TABLE OF CONTENTS
Before You Depart  1
Arriving in the U.S.  5
Getting Started at DePaul  9
YOUR DEPAUL EXPERIENCE IS ABOUT TO BEGIN.

On behalf of the Office for International Students and Scholars (OISS), International Admission and the entire DePaul family, congratulations on your acceptance to DePaul University! You are now a part of an exciting and engaging community of students who are seeking wisdom in the heart of a great American city. This brochure will help you prepare for your journey to the United States, Chicago and DePaul. We look forward to seeing you on campus.

Getting ready to relocate to the United States can be a busy, uncertain and exciting time. We want to provide you with some guidance on collecting the correct documentation, making your travel arrangements and taking the steps necessary to begin your adventure.

You are an important part of the DePaul community and, as you prepare to join us in Chicago, please do not hesitate to contact our advisors if you have questions or need assistance.
IMMIGRATION FORMS AND DOCUMENTS

PASSPORT
In order to apply for a U.S. F-1 or J-1 student visa, you must possess a valid passport from your country of citizenship.

FORM I-20 & FORM DS-2019
These are certificates of eligibility issued by DePaul after you have been admitted. The I-20 allows you to apply for an F-1 student visa. The DS-2019 allows you to apply for a J-1 student visa.

VISA
A visa is a stamp placed in your passport by a U.S. Embassy or consular officer. Along with a valid form I-20 or DS-2019, it allows you to enter the U.S. as an F-1 or J-1 student. It notes the purpose of your visit, the last date you may use the visa to enter the U.S. and how many times you may use the visa.

I-901 SEVIS FEE
F-1 and J-1 students are required to pay a one-time, non-refundable I-901 SEVIS fee. The fee for F-1 students is $200; it is $180 for J-1 students. The fee is payable with a credit card at the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) website.

- Pay your I-901 SEVIS fee and print your receipt at ice.gov/sevis/i901/index.htm.
- Schedule an appointment for a visa interview at your nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. For a complete list, visit usembassy.gov.
VISA APPLICATION PROCEDURES
Take your passport and form I-20 or DS-2019 issued by DePaul to a U.S. Consulate or Embassy.
You will be required to present proof of financial support, English language proficiency and your I-901 SEVIS fee receipt. During your personal interview, you must be prepared to demonstrate to the consular officer:

- Sufficient finances to cover tuition and living expenses for one year.
- Strong ties (i.e., family, property, job) to your home country to show that your sole purpose in coming to the U.S. is to earn a degree and return home.

If you are denied the visa, determine the reason and how long you must wait to reapply. It is advisable to apply for the visa as soon as possible after obtaining your form I-20 or DS-2019 from DePaul University in case the visa issuance is delayed.
ARRIVING IN THE U.S.

Review the following items to ensure that you have considered all of the details surrounding your arrival, including where you plan to stay and how you’re going to get there.

ENTERING THE UNITED STATES

When planning the date of your arrival, please be aware that you are not eligible to enter the U.S. as an F-1 or J-1 student more than 30 days prior to the start date listed on your form I-20 or DS-2019.

Carry your immigration documents with you on the plane. Do not check them with your luggage. If your luggage is lost, you may not be able to enter the U.S. without your immigration documents.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Prior to landing at a U.S. airport, the flight attendant will distribute a form I-94 Arrival-Departure Record. Complete this form before landing at the port of entry and submit the I-94 to the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Officer along with the following documents:

- Passport with F-1 or J-1 visa
- Form I-20 or DS-2019
- I-901 SEVIS fee receipt
- Financial documents

Be sure that the CBP officer inspects the proper visa (if you have other U.S. visas). The CBP officer will stamp the I-94 card with the notation “F-1, D/S” or “J-1, D/S” and the date of your arrival. This card should then be stapled to your passport or form I-20 or DS-2019. This small white card is an extremely important document, and you must save it.
AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION

You will most likely arrive at O’Hare International Airport (ORD), which is located about 21 km/13 miles from downtown Chicago. Some connecting flights may arrive at Midway Airport (MDW), which is located about 16 km/10 miles from downtown Chicago. A taxi into the city from O’Hare or Midway Airport will cost between $30 and $40. An alternate choice is the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) train, which costs $2.25 for a one-way ticket. The CTA may be difficult if you are not familiar with the city, or you are carrying a lot of luggage. The CTA will take you into the Loop (the heart of downtown Chicago), and you may choose to get a taxi or bus from that point. For more information about taking the CTA from the airport, visit transitchicago.com/riding_cia/airports.aspx.

