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# **Pre-Departure Guide**

For Incoming Exchange Students & Free Movers

# 2019 - 2020



Dear Incoming Student,

Welcome to the University of New Orleans!

We are sure that this is a time filled with anticipation towards coming to New Orleans. By now, you surely have started on your preparations for studying abroad. This guidebook provides useful advice to prepare you for travel overseas and adjustment to your new social, intellectual and academic environments. We encourage you to bring this guidebook with you to New Orleans. As the purpose of this book is to give you practical tips and to relieve some of your and your loved ones' concerns, we are constantly revising the information and looking to you for assistance with information for your study abroad.

If you have any further questions after reading this guidebook, please feel free to contact us.

Regards,

## Aneta Komendarczyk

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## **Pre-Departure Checklist:**

- Carefully read this guide and other materials sent to you, especially the pre-arrival information from OISS. Note: some info is unique to J-1 students
- Pay SEVIS Fee
- Make sure you have a passport and it has at least six months validity after the intended date of return to your home country.
- □ Apply for Your Visa
- □ Arrange your housing
- **Gamma** Set up your UNO login
- **Check your UNO email**
- □ Immunization
- □ Academic Advising: unique for ISEP students
- **D** Pre-Register for your classes
- Pay your UNO fees
- Arrival Notification Form: Submit your Arrival Notification Form to us at least two weeks prior to your arrival if you would like to have a volunteer meet you at the New Orleans airport. Be sure to confirm that the ISEP office has received it, and that you are in touch with your volunteer pick-up person.
- □ **Finances:** Arrange your finances before you leave.
- □ **Pack!** See next page for a packing checklist.
- □ Confirm your housing and arrival information

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# What to Bring:

What you bring to New Orleans is largely a matter of personal need and preference. We highly recommend that you travel as lightly as possible. Most things can be purchased here and you will likely return to your home country with many souvenirs. Having said this, we suggest you bring the following:

#### **Essential things to pack:**

- Backpack for school
- □ Semi formal outfit for special occasions
- □ Footwear (formal shoes, outdoor shoes and sandals/flip flops)
- □ Jacket (also include rain jacket and umbrella since it rains a lot in New Orleans)
- □ Other clothes (fleece, dress, shorts, socks, innerwear, shirts, trousers, t-shirts and anything that you prefer to wear)
- □ Medications (attach a note from your doctor for pills, and/or a copy of your prescription)
- □ First-aid (purchase basic travel health kit)
- □ Contact lenses and glasses (just in case you may not be able to find your prescription here)
- □ Sunglasses (you need proper UV resistant lenses for sun)
- □ Money Belt (to carry important documents and money while travelling)
- Contact List (containing important phone numbers and email addresses)
- □ Universal Power Adaptors (necessary for using foreign electric items since the voltage here is 110V). Note: heating items like hair dryers and curling irons are best purchased in country.
- □ Thin travel towel that will dry quickly
- Photocopy of important documents such as your plane tickets, passport, visa, DS-2019, and home country driving license
- □ Your laptop
- **□** Ethernet cable (especially if you are staying at the Privateer Place)
- Miscellaneous personal items such as an alarm clock, toiletries, etc. Since the residence halls are furnished, you only need to arrange for bed sheets, blankets and pillows. You can buy them here for a reasonable price and it's much easier.

Note: It gets very hot in the summer (May-September) with temperatures ranging from 80-100° F (26-38° C) and quite chilly in the winter (November-February) with temperatures ranging from 28-40° F (-2-5° C). We highly recommend that you bring some warm clothes if you will be here in winter.

There are other non-essential things that you might be interested to bring such as a camera, a New Orleans guidebook, pictures of your family, gifts from home, a traditional costume from home to wear at UNO's annual International Night (in March), etc.

