

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
LA CROSSE **UW**

Welcome

Spring 2021

uwlax.edu/international-education

IMPORTANT REMINDERS AND ORIENTATION INFORMATION

- **Arrival Dates: January 26-27**

Plan to arrive in La Crosse during these dates if you would like to be picked up from the La Crosse Airport or train station. If you arrive before or after these dates, you will need to arrange your own transportation to campus. The pick-up service is only available to students living on-campus.

- **ESL Placement Exam, Math Placement Exam and Immigration Check-In: January 28**

All new international students must check-in at International Education & Engagement upon arrival. Undergraduate students who must sit for the math placement exam as noted in your admission materials will have an opportunity to do so on January 28.

International Student Orientation

January 28-31

Coming to a new city and enrolling at a university can be an exciting opportunity, but also a challenging experience. To help with your transition to UW-La Crosse and our community.

During orientation you will enjoy a campus tour, a shopping trip, information about maintaining immigration status, a banking session, and evening social events to help you meet your fellow students. You will be assigned a peer advisor, a current student, who will be available to help you find your way around campus. They will also be able to answer questions about campus life, and will serve as a friendly face throughout orientation week and your first year.

**As a UWL international student,
you must attend New International
Student Orientation!**

SPRING 2021 DATES:

International Student
Orientation
January 28-31, 2021

Classes Begin: Monday, February 1
Final Exams End: Friday, May 14

CONTACT INFORMATION:

International Education & Engagement

1140 Centennial Hall

1725 State Street

La Crosse, WI 54601 USA

Email: international@uwlax.edu

Phone number: +001.608.785.8016

Fax number: +001.608.785.8923

Office Hours: Monday to Friday 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Visit us online at www.uwlax.edu/international-education



GETTING YOUR FINANCES IN ORDER

Preparing a budget & sufficient funds:

Before arriving at UWL, make sure that you have enough funds for your stay in the United States. This means you must have enough money to cover tuition, fees, housing, meals, health insurance, travel and any other personal expenses. Use your I-20 or DS-2019 as a guide to how much money to bring.

Do not rely on UWL for financial assistance unless you have been awarded a scholarship, assistantship or other financial aid.

Other expenses to consider while preparing a budget include: books & school supplies, winter clothing, travel, and shipping items to your home country.

For information on payments, deadlines, and tuition costs, visit:

www.uwlax.edu/cashiers

HEALTH INSURANCE

Health Insurance Requirement

Participation in the UWL group health insurance plan is required for all international students in F-1 and J-1 status. You will automatically be enrolled in the insurance plan and the cost will be added to your student bill. Students are responsible for all costs not covered by insurance.

Insurance for Dependents

If you plan on bringing dependents with you to the U.S. (spouse and/or children), they must be adequately insured prior to arrival. The primary student visa holder is responsible for their dependents' insurance.

www.uwlax.edu/international-education



OBTAINING A VISA & ENTERING THE U.S.

Visa Interview: When preparing for your visa interview at the U.S. Consulate or Embassy, you will need to remember the following:

1. Pay the SEVIS I-901 fee at least 3 days before your visa interview and bring the receipt with you to your appointment. You can pay the SEVIS fee online at www.fmjfee.com

Remember to print your receipt!

2. Complete the Online Nonimmigrant Visa Electronic Application, Form DS-160: <https://ceac.state.gov/genniv/>
3. Pay the visa application fee. See your local embassy or consulate website for further information.

Prepare the following documents for your interview:

- Valid Passport
- Receipt of SEVIS I-901 Fee payment
- I-20 or DS-2019
- Evidence of Financial Support
- UWL Admission Letter
- Two 2x2 inch (5x5 cm) passport sized photographs
- Check your local embassy or consulate website for any additional information they may require.

PORT OF ENTRY & CUSTOMS

International students on an F-1 or J-1 visa can enter the U.S. up to 30 days before the program start date listed on their I-20 or DS-2019 document.

