Global Gateway Program

ARRIVAL & ORIENTATION INFORMATION – Summer 2018

Your pre-departure checklist
Before you depart, please make sure you:

☐ Sign up for your UVM email account.
☐ Take the Math Readiness Placement Test.
☐ Receive your required immunizations & bring records
☐ Send your official high school documents to UVM admissions.
☐ Complete your online Housing and Meal Plan contract.
☐ Send your arrival information to uvmadmissions@studygroup.com.
☐ Bring your immunization records, official high school documents, and payment receipts to UVM
☐ Pay tuition and fees according to your invoice
☐ Begin checking your UVM email at least twice a day. You will begin receiving important information prior to your arrival.

Please use your official name (name on your passport and University of Vermont application) on all forms and correspondence with the University of Vermont GGP.
Welcome to the Global Gateway Program & UVM!

Welcome to the University of Vermont Global Gateway Program

Dear Student,
Welcome to the Global Gateway Program (GGP) at University of Vermont’s International Study Center!

We understand that this is a very exciting and busy time in your life. To help your arrival go as smoothly as possible, we have put together some useful information to help you prepare now.

This guide contains information on Burlington and UVM, as well as important tasks for you to complete. Please read it carefully. Many more details will be shared with you during orientation and via your UVM email account. Please check your email at least twice a day so you don’t miss anything important!

The entire GGP team looks forward to meeting you very soon.

Safe travels!

Gayle Nunley, Ph.D., Director of Global Education Initiatives and the Global Gateway Program
Meet the GGP Team

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GGP Contact Information

Address
Global Gateway Program (GGP)
University of Vermont
31 Spear Street
Marsh Hall, Suite 006
Burlington, VT 05405

Email uvmadmissions@studygroup.com
To Do List

✓ Sign up for UVM email account.
✓ Take Math Readiness Placement test.
✓ Receive required immunizations.
✓ Complete immunization form and upload to https://mywellbeing.uvm.edu
✓ Complete Health History Form on https://mywellbeing.uvm.edu.
✓ Complete online Housing and Meal Contract at https://rlweb.w3.uvm.edu/myreslife/dashboard.
✓ Bring original and translated official secondary school transcripts and immunization records to UVM.
✓ Pay your tuition & fees according to your invoice.
✓ Bring receipts/confirmation of payment for your deposit & tuition fees.
✓ Send your arrival information to uvmadmissions@studygroup.com at least 2 weeks before you arrive.
✓ Begin checking your UVM email at least twice a day. You will begin receiving important information prior to your arrival.

Key Dates

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Important Dates

- May 15, 2018: Arrival and move-in day
- May 16-18: Mandatory Orientation (Summer) You must attend
- May 21: First Day of Classes (Summer)
- May 28: Memorial Day (no classes)
- July 4: Fourth of July (no classes)
- August 10: Last Day of Classes (Summer)
- August 27, 2018: First day of Classes (Fall)
- September 3: Labor Day (no classes)
- October 8: Fall Recess (no classes)
- Nov 19-23: Thanksgiving Recess (no classes)
- December 7: Last Day of Classes (Fall)
- December 10-14: Exam Period (schedule return flights after Dec 14)
- January 14, 2019: First Day of Classes (Spring) Must be on campus
- January 21: MLK Day (no classes)
- Feb 18: President’s Day (no classes)
- March 5: Town Meeting Day (no classes)
- March 11-15: Spring Recess (no classes)
- May 3: Last Day of Classes (Spring)
- May 6-10: Exam Period (schedule return flights after May 10)

Useful Links

Current GGP student Facebook Group: https://www.facebook.com/groups/UVM.GGP/
Office of International Education: https://www.uvm.edu/oie
International Community Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/UVM-International-Student-Community-149016411853787/
University of Vermont ISC Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/UniversityofVermontGGP
Immigration Information

Global Gateway Program students usually come to UVM as F-1 international students. The University of Vermont will issue your I-20. You can then apply for a visa to study in the U.S.

You can read the details about how to apply for your visa and travel to the U.S. [here](#). Some additional information is summarized below.