#### What should you carry in your hand baggage?

- □ Important Documents: Do not place your passport and DS-2019 form in your checked baggage. Carry them with you. If your baggage is lost or delayed, you will be unable to present the documents at the port of entry. As a result, you may not be able to enter the United States. If you receive any documents from the Consular Officer in a sealed envelope, you should not open it! Instead, give the sealed envelope to the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officer at the U.S. Port of Entry. In addition, it is strongly recommended that you also hand carry the following documentation: Evidence of financial resources, Evidence of student/exchange visitor status, such as UNO's acceptance letter, Paper receipt for the SEVIS fee, and Name and contact information for the Office of International Students and Scholars, including a 24-hour emergency contact number at our school. (UNO Police: (504) 280-6666)
- □ Some money for your personal expenses
- □ Health Certificates, including your immunization records
- □ Any insurance documents
- □ Electronic equipment (i.e. laptop, smart phone, camera, etc.)
- □ Any valuable items (but please check with the airline regarding current regulations on hand luggage)
- □ Contact Details: Bring a list of contact details with names, email address and phone numbers of people from your school and personal life. Also, keep with you the cell phone numbers of your volunteer who will pick you up



# Money & Banking:

#### Fees charged by UNO

There will be certain fees charged by UNO that you are responsible for (payable online via Webstar). All international students must pay the International Student Fee each semester. You may also be charged for the health insurance, class fees, housing, or other fees. If you are a "Free Mover" you will also be charged for in-state tuition. If you have any questions, please contact the ISEP office. Each student is responsible for paying these fees according to the UNO payment schedule on the student calendar. (http://www.uno.edu/registrar/bulletin/important-dates.aspx).

#### Cash

American currency consists of dollars (\$), quarters (25 cent coins), dimes (10 cents), nickels (5 cents) and pennies (1 cent). Common notes are for \$1, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, and \$100. It is customary for people NOT to carry much cash with them, but rather to use a credit or debit card—even for small purchases.

#### How much money to bring

It is essential that you make sure that you have enough money to find your housing and other personal costs for the duration of your stay. It is helpful if you bring a small amount of cash with you. Besides cash, debit/credit cards are easier, but make sure you are aware of the extra charges that your bank might charge for using your card here. Initial settling-in costs are estimated as follows:

- Temporary accommodations: \$200 \$1,000 (1-7 days)
- Textbooks & class fees: \$500 \$2,000 (depending upon your major)
- Miscellaneous household items: \$200 \$1,000 (depending upon your needs and tastes)
- Spending money: \$100 \$1,000 (depending upon what you have planned)

#### **Opening a Bank Account**

Most of our exchange students staying for only one semester do not open a bank account in the US unless they get a job on campus. However, you can open one if you would like to avoid any transaction fees that your personal bank charges on your overseas transactions. We have the UNO Federal Credit Union on campus, which has student-friendly policies. Choosing a bank is a very personal decision. If you wish to ask advice, please do so in the ISEP office.

#### **ATM Machines**

Most banks have Automated Teller Machines (ATM) and online banking services that allow you to deposit, withdraw, or transfer funds without necessarily going into the bank. Most grocery stores also accept ATM, credit, and debit cards (domestic and international) and will often give you cash back without charging a fee. Again, ask your bank about any charges for services rendered and read all materials carefully.

#### Debit Card or Checking Card

When setting up your checking account (yes, we still use paper checks in the USA), you should also ask your banker about the Visa or MasterCard debit card, also known as a debit card. This type of bank card allows you to pay for groceries and other items without writing a check or withdrawing cash from your account before going to the store; money is automatically transferred from your checking account to the store or restaurant. You will find it safe and convenient to use your debit card from your home country bank if you have one. However, if your stay will be longer than a semester, it is often more convenient and cheaper to open a bank account in the U.S.

#### Wiring Funds to the University

Funds may be wired from your bank account in your home country directly to the University of New Orleans. The Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS) has a form to help facilitate this process. Please talk with OISS Staff if you need to have money wired to UNO.

#### **Receiving Refunds from UNO**

When you filled out your application for admission, you entered your mailing address in your home country. That is likely the address that is still on file for you. If you are expecting a refund, the university will send a paper check in US funds to your mailing address. Change this address in Webstar once you know your local mailing address so your check will not be sent to your address back home. This includes refunds after the end of the semester, so if you expect a refund (including from Privateer Place), be sure to make arrangements for how this money will be sent to you.

## Immigration:

While you are in the United States, you must follow US Immigration regulations. To be "in status" means that you are following all of the guidelines that pertain to your particular status (J-1). The following guidelines will provide you with a general understanding of some immigration rules.

