INTERNATIONAL STUDENT HANDBOOK

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AND SCHOLAR SERVICES

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
EDWARDSVILLE
Office of International Affairs

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International Orientation

Orientation details and information is always emailed to your SIUE student email. The schedule and more details can also be found on the ISSS Arrival Website.

Airport & Pickup

St. Louis – Lambert International Airport (STL)

Students should arrange travel to **St. Louis – Lambert International Airport (STL)**. Lambert International Airport is approximately 45 minutes from SIUE and is the closest international airport to campus.

- *Please remember, we are about 300 miles/4 hours from Chicago! We will never be able to arrange transportation from an airport that is not Lambert.*

Airport Pickup

New international students arriving on our ideal arrival dates (Monday, August 17th and Tuesday, August 18th, 2026) can request a free pickup from St. Louis Lambert International Airport. The airport pickup request form will be emailed to your SIUE email address in June for Fall 2026 semester.

- All requests must be received by July 17, 2026; no pickups will be arranged after this date, even for those students arriving during our ideal arrival dates.

Pickups are scheduled from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm. Students arriving outside the Ideal Arrival Dates or pickup times must arrange and pay for their own transportation from the airport to their final destination. Make sure to visit the Arrival website for information on hotels near Lambert international Airport, transportation to SIUE, and Form I-515A.

Please visit the International Housing Page for Fall 2026 housing move in dates if you plan to live on campus.

First Week Checklist

The following is a list of "things to do" as an international student before you start classes!

After you arrive in the United States:

- Attend Orientation
- Complete Check-In
- Pay Student Bill
- Submit Immunization Records
- Retrieve I-94
- Register for Classes
- Obtain Student I.D. Card
- Complete Sexual Violence Prevention Training

Before or During the First Week of Class

- Get Your Textbooks
- Open a Bank Account
- Submit Any Pending Admissions Documents
- Find Local Bus Services
- Obtain Parking Permit
- Find On-Campus Employment

Additional Tasks and Resources to Review

- Apply for Social Security Number (If Employed)
- Learn about the International Hospitality Program
- Review Health Services & Health Insurance Benefits
- Review Student Job Finder/GA Positions
- Review Pre-Recorded Sessions
- Get Involved at SIUE

For more information, visit the Arrival page on our website.

Important Dates

Fall 2026 Important Dates

Earliest Arrival Date	July 20, 2026
Last Day to Request Airport Pick-Up for Ideal Arrival Dates	August 1, 2026
1st Payment Due (Fall 2026)	August 14, 2026
Ideal Arrival Dates	August 17 & 18, 2026
Mandatory Orientation	August 19, 2026
Classes Begin	August 24, 2026
Immunization Records Due	August 24, 2026
Immigration Check-In Due	August 24, 2026

For more info visit: siue.edu/isss/arrival

Important Immigration Rules

SIUE COUGARS

As a non-immigrant student in the United States, I am responsible for and legally liable for the following:

- I must adhere to all laws and U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) regulations pertaining to my stay in the United States and am legally liable for such adherence, including school transfers, change of degree level, work laws, and extensions.
- I understand that various visa types (e.g. F. J, H. etc.) have different rules and regulations. I also understand that immigration laws are changed often and it is my responsibility to check with the ISSS regarding legal concerns.
- I understand that the Office of International Affairs is the **only University Office** designated to handle immigration and visa issues.
- It is my responsibility to check my SIUE email account regularly to receive valuable information and updates from ISSS regarding my immigration status.
- I must maintain a valid passport at all times, unless exempt from passport requirements.
- I understand that SIUE is required by law to submit my class registration and address information to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on an ongoing basis. This includes dropping or withdrawing from classes. This reporting is done through a computer system called **SEVIS.**
- I am allowed to study only until the date specified on my I-20 or DS-2019.
- I must apply for an extension of study time **prior to the end date listed on the I-20 or DS-2019** if an extension is necessary to complete the degree or program.
- I must change my address in CougarNet or at the Service Center in Rendleman Hall within 10 days of moving as required by DHS.
- I understand that I must maintain a full course-load each academic term (with the exception of summer) during my academic program:

  Undergraduate: *12 hours* ***Graduate:*** *9 hours* ***Graduate Assistant:*** *6 hours*

- I may not count more than one online course (3 credit hours) toward my full course of study, as described above.
- I will not drop below full-time enrollment without first contacting ISSS Staff to discuss Reduced Course Load (RCL) eligibility. If eligible, I will apply for and await approval of the RLC prior to dropping below full-time enrollment.

- I may not work on campus more than 20 hours per week while classes are in session during the Fall and Spring semesters.
- I am not allowed to work off campus (including internships, externships, practicums, clinical rotations, etc.) in the United States without special government authorization.
- Updates to my immigration documents and record, including I-20 reprints, travel signatures, program extensions, employment authorizations, and Reduced Course Loads require advanced application and may not be immediately issued/authorized by ISSS Staff.
- I must notify the ISSS **in advance** if I intend to transfer universities.
- I must obtain a new SIUE I-20 or DS-2019 after being admitted to a new academic program from one degree level (e.g. from Bachelor's to Master's) or a change from one major to another.
- I must notify the ISSS office two weeks prior to my departure date if I plan to travel outside the U.S. in order for the form I-20 or DS-2019 can be endorsed for travel.
- I must notify ISSS of any accompanying dependents in F-2 or J-2 status including required immigration and biographical information.
- It is my responsibility to keep my parents or sponsors informed of my grades and academic progress.
- I must fulfill all financial obligations to SIUE or I will not be allowed to register for future academic terms.
- I must provide health insurance for me and all members of my family during my stay at SIUE. I understand that my classes will be cancelled without insurance verification.
- I must apply for my OPT or OPT STEM 90 days prior to my start date if I plan to work in the United States after my graduation.
- As an F-1 student, I must file a U.S. tax return every year, even if I did not have any income. Filing as an F-1 student includes any applicable F-2 dependents.
    - ISSS Staff is unable to provide any tax assistance or advice.

