All of us in the Office for International Students and Scholars (OISS) welcome you to DePaul University! This email is part of a series of communications our office is sending to help you prepare for your arrival in Chicago. In case you miss any of our communication, we will also have it posted to our website so you may catch up on the various topics covered. Also please don’t forget to visit our website to learn more about how to register for your international student orientation and what to expect.

**THIS WEEK: MONEY MATTERS IN THE U.S.**

**HOW DO I OPEN A BANK ACCOUNT?**

Once you arrive in the U.S., you will be able to establish a checking account at a bank near your school or home.

To do this, you will need to bring the following documents with you to the bank:

1. Original valid passport
2. DePaul Student ID
3. Letter from OISS verifying your student status and address.

You will get your student ID when you arrive on campus, and you can request a letter from OISS once you have checked-in and confirmed your Chicago address.

If you need U.S. dollars immediately upon your arrival, please look for foreign currency exchanges located at International Terminals. You will probably arrive at Chicago’s O’Hare Airport which has a foreign currency exchange in the International Terminal.

There are many banks to choose from in Chicago. The OISS will assist you with information about banks in the area and provide a letter of introduction for you to present when opening an account. Please do not bring large amounts of cash with you. It is unwise to carry large amounts of cash, so keep most of your money in traveler’s checks (or other non-cash forms), until you open a bank account.

**PNC Bank** is a DePaul partner and has two on-campus branches conveniently located on the **Lincoln Park and Loop Campuses**. As a partner financial institution, PNC offers DePaul international students a variety of services including easy to open free checking accounts, wire transfers, and language interpretation services. For more information about banking in the U.S. and PNC services, please see the following:

- **PNC Welcome International Students**
- **PNC Virtual Wallet**
- **PNC Overview of Banking in the U.S.**

Purchase travel checks in U.S. dollars before you leave your country, to use while waiting to establish an account in Chicago. If you need to make a large purchase before establishing a checking account,
you should pay with a money order so that you will get a receipt. These can be purchased from most banks or currency exchanges.

**HOW DO I PAY MY DEPAUL BILLS?**

All fees will be automatically charged to your Student Account at DePaul University. You can pay fees online via Campus Connect or you can pay in person once you arrive in Chicago at the Loop or Lincoln Park DePaul Central locations.

DePaul University has partnered with peerTransfer to make international payments easy. peerTransfer is a secure, streamlined payment solution that saves international students time and money. Accepting over 45 currencies, most students can pay in their home currency, saving a significant amount of money each term.

To make a payment go to: depaul.peertransfer.com and click the green “Click here to get started” button

Here are additional instructions about how to pay your bills.

**COMMON FEES**

- **TUITION:** All students will be charged tuition each quarter. Tuition for DePaul is due two weeks prior to the beginning of each quarter. You will be charged a late fee if you do not pay on time. If you would like to pay on a different schedule, you can choose an alternative payment options online in Campus Connect. Tuition varies according to major and level of education. To determine your tuition & fee cost, please visit Student Accounts.

  If you are an exchange student paying tuition to your home university, then DePaul will **not** charge you tuition for the academic terms of your specific program; however, if you enroll in additional terms that are not included in your program (December Intercession or Summer classes may not be included; please contact OISS or your home university to confirm if you are unsure), then you will be responsible to pay tuition for those terms. Please note, that students participating in exchange programs must still pay the fees below.

- **U-PASS:** This is a public transportation pass for all full-time DePaul students that will allow you to use the trains and buses during the academic term with a student discount. DePaul University purchases this pass for you and then you will be responsible for paying DePaul to cover this cost each quarter you are on campus. The fee will be applied to your DePaul Student Financial Account each quarter that you are on campus. **All students must pay this fee.** It is due before the term starts. The costs change each year, but it is approximately $92/quarter.

- **HOUSING:** If you have chosen to live on-campus, your housing fees will be charged automatically to your student account. Housing fees vary depending on the type of housing you have been assigned. Housing fees are due at the start of each academic term. You can
read more about university housing options and fees online at the Housing website. If you have chosen to live off-campus, then you will be responsible for making payments to your landlord according to your lease terms.

- **MEAL PLANS:** If you are living on-campus you are required to purchase a university meal plan. Fees for the meal plans vary depending on the type of meal plan you have selected. Meal plan fees are due at the start of each academic term. If you are living off-campus, you can elect to purchase a university meal plan, but this is not required.

- **FITNESS CENTER:** All undergraduate students receive access to the Ray Meyer Fitness Center and may use the exercise facilities, equipment and participate in the intramural sports teams and outdoor adventure programs at no additional cost. Graduate students may choose to use the Ray Meyer Fitness Center, but you will be charged a small fee. You can read more about the facilities and fees online: the Ray Campus Recreation Services.

We hope that the information provided will help you plan for your arrival in the United States. Again, welcome to DePaul University!

Best regards,
Hiwoté, Garrett, Jennie, Amanda, Dan, Ewa, Sandra, Justin, and Monica

The OISS Team

*Why am I receiving this email?*

Soon you will be arriving in Chicago to begin your academic adventure here at DePaul University. DePaul is a large university and the Office for International Students and Scholars (OISS) will connect you to the many resources you need to be successful here. In the weeks preceding your arrival OISS will send you emails with information that will help you prepare for your arrival. In case you miss any of our communication, we will also have it posted to our website so you may catch up on the various topics covered.