Please be aware that the Department of Homeland Security ultimately holds you responsible for maintaining your immigration status. Therefore, please consult with us prior to making any major decisions. Below are the guidelines necessary for J-1 students to maintain their immigration status:

#### **Immigration Documents**

Be sure that your passport, DS-2019 and/or your I-94 remain valid at all times. In other words, you should periodically check the expiration dates on <u>all</u> of your immigration documents. Your passport should remain valid at least 6 months into the future (beyond the expiration dates of your immigration documents).

#### Enrolling in a full course of study

Students are required to carry a full-time course of study (at least 12 credits for undergraduates and 9 credits for graduates each semester). Dropping below full-time status is a violation of immigration status even though it is allowed by University policy for students in general (not necessarily international students). Note: This means that you must maintain full-time enrollment for the entire semester or you run the risk of being sent home.

#### Traveling

<u>In the US:</u> For travel within the US, always take your passport and other immigration documents with you. If for any reason you are stopped by the authorities, you may be required to show proof of your permission to temporarily reside in the US. While in the New Orleans area, keep your documents in a safe place and carry copies.

<u>Outside the US:</u> Visit our office at least two to three weeks prior to leaving so that staff may inspect your immigration documents and provide you with any support documents you may need to re-enter the US. Note: you may not re-enter the country using your J-1 visa after the end date of your program if you are traveling within the 30-day grace period after the program ends.

#### Employment

All employment must be authorized in writing in advance. Unauthorized employment is a violation of program status. An exchange visitor's participation is subject to termination when he or she engages in unauthorized employment.

#### **Change of Address Notification**

The US government requires all foreign nationals to report a change of address within 10 days of moving to a new location. Please notify OISS using the Address Change Form available from OISS. This information is then recorded in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS).

#### **Carrying health insurance**

Every exchange visitor is required to obtain health insurance which meets the minimum requirements specified in 22 CFR 62.14 (sickness and accident insurance and medical evacuation and repatriation insurance). This insurance must be maintained throughout the entire program participation period. You will automatically be charged for health insurance via Webstar. If you have health insurance and wish to request a waiver, consult the OISS website at oiss.uno.edu.

#### Departing the U.S. within 30 days of completing your program

Your actual completion date may be different than the one listed on your DS-2019. Make sure you know the correct date.

# The Exchange Visitor Program is overseen by the United States Department of State. Their contact information is below:

United States Department of State Office of Exchange Coordination and Designation ECA/EC/AG - SA-44, Room 820 301 4th Street, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20547 Telephone: (202) 203-5029 Fax: (202) 453-8640

# Telephone and Internet:

### <u> Mobile/Cellular Phones:</u>

Communication companies in the US usually offer three types of mobile telephone options:

- Prepaid: consists of a pay-as-you-go formula where you would have to purchase credit and top-up upon using it in full. Phone credit can easily be purchased from local supermarkets, convenience stores or online. This option generally has the most expensive cost per minute but can be cheaper than others for users not making many phone calls as the credit required to keep the phone line active is generally very low.
- Plan: consists in a monthly charge according to your phone use and which is generally cheaper than prepaid while not imposing any kind of contact or engagement for the subscriber. Unlimited calling plans are usually much cheaper than in other countries, especially compared to Europe.
- Contract: generally the cheapest per-month option but also typically involves a one to two year contract and credit check.

The cost of international calls vary depending on service providers and can be affordable with some providers or very expensive with others. Credit for international calling is not always included in plans or contracts and needs to be purchased separately.

**Note:** in the United States mobile phone users are charged to place and to **receive** calls and text messages. Credit is automatically taken from minutes or messages remaining on the user's account and upon running out of minutes, a user is no longer able to receive or make calls until additional credit has been added to the account.

**Internet:** Using the internet is probably the cheapest option in order to communicate with friends/family abroad. VOIP (voice over internet protocol) software such as Skype, FaceTime provides a free voice calling computer to computer and also offers cheap calls from computer to landlines or mobile phones.