Drug/Alcohol Policy

Alcohol Policy

Each resident of University Housing is the person responsible for informing their guests of these regulations and ensuring that guests are in compliance with the University policy on alcoholic beverages. The resident may be subject to disciplinary action for guests' non-compliance with these regulations. Non-student guests may be subject to civil and criminal action for violation of these regulations.

Intoxication is not an acceptable or appropriate condition and may be cause for disciplinary action. Intoxication is defined as either (1) not having the normal use of mental or physical facilities due to the introduction of alcohol or other drugs into the body; or (2) have a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of 0.08 or more.

Bluff, Prairie, and Woodland residents and guests are not permitted to have alcohol, alcohol containers (even if empty), or devices used for rapid consumption of alcohol. This policy is applicable to all residents regardless of age.

Evergreen and Cougar Village residents and their guests must be 21 years of age or older if they choose to possess and /or consume alcohol in their residence. Please see more stipulations of this policy in the Living Guide.

Kegs: Possession of a keg on University property will lead to termination of residency. Containers holding more than one gallon of alcoholic beverages or devices promoting the rapid consumption of alcohol (i.e. - funnels, bongs, etc.) are prohibited on University property and will be confiscated.

Substances and Drug Use Policy

The Student Conduct Code of SIUE defines social misconduct to include violations of University policies and regulations, local ordinances, and state and federal laws, which include, without limitation, the manufacture, sale or distribution, and/or the unauthorized possession or use of controlled substances. The misuse of chemical or controlled substances that may create a hazard to oneself or others is considered a violation of this policy. Such violations may result in termination of residency from University Housing.

More information can be found here:

- https://www.siue.edu/housing/current-residents/student-conduct.shtml
- https://www.siue.edu/academics/undergraduate/policies/university-policies.shtml

Getting Your I-94

It is your responsibility to print out an I-94 each time you enter the U.S.

Step 1: Go to the following website: https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/

Step 2: To get most recent I-94, click **"GET MOST RECENT I-94"**

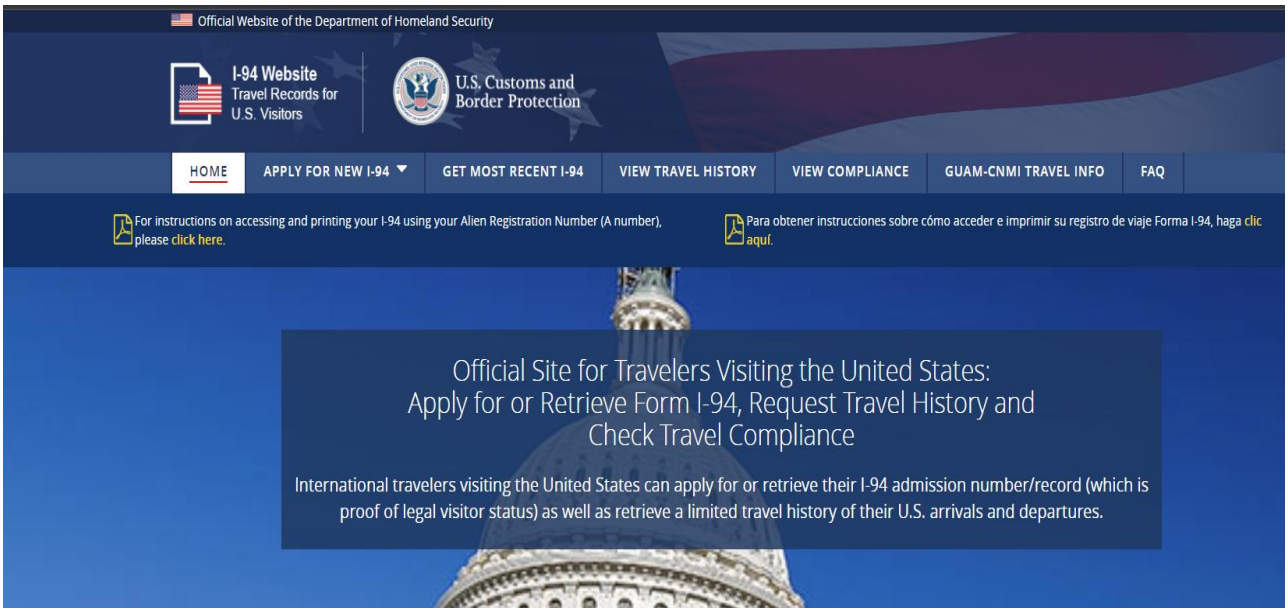
Step 3: Read and click "**CONSENT & CONTINUE**"

Step 4: Complete the required data fields.

- Information must be entered as it appears in the travel document used to enter the United States.
- Then click **"NEXT"**

Step 5:

- If the information submitted matches a valid entry in the I-94 database, click on **PRINT.**
- If a record is not found, revise your information in the previous screen and resubmit your request.
- If you continue to see the following message: **I-94 Information: Not Found**, contact the Office of International Affairs.
- Once you print your I-94, check that the information is correct—especially your visa type. Also, the "admit until date" should be "D/S". If any information is incorrect, contact the Office of International Affairs.



Class Enrollment

Course Load Requirements

International students in F-1 and J-1 status must register for and complete a full course load each spring and fall semester. For continuing students (enrolled in spring semester) summer full-time enrollment is 3 credit hours and is optional, unless it is your last semester. Final semester course(s) cannot be taken all online.

Students who drop below a full course-load without immigration advisor approval will be reported to SEVIS. If this occurs, your SEVIS record will be terminated, and you will lose your F-1 or J-1 status, including employment eligibility and benefits. For immigration purposes, full-time enrollment (during fall and spring semester) is defined as:

- Undergraduate students: 12 credit hours (4 courses)
- Graduate students: 9 credit hours (3 courses)
- Graduate students with a graduate assistantship (GA, RA, TA): 6 credit hours (2 courses)

All students are still required to maintain a full course of study unless a **Reduced Course Load** has been authorized by their DSO.

What's a Reduced Course Load?