What are the steps to come to the U.S.?
1. Receive your I-20 from the University of Vermont (review it carefully).
2. Pay the SEVIS fee online at fmjfee.com.
3. Complete the form DS-160 to begin your visa process.
4. Schedule and prepare for your visa interview. You will need to gather several support documents.
5. Attend your visa interview at the U.S. Consulate or Embassy.
6. Wait for your F-1 entry visa.

Common Questions

**What is a visa?**
A visa allows a foreign citizen to travel to the U.S. and request permission from the immigration officer to enter the United States. It does not guarantee entry to the U.S.

**When should I apply for a visa?**
You should apply as soon as you have your I-20. You will not be issued a visa more than 120 days before your I-20 start date. Notify Admissions (uvmadmissions@studygroup.com) when your visa decision is made.

**What do I need to do once I arrive at UVM?**
Once you arrive on campus, the University of Vermont’s Office of International Education (OIE) will help you with your immigration questions. You are required to check in with OIE during orientation. During orientation, the OIE will also present information about immigration and how to stay in good status. If you want to read ahead, check out the [OIE website](#).
Pre-Arrival Tasks

Set up UVM accounts
You will need to set up your UVM NetID and email before you come to UVM. You can find your NetID in your Admissions letter, with the I-20.

Set up your NetID
Go to http://www.uvm.edu/account and click on “Set up your NetID.” Enter your UVM student ID number (starts with “95”) from your admissions documents and your date of birth. You can find this number in the admissions packet that arrived with your I-20.

Set up your UVM email
Once you have your NetID, follow the instructions on the same website to open your student email account. Begin checking your UVM email two times a day.

Remember your NetID and password and keep them private! You are expected to begin checking your UVM email at least twice a day one month before you arrive. You will receive many important emails.

There are two main IDs you will need to remember during your time at UVM:
- NetID (for example – jpsmith2) – Allows you to access UVM online services (email, course registration)
- 95 Number (for example – 951234567) – UVM ID number (Tip! Put this number in your cell phone for easy access)

Take Math Placement Test
Instructions to take the test will be emailed to your UVM email address by the Math Department. You will receive this email about one month before arrival. It is critical that you complete this test before you arrive in order for GGP to register you in the correct math course.

Complete Housing Contract
All students must complete a Housing and Meal Plan Contract, which will help us make your room assignment. After early July (fall), late November (spring) or mid-April (summer), you will be able to complete a contract by going to https://rlweb.w3.uvm.edu/myreslife/dashboard then to myHousing to access the contract.

Enter your UVM NetID and password. You must complete the short contract and agree to the rules of living at UVM. The contract will also ask you about your living preferences to match you with an appropriate roommate.

You will learn about your final room and roommate assignment when you arrive.

Complete Health Care Tasks

Immunizations: Review immunization requirements for UVM and get your immunizations before arrival. Vaccines in the U.S. can be expensive.

Upload the immunization form and a copy of your immunization book/record to your MyWellBeing account (https://mywellbeing.uvm.edu). Documents must be signed by a doctor. You must also bring your original documents to the U.S.


Health Check-up: A physical exam is not required, but it is a good idea to have a medical and dental exam before you travel. Please note that the UVM student health insurance plan does not cover dental care.

Prescriptions: Bring any prescription medications you may have (with copies of your prescriptions translated into English). If you can bring the chemical/medical name of the drug with you, it may be easier to find medicine when you are in the U.S.
Provide official transcripts
During the application process, you provided scanned documents to UVM Admissions. To finalize the process and confirm your admission, you must submit the following official documents to UVM Admissions when you arrive:

- Original Transcripts
- Original High School Leaving Examination results or Diploma
- Official English versions of all documents

We strongly recommend that you send your official transcripts before you arrive, especially if you are bringing university-level (post-secondary) credits that may transfer to UVM.

A school’s seal or principal’s signature must appear on the original documents. A copy of the documents must be translated into English if the original is in another language. Both the original and English versions must be submitted. Translations must be authenticated as a true copy by a notary public or similar official.