#### Internet access on campus:

Wifi is available on most parts of campus and requires your UNO username and password for access. Several computer labs are also available on campus and also require your UNO username and password.

Additionally, internet access is provided free of charge in all on-campus accommodations via Ethernet cable. In order to have your private wireless internet (such as in Privateer Place Apartments), a subscription to a private internet provider at an extra charge will be required.

**Note:** when logged on to any UNO computer within the network, each student is given space on the server, called an "I" drive. This is space on a server to save things like documents, pictures, articles, etc. It can be very handy when doing research or working on a paper in different labs around campus.

For help with all on-campus technology, please contact the Information Technology office. Web site: <u>http://www.uno.edu/information-technology/index.aspx</u>.

# Airport Arrival:

Please fill in the Arrival Notification form provided to you by the ISEP office in this arrival packet. If you did not receive it, please email us at ISEP@uno.edu.

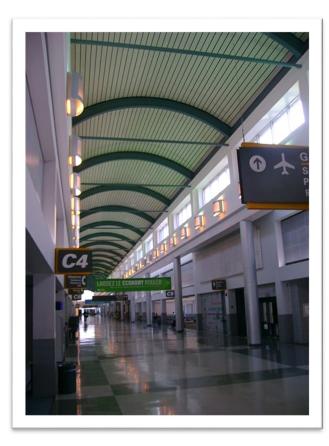
Once you have completed it, you may either email a scanned copy, fax it or send it by postal mail. We recommend you also include a copy of your itinerary in order for us to be able to track your flight in case of a delay. If you choose send the form via post, please allow enough time for international delivery.

If we arrange for a volunteer to pick you up, we will then acknowledge receipt of the form and send you pickup arrangements and details by email. Whoever will pick you up from the airport will usually have a sign with either "UNO Exchange" or your name on in order to help you identify them and will meet you at baggage claim.

If you do not need an airport pickup and are able to make your own arrangements, you DO NOT need to fill out this form. However, we do recommend that you let us know what your arrangements are.

In case we are not able to make pickup arrangements, you can use taxis, ride sharing services, and shuttles located in the arrival area available for you to take. Taxis offer flat rates to and from the airport depending on the number of passengers on board. Check the airport web site for information on taxi rates. Shuttle buses are also available at a rate of approximately \$15 per person.

The international airport of New Orleans is called the "Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport," and its three-letter abbreviation is MSY. Here is the website in case you need details on ground transportation or any sort of airline information: <u>http://www.flymsy.com/</u>.





# Transportation in New Orleans:

While transportation by car is the easiest and fastest way to go around New Orleans, buses and street cars also run throughout the city. However, there is a real car culture in the United States and particularly in New Orleans which can make mobility difficult for non-motorized students.

Buses to and from campus primarily offer services to the French Quarter and run on a regular schedule during the week and less frequently on the weekend. Connections are possible to reach other destinations in the city but can be complicated. Please be aware that public transportation in New Orleans is minimal which makes living on or near campus the most convenient arrangement.

#### Airport transportation:

Taxis offer flat rates to and from Louis Armstrong Airport depending on the amount of passengers onboard and starting at \$33 for up to two people. They are located outside the baggage claim area. Shuttle buses (<u>http://www.airportshuttleneworleans.com</u>) are also available at a one-way, per-person rate of \$24. There is a bus to/from the airport, but it does not service the area near the UNO campus.

#### Buses:

Buses in the city of New Orleans are operated by the New Orleans Regional Transit Authority (NORTA: <u>www.norta.com</u>). Buses in the areas adjacent to the city are operated by the Jefferson Transit system (JeT: <u>www.jeffersontransit.org</u>). In order to get to some parts of the city that seem to be in New Orleans, but are actually across the city line, you may have to transfer to the JeT system. The UNO campus is serviced by NORTA.

There are several regular bus lines running to and from campus. The main bus stop on campus is located by the amphitheater. An interactive online map of campus can be found at http://new.uno.edu/about-uno/campus-map

Fares are \$1.25 one way or \$1.50 to obtain a bus transfer. Please note that the exact change is required upon boarding the bus. There are online fare and pass purchase options on their web site, as well as detailed schedule and route information.

