 15 minute walk from UW-Eau Claire.

**The Plaza Hotel & Suites**
http://www.plazaeauclaire.com/
A 20 minute walk from the UW-Eau Claire.

**Clarion Hotel Campus Area**
http://www.clarionhotel.com/
A 20 minute walk from the UW-Eau Claire.

**Taxi Services**

**Door 2 Door Taxi**
(715) 514-4550

**Pope's Cab Service**
715) 835-6220
Orientation Week

Attendance for the whole week is **REQUIRED** for all students

**The Mentor Program**

- Mentors help you during arrival and orientation to the university.

- You will meet your Mentor on the first day of orientation.

- Your Mentor will:
  - Introduce you to other students
  - Provide a campus tour
  - Provide information on social customs in the U.S.
  - Assist you in the registration process
  - Answer your individual questions

**Testing and Placement**

- All IEP students take the ESL Placement exam during orientation

- This test will place you into your ESL courses for the semester
US Bank on UWEC Campus

Many international students open bank accounts while they are studying in the United States. You might require a bank account if you receive certain fellowships or have an on campus job.

Opening a bank account at US Bank is part of International Student Orientation

US Bank (on campus)
Davies Center
77 Roosevelt Road
https://www.usbank.com/
715-830-5103

*There are other banks in the Eau Claire area at which you can open a bank account, if needed.

To open an account you must:
• Go to the bank in person
• Take your passport and student ID card

Questions you should ask:
• What is the difference between a checking and a savings account?
• Is there an ATM charge?
• What is an “overdraft”? How can I avoid “overdraft fees”?
• How does the online banking work? How can I keep track of my money?

Accident & Sickness Insurance

• UW-Eau Claire requires all international students to have the Accident and Sickness Insurance policy.
• Insurance is included in the program fee for IEP students.
• For more information, visit: http://www.uwec.edu/CIE/divisions/services/students.htm
Money Matters

Fall 2015 Semester Costs For IEP Students:

Application Processing Fee: $50
Non-refundable Deposit: $150
Program Fee: $10,479
  Includes: Tuition
  Housing & Meals
  Insurance
Personal & Academic Expenses: $1,900
TOTAL: $12,579

- You must pay the $150 deposit and $50 application processing fee by July 15, 2015 to reserve your place in the program.
- You must pay the $10,479 program fee by August 15, 2015 to keep your place in the program.
- IEP students are not eligible for scholarships from UW-Eau Claire.
- Personal and academic expenses include any additional expenses students may have, including travel, school supplies, clothing, and more.

Paying Bills at UW-Eau Claire

You can pay your IEP tuition with Peer Transfer. To send money to UW-Eau Claire through Peer Transfer:

1. Go to http://www.uwec.edu/ESL/Admission/payment.htm
2. Click on “Peer Transfer”
3. Follow the instructions to complete the payment

**No Credit or Debit Cards**
Intensive English Program (IEP) payment cannot be made with a credit or debit card.
Cancellation and Refund Policy

- The application processing fee and deposit are non-refundable.
- If you cancel during the 3rd or 4th week of the program the cancellation fee is 50% of the total program cost.
- After the 5th week of the program, NO refund is given.
- All withdrawals, transfers or cancellations must be submitted in writing to: UWEC Center for International Education.
- Full refunds will be given if program is cancelled, booked, or if student is unable to obtain the appropriate visa (F or J).
- If you have any questions about the cancellation and refund policy, please contact the IEP coordinator at esl@uwec.edu.

More information about payments and due dates can be found at:
http://www.uwec.edu/ESL/Admission/payment.htm
On-Campus Housing

- Before you arrive, you will get an email with information about your residence hall and your roommate.
- Contact your roommate before you arrive.
- Bedding and linens are given to all new international students.
- Some halls close during holiday breaks. You may need to move to other halls. Please contact your hall director and plan ahead.

Visit http://www.uwec.edu/housing for more information
Student Organizations & University Recreation

- Getting involved in a campus organization or club is a great way to have fun and meet domestic students
- UW-Eau Claire has more than 200 clubs and student organizations
- For a complete list, go to: http://uwec.orgsync.com/

University Recreation
- Has programs that meet the needs and interests of students
- These include intramural sports, a fitness center, fitness classes, bowling and billiards, special events, outdoor activities and equipment, and sports facilities
- Learn more at: http://www.uwec.edu/recreation/

Intramural Sports
- Over 40 competitive sports
- Compete with other UW-Eau Claire students
- Learn more at: http://www.uwec.edu/Recreation/activities/intramurals/

UW-Eau Claire Athletics
- UW-Eau Claire has athletic teams for both men and women
- There are teams in swimming, soccer, basketball, ice hockey, softball, golf, volleyball, and many more
- Teams compete with other schools of similar size
- Learn more at: http://www.blugolds.com/landing/index
Where is Eau Claire?

**Eau Claire, Wisconsin and the Midwest**
- Eau Claire is located in Wisconsin
- Population of 65,000
- Wisconsin has a population of 5 million

**Weather is Wisconsin**
- Summers are warm (June to September), temperatures are between 20°C to 32°C (70°F to 90°F)
- Winters are cold and snowy (November to March), temperatures are below 0°C (32°F)
- To stay warm, buy a warm jacket, mittens, hats, scarves, and boots
- Dress in layers
- Even though winter is cold, there are many fun activities!

**Websites of Interest**
- Eau Claire: www.ci.eau-claire.wi.us  www.visiteauclaire.com
- Minneapolis/St. Paul: www.minneapolis.org  www.stpaul.gov
- Wisconsin: www.wisconsin.gov
Share Your Culture with the Eau Claire Community

• The Center for International Education (CIE) has many opportunities for international students to share their culture with Eau Claire

• For more information, visit: http://www.uwec.edu/CIE/divisions/services/students.htm

• We encourage you to bring traditional clothes and items of your culture to share with Eau Claire

International Folk Fair

• The Folk Fair is every October

• This fair celebrates culture with educational exhibits, food, and cultural performances

• Students, community groups, and student organizations represent more than 40 different cultures each year!

• Thousands of students and community member attend

• Follow Folk Fair on Facebook: www.facebook.com/uwecfolkfair

Follow IEP on Facebook!

• www.facebook.com/uwec.iep

ESL Times

• Learn more about student life in the ESL Times!

• www.uwec.edu/esl