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Welcome to Indiana University! I am the Associate Vice President of International Services, and on behalf of our entire staff, I would like to congratulate you on your decision to become a Hoosier. We know how much time and effort goes into working abroad and are so honored to have you here.

As an international scholar at IU, you are a valued member of this vibrant academic environment. Your unique scholarly contributions, coupled with active involvement in campus life, help enrich the educational experience for all members of our community.

We are pleased to provide you with the latest edition of the International Scholar Guidebook. This important resource provides a comprehensive overview of matters of interest during your time at Indiana University. Our hope is that you will review the information carefully as you begin your work in Bloomington, and refer back to it as often as necessary.

The Office of International Services is ready to provide additional information and assistance in the achievement of your goals and objectives for scholarly exchange at IU. If you have questions or concerns during your stay, please feel free to contact me or a member of my staff for assistance.

Again, welcome to IU and best of luck on this exciting new journey.

Sincerely,

Christopher J. Viers, Ph.D.
Associate Vice President for International Services
Office of the Vice President for International Affairs
**Check in with your department**

Meet your site supervisor or the faculty member who invited you to IU. Someone should be available to introduce you to members of your department and help you acclimate to your new work environment.

If you need a Crimson Card (university ID card) or an IU computer and email account, your academic department will need to submit an Add New Person EDoc on your behalf.

**Apply for a Crimson Card**

Your Crimson Card gives you access to free public transportation (IU Campus Buses and Bloomington Transit), workout facilities (SRSC and WIC), IU libraries. Learn more at [crimsoncard.iu.edu](http://crimsoncard.iu.edu).

You can get your card at Information Commons (IMU) or Wells Library (detailed campus map at [map.indiana.edu](http://map.indiana.edu)). You’ll need your university ID number and passport - the first card is free, but there is a fee for replacement cards.

**Set up your IU computer and e-mail account**

Your network ID and password are the key to your electronic identity at IU. New scholars and employees should register for a network ID at [uits.iu.edu/page/achn](http://uits.iu.edu/page/achn). You’ll use your network ID and password to log in to campus computers, connect to WiFi, and access One.IU, Canvas, IU email, and other IU systems and services.

**Retrieve and print your I-94**

After you arrive, and after each trip abroad, you need to find and print your I-94 ([i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/#/home](http://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/#/home)). Keep the printed copy with your passport, and upload an electronic copy to iStart using the I-94 Upload for Scholars and Dependents e-form.
Apply for a social security number (SSN)
If you will be paid by IU you need a Social Security Number. There is no fee to apply, just take the documents listed for your status to the Social Security Office at 515 West Patterson Drive. Below are some of our recommendations based on your status, more information at ssa.gov.

H-1B, TN, E-3, and O-1 Scholars
We recommend going to the Social Security Administration (SSA) 10–14 days after arriving in the US.
- Passport with admission stamp
- Approval Notice (Form I-797)
- Printed Admission (I-94) Number Retrieval page from i94.cbp.dhs.gov/i94/#/home
- Second form of photo ID (like Crimson Card)

J-1 Exchange Visitors
We recommend waiting until the Monday after scholar orientation before going. You’ll need to be in the U.S. for 10–14 days before going to the SSA. Unpaid J-1 Exchange Visitors can also obtain an SSN.
- Passport
- J-1 visa
- I-94
- DS-2019
- Second form of photo ID (like Crimson Card)

J-2 Dependents
If you would like to work but have not yet applied or received your EAD, see J-2 work authorization for details at ois.iu.edu/living-working/employment/j-2.html.
- Employment Authorization Document (EAD)
- Passport
- J-2 visa
- I-94
- DS-2019
- Spouse’s letter of invitation from your IU host department
- Second form of photo ID (like Crimson Card)

F-1 Students on OPT and J-1 Students on Academic Training
- Passport
- Visa stamp
- I-94, DS-2019 or I-20
- Employment Authorization Document (EAD), if you have one
- Second form of photo ID (like Crimson Card)

Open a bank account
You will need a bank account if you will be paid by IU. If you will not be paid by IU, you do not have to set up an account, but may still find it useful, depending on the length of your stay. See ois.iu.edu/living-working/money for details. You do not need an SSN to set up a bank account.

Get health insurance
It is vitally important that all scholars review their health insurance coverage and be adequately protected during their time at IU. J-1 Exchange Visitors are required to maintain a minimum coverage level.
The J-1 Exchange Visitor Program provides opportunities for around 300,000 foreign visitors from 200 countries and territories per year to experience U.S. society and culture and engage with Americans.

Abide by Employment Regulations
As a J-1 Exchange Visitor, you are only permitted to work (research/teach) at Indiana University as described on the form DS-2019. Occasional lectures or consultations at other institutions or locations may be permitted if you obtain authorization from OIS ahead of time. Engaging in any employment for which you are not authorized may affect your immigration status.

Maintain Adequate Health Insurance
As a J-1 Exchange Visitor, the U.S. Department of State requires that you maintain adequate health insurance for yourself and any J-2 dependents for the length of your program. You must present evidence of health insurance to OIS within 7 calendar days of arrival. Your health insurance policy must provide the minimum coverage as required by the Department of State regulations. If you do not already have insurance that meets the minimum requirements, you may purchase health insurance through IU or from another company.

Report Contact Information Changes to OIS
If your address, phone, or email changes, U.S. federal regulations require you to update OIS within 10 days. Report the change by logging into istart.iu.edu, and completing the “Update Contact Information” form.

University Enrollment
J-1 Exchange Visitors are permitted to enroll in classes, but classes should not interfere with your original program objectives or delay your program. Consult the Office of the Bursar for fee information before deciding to enroll. If you wish to become a full-time student or enroll in a degree program, please contact an advisor in OIS to discuss the impact of study on your immigration status.
Travel During Your J Exchange Visitor Program

Scholars and dependents should obtain a signature from an OIS advisor on the DS-2019 form(s) prior to traveling outside the U.S. Request a travel signature through istart.iu.edu. **Please note:** If you are traveling abroad and your J-2 dependents are remaining in the U.S. you should speak to an advisor in OIS prior to travel. Your J-2 dependent status is dependent on the J-1 status.

Apply for an Extension Prior to the DS-2019 Expiration

If you wish to extend your IU program beyond the dates of your current DS-2019, your host department must agree to the extension and request a program extension before your DS-2019 expires. Research scholars or Professors may request an extension up to a maximum of five years program participation. Short-term scholars may stay up to six months, and Specialists may stay up to one year.

Transfer Authorization Prior to Leaving Indiana University

If you plan to leave Indiana University in order to pursue your program at another institution, you must receive transfer authorization from OIS prior to leaving IU. You may request a transfer using istart.iu.edu.

