

Welcome!

There are a lot of things to do, and we hope this list will help your move to Fairbanks be a little easier. Please read all documents carefully, and make sure you complete everything on this list! Links to all of the processes are available on the IPI website at <http://www.uaf.edu/oip/future-intl-student/>.

As soon as possible:

1. Immigration/Visa
  - Pay your SEVIS fee
  - Schedule your visa appointment (Canadians do NOT need a visa)
2. Make travel arrangements to Fairbanks, Alaska.
  - The earliest you can enter the U.S. using your student visa and the I-20 or DS-2019 is 30 days before your program start date.
  - Plan to be in Fairbanks the week before classes start to attend orientation sessions. International Student Orientation is held the Friday before classes start. International student orientation attendance is mandatory. See calendar link at the end.
  - Graduate students (Masters and PhD level): Plan on attending the Graduate School orientation held the same day as International Student Orientation.
3. Apply for UAF campus housing
  - Residence Hall (housing) application: <http://uaf.edu/reslife/apply/>.
  - Graduate student and family housing application: <https://www.uaf.edu/reslife/home/>.
  - Health Inventory form, available from the UAF Center for Health and Counseling (CHC): <http://www.uaf.edu/chc/forms>. The form is submitted directly to the CHC.
4. Set up your UAF electronic student account.
  - This account will provide your access to your official UAF email account and other web-based student services. Start by visiting this page: <https://elmo.alaska.edu/> and choosing Option 2 or Option 3.
5. Meal plan selection through UAOnline. Information about options may be found here: <https://uaf.edu/dining/meal-plans/>
6. Apply for a UAF mail (post office) box through the Campus Mail Center mailbox system: <https://uaf.sclntra.com/>.
7. Course Selection: Contact the academic advisor indicated on your admission letter for course registration instructions. The academic advisor for exchange students is the Study Away Advisor.
8. Health insurance: If you wish to "opt out" of the UAF international student health insurance, apply for a waiver. <https://www.uaf.edu/oip/handbook/health-care/>.

After you arrive in the United States:

1. Arrive in Fairbanks!
2. Move In:
  - The Residence Halls open at 8:00am on the Thursday before classes start. If you are arriving earlier, be sure to make other arrangements. You may be able to move into UAF housing earlier. However, you need to communicate directly with Residence Life staff. (Email: [uaf-housing@alaska.edu](mailto:uaf-housing@alaska.edu))
  - Information on other Fairbanks accommodations: <http://explorefairbanks.com/where-to-stay>.
3. Visit Bursar's Office: <https://uaf.edu/bursar/>
  - Get your PolarExpress card (this is your UAF student identification card). The PolarExpress Office is located in Signer's Hall. For more information, visit: <http://www.uaf.edu/finserve/bursar/polarexpress/>. You must be registered for classes before your Polar Express card can be issued.
  - Questions regarding tuition, fees, payment options, parking permits are answered here.
4. Visit our office - International Programs and Initiatives (room 215 in the Eielson Building) - you must do this within 10 days of your arrival in the US. Make sure you bring your:
  - Passport

- I-94 arrival record. You may print a copy here: <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/i94/#/home>
  - I-20 or DS-2019
  - Physical (residence – where you are staying) and mailing addresses
5. Attend New Student Orientation: See the orientation information provided separately.
  6. Attend all of your classes.
  7. Pay your tuition and fees. The deadline for fee payment is the second Monday after classes start.

For specific dates, see the UAF calendar <https://catalog.uaf.edu/calendar/> or the calendar on the International Programs home page: <https://www.uaf.edu/oip/>

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us. We look forward to meeting you!