Additionally, Greyhound offers bus services from New Orleans to most U.S. cities. Greyhound buses depart and arrive from the station located on Loyola Avenue. Information on destinations and bookings can be found at <a href="http://www.greyhound.com">www.greyhound.com</a>.

#### Car Rental:

Car rental can be very expensive in the United States as insurance is generally not included in the rental price and needs to be purchased upon collecting the vehicle. Additionally, drivers must be over the age of 21 in order to rent a car and over the age of 25 in order to avoid young drivers' fees (this policy may differ depending upon the rental company). An international driver's license is not mandatory to rent a car within the United States but is recommended as it is to the discretion of the rental company to accept a foreign issued license.

It can be cheaper to pre-book and pre-pay for the rental from your country of origin and insurance is generally included in the rental when choosing that option.

**Note:** Please make sure to bring your passport and immigration documents with you (DS-2019) if you are planning to leave the state of Louisiana, or even travel a few hours' distance, as immigration controls can take place onboard trains and/or buses, or at a traffic stop.



# Transportation in New Orleans:

#### Streetcars:

There are four streetcar lines in the city: the St. Charles line, the Canal Street line, the Riverfront line, and the newest North Rampart line. They are all operated by NORTA, and therefore fares are the same as the bus system and all NORTA passes and transfers can be used. Connections between streetcars and buses which go to/from UNO are very easy and convenient on Canal Street with bus number 55.



#### <u>Trains</u>:

Amtrak trains arrive and depart to and from the station on Loyola Avenue and provide services between major U.S. cities.

For more information please visit <u>www.amtrak.com</u>.

#### <u>Taxis</u>:

Taxis are usually reasonably cheap and require to be called for a ride. However, they can also be hailed in the street, especially around the French Quarter and other popular areas. Crescent City Cabs: (504) 822-3600 United Cabs: (504) 522-9771 White Fleet: (504) 822-3800 For a complete list of taxi company in the city of New Orleans, please visit http://businessfinder.nola.com/LA-New-Orleans/Taxi-Service.

#### **Ridesharing:**

New to the transportation system, ridesharing services such as Uber (<u>https://www.uber.com/cities/new-orleans/</u>) and Lyft (<u>https://www.lyft.com/cities/new-orleans-la</u>) operate in New Orleans and can be a great way to get around the city. Visit their web sites and download their apps for more information.

# Safety and Hurricane Information:

#### Campus Safety:

UNO has its own, dedicated police department on campus. Therefore, they are typically seen as students' first resource for on-campus safety. The emergency telephone number is 504-280-6666. The main telephone number is 504-280-6371.

The office is located on the second floor of the University Computer Center (room 234), and the email address is unopd@uno.edu. Web site: <u>http://www.uno.edu/upd</u>.

#### **Off-campus Safety:**

The city of New Orleans does not enjoy a particularly good reputation in terms of safety. Although most areas of the city are safe for visitors, students from other countries may find that there is need for a heightened sense of awareness in



general. Culturally, we never leave our belongings unattended (even in the library on campus), nor do we leave doors unlocked. We don't walk around the city at night (except in touristy or crowded areas), and must remember never to leave a drink unattended at a bar or nightclub.

Overall, whenever one is travelling, it is important to remember that as a visitor (and especially someone who is not a native speaker of the local language), you never want to find yourself in a compromising situation. Drinking alcohol to excess, or engaging in drug use, can lead to such situations and an increased risk to your personal safety. Should you find yourself in a situation that feels out of control, never allow it to escalate to violence if at all possible (i.e., walk away if someone wants to fight you), and comply with authority figures.

If you are the victim of a crime, it is important for you to notify the proper authorities and to get assistance if you need medical help and/or counseling. Should you need more information, you can talk to us in the ISEP office, or visit the Student Accountability and Advocacy office in UC 248 (<u>http://www.uno.edu/saa/</u>)

#### What is a Hurricane?

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), a hurricane is a type of tropical cyclone, the generic term for a low pressure system that generally forms in the tropics. A typical cyclone is accompanied by thunderstorms, and in the Northern Hemisphere, a counterclockwise circulation of winds near the earth's surface. All Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico coastal areas are subject to hurricanes or tropical storms. Hurricanes are classified into five categories based on their wind speed, central pressure, and damage potential. Category 3 and higher hurricanes are considered major hurricanes, though Categories 1 and 2 are still extremely dangerous and warrant your full attention. Strong hurricanes are, however, a rare occurrence in New Orleans and evacuations are not systematic. While we encourage our students to be prepared in case of a hurricane related emergency, we recommend that you do not panic or over worry about the possibility of encountering a hurricane.