Depart the U.S. within 30 Day Grace Period

Scholars have a 30-day grace period at the end of the program to depart the U.S. or apply for a change of immigration status.

Report Early Departure to OIS

If you will leave the U.S. prior to the end of your current program (Box 3 of your DS-2019), you need to inform OIS of the new departure date and reason for ending your program. You also need to contact ois@iu.edu if your J-2 dependent(s) departs the U.S. prior to your program end date.

Rights and Protections for Temporary Workers

Know that you have rights and can get help if you ever encounter problems. The U.S. government created the Wilberforce Pamphlet to inform you of your rights as a nonimmigrant visa holder in certain employment- and education-based categories. Review it in detail at go.iu.edu/27Lc.

U.S. Department of State
Office of Designation
Academic and Government Programs Division
ECA/EC/AG, SA-5,
Floor C2 2200 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20522-0582
Fax: (202) 632-2701
j1visa.state.gov/
Health insurance requirements

Health insurance in the U.S. operates differently than many other countries. Some scholars are required to have health insurance - please see below. Even if this is not a requirement for you, it may be a good idea to look into it depending on the length of your stay in the U.S.

J-1 Exchange Visitors and J-2 dependents

U.S. federal law requires that J-1 Exchange Visitors and their J-2 dependents have health insurance during their stay in the U.S. Proof of insurance must be demonstrated within seven (7) days of your arrival to IU. The following are the minimum coverage requirements:

- $100,000 for each sickness or illness (women must have maternity/pregnancy care)
- $100,000 for each accident or injury
- $50,000 for medical evacuation
- $25,000 for repatriation
- Additionally, your health insurance policy cannot have a deductible that exceeds $500 per accident or illness.

If you do not already have health insurance that meets these minimum requirements, you may purchase the IU International Plan. Details of the plan can be found at ois.iu.edu/insurance. If you are unsure whether your employment at IU will include university benefits, including health insurance, please contact your host department. You may also purchase insurance from another company, provided it meets the minimum coverage requirements outlined above. Please bring your insurance documents to OIS so we can keep a copy for our files.

J-1 Exchange Visitors sponsored by an institution other than IU

Check the program sponsor listed in box 2 of your DS-2019 to see if this applies to you. Fulbright is a common sponsor, for example. If your DS-2019 is sponsored by an institution other than IU, check in with your contact at that institution as they are responsible for registering your arrival in the United States and advising regarding health insurance requirements. They may have an electronic process very similar to ours, in which they will ask for copies of your immigration documents, your local address, etc. They will inform you of your next steps after you contact them.

J-2 Dependents: Check in with OIS

If you are arriving after your J-1 family member, be sure to stop by the OIS within one week of arriving in the U.S. with the documents listed below. You will need to secure insurance per the requirements listed above.

- Passport
- J-2 visa
- DS-2019
- I-94
Maintaining H-1B, E-3, O-1, or TN Status

To maintain your status you are required to follow the federal regulations governing your stay.

While in the United States, your passport must remain valid at least six months into the future in most cases. Contact your country’s embassy or consulate within the United States to extend your passport.

Your approval notice (if applicable) and I-94 must also remain valid while you are in the United States.

To apply for an extension of status within the US, OIS must file a new petition with the government. Because processing a petition can take several months, please contact OIS six months prior to the expiration of your current I-94. In most cases you can continue working during the period in which USCIS is processing the application.

Persons in H-1B, E-3, O-1 and TN status may only work in the position for which they have been sponsored or invited.

Any changes to your IU position including position title, new or adjusted position duties, a change of university department, or employment with a new employer, may require filing a new petition with the government. Contact OIS if any details of your position will change.

U.S. immigration regulations require that all foreign nationals update their local address within 10 days of moving.

If the address that you reported on your last I-94 has changed, please file Form AR-11 within 10 days. USCIS Form AR-11 is available at uscis.gov by searching “AR-11”.

Note: The address reported must be the street address where you physically reside; post office box addresses or office addresses are not acceptable.

Refer to the cover letter that you received from OIS with your approval notice for more details about maintaining your status.
Mobile Phones
Mobile service providers in Bloomington include: AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile, and Verizon. In the United States, mobile phone plans can be contract-based or pay as you go.

U.S. Phone Numbers
U.S. phone numbers consist of 10 digits, written in three blocks: xxx-xxx-xxxx. The first three digits represent the area code. Bloomington’s area codes are 812 and 930.

Internet
IU offers a secure Wi-Fi network to everyone, as well as Ethernet connections for on-campus housing. Your IU login and password are required to connect. University Information Technology Services (UITS) can help you establish an Internet connection on campus.

Bloomington also has several options for off-campus Internet services. Search online for “Internet Service Providers near Bloomington, IN.”

IU Email
As an IU scholar, you are expected to check your email on a frequent and consistent basis. The university will send official communications to your IU email account with the full expectation that you will receive and read these emails in a timely fashion.

If you forward your email from your official IU email to another address, you do so at your own risk. Problems with forwarding your email do not absolve you of your responsibility to respond to university email.

Television
University apartments are wired for access to the IU Cable TV System. If you have problems with the cable TV reception in your apartment, contact IU Cable Repair at 812-855-2111.

If you live off campus, television options vary based on your service provider. Reception without satellite or cable service is limited. Some of
the popular service providers in the
area are AT&T, Comcast, Dish, and DirecTV.

These providers will often have plans
that combine or “bundle” services like
cable, Internet, and landline phone.
Some require a contract for a certain
length of time. Review all your options
and ask questions to make sure you
get the best package for your needs.

Music
You have many online options to
stream music - Pandora, Spotify, and
iHeartRadio are popular programs
that offer free service. Bloomington
also has several local radio stations,
most play music with short hourly
news and sports updates. IU is
affiliated with these stations:

99.1 WIUX: Pure Student Radio
wiux.org
103.7 WFIU: Public Radio
wfiu.org

Newspapers
The Indiana Daily Student (IDS) is an
award-winning student newspaper
provided for free throughout campus
and online.

The IU Student Association provides
free copies of The New York Times
and USA Today at 18 locations on
campus, including the IMU, Ballantine
Hall, Wells Library.

Bloomington’s local paper is The
Herald-Times. You can find it in
vending machines, have it delivered
to your home, or read it online for
free.

You can also find a number of national
and international newspapers online
and at the IU libraries.

US Mail
Mail and packages are delivered to
your home once a day. You should
make sure that your name is printed
clearly on your mailbox. If you move,
be sure to inform the university, OIS,
and the post office.

First-class stamps for domestic
letters currently cost 49 cents and
can be purchased at the post office,
USPS.com, and in some grocery
stores. International postage is also
available, but pricing varies based
on destination, weight, and other
factors.

The post office will not take packages
that weigh more than 70 pounds, but
shipping companies like DHL, UPS,
and FedEx can handle larger mailings.