SHORT-TERM HOUSING

If you are unable to obtain university housing or stay with a friend when you first arrive, you will need temporary housing. A hotel may be acceptable for the first night, but it is very expensive if you have to remain there for several days. Below are some temporary housing options:

- **Chicago Getaway Hostel**
  (Lincoln Park area)
  616 West Arlington Place
  Chicago, IL 60614
  (773) 929-5380
  getawayhostel.com

- **Homewood Suites by Hilton**
  (Downtown Chicago)
  40 East Grand Avenue
  Chicago, IL 60611
  (312) 644-2222
  (Call for discounted rates)
  homewoodsuiteschicago.com

- **International House at the University of Chicago**
  (Hyde Park)
  1414 East 59th Street
  Chicago, IL 60637
  (773) 753-2270
  ihouse.uchicago.edu

- **Days Inn Lincoln Park North**
  (1 mile northeast of Lincoln Park Campus)
  644 West Diversey Parkway
  Chicago, IL 60614
  (773) 525-7010
daysinn.com

- **Hostelling International – Chicago**
  (Downtown Chicago, South Loop)
  24 East Congress Parkway
  Chicago, IL 60605
  (312) 360-0300
  hichicago.org

- **Red Roof Inn**
  (Downtown Chicago)
  162 East Ontario Street
  Chicago, IL 60611
  (312) 787-3580
  redroof.com

depaul.edu/international
LONG-TERM HOUSING

On-campus Housing
DePaul has housing for both undergraduate and graduate students. No children or spouses may live in the residence halls. If you live on campus, you will be assigned one or two roommates. You might not have a choice in your roommate assignment. In addition, bed linens are not provided, so you must bring your own or purchase them. Apply early for housing if you are interested in living on campus as space is limited. For more information regarding on-campus housing, visit Housing Services at housing.depaul.edu. Graduate on-campus housing is available at the University Center of Chicago (UCC) near the Loop Campus. Visit depaul.edu/ucc for more information about the UCC.

Off-campus Housing
If you plan to live off campus, you should expect to spend several days locating an apartment or room for rent. Monthly rent for an apartment in Chicago ranges from $400 to $1,500, depending on the location and size. Typically, a security deposit equal to one month’s rent is required. If you need additional information or resources to assist you in finding an apartment, visit commuter.depaul.edu for off-campus housing options.

SAFETY
Chicago is a fun, fascinating city with many attractions and a fast-paced lifestyle. As with any metropolitan city, safety is a concern. For your safety, you should not carry large sums of money or valuables with you. In addition, you should not offer information to strangers about your financial matters. Avoid walking alone at night, unless you are familiar with the area. If you are alone, be aware of your surroundings and carry your personal belongings close to your body. If you follow these safety tips, you can have safe stay in Chicago. For more information, visit publicsafety.depaul.edu.
GETTING STARTED AT DEPAUL.

Your college experience begins now! Plan to attend orientations and welcome sessions. These events will help you learn your way around the university, get to know people and prepare for a successful year.

REGISTERING FOR ORIENTATION

New international students, including students who are transferring from other U.S. universities or from DePaul’s English Language Academy, must attend an international student orientation. Please note that OISS orientation is required for all international students in addition to the university-wide orientation conducted by the Office of Academic Enhancement and/or by your academic department. For more information and to register for OISS orientation, visit oiss.depaul.edu/NewStudent/Orientation_Form/index.asp.

