Spring 2016
Intensive English Program
Arrival Booklet
Welcome

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## Academic Calendar

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>January 16</td>
<td>Arrival (if you are participating in the Host Friend Program)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 16-20</td>
<td>Host Friend Program</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| January 19-22 | Orientation<br>
Attendance required. All students must arrive by January 18th |
| January 20 | Move into Residence Hall<br>
Residence Halls open at 7:45 a.m. |
| January 25 | Classes Begin                                              |
| March 21–25 | Spring Break<br>
(no classes)                                                   |
| March 28 | Classes Resume                                              |
| May 16-20 | Final Exam Week                                             |
| May 21 | Must move out of Residence Hall by this day                  |

## 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**
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- **Ms. Stacy Woodward**
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### 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.

☐ Activate your email account at https://myusername.uwec.edu

☐ Register for housing at https://rms.uwec.edu

☐ Pay your registration & housing deposit.

☐ Obtain your F-1 or J-1 visa to study in the United States.

☐ Optional: Complete a student profile for the Host Friend Program. To apply, go to www.uwec.edu/CIE/divisions/friend/students.htm, then follow the “Apply Now” link. The deadline to apply for the program is November 30, 2015. Your profile will be used to match you with a host friend in Eau Claire. Please remember that in order to participate in the program, you must arrive no later than January 16, 2016.

☐ Purchase an airline ticket that will allow you to arrive in Eau Claire to participate in orientation. You must arrive in the U.S. before your program start date. Your return flight should not depart before your program end date. Program start and end dates are listed in #5 on an I-20 and #3 on a DS-2019

☐ If you do not participate in the Host friend program or you arrive early, you should make a hotel reservation.

☐ Send your arrival date and time to international@uwec.edu

Note: We do not recommend you carry a large amount of cash with you.

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: November 30
Program Dates: January 16-20, 2016

What is the Host Friend Program?
- The Host Friend Program is an optional program
- Live with an American host for 4 days before the start of orientation.
- Stay in contact with your host during your first semester at UWEC.
- Go to events or do activities together that you enjoy

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

What is next?
- If you participate in the Host Friend Program, it is very important that you follow the expectations on the next page.
- If a parent or friend will come with you to the U.S., please contact international@uwec.edu before you apply to the Host Friend Program
- After you apply, you will be matched with a host friend.
- Email your host friend once you have their contact information and introduce yourself.
- Your host will meet you when you arrive in Eau Claire.
- If you have questions, contact the Host Friend Coordinator at international@uwec.edu.
Host Friend Program

Expectations and Responsibilities

What students are expected to do:
- Arrive no later than January 16, 2015. If arriving earlier than this date, you must make your own accommodations until the homestay begins on January 16.
- Send arrival information to international@uwec.edu immediately and notify CIE if you have friends or family accompanying you
- Respond to invitations, emails, or phone messages from your host.
- Notify hosts in advance if you must cancel a meeting.
- Be kind and respectful towards the host
- Be punctual for scheduled meetings with the host
- Contact the CIE if you cannot continue the relationship

What host friends should not do for you:
- Provide transportation for you
- Host your visiting family and friends
- Give or lend money to you, including financial support
- Provide housing over academic breaks

What Host Friends are expected to do:
- Pick you up in Eau Claire at the airport or the Shuttle Service (Eau Claire Terminal), and house you for 3-4 nights before orientation.
- Bring you to UW-Eau Claire for Orientation and to move you into the residence hall.
- Contact you by phone or email at least once a month during the semester
- Be kind and respectful toward you
- Contact the CIE if they can no longer continue the relationship
- Contact the CIE if you do not contact them within a six-week period.

Preparing to Arrive

You have two options for your arrival to Eau Claire:
1. If you are participating in the Host Friend Program, you must arrive no later than January 16, 2016. Host Friends will only pick up students in Eau Claire. Please plan your trip all the way to Eau Claire.
2. If you do not participate in the Host Friend Program, you must arrive to Eau Claire on January 18, 2016 to be ready for orientation. Orientation begins on January 19, 2016 at 8:00 a.m.

Notify international@uwec.edu immediately if family or friends travel with you to the United States.

Email arrival date, time, place, shuttle arrival time, and flight number to international@uwec.edu.

Most students fly into the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport. This is 145 km (90 miles) west of Eau Claire.

You may arrive to Eau Claire either by:
1. Shuttle Service from the Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport
   The Chippewa Valley Airport Service is the easiest transportation from Minneapolis/St. Paul to Eau Claire. It leaves directly from the airport. Reservations are necessary. To see the shuttle schedule and to make a reservation, visit www.chippewavalleyairportservice.com or call: 715-830-9400
2. Airplane to Chippewa Valley Regional Airport
   You may fly directly to Eau Claire. The Chippewa Valley Regional Airport (EAU) is the airport in Eau Claire. 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.

If you arrive in Eau Claire before the start of orientation or the Host Friend Program, you may use the following hotels and taxi services in Eau Claire. The hotels are near UW-Eau Claire and range in price from $70-$100 per night.

### Hotels

- **America’s Best Value Inn**
  
  [www.americasbestvalueinn.com/](http://www.americasbestvalueinn.com/)
  
  A 15 minute walk from UW-Eau Claire.

- **The Plaza Hotel & Suites**
  
  [www.plazaauclaire.com/](http://www.plazaauclaire.com/)
  
  A 20 minute walk from UW-Eau Claire.

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

- **Hampton Inn**
  
  [www.hamptoninn.com](http://www.hamptoninn.com)
  
  A 30 minute walk from UW-Eau Claire

### Taxi Services

- **Delivery Fix Taxi Service**
  
  [www.deliveryfix.com](http://www.deliveryfix.com)
  
  715-835-5853

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Orientation Week

Orientation begins on January 19, 2016 at 8:00 a.m. in Davies Student Center

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 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?

Money Matters

**Spring 2016 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 **December 15, 2015** to reserve your place in the program.
- You must pay the $10,479 program fee by **January 1, 2016** 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 Flywire (formerly Peer Transfer).
To send money to UW-Eau Claire through Flywire:

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.

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
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

Deadline to reserve housing in residence halls: December 15, 2016

- To apply for housing, follow the instructions below the “Preparation Checklist” on page 5.

- 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.

- All rooms have two beds, two desks, closets, and dressers.

- Toilet and shower facilities are in a common area shared by other students on that floor.

- Some halls close during holiday breaks. You may need to move to other halls. Please contact your hall director and plan ahead.

Visit www.uwec.edu/housing for more information

Vaccines

- All students will receive information at orientation about the Hepatitis B and Meningococcal diseases and the effectiveness of the vaccines to prevent these diseases.

- You are not required to have the vaccinations for these diseases.

- If you want to receive the vaccinations, you can go to the on campus Student Health Services.
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!
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