Bloomington has two USPS locations:

Downtown Post Office
520 S. Walnut St.
Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–7 p.m.
Saturday, 8 a.m.–2 p.m.

Woodbridge Post Office
3210 E. Tenth Street
Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m.–7 p.m.
Saturday, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.
U.S. Currency

Paper money bills are all the same size and similar in color. These bills come in $1, $2, $5, $10, $20, $50, and $100 denominations. 100 cents (¢) are equal to one dollar, and most coins are either 1¢ pennies, 5¢ nickels, 10¢ dimes, or 25¢ quarters. A few silver and gold half dollar and one dollar coins are also in circulation.

Bank Accounts

All financial institutions offer similar services, with slight differences. To open an account at most banks, you will need your passport and at least one other form of photo identification. At a bank, you can deposit cash, a bank draft, a cashier’s check, or traveler’s checks payable in U.S. dollars. Checks from foreign banks may be deposited, but it can take two to six weeks before the money is available.

When opening a bank account, you generally have two options:

- **Checking:** store money safely, withdraw as often as needed using ATM, debit card, and checks
- **Savings:** store money safely, earn interest over time, and withdraw cash less frequently

It is not advisable to carry or casually store large amounts of cash. All banks will provide you with an ATM (Automated Teller Machine) or debit card, which will allow you to deposit or withdraw money directly into or out of your bank account.

Local Banking

The banks listed below are located near IU’s Campus. All offer checking and savings accounts, but some charge annual fees or require a minimum deposit. Ask about specials for IU employees, some offer cash incentives for opening a new account.

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<th>Local Bank</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Website</th>
<th>Recommended Documents</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bloomfield Bank</td>
<td>812-334-9005</td>
<td>bloombank.com</td>
<td>Passport, ITIN, and document with your address</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chase</td>
<td>812-331-6229</td>
<td>chase.com</td>
<td>Passport and I-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fifth Third</td>
<td>812-339-1131</td>
<td>53.com</td>
<td>Passport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IU Credit Union</td>
<td>812-855-7823</td>
<td>iucu.org</td>
<td>Passport and IU student ID</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old National</td>
<td>812-330-2600</td>
<td>oldnational.com</td>
<td>Passport and document with your address</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peoples State Bank</td>
<td>812-333-2228</td>
<td>peoples-bank.com</td>
<td>Passport and ITIN/W8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Wire Transfers

All financial institutions accept wire transfers. To send money directly to your Bloomington account, just ask your financial institution for its wire transfer routing number and address.

IU CrimsonCard

CrimsonCard is the official photo ID card for all IU campuses. It provides access to essential services like printing, meal plans, libraries, secure entry to campus buildings, and payment on campus and at participating local retailers. More details at [crimsoncard.iu.edu](http://crimsoncard.iu.edu).

Credit Cards

Some overseas credit cards are not widely accepted in the U.S., so you may wish to contact your credit card company to see if there’s anything they can do to facilitate U.S. acceptance. Some common U.S. credit card companies are American...
Express, Discover, MasterCard, and Visa. Please review interest rates and annual fees carefully if you do not intend to pay off your balance every month.

**Taxes**

Everyone in the U.S. is responsible for filing a tax form with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) before April 15 each year - regardless of immigration status. We will share some basic information - but OIS does not advise on tax issues. If you have questions about your U.S. taxes, the Office of Financial Management can help. Contact them at 812-855-0375 or taxpayer@indiana.edu.

**Local, state, federal taxes**

The U.S. tax system is complex and has three basic layers of taxation including local (city/county), state, and federal.

**Non-resident alien (NRA)**

Persons who reside temporarily in the U.S. in non-immigrant status are known as non-resident aliens or NRA’s. The most common statuses include F-1, J-1, J2, and H-1B.

**W-2**

Everyone with taxable income from employment in the U.S. will receive a Form W-2, which is a statement of earnings. You can request electronic delivery at One.IU.

**Tax Treaty**

The U.S. has income tax treaties with a number of foreign countries. Under these treaties, residents (not necessarily citizens) of foreign countries are taxed at a reduced rate, or are exempt from U.S. income taxes. These policies vary widely, for more information, visit fms.iu.edu/tax/international.
Bicycles

Bloomington has safe bike trails like the B Line. Bikes can be purchased or rented from many locations in town. We also recommend that you use a good lock to keep your bike secure at all times.

Register your bike with IU Parking Operations and buy a parking permit in order to park on campus.

Campus and City Busses

IU’s bus service travels around campus, linking on-campus housing to its many facilities. Bloomington Transit is the city’s local/public bus service. The city has nine routes that go to popular shopping destinations and supermarkets. Both services are free with your Crimson Card, and can be tracked with the Double Map App. More information at go.iu.edu/IDFc.

Taxi and Sharing Services

There are several options for taxi service. You can also rent cars, scooters, and bikes for a short term.

- e2 Taxi 812-961-8294
- Red Tire Taxi 812-269-2690
- White Cab 812-334-8294
- Yellow Cab 812-339-9744
- Uber App-based
- Lyft App-based
- Zipcar App-based car sharing
- Bird App-based scooter sharing
- Pace App-based bicycle sharing

Driver’s License

To drive legally in America, you will need a license. You may use an International Driver’s License for one year, or a license from another state for 60 days. Info at go.iu.edu/IDFe.

To get an Indiana driver’s license, you will need to bring the following items to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV):

- Valid Passport with Visa information and printed copy of your I-94 card
- Your social security card – or – A letter of ineligibility from the Social Security Office
- Two documents showing proof of a mailing address in Bloomington
• If you have a driver’s license from your home country, bring a certified translation of it.
• More details at go.iu.edu/1DFf

The BMV will give you a written test that you need to pass in order to get your license. You can study for the test and learn the rules of driving in Indiana at in.gov/bmv/2363.

**Car Ownership**

Carefully review all of the rules and regulations for international scholars before purchasing or leasing a car. There are specific requirements to obtain your driver’s license, auto insurance, vehicle title and registration, as well as parking permits.

**Mopeds, Scooters, and Motorcycles**

If you are operating any vehicle on public streets, you need to be a licensed driver. Make sure you register your moped, scooter, or motorcycle with the state of Indiana and buy an IU parking permit in order to park on campus.

**Car Rental**

Several car rental agencies are available. They all have different rates and rules. They require a valid driver’s license and a major credit card to rent a vehicle. Many agencies only rent to people 25 years or older.

**Airport Shuttle**

The nearest international airport is in Indianapolis. GO Express Travel and Star of America are convenient and inexpensive shuttles between Bloomington and the airport.