For more information on what a hurricane is, please visit: http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/hurricane.html

#### **General Information and Hurricane Evacuation:**

Hurricane season lasts from June 1 to November 30. Because New Orleans is below sea level and virtually surrounded by water, people who live here pay special attention to weather reports during these months.

The Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS) will provide information to you upon arrival, including this document: <u>http://oiss.uno.edu/forms/Hurricane%20Information/Hurricane\_Evacuation\_Information.pdf</u>, and will ask you to submit your Personal Evacuation Plan.

If a hurricane is identified and is approaching the New Orleans area, you don't need to panic! A hurricane moves slowly, giving us time to implement our evacuation plan. New Orleans city officials will call for a city-wide evacuation if Southeast Louisiana is directly threatened by a category 3 hurricane or above. Of course, UNO would close in this situation and all buildings would be locked. Students and scholars living on campus would have to leave their dorm rooms and apartments. Students are encouraged not to make airline reservations for winter break until the end of October due to the possibility of the fall semester being extended for university closure during an emergency.

There is also an evacuation plan executed by the City of New Orleans for people who cannot evacuate themselves. Should you find yourself in need of these services, you can find more information here: <u>http://www.nola.gov/ready/evacuspots/</u>.

# Academics:

Academic Advising: Dr. John Hazlett (jhazlett@uno.edu) is the academic advisor for all exchange students and will help you to enroll in the courses that are right for you. He may also help connect you with professors in your department in order to help get you enrolled in the classes you need.

#### Academic Organization Explained:

First of all, in American English, when we say "courses" we mean "classes;" when referring to a course of study, we use the term "major." Also, classes at UNO are numbered according to class year level. For example, 1000-level classes are typically for first-year students, 2000-level are for second year, and on up to 5000 & 6000-level for graduate and Ph.D. studies.

UNO has centralized enrollment, so it is fairly easy to enroll in and attend courses in different Departments or Colleges (sometimes known as "Faculties" at European institutions). Most students are actually EXPECTED to enroll in classes in different departments. The only major challenge will be if you are a graduate student, and/or if you are taking high-level classes in these programs.

If you are a graduate student in a European University (5th year and above) and wish to take Master's or doctoral level courses, you will have to communicate with the academic coordinators of those programs in order to satisfy their requirements—often per class. Be sure, also, that you selected graduate level admissions when you do the UNO online application for admissions form. Otherwise, you will not be allowed to register in graduate-level classes.

If you are a third or fourth year student (considered undergraduate) and wish to take junior or senior levels, you will have to establish that you have the prerequisite courses required for each. Prerequisites are listed in the course descriptions available in the course catalogue (see below). Because you are a non-degree-seeking student, your prior courses are not entered into Webstar. Therefore, you may receive error notices regarding prerequisites not being met—even if you have the prerequisites. Send a screen shot to Dr. Hazlett (and CC the ISEP email) and we can help request permission of the appropriate department.

**Finding UNO Classes:** For the master listing of all possible courses of study and course descriptions, we have what is called the **course catalogue** (http://new.uno.edu/registrar/bulletin/live-schedule-search — you may choose the online web viewing or the downloadable PDF). Note: the course catalog does NOT list course offerings specific to any semesters, nor does it show schedules, etc.

Information on specific courses offered in a given semester, their schedules, etc. is available in the **course bulletin**: <u>http://www.uno.edu/coursecatalog/allsubjects.aspx</u>. Click on the pop-up menu to select the course listing for the semester you wish to enroll in. Listings for Fall semester courses will be available in early April. Listings for Spring semester courses are available in early November.

If you are looking for courses prior to those dates, you may wish to look at the current year's course offerings as a model, but there is no guarantee that courses offered will be exactly the same from year to year. It is each student's responsibility to communicate with his/her home institution for course approval if credit at the home institution is required.