SELECTING YOUR CLASSES

You may contact your college office for course registration instructions and to make an appointment with your academic advisor. It is very important that you meet with an academic advisor before your first quarter so you can decide on an academic plan together. Undergraduate students also must take placement exams and register for academic orientation prior to course registration. You can take the exams online at sr.depaul.edu.Tests/index.asp. You will not be able to register for classes until you have taken these exams.

ASSISTANCE FOR UNDERGRADUATE NON-NATIVE ENGLISH SPEAKERS

Special sections of first-year undergraduate English courses taught by the Department of Writing, Rhetoric and Discourse are available for students who are non-native English speakers. For course availability and information, contact Professor Christine Tardy at ctardy@depaul.edu.
TUITION, FEES AND PAYMENT INFORMATION

After you register, you will receive an electronic statement showing the cost of tuition and fees. Payments can be made by cash, check, credit card, bank draft or bank wire to DePaul Central and should be paid by the tuition due date. You will be charged a $100 late fee if you do not pay on time. Tuition varies according to your major and level of education. See the Student Accounts website for more information at studentaccounts.depaul.edu/cost/ tuition.asp. You can check your e-bill through Campus Connection. Visit studentaccounts.depaul.edu/payment/index.asp.

TEXTBOOKS

A bookstore is located on each of DePaul's campuses. If you need assistance finding books, simply ask an employee of the DePaul bookstore. Textbooks normally cost $50 to $300 per class.

HEALTH MATTERS

Immunization Requirements

All incoming new students are required to prove their immunity to measles, rubella, mumps and tetanus/diphtheria. International students should bring the necessary proof documenting immunity to these diseases. Acceptable proof can be a photocopy of immunization records from a doctor, hospital or clinic, bearing your name, birth date, types and dates for each immunization, and the name and signature of the medical provider. All new students must complete an immunization form. For more information, visit sr.depaul.edu/immunizations/index.asp.

Medical/Health Insurance

You should have adequate medical health insurance while in the U.S. If you have an F-1 visa, this is strongly recommended. If you have a J-1 visa, you and your dependants are required by federal law to have medical insurance.

You may have to prove your intention to purchase medical insurance during the interview for the J-1 visa. If you are insured by a health policy in your home country, verify that the insurance coverage is valid while you are in the U.S. You may purchase insurance coverage through the company of your choice or through the DePaul University Health Insurance Plan. For more information, visit studentaffairs.depaul.edu/hinsurance.html.

depaul.edu/international
EMPLOYMENT

Students on an F-1 visa are eligible to work on campus up to 20 hours per week while the term is in session and up to 40 hours per week between terms and during vacations. Students on a J-1 visa also may work on campus once they receive an authorization letter from the OISS. Students who receive an offer for on-campus employment must apply for a Social Security Number card. Off-campus employment requires authorization and is approved only under specific conditions. Always consult an OISS advisor before accepting any off-campus employment. Dependents on F-1 visas are not eligible for employment.

SOCIAL SECURITY

If you find on-campus employment, you are eligible to apply for a Social Security Number (SSN) from the U.S. Social Security Administration (SSA) located in Chicago. Once you have a written offer of employment, visit the OISS to request a Social Security Number letter. This letter is a required part of the SSN application that you will submit to the SSA. Additional information about applying for a Social Security Number is provided during the OISS orientation.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

There are more than 225 student organizations at DePaul, 30 of which have an international focus. The DePaul International Student Organization (DISO) is the largest of these groups and serves as an umbrella organization to connect the different cultural organizations at DePaul. DISO sponsors a variety of events and works to build relationships between international and American students. For more information, visit sites.google.com/site/disosite. For a complete listing of student organizations, visit depaul.edu/organizations.
QUESTIONS?
CONTACT OISS.

OISS provides immigration advising to international students and scholars with F-1 and J-1 statuses. Your OISS advisor can assist you with questions related to employment authorization, travel, transfer and cultural adjustment.

DePaul Center, Suite 9300
1 East Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604-2201

Phone: +1 (312) 362-8376
E-mail: oiss@depaul.edu
Web: oiss.depaul.edu