**Long-Distance Bus and Train Services**

Train travel in the Midwestern U.S. is less common than in other parts of the world, so you should anticipate challenging routes and schedules. Amtrak is the most common passenger train option and operates out of Indianapolis. Greyhound and Megabus also operate out of Indianapolis and are the most common long distance bus services.
We want you to make the most of your time in the United States. Here is some basic information to help you understand American culture.

Friendship
The concept of friendship differs from one culture to another. In some cultures it is a deep relationship that is experienced with a few people because it is based on love and respect and demands unlimited obligations. In other cultures, friendship is understood to be more casual and means just doing things with people whose company you enjoy.

Americans are sometimes described as friendly and approachable, but difficult to really get to know.

Americans use expressions like “I’ll call you,” or “See you later” as pleasantries and may not necessarily follow through with them. Americans tend to expect details such as dates, time, and locations to be discussed before they feel like they have committed to plans. If you wish to make plans with a new American friend, consider asking them to meet for coffee, a movie, or a campus event—but be specific about the what, when, and where of your plans.

Social Values
Americans generally believe that people should be self-reliant and see themselves primarily as individuals, rather than members of a nation, family, or community. They dislike being dependent on other people.

Social and cultural factors may be viewed simply as barriers that need to be overcome in order for them to get ahead. A result of this attitude is the competitive nature of American life. Achievement is a dominant motivation in American culture. Tradition is less emphasized than innovation and success.

Punctuality
People tend to schedule events in advance and will often check watches or phones so they know what time it is. Being on time is regarded as important in the United States, and most people make an effort to arrive on time or early. You should arrive at the specified time for meals and for appointments with colleagues, doctors, and other professionals. If you are unable to keep an appointment, you should inform the other party that you will be late or unable to arrive. Some social gatherings, like parties, are more casual and will not have an expectation that everyone will show up at the same time. When in doubt, ask your host.

Making Friends
Americans will be curious about you, too. Many have not had the opportunity to travel abroad or meet people from other countries. Americans and other international scholars will want to learn more
about you, your home country, and your culture. Some will enjoy listening to a foreign language or accent, while others may have trouble understanding you. Be patient, and don’t be afraid to ask others to be patient with you as well. Making friends is an important part of your experience at IU.

Advice for Making Friends

Listen and observe. There may be rules, norms, and social cues that are unfamiliar to you. Listening to verbal communication and observing nonverbal cues carefully can help you learn these behaviors and begin to understand their underlying meaning.

Ask questions. Don’t assume that you always know what is going on or that you understand every type of communication. Most people will be helpful to you if you need an explanation of something. Asking questions is especially useful if a person uses a phrase that does not make sense in literal English. If the person does not understand your question, try rephrasing it or repeating what you have said.

Try not to evaluate or judge. Some things here will be considerably different than what you are used to at home. It is important not to label everything as good or bad in comparison with your own culture; some customs, habits, and ideas may simply be different from what you are accustomed. Expressing strongly negative opinions about another person’s culture could ruin new friendships.

Try to empathize with those around you. Try to put yourself in the other person’s place and consider that person’s perspective. There may be more than one cultural perspective on the same situation. When you experience these differences, try to find common ground.

Be open and curious about your new environment and its culture. To gain a full understanding of a culture, you should be open to new experiences, try new things, and be curious about the way things are done in a new place. The more you explore, the more you will learn.

Have a sense of humor. You might make mistakes as you explore a new culture, and if you can laugh at them it will help you learn, and people will respond with friendliness.

Remember that it is normal to experience some anxiety and frustration. Learning to function in a new culture is not easy. Recognizing that this is a normal part of the experience may help you deal with it more effectively. Sometimes talking to other international scholars can relieve frustration or give you good advice about overcoming anxieties.

Get involved. The more time and energy you invest in new experiences, the more you will learn and grow. Make an effort to meet people, form friendships, get involved in activities, and learn about the people and the culture in your new home.

Have Fun! You are here as a scholar at a world-class university, but don’t forget to enjoy yourself. Having fun and making friends from many cultures is an important part of your experience here at IU!
Life in Bloomington may be different from your hometown. It may be a minor difference in expression and dress, or you may find major differences in language, culture, and behavior. Adjusting to IU and the United States might be challenging at times, but there are a variety of support services to help you make a smooth transition.

Successful international students and scholars often advise that you take initiative and be proactive. Seek additional information or help if you are unsure of yourself. Do not be afraid to ask questions; students, staff, and faculty at Indiana University are hospitable and are usually willing to respond. Social media and e-mail can also be used to ask questions, if asking in person makes you nervous.

People often experience disorientation, confusion, and a cycle of emotions when they move to a different culture. There is no definite timetable for this cycle; sometimes the emotions occur simultaneously, or recur throughout a person’s experience. Researchers have identified some distinct emotional phases that individuals living abroad commonly experience:

Excitement
Everything is new and there are few problems or identified challenges. The predominant feeling is one of exhilaration at being overseas after a long period of anticipation. Be sure to involve yourself in the IU community at this time and develop a wide network of new friends. Joining student or community organizations and clubs can give you access to like-minded people who may become your friends. This support network will help you through negative emotions you might experience during your transition.

Frustration
Enough time has passed for you to familiarize yourself with the new culture and disillusionment may begin to set in. The problems and difficulties that are an inevitable part of adjusting may seem to outweigh any potential sense of achievement. This is a normal reaction that most people operating in a new culture will experience. Being immersed in a new culture can be frustrating and difficult to cope with, but it usually becomes easier as your cultural comfort level increases.
Acceptance & Fulfillment

Fulfillment stems from a personal realization that your new environment, in all its aspects, is unlikely to change much. If your experience is to be satisfying, you need to adapt to your new environment and learn to operate within its cultural confines. This may result in some cultural compromises, but it will also help you understand that conflicts can be worked out and there is great potential for success and happiness while you’re abroad.

Coping Strategies

You’re living in a new country and some degree of culture shock is bound to occur, but there are ways to minimize its impact. Try to be more self-aware and recognize which emotions you are experiencing. This will help you avoid feelings of isolation and allow you to use coping strategies to overcome the adjustment challenges you may face. Physical exercise can keep your mood up, so stay active. Be social and make new friends in Bloomington, but keep in touch with friends and family back home. Seek help if you are having a hard time; IU has resources to support you during this transition.

Talk with peers about your experiences and ask successful colleagues who have been here for a while if they have advice for adapting to a new culture.

Speaking with a counselor can be very helpful. The IU Employee Assistance Program offers free counseling and can be a great place to start. For more information, see indiana.edu/~uhrs/benefits/eap.html.
If you will be teaching or attending courses, it is helpful to have an understanding of American university classroom and academic culture. It is important to discuss academic culture with someone in your department to understand the characteristics and policies specific to that department. The Code of Academic Ethics also has guidelines for instructors and can be found at studentcode.iu.edu.