Port of Entry: When you arrive in the U.S. your first stop will be Customs and Border Protection (CBP). Make sure to carry these items with you for inspection and do not pack them in your checked luggage:

1. **Passport:** Must be valid six months into the future.
2. **F-1 or J-1 Student Visa:** Must not be expired. Please check to make sure your visa type is correct.
3. **Evidence of Financial Support**
4. **I-20 or DS-2019:** Issued by UWL
5. **UWL Admission Letter**

Customs: After you complete the CBP immigration inspection, you must go through customs. At this time you will be asked to declare what you have brought into the U.S. There are prohibited and restricted items which may not be allowed into the U.S. or items which are only allowed in limited quantities. This includes alcohol, cigarettes, food, and medicine. Please check the Customs and Border Protection website for current restrictions and limitations. www.cbp.gov

If you are carrying over \$10,000 in any currency or travelers' checks, you must declare it on your customs declaration form!

Please see our website for helpful information about the visa process:

www.uwlax.edu/Admissions/Pre-departure-and-arrival/

www.uwlax.edu/international-education



ON-CAMPUS HOUSING

Are you planning to live on campus? If so, act now to reserve your space! On-campus housing is limited and assignments are made based on the date you complete the online housing contract.

Campus Housing—Residence Hall Options:

- **Eagle Hall:** Triple rooms are available in a shared suite style setting - www.uwlax.edu/reslife/eagle-hall
- **Reuter Hall:** Only single rooms are available in a shared apartment setting. This hall is generally for students older than 20 - www.uwlax.edu/reslife/reuter-hall

Apply for Housing:

1. Go to WINGS, wings.uwlax.edu, and log in.
2. Select the “UW-La Crosse” dropdown at the top left of the screen.
3. Select the “Residence Life” dropdown at the top left of the screen.
4. Select the “Housing Application” link.
5. At the new screen, select the “Housing Application” link and follow the instructions to apply.

Note: your browser’s pop-up blocker may prevent you from opening the link. Please make sure to allow the pop-ups.

The application will ask you to:

- Review and agree to the housing contract and agree to the terms and conditions
- Review your current housing and emergency contact information
- Choose your hall preferences
- Identify pertinent medical conditions
- Choose your meal plan
- Review your application summary to ensure accuracy

Note: This is a 1-year contract and you will be held to the full-term of this agreement. If you are an exchange student for only one semester, your contract will be adjusted after the application is submitted.

MEAL PLANS:

A meal plan is required for all students who live on-campus. Information about meal plan options can be found at: www.uwlax.edu/university-centers/services/dining-services/dining-plans

Meal plans will begin the weekend prior to the first day of classes.

OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING:

If you prefer to live off-campus, you should make arrangements prior to your arrival in La Crosse. Finding off-campus housing may take time and usually fills quickly. It is your responsibility to find and secure off-campus housing. UWL cannot help you secure off-campus housing. Students living in off-campus housing are required to provide IEE with their local address upon arrival.

***New undergraduate students who are not veterans, married, or living with parents or guardians are required to live on campus.**



MAIL SERVICE

Do not have packages or mail sent to UWL until after you have arrived and moved into your residence hall. Packages or other mail sent to International Education & Engagement will not be accepted.

COURSE REGISTRATION INFORMATION

When you applied to UWL, you received an email from the Admissions Office. Please follow the instructions that were provided in that email to activate your WINGS account. You will be able to use your WINGS account to register for courses after your enrollment appointment. If you need the email to be sent again, please contact the Admissions Office at intladmissions@uwlax.edu.

Courses fill quickly, so register early!

GRADUATE STUDENTS: Please contact your program advisor for registration information. Your graduate program advisor's information is included on your admission letter.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS: When you log into your WINGS Student Center, you will notice an Enrollment Appointment. After the date of your enrollment appointment, you will be able to register for courses using your Student Center. If you need help selecting courses, please let us know.

