

2024 International Student Pre-Arrival Information Sessions

May 13 ~ June 17 ~ July 15
8:00 am EDT

AGENDA

- About UVA Wise
- Pre-Arrival Steps
- Entering the United States
- Important dates



ABOUT UVA WISE

UVA Wise Location

- Located in the Appalachian Mountains in the southwestern part of Virginia★
- Town of Wise: population 3,000



UVA Wise Weather

Wise has four distinct seasons, so be sure to plan accordingly:

- spring (1)
- summer (2)
- fall (3)
- winter (4)



UVA Wise Residence Life

- International students must reside on campus their first year – apply through MY.UVAWISE.EDU portal link (look for house icon): <https://my.uvawise.edu/ICS>
- 600+ campus residents in seven residence halls – community and suite-style living options
- All halls are furnished and provide shared bathrooms, Wi-Fi, laundry facilities, and more.
- First year students may select to live in: Still, McCraray, or Culbertson Halls
- A meal (board) plan is required for all on campus residents

www.uvawise.edu/college-life/housing-dining



PRE-ARRIVAL STEPS

Pre-Arrival Steps

- Apply & complete steps for **admission** by:
 - May 15 for fall semester start (I-20 issuance info by June 1)
 - November 1 for spring semester start (I-20 issuance info by Nov 15)
- Receive your **I-20** (includes your program start date)
- Pay your **SEVIS fee**
- Apply for your **F-1 Visa** & prepare for the interview

I-20 Information

For DSOs to issue an initial I-20, the law requires admitted students demonstrate:

- Required documentation of Financial Support:
 - Bank Statement within the last 6 months showing a balance that will cover the cost of 1 year's worth of study.
 - Bank statements not in the applicant's own name must be accompanied by the UVA Wise Affidavit of Financial Support.
- Copy of Valid Passport
- Confirmation of the address in home country
- Sufficient English

Student F-1 Visa

To qualify for F-1 status, the law requires students demonstrate:

- Intention and ability to be a successful, full-time student
- Ability to pay for studies and living expenses
- Nonimmigrant intent
- Sufficient English according to your I-20

Applying for F-1 Visa (DS-160)

- Obtain your I-20 from UVA Wise
- Pay the SEVIS fee (\$350) at www.fmjfee.com
- Follow the [How to Apply instructions](#) for your F-1 Visa:
 - Complete the online Visa Application (Form DS-160)
 - Upload Photo
 - Pay the \$185 Application Fee
 - Schedule an interview appointment at a U.S. Embassy – be aware of [wait times](#)
- Helpful links:
 - [FAQs: About Visas-The Basics](#)
 - [Visa \(DS-160\): Example](#)
 - [10 Points to Remember When Applying for a Student Visa](#)
 - [Study in the States](#)
 - [Education USA](#)

Preparing for your Visa Interview

- Practice your English as often as possible
 - This will help you communicate with the officers effortlessly. There are many ways you can practice, for example by watching American TV shows, listening and translating your favorite music songs, reading books in English, and many others.
- Maintain eye contact with the Consular Officer
- Answer all questions openly and honestly
- Be confident, stay calm and smile 😊
 - Project a positive and confident image, and you are going to have a successful student visa interview.

Required Documents for Visa Interview

- Overview (studyinthestates.dhs.gov/2018/08/students-prepare-your-visa-interview)
- Bring the following documents to present to the Consular Officer:
 - UVA Wise I-20 (be sure you have signed on page 1)
 - Passport
 - SEVIS fee receipt (www.fmjfee.com/i901fee/index.html#)
 - UVA Wise acceptance / scholarship letter
 - Financial support documents
 - Transcripts
 - Test scores
 - Language proficiency
 - SAT/ACT

BE SURE TO CONSIDER PROCESSING TIME

Once you are approved for an F-1 Visa it can take up to 1 week for the Visa to be issued.

ENTERING THE U.S.

Entering the U.S.

- Students on F-1 visas are **not permitted to enter the U.S. earlier than 30 days before the program start date** listed on your I-20.

NOTE: You may not arrive to UVA Wise prior to August 14.

- Always hand-carry your important documents when traveling – passport, visa, I-20, financial documents, UVA Wise admission letter and SEVIS fee receipt.

NOTE: You must also bring your official academic transcripts to UVA Wise.

- Review U.S. Customs information at www.cbp.gov/travel/international-visitors.
- Ensure that your passport is stamped before leaving the port of entry.