A Reduced Course Load is a request made by international students to drop classes or enroll less than full-time in their academic program.

International students must obtain approval from their international advisor (DSO) before dropping any classes or enrolling less than the required full-time course load. To request approval to drop classes, you must submit a Reduced Course Load Form. Graduate students who hold an assistantship must also complete the Graduate School Underload Approval Form.

When can I submit a Reduced Course Load form for approval?

A reduced course load can only be approved in the following circumstances:

1. Academic difficulty reasons: (the first semester only, and can only be used once during the length of your program)
   - Initial Difficulty with English Language
   - Initial Difficulty with Reading Requirements
   - Unfamiliarity with American Teaching Methods
   - Improper Course Level Placement
2. Medical Reduced Course Load
3. During the final semester of your degree program.

For more information about Course load requirements, visit the Enrollment Requirements page on our website.

Reducing Your Courseload

To request approval to drop classes, submit a Reduced Course Load Form. If you have an assistantship, you must also complete the Graduate School Underload/Overload Approval Form.

- Undergraduate students must be enrolled in a minimum of 6 credit hours.
- Graduates must be enrolled in a minimum of 5 credit hours, to be eligible for student worker positions.

If you drop below a full course load or enroll less than full-time without your international advisor's approval, you will be reported to SEVIS. Should this occur, your SEVIS record will be terminated, and you will lose your lawful F-1 or J-1 status, including employment eligibility and benefits.

In order to maintain your immigration status, you cannot be enrolled only in UNIV 500, as this enrollment is only used for administrative purposes and is not given for credit.

A reduced course load can only be approved in the following circumstances:

1. **For academic difficulty reasons** (the first semester only, and can only be used once during the length of your program)
    a. Initial difficulty with English Language
    b. Initial difficulty with reading requirements
    c. Unfamiliarity with American teaching methods
    d. Improper course level placement

2. **A Medical Reduced Course Load** permits F-1 and J-1 students to reduce their course load below full-time (or, if necessary, not enroll in any courses) due to a student's temporary illness or medical condition. A maximum of 12 months of Medical Reduced Course Load is possible per degree level. Medical Reduced Course Loads are issued on a semester basis. If more than one semester of a Reduced Course Load due to a medical condition is needed, the student must submit a new doctor's letter for the additional semester(s).
    a. The student must provide medical documentation stating he/she is unable to maintain a full course of study from 1 of the following U.S. licensed medical practitioners:
        i. Medical Doctor (M.D)
        ii. Doctor of Osteopathy (D.O.); or
        iii. Clinical Psychology (C.P.)

3. **During the final semester of your degree program** (one semester only). You are eligible for a reduced course load authorization if you expect to complete less than a full course load for remaining coursework for degree completion in your final semester.

F-1 students: If you have finished all required coursework and are only completing thesis/dissertation, you must apply for OPT. Contact your international advisor for more information.

Note: There is a physical presence requirement during your last semester; you cannot be enrolled in only online credits. For more information see Enrollment Requirements.

Do not drop courses until approved by your international advisor. In all cases mentioned here, you are required to meet with an advisor in our office before you stop attending or withdraw from classes.

Employment at SIUE

Student Employment

To be eligible for student employment, all international students must meet the following criteria:

- All new international students must check-in with ISSS
- All students must be enrolled in courses for the current semester & meet the credit requirement

To view & apply for employment positions, go to: https://www.siue.edu/student-employment/

1. Select: Cougar Jobline & Student Login
2. Login with your E-ID & Password
3. Register yourself
4. Then begin viewing on-campus jobs

All International Students working on-campus are permitted to work a maximum of 20 hours per week during academic semesters. During the summer break, students can work up to 28 hours per week.

Graduate Assistantships

- International students that are enrolled in a graduate program are eligible to apply for graduate assistantships. These positions are offered directly by individual departments and are very competitive.
- Positions are posted at: https://www.siue.edu/graduate-students/assistantships/postings.shtml
- Each position may have a different application process, so be sure to read them carefully and send your application documents to the person/office listed in the posting.
- Graduate Assistantships are offered at 50% (20 hours per week) and 25% (10 hours per week). Both include a tuition waiver and a semi-monthly stipend.

Off-Campus Employment

- There are two types of off-campus employment: Curricular Practical Training (CPT) & Optional Practical Training (OPT).
- CPT is conducted during a student's enrollment at SIUE. International students become eligible for CPT after completing a full academic year (fall and spring semester).

Undergraduate students will need to maintain a 2.0 GPA, and Graduate students will need to maintain a 3.0 GPA to be eligible for CPT.

- For more info, visit: https://www.siue.edu/isss/employment/curricular-practical-training.shtml
- OPT is conducted after a student finishes their program at SIUE. In most cases, students can work in the United States for one year after graduation on their F-1 visa. Students in Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics (STEM) programs, are eligible for a two-year extension after completing their first year of OPT.
- For more info, visit: https://www.siue.edu/opt/index.shtml

Social Security Number

A social security number (SSN) is a unique, 9-digit identification number issued by the U.S. Social Security Administration (SSA). An SSN is a requirement for all persons who work and receive pay in the U.S.

Students are only eligible to apply for an SSN after they have been offered employment.

Required Documents	
F-1 **Student Worker or Graduate Assistant**	**J-1** **Scholar**
• **SIUE Job Offer Form** • **SSN Form** • **Original I-20** • **Passport** • **Visa** • **I-94 Printout**	• **Employment Letter from ISSS** • **SSN Form** • **Original DS-2019** • **Passport** • **Visa** • **I-94 Printout**

The process and job offer form can be found on our website:
https://www.siue.edu/isss/employment/social-security-number.shtml

Students can request their I-94 online via: https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/#/home

The first time international students are offered an employment position on-campus, they are **REQUIRED** to begin the SSN application process.

Students are only eligible to begin work after completing Step 4.