**Student – Instructor Interaction is Encouraged**

Students are expected to participate in class (e.g. ask the instructor questions, even during a lecture). When a student speaks in class they are not expected to stand up while speaking. Often a student’s grade is partially dependent on class participation.

Instructors are expected to hold office hours during which students may come to them to discuss assignments, ask questions on course material, etc. Some instructors invite the students to address them by their first name. While this is not uncommon, it is not required, and is determined by the instructor’s preference.

At the first class session, instructors should provide a syllabus which outlines course policies (e.g. number of absences allowed), schedule of assignments, instructor office hours and contact information, and how the final grade is calculated (e.g. 25% participation, 25% tests, 20% oral presentation, 30% final project).

Instructors should not publicly criticize students or their work. This is not common in American academic culture and students will find it
Naturally, romantic relationships between students and instructors who have influence over their grades are in violation of the Code of Academic Conduct.

**Student Behavior**

Students are expected to attend class regularly and arrive to class on time. Some instructors take attendance and will allow a certain number of absences without a grade penalty (e.g. 3 per semester). This is particularly true for undergraduate courses. Such policies should be clearly explained in the beginning of the semester and outlined in the course syllabus.

Smoking is never permitted in the classroom; however, instructors may allow food and/or drink.

Traditionally, student dress is casual. Shorts, t-shirts, jeans, even pajama-like clothes (especially for undergraduates) are common and not meant as an insult to the instructor.

The expression of dissenting viewpoints is encouraged at IU. Both students and instructors are free to express their viewpoints; however, mutual respect between students and instructors must be maintained regardless of differences of opinion. Additionally, topics discussed should be related to the course material.

**Many Small Assignments vs. One Large Final Assignment**

Traditionally, instructors assign numerous small assignments throughout the semester with one medium to large assignment due at the end of the semester. This is especially true for undergraduate courses. Consequently, the student’s grade is based on the collective quality of all the assignments and not just one assignment.

Students will expect clear instructions for their assignments, as well as feedback (comments, etc.) on the quality of their assignments.

Undergraduates particularly may ask for opportunities to improve their grade by revising and correcting assignments (this is often the case with papers and essays) or asking for extra-credit possibilities. Extra-credit means offering optional, extra assignments that students can do to improve their grade.

**The Student Code of Conduct and Academic Dishonesty**

When students come to IU, they are given a copy of the Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct. The Code clearly states that academic dishonesty is a violation punishable by the university. Penalties may range from a warning to expulsion. The Code is available online at [studentcode.iu.edu](http://studentcode.iu.edu).

Academic dishonesty includes cheating on a test or assignment, helping another student cheat on a test or assignment, plagiarism (claiming another’s work as one’s own), and trying to use one assignment for credit in two courses.

Incidents of suspected academic dishonesty are serious matters and should be discussed with the student and brought to the attention of the department chair. The Office of Student Ethics should also be notified.

**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is an act taken very seriously at most American institutions, including IU. To ensure consistency and fairness in discipline, as well as to secure the academic integrity of the classroom, it is very important that all instructors evenly apply the department’s policy on plagiarism. Please be sure to review your department’s policy and understand the steps that must be taken if you find a student plagiarizing.

Specifically, the definition of plagiarism includes quoting or paraphrasing (expressing in different words) another’s words, ideas, statistics, or illustrations (graphs, charts, etc.) without giving credit to the original source. Just as with printed material, information gained from speeches and electronic sources such as the Internet must be credited to its original source. Find good resources to understand plagiarism at [go.iu.edu/27KX](http://go.iu.edu/27KX), as well as in the aforementioned Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities and Ethics and the Code of Academic Conduct.
OIS Services

We are your primary resource for all matters relating to visa regulations. Our scholar advisors and front desk staff are here to help with all of your immigration issues, questions, and more, including:

- Visa regulations and immigration documents for you and your dependent family members
- Mandatory J-1 health insurance enrollment
- Travel signatures, financial issues, university resources, etc.

We also provide events and ongoing programs to support your transition to Bloomington and American culture.

Find details at ois.iu.edu/events.

IU World’s Fare
The university’s premier international event celebrates the many diverse cultures on campus with dance performances, cultural displays, art, and food from around the globe!

International Education Week
This week of festivities honors our thousands of international students, scholars, and workers and the richness and diversity of our campus.

Noon Concert Series
On select Fridays, we offer a free concert and light lunch. Talented musicians from the Jacobs School perform classical and folk music from around the globe.

OIS Photo Contest
We want to see what your life is like, here at IU and back home. Enter the OIS photo contest to win prizes and share your photos with people at IU and all over the world.

Conversation Clubs
Immerse yourself in a new language and meet other IU students and scholars.

Practical English Tutorial (PET)
Improve your English-speaking skills and learn from native speakers who are eager to share their knowledge of the language. Sessions focus on topics that you learn about and discuss, such as slang, holidays, and American culture in general.

Conversation Partner Program
Practice speaking and writing, one-on-one with a native English speaker. We will match you with an American student at IU who wants to learn your native language and you will help each other become more proficient and comfortable in daily conversation.

Grad-Scholar Connect
GSConnect gives graduate students, scholars, and their families a place to gather each month. Meet new people and foster relationships with others in the international community at IU.

Meet IU’s International Scholar Advising Team

Joanna Snyder
snyder1@iu.edu

Erin Clark
elkeppel@iu.edu

Joelle Brown
jobrow@iu.edu

OIS Services
Aetna: insurance company offering comprehensive health plans for IU students and scholars

Assembly Hall: IU basketball arena

Crimson Card/IU ID: official university identification card

Canvas: online component for courses, create your class syllabus, assignments, grades, etc. – canvas.iu.edu

Dunn Meadow: grassy lawn just northwest of the Indiana Memorial Union

Hoosier: resident of the state of Indiana and IU students

IDS: Indiana Daily Student, the campus newspaper – idsnews.com

IUB: Indiana University Bloomington

IMU: Indiana Memorial Union – imu.indiana.edu

iStart: online services for international students and scholars – istart.iu.edu

IU Mobile: app containing Oncourse, bus schedules, and more

IUPD: Indiana University Police Department – indiana.edu/~iupd/

Jordan River: stream flowing through the center of campus

OIS: Office of International Services – ois.iu.edu

One.IU: access IU systems classified ads, employee information, taxes, payroll, etc. – One.IU.edu

Sample Gates: limestone gate located at the intersection of Kirkwood and Indiana Avenues

SRSC: Student Recreational Sports Center, the fitness center on campus – iureka.org

SSN: Social Security number, a nine-digit U.S. identification number

UID: University ID, 10-digit ID number, this will be used frequently and should be memorized

UITS: University Information Technology Services, provides internet and technology services – uits.iu.edu

WIC: Wildermuth Intramural Center, fitness center located by the IMU and art museum at 1025 E. 7th Street

Woodlawn Field: field located at Woodlawn and 10th Street
IU is a large campus and we’re proud to offer many resources to our students and scholars. There’s a variety of support services available to help you, learn more at indiana.edu/faculty-staff/.