IMPORTANT DATES & EVENTS

Health Info

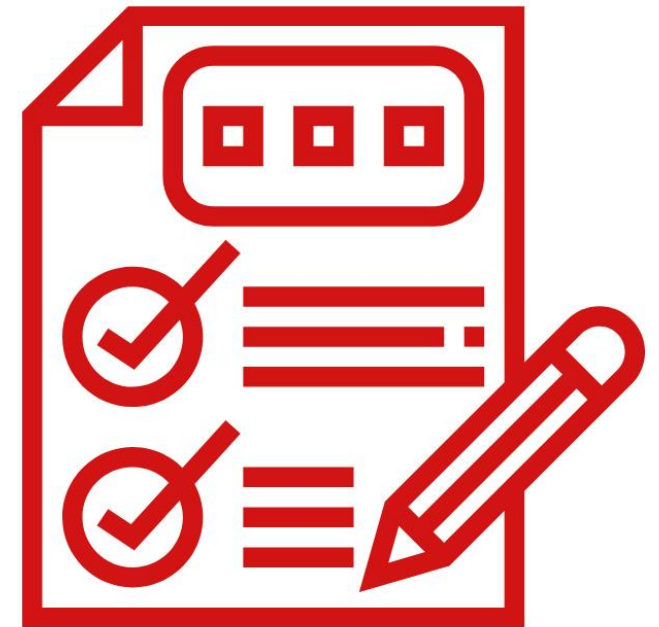
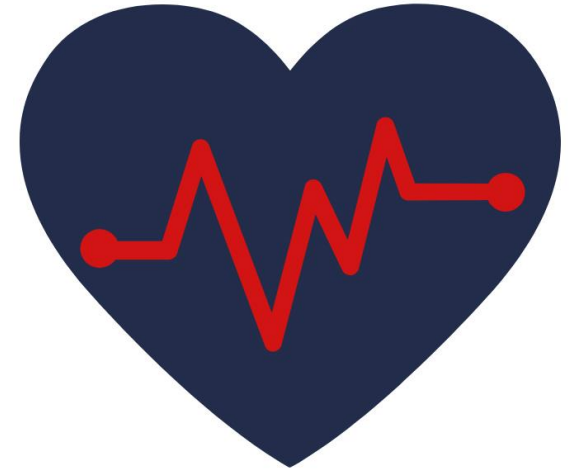
Over the Summer, you **MUST**:

1. [Complete the Pre-Entrance Health Packet.](#)

NOTE: This includes record of vaccinations & screenings, as well as TB Skin Test results.

2. Purchase an **International Student Health Insurance** plan of your choice and submit a scan of the front and back of your insurance card by **August 1st** (instructions in the Health Packet).

Questions – email healthclinic@uvawise.edu



Summer Purchases

BEDDING/LINENS - www.dormify.com/pages/shipping-delivery

- Purchase your choice of bedding/linens (extra-long twin sheets, blanket, towels, etc.) by **AUGUST 1** for the items to be waiting in your room upon arrival to campus.
- Ship to:
UVA WISE RESIDENCE LIFE
Your Name
1 College Avenue
Wise VA 24293



AIRPORT PICKUP/SHUTTLE - [Home | My UVA Wise](#)

- Purchase a \$35 shuttle ticket by **AUGUST 1** for transportation from the airport to UVA Wise on August 14.
- Login to the *my.uvawise.edu* portal, go to students->electronic student forms->shuttle ride registration



Required deadlines, dates and semester events/activities:

August 1	Pre-Entrance Health Packet & Student Health Insurance card are due Purchases for bedding/linen with campus arrival are due Purchase of Airport Shuttle to Wise ticket are due
August 14	Tri-Cities Regional Airport (TRI) pickup (must have pre-ordered shuttle ticket) Arrival & Move-In to UVA Wise
August 15	Welcome to Wise – learn about the area, take care of business & tasks
August 16	New Student Orientation
August 17-20	Expedition (extended orientation) & Welcome Week activities
August 21	CLASSES BEGIN

If circumstances prevent you from arriving by the first day of classes, you must defer your admission to a future semester.

Contact Information

QUESTIONS ABOUT	OFFICE
I-20 & Visa documentation	INTERNATIONAL OFFICE internationalprograms@uvawise.edu
Academic records & transcripts Notification of outcome of your Visa interview	ADMISSIONS admissions@uvawise.edu
Airport Shuttle Tickets/Arrival to UVA Wise Move-in to Campus Housing	RESIDENCE LIFE wisehousing@uvawise.edu
Honors Program	HONORS PROGRAM jma6x@uvawise.edu
Financial Aid, Scholarships	FINANCIAL AID finaid@uvawise.edu

Please enter questions in the chat.



The presentation slides will be emailed to the address you used to register for this session.