1. Visit the International Affairs SSN Webpage and review the steps.
   https://www.siue.edu/isss/employment/social-security-number.shtml

2. Complete the Online Social Security Number Application (OSSNAP) on the Social Security Administration (SSA) website:
   https://secure.ssa.gov/ossnap/public/landingOSsnap
   a. There is limited space to enter an address on the online application. Please use the following address to ensure your card arrives to the ISSS office safely:

      SIUE Intl Affairs
      Box 1616
      Edwardsville IL 62026

b. Students under the age of 18 will need to fill out the paper application; please email ISSS@siue.edu to request the paper application.

3. Once the online application is successfully completed, students will receive an online number from the SSA website. The online control number begins with the letter "O." **Record the control number or print the screen with the number on it.**
    a. If you did not receive a control/"O" number at the end of the online application, you did not complete the application fully or correctly. Please review your application and make any necessary changes.
4. Complete the top section of the **SIUE Job Offer Form**; the Employer must complete the bottom section. The DSO Signature line will remain blank.
5. Submit the SSN Document Request.
    a. Students will upload the SIUE Job Offer Form and the SSN application control number ("O" Number).
    b. Students may start working after successfully completing the online SSN application and uploading the SIUE Job Offer Form to the ISSS Qualtrics form.
6. The International Affairs office will sign the **SIUE Job Offer Form** and return the signed form to the student via email, along with a reminder to visit the SSA office in Alton no later than 45 days after completing the online SSN application.
    a. As of January 6, 2025, students are required to schedule an appointment at the SSA office. Make sure you have your O number available when you schedule.
7. The student must bring the following ORIGINAL documents to the SSA office in Alton: **I-20, I-94, Passport, Visa, and SIUE Job Offer Form (Signed by DSO)**
8. At the end of the visit, the student will be given a receipt notice stating that their SSN card should arrive at the International Affairs office within 2-4 weeks.

NOTE: International Affairs will notify students via SIUE email when their SSN card arrives. If a student's card does not arrive within 4 weeks of their visit at the SSA office, students should inform the ISSS office and also call the SSA office to inquire about the status of their card.

Obtaining an Illinois Driver's License

International students may drive in Illinois with a valid license from their home country during their stay. This also applies to their spouse and children living with them while attending an Illinois college or university.

An International License is not valid in the State of Illinois.

For verification, please refer to the following exemptions found on page 5 of the Rules of the Road Booklet:

- If you are visiting or driving through Illinois, you must have a valid driver's license from your home state or country.
- If you are an out-of-state student attending an Illinois college/university, you and your spouse and children may drive with a valid license from your home state or country.

We recommend you keep a copy of the Rules of the Road Booklet in your car when driving in the U.S. on a home country driver's license.
For the most accurate laws and regulations for driving in the state of Illinois, please review the Illinois Secretary of State website.

Obtaining a Driver's License

The Illinois Secretary of State's office will issue a Standard Driver's License for non-citizens of the United States who have been granted legal entry into the U.S., are temporarily residing in the State of Illinois, and are ineligible for a Social Security number.

- *International students without SSN can only apply for TVDL at the DMV office in Edwardsville with a letter of ineligibility for SSN from the Social Security Office. You can obtain the ineligible letter from the SSN office in Alton. Alternatively, students can apply for TVDL at the DMV office in either Springfield or Carbondale. These two facilities do not require an SSN number or a letter of ineligibility.*

Eligibility

- Present acceptable documentation to show proof of Illinois residency for the prior 12 months.
- Provide one (1) acceptable document for proof of current residency.
- Be ineligible for a Social Security number.
- Provide a valid or expired up to two years Passport or Consular Identification Card.
    - Consular cards are only accepted from Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, and Mexico.

- Pay the appropriate fee and successfully complete a vision screening and the appropriate written and road tests.
    - If you fail the driving or written test, you may apply for the license again after further study of the rules of the road.
- A Non-Visa Status Applicant TVDL may be issued only in a Class A, B, C, D, L, M, authorizing operation of a personal car, a vehicle that does not require a commercial driver's license (CDL), motorcycle or motor-driven cycle. A Non-Visa Status Applicant TVDL is valid for four years.
- A person aged 18 to 20 must present proof of successful completion of a 6-hour adult driver education and training course.

Where to Apply

- In Person
- Visit an Illinois Secretary of State Driver License Facility (Appointments now required).
    - Closest facility to campus:
      1502A Troy Rd, Edwardsville, IL 62025, Ph: 618-656-8956 - Visit their website to schedule an appointment
- You will be required to have your photograph taken.
- NOTE: The DMV is obligated to ask each applicant if they would like to register to vote. Your response must be no, as it is illegal for you to register to vote when you are not a citizen of the United States. If you say yes, it could lead to problems for future visa or Permanent Resident applications.

Documents to Present

- A current or expired (up to two years) passport or consular card (from one of five approved countries*) to verify your name, date of birth and signature
- Original I-20 or DS-2019 showing your entry to the U.S. and current I-20/DS-2019 (if different from original)
- Most recent I-94 printout
- Proof you have auto insurance
- Proof you are a current Illinois resident
- Proof you have lived in Illinois for at least a year**

Proof of Residency (Bring **2** items from this list)

The document proving residency for the prior 12 months must be dated a minimum of 12 months before application. The document proving current residency must be dated within 90 days prior to application.

Acceptable forms of proof of residency include:

- Bank statement
- Credit card statement
- Credit report

- Pay stub or electronic deposit receipt
- Cancelled check
- Pension or retirement statement
- Deed, title, or lease
- Tuition invoice
- Letter on official school letterhead (enrollment verification letter from Registrar's Office)
- Certified school transcript
- School report card
- Insurance policy
- Medical claim or statement of benefits
- Official government mail
- Phone book
- Utility bill
- Consular card (must be valid for this purpose)

International Hospitality Program

What is the International Hospitality Program (IHP)?

The IHP is a group of community and campus families who wish to enrich the lives of their families and the international students at SIUE. The IHP seeks to promote mutually rewarding relationships between American families and international students at SIUE. International students do not live with their host families.