**Academic Resources**

Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning (CITL) provides comprehensive services supporting excellent teaching and learning at IU.

CITL provides leadership and expertise to enable innovation in curricula, implementation of powerful technologies and pedagogies in and beyond the classroom, and student engagement with learning resources and materials to promote critical analytic and research skills.

CITL’s comprehensive approach comes through its unique fusion of programs and personnel, providing services in instructional and curricular consulting, instructional technologies, service-learning, writing instruction, and the scholarship of teaching and learning.

CITL’s location on the second floor of Wells Library’s east tower encourages close collaboration with librarians specializing in information literacy. This blend of specialties offers a collaborative and dynamic way of addressing complex teaching issues. Learn more at citl.indiana.edu.

University Information Technology Services (UITS) provides technology support 24 hours a day via chat, phone, and email. In-person support is offered at Wells Library and the IMU.

The Learning Commons in Wells Library during business hours. UITS can help you learn software programs used in your classes, and also provides many popular software programs for free at iuware.iu.edu.

Scholar’s Commons at Wells Library offers a dedicated space to assist staff and faculty with research and other academic pursuits on campus. Learn more at libraries.indiana.edu/scholars-commons.
**Cultural Centers**
IU offers many programs and services to support multiculturalism and diversity on campus. There are four cultural centers that promote cross-cultural understanding on campus. They support students who identify with a specific culture, and provide information to others interested in that culture.

**Asian Culture Center:**
807 E. Tenth Street

**First Nations**
712 East Eighth St.

**La Casa**
715 E 7th Street

**Neal-Marshall Black**
275 North Jordan Avenue

**Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender (GLBT) Support**
IU is rated one of the friendliest campuses in the nation for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex students, and their friends. The GLBT Support Services Office is a resource and information center for individuals, campus and community groups, events, and activities. They provide a welcoming and safe environment for individuals seeking to grow in their understanding of LGBTQIA issues.

**Sports and Fitness**
Your can purchase a membership to the largest sports and fitness center in town. Stay fit with high-quality, safe, enjoyable, and diverse sports/fitness programs. There are two on-campus locations: Wildermuth Intramural Center (WIC) and Student Recreational Sports Center (SRSC). Learn more at recsports.indiana.edu/faculty-and-staff.

**Work-Life Balance**
IU is committed to a workplace culture that is appreciative of employees’ diverse needs for individual and family well-being. This resource, provided by IU Human Resources, offers information regarding support services available at the University and in surrounding communities at hr.iu.edu/worklife.
Get involved in campus life! IU and Bloomington offer all sorts of clubs, sports, art, music, and social events.

**Student Organizations**
OIS is a good place to start getting involved on campus. Think of us as your connection to the university and to each other. You can find a list of international organizations at beinvolved.indiana.edu.

Scholars are encouraged to participate in any of the student groups on campus, whether they have an international focus or not. Most are free to join and only require an interest in the group’s theme. You literally have hundreds of options.

**Sports**
IU offers a wide variety of club sports, intramural games, fitness programs, exercise classes, and events to keep you moving.

Hoosiers are also proud of our collegiate teams and many people enjoy cheering them on by attending games in person, or watching on TV.

**Fun & Entertainment**
IU offers an endless supply of art, music, and theater. The Jacobs School of Music presents over a thousand student performances each year. IU Auditorium hosts Broadway performances, concerts, and more. Opera and Ballet Theater offer amazing performances in these classical traditions at the Musical Arts Center (MAC).

The IU Cinema shows a variety of films in a state of the art movie theater.

The Indiana Memorial Union (IMU) offers a weekly film series featuring new movies, a bowling alley, and other activities throughout the year.

**Religion**
People at IU come from a wide variety of diverse religious backgrounds and most are able to find a faith-based community in Bloomington. You can also find groups who focus on spirituality at idsnews.com/religious, beINvolved, and CaRLA.org.

**Bloomington Worldwide Friendship (BWF)**
Experience life outside of campus and become a part of BWF. Make friends with local families and learn about American culture, food, and customs. You can visit bwfbloomington.org for more information.

**Dining On Campus**
Residence hall dining is not just for students. Although it is more costly, IU offers restaurants and convenience stores (c-stores) across campus.

You can use your Crimson card or cash to eat on campus. Dining Services at IU works hard to provide
food for a variety of diets, and they offer a staff dietitian to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

Restaurants Off Campus
Bloomington has many restaurants close to campus. Kirkwood Avenue and 4th Street are near the Sample Gates and offer a wide variety of options. 4th Street is known for its global cuisines and may be able to give you a little taste of home. Check out the Indiana Daily Student guides.idsnews.com/dining. Many restaurants will even deliver food to your home.

Tipping
Though tipping for services is not always mandatory, it is expected in many circumstances.

If a restaurant seats you and offers table service, you are expected to tip. Fast food restaurants don’t require a tip because a server is not providing table service.

Servers in Indiana earn a very low base wage of $2.13 per hour. Both the restaurant owner and the server are counting on customers to supplement this low pay with tips.

Think of your tip as merit pay, and make a distinction between terrible, decent, and excellent service. A good rule of thumb is 10% of the total bill for poor service, 15% for decent service, and 20% or more for excellent service.

If you are part of a large group, tips may be included automatically on the bill. Look for it near the tax at the bottom of the bill (it may say “Gratuity” or “Tip,” followed by a percent). In that case, you don’t have to give additional money, though you may do so, if you wish. You will also tip taxi drivers, hair stylists, and movers.

Supermarkets
Most Americans buy food for a week or more at a time in supermarkets or grocery stores. These are large, comprehensive stores that carry all kinds of food, laundry, cleaning supplies, paper products, and nonprescription drugs. There are also a few stores like Target and Walmart that sell food, clothing, home supplies, furniture, and other personal items you may need.

Specialty Foods
Bloomington has a number of stores that specialize in international cuisines. You can find many ingredients that are close to what you can get from home. Supermarkets also have an international section, but specialty stores will have more variety. Some local favorites are Bloomingfoods, Crosstown Oriental Foods, Euro Deli, 4th Street International Market, Sahara Mart, Saraga Oriental Market, Lucky’s and Tenth Street Market.

Alcohol
The legal drinking age in the state of Indiana is 21. You cannot purchase any form of alcohol or consume it until your twenty-first birthday. Public intoxication by anyone is considered a very serious offense. Alcohol sales are limited on Sundays.