**Pre-registering for Classes:** Once you have chosen your courses for a given semester, you are fully admitted to UNO, you will need to set up your login and make sure to get your immunization and advising holds lifted. Then you will be able to pre-register for classes during your enrollment period (check Webstar for that information). It is important for you to do all of this as soon as you can in order to have a better chance to get the classes you need (many classes fill well ahead of the start of a semester), activate your UNO account and fee bill, and to avoid late fees and financial penalties.

If you have a hold on your account that you do not understand, contact us at isep@uno.edu.

Expect not to be able to **fully** select all of your preferred classes prior to arrival. Most students must drop and add classes in order to get the class schedule best for him/her. Even students in the U.S. go through a period of uncertainty right at the beginning of each semester. It's part of college life!

#### **UNO's Online Systems:**

- WebSTAR: UNO's online registration system, of which you should be familiar already. This is where you go to register for classes, pay fees, check your grades after the semester is over, etc.
- Moodle: UNO's online classroom software. All of your professors are required to at least have your class syllabus on Moodle. Many will have a lot of other information uploaded, and may require you to complete assignments in Moodle.
- Email: Your UNO email is how the university will contact you for any official correspondence, including emails from your professor. Be sure to check it frequently.

Orientation: Orientation for all new international students will take place before the first day of class. It is therefore mandatory that you arrive in New Orleans prior to that day.

# **Campus Services:**

There are many services available at UNO. The ones listed here are just a few of services you can utilize. Please consult the UNO Office of Student Affairs for a more detailed listing of services: <u>http://www.studentaffairs.uno.edu</u>

#### **Campus Dining**

There are different locations to eat on campus. These include various facilities in the University Center (UC) that include the main cafeteria (the Galley), Subway, Chic-Fil-A, a coffee shop and a convenience store-style kiosk. Across campus in The Cove are various options including Popeyes Fried Chicken, the Sandbar (also serves alcohol after 2:00 pm), and Sushic.

If you choose to live on-campus in Pontchartrain Hall, it is mandatory that you have a meal plan. In addition to the all-youcare-to-eat meals in the Galley, you'll have flexibility with the

declining balance to use at any location on campus. Declining balance dollars are also included in the price of the meal plan. For more information on kinds of meal plans and places to eat, please visit: http://uno.campusdish.com/

# The Learning Resource Center—Liberal Arts Building, Room 334 (280.7054)

The mission of the Learning Resource Center (LRC) is to help UNO students succeed. The LRC offers many different services including: the Writing Center, Math Tutor Center, Other Tutoring services (biology, chemistry, physics, etc), a computer lab, a media library and peer educators. Most of the Learning Resource Center is located in the Liberal Arts Building with the exception of the Math Tutor Center which is located in Math Building, Room 107 (280-1168). You can look at their website for more information: <u>http://www.uno.edu/lrc/</u>



#### **Computer Labs and Email Accounts**

There are computer labs located around campus with a total of more than 200 computers available to students. Also, as a UNO student, you will automatically have a UNO email account and will be expected to check it regularly for any official communication from UNO (including from your teachers). You should be checking your UNO email regularly—even prior to arriving here. For more information: <u>http://www.uno.edu/information-technology/student-computer-labs.aspx</u>

#### The Driftwood

Driftwood, the student-run university newspaper, appears every Wednesday (except for weeks with holidays), and is distributed free at various locations around campus. The paper is a forum for students to express their concern about campus matters, and every issue contains campus news, sports and entertainment sections and an events calendar. For more information, please visit the website: <u>http://driftwood.uno.edu/</u>.