The IHP assigns each student a host family. The host family serves as a "family away from home." Host families often invite the student to participate in social or family gatherings. The IHP sponsors discussion groups and the International Women's Organization, which has invited many of our students to share their experiences in a public setting.

What is a host family?

Host families are caring friends who are interested in you. You can request a host family during international student orientation in your first week at SIUE. We invite you to **watch this video** featuring IHP's support of students over the years.

What does a host family do?

Your host family will contact you as soon as possible. They will invite you to their home so that you will feel you have a local family. They may offer advice on banking, shopping, laundries, automobile responsibilities, housing, and health concerns.

They would like you to be a friend. Inform them of your food preferences or restrictions. Be prompt to meetings, especially to a meal. Be honest when you accept or decline invitations. Tell them of changes in your phone number and address.

What does a host family not help with?

Your host family should not help with financial or immigration problems and academic advice. These issues should be brought to the Office of International Affairs. Insurance and liability laws make borrowing or lending automobiles inadvisable.

Where do I find out about IHP activities?

You will receive notices via e-mail of all IHP events. SIUE International Student Services also publicizes IHP activities. All international students are invited to IHP events.

U.S. Cell Phone Providers

1) Boost Mobile (No Contract is Required)

- Plan 1: Unlimited talk and text, Internet data usage for 30 GB $25/Month
- Plan 2: Unlimited talk and text, Internet data usage for 40 GB $50/Month
- Plan 3: Unlimited talk and text, Internet data usage for 50 GB $60/Month

Boost Store Address: (Best Buy) 6670 Edwardsville Crossing Dr, Edwardsville, IL 62025
Boost Store Number: (618) 659 – 9895

2) AT&T

Monthly Plans

- $30 + Device charge: including 5GB data, unlimited talk and text messages
- $50 + Device charge: including 25GB data, unlimited talk and text messages
- $55 + Device charge: including 50GB data, including unlimited talk and text messages.

*** *Note: In order to get a regular monthly contract phone, you will need to have a Social Security Number*

AT&T Store Address: 6697 Center Grove Rd, Edwardsville, Illinois
AT&T Store Number: (618) 659 – 2103

3) Tello

- Economy Plan: 2GB data + unlimited talk & text for $10/month
- Value Plan: 5GB data + unlimited talk & text for $14/month
- Smart Plan: 10GB data + unlimited talk & text for $19/month
- Unlimited Plan: Unlimited data + unlimited talk & text for $25/month

Tello Store Address: No stores. Online Order Only.
Tello weblink: tello.com

4) Mint Mobile

- Unlimited talk, text and Internet data usage for new user $15/Month for 3 months
- Unlimited talk and text, Internet data usage for 5 GB $20/Month for 6 months
- Unlimited talk and text, Internet data usage for 5 GB $15/Month for 12 months

Mint Mobile Store Address: No stores. Online Order Only.
Mint Mobile Number: 800-683-7392
Mint Mobile Weblink: MintMobile.com

5) Visible

- Unlimited talk, text, and data for **$25/month** (Visible) or **$35/month** (Visible+); taxes & fees included
- **No stores** – online order only at Visible.com
- Runs on **Verizon 5G/4G network** with unlimited hotspot (5 Mbps on basic plan)

6) Alternative Options

1) **Lycamobile**: Lycamobile sells international Pay-As-You-Go SIM cards to consumers wanting to make international telephone calls. Monthly plans starting as low as $19/mo. Available on amazon.com. (Does not require a SSN).

2) **H_20 Wireless: H_20 Wireless** is a United States-based prepaid GSM phone and Internet service. Monthly plans starting from $20/mo. Available on amazon.com. (Does not require a SSN).

3) **WhatsApp:** WhatsApp is free to use as long as there is a wireless internet connection on your Smartphone.

Food Delivery Options

China King
1063 S State Route 157 # 10
Edwardsville, IL 62025
(618) 692-1888
order.618chinaking.com

Jimmy John's Gourmet Sandwiches
1063 Illinois 157
Edwardsville, IL 62025
(618) 656-5700
www.jimmyjohns.com

Papa John's Pizza
3592 S State Route 159
Glen Carbon, IL 62034
(618) 659-7272
www.papajohns.com

Taj Indian Cuisine
4 Club Centre Ct
Edwardsville, IL 62025
(618) 692-8110
www.tajedwardsville.com

Kyoto Sushi Steak House
441 S. State Rte 157, Suite 103
Edwardsville, IL 62025
(618)-659-8181
www.kyotoatedwardsville.com

Zapp Thai
1500 Troy Road
Edwardsville, IL, 62025
(618) 656-6800
www.zappthaiedwardsville.com

Transit Options

Madison County Transit
Free transport on campus
Local Pass $40/month
Transit around Madison County & St. Louis
*See website for details http://www.mct.org/index.aspx

MCT Trails
Enjoy Illinois nature while staying active
Bike, run, rollerblade, or jog on our Trail System
*See website for details
https://www.mcttrails.org/explore_mct_trails

SIUE Bike Share Program
Free for SIUE students
Must register online to participate
Bikes must be returned the same day
*See website for details
https://www.siue.edu/campus-recreation/programs-services/bike-share.shtml

Lyft/Uber
With a smartphone app and a credit card, you can call for a ride. The app will show you the cost of the trip to a destination

Shopping Options

A. Clothing/Household Items

a. Target: 2350 Troy Rd. or target.com
b. Kohls: 2120 Troy Rd. or kohls.com
c. Goodwill: 210 Junction Dr.
d. Walmart: 400 Junction Dr. or Walmart.com
e. Ross: 6610 Edwardsville Crossing Dr.
f. Maurice's (women's clothing): 2316 Troy Rd.
g. Cato Fashions (women's clothing): 110 Junction Dr.
h. Old Navy: 6617 Edwardsville Crossing Dr.
i. T.J. Maxx: 6647 Edwardsville Crossing Dr.