Shopping
Prices in U.S. stores are fixed, and bargaining is not usually an option. Vehicles are the major exception to this rule. When buying a car, negotiation and bargaining are expected and necessary.

Bloomington has unique local shops, but also has larger shopping centers, with a number of stores and ample parking. The largest shopping areas in town are College Mall, Eastland Plaza, Whitehall Crossing, and Whitehall Plaza.

You may also want to save money and shop for used items at a secondhand store. Items at these stores will be significantly less expensive, but may be slightly used or have a small, repairable defect. Many of these stores use their sales revenue to assist local charities. Items will range from clothing to household articles to furniture. Find them online by searching for “Thrift Shops.”

Sales Tax
Prices listed for retail items in the United States do not include state sales tax, so keep in mind that a 7% additional tax will be added to the price when you check out. For instance, if you are buying an item that is listed as $10, sales tax will be added at checkout and your total amount due will be $10.70.

Monroe County Public Library (MCPL)
MCPL provides services at no charge to all people living in Monroe County. All are welcome to visit the Library to browse books, magazines, and newspapers, use public computers, and enjoy their spaces. Learn more at mcpl.info.
The department sponsoring your program should assist you with locating housing.

**On Campus Housing**

On-campus housing for both married and single visitors may be available through IU’s Residential Programs and Services. Visit rps.indiana.edu/guesthousing.cfml to learn more and request a reservation.

**Off-Campus Housing**

Many scholars choose to live off campus, these are a few resources to start your housing search:

- The Bloomington Visitors Center maintains a list of short-term rentals. Visit visitbloomington.com/about-us/moving for more info.
- The Herald Times (HT) classified section is a good place to look, it is offered in print and online at heraldtimesrentals.com.
- The Indiana Daily Student (IDS) has a listing online under “Housing” at idsnews.com/classifieds.
- There are also many national websites to help you, like
  - rent.com
  - apartments.com
  - apartmentfinder.com
  - apartmentguide.com
  - bloomington.craigslist.org

Bloomington’s Housing and Neighborhood Development (HAND) can help you obtain property owner information and answer many questions about rentals in town. They can also provide assistance if your landlord fails to make requested repairs that are code related. Learn more at bloomington.in.gov/hand.

These are some great questions and advice for you to consider before you sign a rental lease:

- How much is the rent?
- Is there a damage deposit?
- Does the rent include gas, electricity, telephone, water, trash removal, and air conditioning?
• If you own a vehicle, where will you park? Is there easy access to public transportation?
• Who mows the lawn?
• How long you will be at IU? It is common for landlords to require a 12-month lease.
• Get everything that you and the landlord agree to in writing.
• Take pictures of your rental before you move in and document the current condition, especially any pre-existing damage.
• Read the lease carefully before you sign. If you have questions, ask for an explanation from the landlord. If you still do not understand, please call Student Legal Services for advice at 812-855-7867.
• If you do not agree with all lease items, negotiate the terms of the lease before you sign it.
• Adhere to the contract you signed. Pay your rent on time and avoid causing damage.
• Be a considerate neighbor. Don’t disturb the people around you by being noisy or messy.

**Renter’s Insurance**

It is a good idea to purchase renters or personal property insurance to protect your belongings in the case of theft, fire, storm damage, etc. Your landlord is not usually responsible for replacing your personal property. Buy a policy that will cover your belongings and any liability you might have. A good policy should help replace the cost of your belongings if they are destroyed or stolen. Get help if you need it! Please contact the OIS if you have questions or need advice.
**Child Care**

IU offers programs to meet the various child care needs of students and scholars. However, it is not heavily subsidized, and is driven predominately by parent-paid fees.

For more information about campus child care, a comprehensive chart (listing hours, ages served, and fees) is available at childcare.indiana.edu.

**U.S. Education**

All children in Indiana between the ages of 6 and 16 must attend school. Public schools are free to all children and books and supplies are often provided. There are typically three levels of public school education:

**Elementary School**

Kindergarten-Grade 5 or 6 (ages 5-10)

**Middle School**

Grade 6 or 7-8 (ages 11-13)

**High School**

Grades 9-12 (ages 14-18)

Children in J-2 status may enroll in Bloomington’s public schools, private schools are also available.

**Public Schools**

If you have school-aged children, your first point of contact should be the Monroe County Community School Corporation (MCCSC) mccsc.edu. They will likely ask the ages of your children and where you live, so that your children can be placed in the appropriate school.

Parents are required to fill out information on vaccinations and other medical details for each child. By law, the school must have a record in English of your child’s immunizations. If such a record does not exist or is inadequate, you will be asked to have your child immunized in order to be allowed to attend school.

The schools will ask for a birth certificate or legal proof of birth and
may ask that the child have a physical exam. Take any records of your children’s school work, in addition to their passports, when you enroll them.

Each school district is required by law to provide free and appropriate education for all children. If you have a child who has a disability or needs special assistance, other than lack of English proficiency, that makes it difficult for him/her to be in a standard classroom without help, contact the Special Education section of the MCCSC at (812) 330-7700. This office will find the right program for your child and provide whatever help he/she needs. Education is the right of every child.

**Private Schools**

The city of Bloomington also has several private schools, but keep in mind that there will be more expenses involved. These are a few options:

- Bloomington Montessori School  
  bloomingtonmontessori.org
- Harmony School  
  harmonyschool.org
- Lighthouse Christian Academy  
  mylca.info
- Pinnacle  
  pinnacleschool.org
- Project School  
  theprojectschool.org
- St. Charles Catholic School  
  school.stcharlesbloomington.org
Health Insurance

While insurance is required only for J-1 Exchange Visitors and their dependents, all other scholars/families should maintain coverage while in the U.S. due to the high cost of U.S. health care. Aetna Student Health administers IU’s international health insurance plan, which can also be used by scholars. Contact an insurance specialist at 812-856-4650 or studenthc@iu.edu for more information about the plan.

Health Center On Campus

Scholars who purchase the IU Visiting Scholar Aetna insurance plan can access a wide range of health services on campus, including checkups, office visits, counseling services, and addiction treatment for a minimal fee.

Private Practice Physicians

Bloomington has many private practitioners and medical specialists. Before or during your first visit to a private practitioner, please be sure to clarify whether or not they will accept your insurance and how their billing works. Some specialists will require a referral from a general doctor before they will see you.

Each insurance plan and doctor’s office handles billing differently. You can also see whether the doctor is considered “in-network” or “out of network” for insurance billing purposes. It is typically less expensive to visit doctors who are “in-network.”

Urgent Care Centers and Walk-In Clinics

There may be times you need urgent care when your doctor’s office is closed or can’t get an appointment. Bloomington has several urgent care and walk-in clinic options where you can receive treatment without having an appointment.