EXCHANGE STUDENTS: If you plan to take courses with prerequisites, you must contact the appropriate academic advisor. Please visit our website for more information: www.uwlax.edu/Admissions/Course-Registration

Contact Miranda Panzer at mpanzer@uwlax.edu if you have difficulty registering for courses.

Visit the
UWL website at
www.uwlax.edu
to find the course catalogs.

These catalogs will provide all course descriptions of classes offered at UWL.

At www.uwlax.edu/Records/registration you will find the timetable to search for current UWL classes and times offered for each term.

HOW DO I GET TO UW-LA CROSSE?

The official arrival dates are January 26-27. Students who arrive before or after these dates must take a taxi to campus. Please refer to the list below for taxi and residence hall information.

Once you have submitted arrival information and satisfied the conditions outlined below, IEE will arrange a pick-up from the La Crosse Airport or Amtrak train station to UWL. La Crosse is accessible by plane, train or bus.

To ensure a pick-up, you must:

- Reserve on-campus housing
- Submit arrival information at least 5 business days (Monday-Friday) before your arrival.
- Arrive during the official arrival dates

For more information about travel options and arriving to La Crosse, visit our website at:

www.uwlax.edu/Admissions/Pre-departure-and-arrival/

Please notify IEE of any travel delays or changes to your schedule by calling +001.608.785.8016 or by emailing international@uwlax.edu

If you have not made housing arrangements prior to your arrival in La Crosse, you will need to stay in a hotel until you make permanent housing arrangements. Please refer to the list below for local hotels.



HOTELS

Radisson Hotel
200 Second Street
608.784.6680

Courtyard by Marriott
500 Front St.
608.782.1000

Grandstay Residential Suites
525 Front St. North
608.796.1615

Holiday Inn & Suites
200 Pearl St.
608.784.4444

TAXIS

Metro 608.780.1111

A-1 Taxi 608.781.6655

CTS 608.784.7700

Phoning a taxi or hotel from the La Crosse Airport is free of cost.

Uber uber.com

Lyft lyft.com

RESIDENCE HALL INFORMATION:

Eagle Hall:
1500 La Crosse Street, La Crosse WI 54601

Reuter Hall:
1824 La Crosse Street, La Crosse WI 54601



IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTS:

- Passport valid at least six months from the date you plan to enter the U.S.
- Valid visa for UWL
- I-20 or DS-2019
- Make copies of all important documents prior to departure
- Hand-carry all originals and put photocopies in a separate place

EDUCATIONAL:

- Final Transcripts/Certificates

FINANCIAL:

- Sufficient funds in cash, debit cards or travelers' checks (*approximately \$900*) for initial living expenses such as housing and food. Please note: while travelers' checks are a safer way to bring in money, they are difficult to cash in shops and may need to be cashed at a bank
- Sufficient funds to pay for university expenses, including tuition, fees, housing, health insurance, meals, and other personal expenses

HEALTH DOCUMENTS:

- Travel insurance to cover you until the first day of orientation
- Immunization records in English (*recommended*)
- Other health records (*recommended*)
- Prescription medication for chronic medical conditions

HEALTH CARE:

- If you wear glasses, visit your eye doctor and get an extra pair of prescription glasses
- Visit your dentist
- Visit your medical doctor for a check-up

HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION:

- Apply and reserve housing
- Schedule your travel plans so that you arrive on one of the designated arrival days
- Fill out the online arrival form at www.uwlax.edu/Admissions/Pre-departure-and-arrival/

ARRIVAL CHECKLIST:

- Valid Passport
- Form I-20 or DS-2019 (*Do not put this in your checked luggage! You will need it at Customs and Border Protection*)
- Current U.S. address and phone number
- Name and address of an emergency contact in the U.S. and in your home country
- Upon arrival you will receive a folder of information including a campus map, a detailed orientation schedule and a resource guide.