B. Grocery Stores

a. Aldi

i. 16 Cottonwood Rd. in Glen Carbon, IL
ii. www.aldi.us
iii. (618) 955-2534
iv. Hours: 8:30am-8pm, Monday-Sunday

b. Walmart (with pharmacy)

i. 400 Junction Dr. in Glen Carbon, IL
ii. www.walmart.com
iii. (618) 692-0550
iv. Hours: 6am-11pm, Monday-Sunday

c. Schnucks (with pharmacy)

i. 2222 Troy Rd. in Edwardsville, IL
ii. www.schnucks.com
iii. (618) 659-0010
iv. Hours: 6am-10pm, Monday-Sunday

d. Dierbergs

i. 6671 Edwardsville Crossing Dr. in Edwardsville, IL
ii. www.dierbergs.com
iii. (618) 307-3800
iv. Hours: 6am-10pm, Monday-Sunday

Activities

ISSS hosts a wide variety of events throughout the semester. Past events and trips include:

- St. Louis City SC Soccer match
- St. Louis Blues Ice Hockey game
- St. Louis Arch
- Six Flags
- City Museum
- Pumpkin Carving
- Volleyball and ice cream social

In addition to these fun events off-campus, we also host events on campus, including:

- International Education Week (IEW)
- New International Student Success Series (NISSS)
- International Graduation Celebration

All events can be found on our website: https://www.siue.edu/isss/resources/events.shtml, as well as in the monthly newsletter and emails.

Extra Support

A. Tutoring Resource Center
   a. Individual and small-group peer tutoring in several math, science, and business courses
   b. Location: Student Success Center, Suite 1252
   c. Webpage: https://www.siue.edu/lss/tutoring-resource-center/
   d. Appointment: https://siue.mywconline.com/

B. The Writing Center
   a. Work with a writing consultant to improve your writing skills
   b. Location: Student Success Center, Suite 1256
   c. Webpage: https://www.siue.edu/lss/writing-center/
   d. Appointment: https://siue.mywconline.com/

C. Success Coaches
   a. Professional staff members work with students in individual and group settings to learn and practice strategies to be a successful student, including: time management, overcoming procrastination, developing good study habits, how to access various resources on campus, understanding course expectations, and navigating online resources.
   b. Location: Student Success Center, Suite 1240
   c. Phone Number: (618) 650-3701
   d. Webpage: https://www.siue.edu/retention/success-coaches/index.shtml
   e. Appointment: successcoach@siue.edu

D. IEP Workshops
   a. These free English workshops are designed to help you practice your verbal and written skills as well as to learn tips on avoiding plagiarism.
   b. Location: Peck Hall, Room 2315B
   c. Phone Number for Director Asha Mattan: (618) 650-2098
   d. Webpage:https://www.siue.edu/admissions/international/iep/classes/workshops.shtml

E. NISSS
   a. This is the New International Student Success Series that covers various topics, including: Getting Involved, Health/Wellness, American Classroom, Culture Shock, Employment, and Succeeding Socially.
   b. Each session is only an hour long
   c. Dates, locations, and times are announced in the ISSS monthly newsletters and on the ISSS webpage.
   d. Webpage: https://www.siue.edu/isss/resources/new-international-student-success-series.shtml

Health Service

- As an enrolled student, you have access to Health Service providers, which includes a laboratory and pharmacy.
- SIUE Health Service provides services by appointment by calling 618-650-2842.
- They are located in the lower level of the Student Success Center in Room 0222.
- To complete required forms or to check immunization status or messages from Health Service, please login to CougarCare.
- Visit Contact Us for more information or Schedule an Appointment.

Health Insurance

Each international student, no matter how many classes they are registered in, will be enrolled in the student health insurance with the ability to provide proof of comparable insurance via the waiver process. If you do not waive coverage by the deadline, the premium will not be removed from your student account.

To review rates and waiver information, please go to:
siue.myahpcare.com

What's Included?
• Telehealth solutions through AcademicLiveCare (ALC)
• Coverage When Traveling
• Academic Emergency Services*
• Access to Academic Student Assistance Program (ASAP)
• Vision coverage through Academic Vision Care (AVC)

Insurance ID Card
To access your ID card, please visit:
https://myahpcare.com/wp-content/uploads/22COL4397-Electronic-IDcard-flyer.pdf

International Student Health Insurance Plan Costs (2024-2025)
- $1,291.50 for Fall and Spring/Summer
- $594.00 for Summer
    - Only if summer is your first semester at SIUE

Counseling Services

- Counseling Services and Health Services are both located in the lower level of the Student Success Center in room 0222.

- If you are seeking counseling, you may make a screening appointment by calling: 618-650-2842.

- You may also call 618-650-2842 to make an appointment to see a therapist.

- Contact Timely Care for free, online therapy sessions.

    - Free access to a licensed counselor
    - 24/7 access to virtual care
    - Wellbeing tools available
    - Emotional support & 24/7 crisis intervention available

Getting Involved

International Student Associations

African Student Association
Grace Iranloye (President)
giranlo@siue.edu
Oyeyemi Efunkoya (Treasurer)
oefunko@siue.edu

Bangladeshi Student Association
Amrita Talukder Mohini (President)
atalukd@siue.edu
Mashiat Mariam (Vice-President)
Facebook
Group: https://m.me/j/AbZjkyLhrqnqoYtp/

Chinese Student Association
Haojun Qiu
+1 806-471-6119
+86 13969803869
hqiu@siue.edu
WeChat: 379952432
Wechat official account：SIUE CSA 南伊爱德华校区

Indian Student Association
Janwada Yogeshwar (President)
yjanwad@siue.edu
+1 646-226-2469
Manoj Kumar Chundru (Vice-President)
mchundr@siue.edu
Phone: 618-737-6751
ISA Whatsapp Group Link
ISA e-mail address: isa.siue@gmail.com
Join the ISA Facebook page

Muslim Student Association
Abdulsalam Odofin Kamorudeen (co-president)
+1 618-873-2568
aodofin@siue.edu

Nepalese Student Association
Gaurav Yadav (President)
gyadav@siue.edu
Sumitra Shrestha (Treasurer)
sumshre@siue.edu
Instagram
Page: https://www.instagram.com/siue_nsa/
Facebook
Group: https://m.me/ch/AbZ5AD5RvLBYewel/

Get Involved

Interested in other student organizations? Check out Get Involved (https://getinvolved.siue.edu/), SIUE's one-stop involvement and organization management system.