#### **Recreation & Fitness**

UNO has a very nice fitness center located on campus, just north of the UC. All currently-enrolled UNO students have access to the facility. In addition, the Office of Recreation and Intramural Sports also organizes sports activities for students. More information: <u>http://www.uno.edu/recreation-intramural-sports/</u>

#### **Student Health Services**

This on-campus clinic provides comprehensive services for all students: http://www.uno.edu/student-health/

#### **Student Organizations**

UNO has more than 125 student organizations, coordinated by the office of Student Involvement and Leaders hip. Get involved! More information: <u>http://www.uno.edu/student-involvement-leadership/index.aspx</u>

#### **Postal Services**

The on-campus Post Office is located in the University Center and offers basic postal services. Students who live on campus must rent a Post Office box from there in order to receive mail as neither Pontchartrain Halls nor Privateer Place have the facility to receive mail for their residents. P.O. boxes cost about \$20 for one semester rental and about \$35 for the academic year. Packages are held directly at the post office for students to collect, while letters and generally small items are delivered to students' P.O. boxes.

# Helpful Websites, Locations and Phone Numbers:

### UNO Contacts:

Aneta Komendarczyk: Program Coordinator International Student Exchange Program (ISEP) Nina Balan: Graduate Assistant International Student Exchange Program (ISEP) **Division of International Education** International Center (IC) 124 http://www.uno.edu/studyabroad/isep Email: isep@uno.edu Telephone: +1 504 280-6388 Dr. John Hazlett: ISEP Academic Advisor Email: jhazlett@uno.edu **UNO International Admissions: Jorge Franco, IC 108** Telephone: +1 504 280 7263 **Office of International Students and Scholar (OISS):** International Center (IC) 125 +1504280-6021Christie Thomas, Director Suad Esmail, Assistant Director Alice Popescu, International Students Advisor Campus Police: +1 504 280-6666 **Pontchartrain Halls:** +1 504 280-6402 **Privateer Place:** +1 504 282-5670 UNO Student Health Services: +1 504 280-6387 **On-Campus Emergency: (3) 6666** 



**Note:** It is always recommended that students FIRST call the on-campus emergency in case of any danger or emergency while on campus.

Important Semester Dates: <u>http://www.uno.edu/registrar/bulletin/important-dates.aspx</u> UNO Campus Map: <u>http://www.uno.edu/about/campus-map/</u>

### Other Information:

**Off-Campus Emergency: 911** 

U.S. Department of State Travel Site: <u>http://travel.state.gov</u> Where to go/what to do:

- Louisiana Vacation, Tourism, Travel and Entertainment Information: <u>http://www.louisianatravel.com</u>
- NOLA.com (entertainment, news, etc.): <u>http://www.nola.com/</u>
- New Orleans Visitors Information: <u>http://www.nawlins.com</u>
- New Orleans.com (events, entertainment, tourism information): <u>http://neworleans.com</u>

#### **Local Radio Stations:**

• WWOZ 90.7 FM, New Orleans' Jazz and Heritage Station. To listen online: http://www.wwoz.org

## Fall 2019 Important Dates & Holidays:

#### August 2019

- □ August 7: Course cancellation (4:30 P.M.)
- □ August 8: Late registration begins with \$150 late fee
- □ August 9: Mandatory New International Student Orientation (9:00 am -11:30 am)
- □ August 10: WebSTAR re-opens at 12:01 A.M.
- □ August 12: ISEP Welcome Luncheon Orientation (11:30 am 1:30 pm)
- □ August 13: Last date of schedule adjustment period (without fee penalty till 11:59 PM)
- August 14: Regular classes begin. Schedule adjustment period starts (with \$50 fee penalty per day). Late Registration Course Add or Swap Fee of \$50 applies for all Late Registration Course Additions and Course/ Section swaps.
- □ August 16: Saturday classes begin
- August 23: Last date of schedule adjustment period (with fee penalty till 11:59 PM) Final date to drop course(s) or resign and not have course(s) recorded. Deadline to pay tuition and fees for Fall 2019 (4:30 p.m.)
- □ August 24: From August 24 through October 18 an automatic "W" will be recorded for all courses dropped. (Drop fee of \$50 applies per drop)

#### September 2019

- □ September 2: Labor Day Holiday
- □ September 30: Mid semester examination period starts

#### October 2019

- □ October 9: Mid-semester grades due (9 A.M.)
- □ October 10-11: Fall Break (no classes)

#### November 2019

- □ November 23: Last day of Saturday Classes
- □ November 27-29: Thanksgiving Break (university closed)

#### December 2019

December 2: Last Day of Classes