Bloomington Hospitals

There are two hospitals in town that are open 24 hours a day. Both offer excellent medical services, but emergency room visits are extremely expensive. If your condition is not truly an emergency, we recommend using another health care facility.

Eye Care

The IU School of Optometry has an eye care center on campus that offers a full range of services. They also sell contacts, lenses, and frames.

Safety

IU offers programs promoting campus safety throughout the year. We provide well-lit campus streets and pathways. If you feel unsafe at night, the IU Safety Escort Service, run by students, can even pick you up on campus and give you a ride home.

IU’s Sexual Assault Crisis Service focuses on education, prevention, crisis intervention, and counseling related to sexual assault. Any sexual contact without consent is considered sexual assault; this includes rape, sexual battery, and sexual coercion. A person may be incapable of giving consent due to use of drugs or alcohol, or due to an intellectual or other disability. If you or someone you know has been assaulted you can call the sexual assault crisis service line any time day or night at 812-855-8900.

Mental Health

CAPS works with thousands of IU’s students, faculty, and staff each year. Their well-trained staff are prepared to handle serious mental health crises, and basic support and therapy to deal with the stresses of life. Treatment is always confidential.

You can find help by reaching out to an OIS advisor, CAPS, the IU Employee Assistance Program, or visiting a counselor at Let’s Talk.
Indiana University strives to maintain a safe environment for its students, faculty, staff, and visitors. However, creating and maintaining a safe and secure campus is everyone’s responsibility. Simple habits like locking your doors and windows, securing your bike, and keeping your vehicle locked at all times can help.

Immediately report safety concerns, suspicious persons, or suspected criminal activity to the Indiana University Police Department at 812-855-4111. To report a fire, medical emergency, or crime in progress, call 911 from any phone.

An emergency could strike at any time, without warning, and it is up to you to be prepared. We will cover the basics here, but encourage you to contact your residence hall and visit protect.iu.edu for more detailed information.

**Fire**
- When a fire alarm is activated, a loud alarm signal sounds.
- Immediately evacuate the building.
- If you see a fire and the alarm has not sounded, pull the alarm box as you leave.
- Do not use elevators.
- Move away from the building.
- Once you’re outside, call 911 to report the fire.
- Obey all emergency personnel.
- Alert emergency personnel if someone is in the building.
- Do not re-enter the building until the all clear is given by emergency personnel.

**Tornadoes & Severe Storms**
- Tornadoes are most common during spring and summer.
- Outdoor sirens and weather radio alerts will sound.
- Go to an interior room on the lowest level of the building.
- Stay away from windows.
- Crouch down and cover your head with your arms.
- Take your phone, laptop, or AM/FM weather radio with you.
- If you are outside, take immediate shelter in the nearest building.
- Do not leave your shelter until the tornado warning has expired, or the all clear is given.

**Earthquake**
- While earthquakes are not common in Indiana, they are possible.
- If inside, take shelter under a sturdy piece of furniture, or stand in a doorway or corner.
- Stay away from windows, hanging objects and heavy furniture that could fall on you.
- Stay where you are until the shaking stops.
- After the shaking stops, evacuate the building.
- Do not use elevators.
- If you are in a car or outside, move to an open area away from trees, poles, electrical wires, and buildings.

**Warning Systems**
- **IU-Notify**: An IU alert system that sends out campus-related emergency notifications via phone call, text, or e-mail.
- **Tornado Sirens**: Loud outdoor sirens that sound with a steady wail.
- Radio and television will promptly report all emergency situations.

FOR MORE EMERGENCY AND PREPAREDNESS INFORMATION:
Visit protect.iu.edu or call 812-855-2004
Indiana is located in the Midwest and is commonly referred to as the Crossroads of America. We are known for the Indy 500, raising corn, and our friendly, laid back demeanor. Both citizens of the state of Indiana and students at IU are called “Hoosiers.” No one knows for sure what it means, but we all love being a part of the tradition.

Bloomington is located in Southern Indiana and is 760 feet (232 meters) above sea level. The average daytime temperature is 37° F (2.7 C) during winter and 88° F (31.1 C) in the summer. We experience all four seasons and get an average of 40 inches (101.6 cm) of precipitation per year. The spring brings beautiful flowers, fall is known for its colorful leaves, and you will be sure to see snow in the winter!

IU is the heart of Bloomington, Indiana. The town’s 80,000 citizens welcome international students and scholars, celebrating the diversity of the community with many cultural, musical, recreational, and sporting events. The Little 500 is the largest collegiate bicycle race in the United States and our students have fun participating in the excitement of all the Little 500 events. IU football and basketball are very popular, and at times they virtually take over the city.

Bloomington hosts a lively farmer’s market every Saturday morning with fresh local food, art, and live music. Each fall the Lotus World Music and Arts Festival honors the beauty and joy of music and art from cultures around the world. There are always interesting and fun activities going on around town so get out there and explore your new home!

IU’s Bloomington campus has been ranked in the top five most beautiful campuses in the country. Its 46,000 students and more than 7,500 faculty and staff make it a community in its own right. And all of them welcome you!
**Temperature**

In all areas of life, other than scientific laboratories, the U.S. uses degrees Fahrenheit (F) rather than Centigrade (C) to measure temperature. To convert Centigrade to Fahrenheit: multiply C by 1.8 and add 32. To convert Fahrenheit to Centigrade: subtract 32 from F and divide by 1.8.

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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.6</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.2</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26.7</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32.3</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>212</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Measurements**

The United States uses a system of feet and inches to measure distance, pounds and ounces to measure weight, and quarts and gallons to measure volume. You will most likely be asked for your height and weight on numerous occasions while in the United States. You may want to calculate and memorize these two measurements so you can provide them when asked.

You can find many online conversion calculators that are quick and easy resources to use.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>U.S.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 centimeter</td>
<td>.39 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 meter</td>
<td>39.37 inches (1.1 yards)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 kilometer</td>
<td>.62 or 5/8 mile</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>U.S.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 ounce</td>
<td>28.35 grams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 pound</td>
<td>.45 kilograms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2 pounds</td>
<td>1 kilogram</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Time**

The U.S. mainland is divided into four time zones. Bloomington is in Eastern Time (ET). The U.S. uses a 12-hour clock, referring to a.m. for morning and p.m. for afternoon and evening. 12 a.m. is referred to as midnight, and 12 p.m. as noon. In March and November each year, most states in the United States observe daylight saving time. In March we “spring forward,” setting clocks forward an hour. In November we “fall back,” setting clocks back an hour. It is highly publicized and if your phone is set to EST, it will automatically adjust to daylight savings time.

**Clothing**

Clothing sizes are different in the U.S. than other countries. Custom-made clothing is not common; however, most dry cleaners offer tailoring and alteration services. Sizes vary widely based on brand, department, or store.