Inviting Dependents

F-2/J-2 dependents are defined as a spouse or an unmarried minor child (below 21 years of age) of an F-1/J-1 student.

If you request to add a dependent after you arrive in the U.S., you must obtain a new form I-20 (F-1 students) or DS-2019 (J-1 students). After obtaining a new I-20 or DS-2019, your spouse and/or children can then apply for an F-2/J-2 visa at the U.S. embassy or consulate in their home country.

Required Documentation

- Request to Add F-2 or J-2 Dependents
- Copy of photo passport page for each dependent
- Evidence of financial support for one year (dated within the last 6 months), including your new dependents. Acceptable forms of financial documentation include:
    - Bank statements or bank letters in your name
    - Financial Affidavit (completed and signed by you and your sponsor)
    - Scholarship from government/organization/employer
    - SIUE scholarships
- You should review the Tuition and Fees to determine how much funding you need **as a student and the estimated additional amounts you need to show per dependent.**

F-2 Visa Guidelines

- All family members must be covered by medical insurance while they are in the United States
- A student with an F-2 visa may enroll in courses on a part-time basis and even pursue a degree program but cannot enroll full-time while on the F-2 visa
- F-2 visa holders are not eligible to work in the U.S.
- If a dependent changes their status successfully to F-1 or another status, the F-1 or J-1 principle visa holder must have their name and dependent expenses removed from the Form I-20 or DS-2019

Ending your Program

Before your Program Ends

Program Extensions

An extension of your I-20 should be completed 30 days before the end date listed on the document. If your I-20 expires while you are still a student, you will violate your immigration status.

For an extension, regulations require that the delays are caused by compelling academic or medical reasons, such as changes of major or research topics, unexpected research problems, or documented illnesses. An extension cannot be done for sake of employment or to enroll in additional courses not required for your program.

Required documents for extension requests can be found on the ISSS website.

After your Program Ends

Grace Period

There is a 60-day window for F-1 students and a 30-day window for J-1 students following the program called the "grace period." During the grace period, F-1 students can:

- Prepare to leave the country
- Travel within the U.S. (Do not travel outside of the U.S. as students cannot re-enter the U.S. during their grace period.)
- Apply for OPT work authorization (F-1 students only)
- Transfer to a new SEVP-approved institution
- Change visa status, if eligible

SEVIS Transfers

As a student with F-1 or J-1 status, your active immigration record can only be maintained by one institution in SEVIS. If you decide to transfer to another institution, your SEVIS record must be transferred. Transfer means changing universities or schools at the beginning, middle, or end of a degree program or between degrees.

A list of required documents and the process for requesting a SEVIS transfer can be found on the ISSS website.

SIUE Systems

During your time at SIUE, you will interact with several university websites and systems. This guide will help you understand the most common ones and their uses.

Blackboard

Blackboard is a learning management system used by SIUE that allows students and instructors to interact online. It hosts course materials, assignments, quizzes, and discussions. You can access Blackboard through the SIUE website using your university username and password.

CougarNet

CougarNet is a self-service platform that allows students to access information using their e-ID and password. You can access different student services such as:

- Registering for classes
- Viewing your class schedule
- Accessing your unofficial transcripts
- Ordering official transcripts
- Viewing your grades

You will also be able to find HR information available through CougarNet such as your personal information. You can also update your address, phone number, email address, and emergency contacts. Students can also view their employment information related to pay information and tax forms.

Starfish

Starfish facilitates communication among academic advisors, instructors, students, and others at SIUE who are here to support your learning.

Starfish provides you with a central location to connect you to the people and services that can help you engage with your education. To access Starfish, log in to Blackboard and click the Starfish tab in the upper-right corner of your browser.

For more information about SIUE technology services, visit the SIUE ITS website.

Letter Requests

A. Various forms enable you to request an official letter from the Student Records department in the Registrar's office for many concerns, including the following:
    a. Address change form
    b. Copy of final grades report form
    c. Name change request form
    d. Personal data changes
    e. Registration-Add/Drop form
    f. Transcript request
    g. Access Registrar's request forms here: https://www.siue.edu/registrar/forms/student-forms.shtml
    h. Access ISSS online forms here: https://www.siue.edu/isss/resources/forms.shtml

B. Graduation Letter
    a. A letter of invitation is **NOT** required for family members to attend your graduation
        i. Instead, please provide your family members with your most recent I-20 or DS-2019 and an unofficial transcript from CougarNet
        ii. More information can be found here: https://www.siue.edu/isss/immigration-status/graduation-information.shtml

Transcript Requests

Official Transcripts

1) You can order an official transcript through the Registrar's Office in multiple ways:
    a. Order online
    b. Order in person
    c. Order by mail
    d. Order by email or fax
2) There are different delivering timelines and fees associated with each option
3) Learn more by visiting this webpage: https://www.siue.edu/registrar/services/student-records/requesting-a-transcript.shtml

Unofficial Transcripts

1) You can access an unofficial transcript through CougarNet by clicking on:
    a. Student tab>Student Records box>Academic Transcript
    b. Select your degree level (undergraduate or graduate)
    c. Select unofficial for Transcript Type

ISSS Staff

Cheryl Borowiak
Interim Executive Director, PDSO/ARO
chaegel@siue.edu

Amy Nusser
Lead Immigration Specialist, RO/DSO
anusser@siue.edu
Advises J-1 students and visiting scholars and F-1 students (Last Names, N-Z)

Ryan Donald
Study Abroad Specialist
rydonal@siue.edu
Works with students to identify and apply for a broad choice of study abroad programs.

Timanye Watson
International Student Program Advisor, DSO, ARO
tiwatso@siue.edu
Advises F-1 students (Last names F-M)
Oversees routine student immigration procedures such as transfers, travel signatures, new student immigration check-in, reporting, and maintaining various databases.

Sara Duft
International Student Program Advisor, DSO
sduft@siue.edu
Advises F-1 students (Last Names A-E)
Oversees pre-arrival, arrival, routine student immigration procedures and orientation activities for new international students, carries out retention and student success initiatives, and plans programming events for international students.

ISSS Staff

Fariwar Abed
International Student Coordinator
fabed@siue.edu
Guides students through essential processes. Co-manages communication efforts and liaises with student organizations to foster engagement and inclusion.

Linda Joyce
Office Support Specialist
ljoyce@siue.edu
Works with students on OPT and STEM Extension, including OPT reporting.

Bill Dean
Accounting Officer
bidean@siue.edu
Manages expenses, budgets, and purchasing for the Office of International Affairs.

Meenakshi
Graduate Assistant
intlprog@siue.edu
Assists with programs like ISMP, GLOBAL ZONE, GCQ project and other general office support as needed, including OPT documents and phone inquiries.

Pooja Bohara
Graduate Assistant
pooboha@siue.edu
Supports students with social security process, GCQ, NISSS, Study Abroad, OPT workshops and provides office support, including handling front desk and phone inquiries.

Department Contact Info

Office	Purpose	Location	Phone
ACCESS	ACCESS is dedicated to providing reasonable curricular and co-curricular accommodations to diverse learners with major life impairments. Each year, ACCESS assists hundreds of students with a variety of diagnoses as they pursue their academic disciplines.	Student Success Center, Room 1270	650-3726
Bursar's Office	The Office of the Bursar is the official billing and payment office for the University.	Rendleman Hall, Room 3123	650-3123
Career Development Center	This office offers resume assistance and appointments in areas, such as: career counseling, assessments, job search, LinkedIn, networking strategies, mock interviews, career fairs, and assistance with CPT.	Student Success Center, Room 0281	650-3708
College of Arts & Sciences Undergraduate Advising	In the CAS office, you will find advisors to help you plan your academic track, offer suggestions on scheduling and course requirements, and help you explore alternative options if you're experiencing any academic complications.	Peck Hall, Room 1315	650-5525
Counseling Services	Counseling Services is dedicated to supporting students in reaching their counseling goals. The committed staff is comprised of professionals who have completed a minimum of a 60-hour master's degree. They strive to provide culturally sensitive services that are respectful of your diverse identities.	Student Success Center, Room 0220	650-2842
Financial Aid	This office can help you with managing your college expenses.	Rendleman Hall, Room 2308	650-3880
Foreign Language Department	This department offers courses dealing with the language, literature, culture, and history of many countries. We currently offer courses in eight different world languages.	Peck Hall, Room 2310	650-3510
Health Services	As an enrolled student, you have access to Health Service providers, laboratory and our pharmacy. SIUE Health Service provides services by appointment.	Student Success Center, Room 0220	650-2842
International Admissions	This office helps international students during the application and enrollment process.	Rendleman Hall, Room 2101	650-3705
Information Technology Services (ITS)	ITS provides technology resources, user assistance and training, design and production services, and strategic planning in support of the	Lovejoy Library, Room 0005	650-5500

	teaching and learning, research, service, and administrative activities of the University.		
Kimmel Student Involvement Center	This office is the focal point of student involvement and campus life at SIUE. Students interested in getting involved may wish to participate in: the Campus Activities Board, Fraternity/Sorority Life, Student Government, Community Engagement, or one of over 300 student organizations.	MUC Main Level	650-2686
Learning Support Services	Learning Support Services is home to the Tutoring Resource Center, Writing Center, and Supplemental Instruction. These centers are dedicated to helping students to prepare, advance, and excel in their studies.	Student Success Center, Room 1256	650-3717
Library & Information Services	The library is an inclusive, multi-modal environment that provides access to knowledge through physical, electronic, and special/unique collections; trains our students in critical information literacy; and provides adaptable and flexible learning spaces.	Lovejoy Library, Main Level	650-4636
Office of International Affairs	Also known as International Student & Scholar Services, this office is responsible for supporting international students and scholars on F1 and J1 visas. They also house a Study Abroad advisor.	Student Success Center, Room 0300	650-3785
Office of Retention & Student Success	Through mentoring, academic planning and resource management, we can help students in any major, at any point in their SIUE career.	Student Success Center, Room 1244	650-5930
Registrar	This office houses your official academic records and can assist with transferring your records, providing transcripts, and processing your graduation application.	Rendleman Hall, Room 1207	650-3770
School of Business Advising	This office houses academic advisors who assist students who major and/or minor in business.	Founders Hall, Room 3304	650-3840
School of Education, Health & Human Behavior	This office houses academic advisors who assist students who major and/or minor in areas of education, health, and psychology.	Founders Hall, Room 1110	650-3940
School of Nursing Advising	This office houses academic advisors who assist students majoring in nursing.	Alumni Hall, Room 2117	650-3956
School of Pharmacy	This office houses academic advisors who assist students majoring in pharmacy.	200 University Dr., Room 220	650-5150
Service Center	Most direct student assistance, including enrollment changes, is facilitated through the Service Center.	Rendleman Hall, Room 1309	650-2080
Tutoring Resource Center	This office helps students succeed in their courses in a supportive learning environment. Students who need assistance with their SIUE	Student Success Center, Room 1252	650-2055

	courses are welcome to walk-in or schedule an appointment.		
University Housing	On-campus residents benefit from a supportive community, numerous amenities and on-site housing staff.	Rendleman Hall, Room 0248	650-3931
Writing Center	This office is here to help you work on specific parts of the paper that you are struggling with during your composition process. Please note that our services do not include editing, proofreading, or evaluating your paper against a rubric.	Student Success Center, Room 1252	650-2045

Additional Resources

Recreation and Health Living	SIUE offers a variety of services, like gym facilities, indoor pool, sports clubs, fitness classes, and a wide variety of activities to fill your free time.
Eat & Shop	There are multiple options to eat and drink or celebrate. You can explore both on and off campus dining options through this link.