Your school may be able to send these documents directly to UVM before you arrive. All documents will be collected during Orientation at University of Vermont. Any missing documents must be turned into Admissions within 10 business days from your arrival date.

If your diploma or examination results will not be available until after you begin the Global Gateway Program, you must notify UVM Admissions.

UVM Admissions
c/o Ms. Kaitlin Healy
The University of Vermont
194 S. Prospect Street
Burlington, VT 05401-3596

+1-802-656-4646 Kaitlin.Healy@uvm.edu
Plan Your Arrival

Travel

Complete Arrival Information Form: This form will be emailed to your UVM address once you have set up your NetID. Email the completed form to uvmadmissions@studygroup.com as soon as your travel plans are confirmed (at least 2 weeks before arrival day). Make sure to schedule your arrival no later than the first day of Orientation since it is mandatory. We must have your arrival information!

Arriving by air

Several major airlines serve Burlington International Airport (BTV) through other major American cities. UVM does not provide airport pickup. However, you can take a taxi from the airport to the UVM campus for about $15.00 USD (plus $2.00-$3.00 tip). It is a small airport and easy to get a taxi for the short 5 minutes ride to campus.

Airport Taxi Information: [http://www.btv.aero/index.php/ground-transportation/taxi](http://www.btv.aero/index.php/ground-transportation/taxi)

Arriving by bus

Greyhound ([www.greyhound.com](http://www.greyhound.com)) offers regular bus service between Boston/New York/Montreal and Burlington. Megabus ([www.us.megabus.com](http://www.us.megabus.com)) also runs frequent and inexpensive trips from Boston/New York to Burlington.

Arriving by train

Amtrak trains travel from New York, Washington, DC, and Montreal. All trains arrive in Essex Junction, Vermont, about 15 minutes from campus. For more information on schedules and fares, visit [www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com). You will need to take a taxi from the train station to UVM campus.

Hotels and Temporary Housing

UVM does not offer temporary housing if you arrive before your move-in date. You will need to stay at a hotel if you arrive before, May 15th, Arrival Day (or too late in the evening on Arrival Day).

There are several hotels in the area that offer discounts to UVM students. Some hotel recommendations are listed here: [http://www.uvm.edu/admissions/undergraduate/visit_us/directions_and_lodging](http://www.uvm.edu/admissions/undergraduate/visit_us/directions_and_lodging).

Three hotels are very close to campus and offer free shuttles from the airport: Best Western Plus (802-863-1125), Trader Duke’s (802-658-0250), and the Doubletree by Hilton Burlington, Vermont (802-865-6600).

The Doubletree by Hilton (formerly the Sheraton) is located across the street from your new residence hall and has a special rate for UVM students.

If you would like help booking a room at a hotel where GGP has special rates, please contact us at uvmadmissions@studygroup.com. We will need your full name and dates you need housing. You will pay your own bill with a credit card or cash when you check in at the hotel.

Items to Bring

Prepare well in advance. Last-minute packing will only add more stress, so plan ahead and worry less during your actual travel to UVM. Only pack what is necessary, and make a list of things to buy once you reach UVM.

Packing List

- Original health records
- Final official high school transcript and diploma/graduation certificate (and English translations)
- All necessary immigration documents (passport/visa, I-20, ID)
- Payment confirmation/receipts for tuition
- Prescription medications (if necessary), with prescriptions translated to English
- Power adaptor for electronics (voltage in the U.S. is 110V)
- Items that remind you of home (photos, music, etc.)
- Bilingual dictionary or electronic translator
✓ Spending money (for taxi from airport, items for your room)
✓ Clothes and shoes for a variety of weather (warm winter coat, gloves, hat, boots and scarf)

### Buy after Arrival
- Computer
- Full-size toiletries (shampoo, soap, toothpaste, etc.)
- Bedding (Twin XL sheets, blanket, pillow)

## Arriving on Campus

### Moving In
Tell your taxi driver to bring you to UVM campus, Marsh-Austin-Tupper Hall (MAT Residence Hall), 31 Spear Street. Have the driver take you to the front of Marsh Hall towards campus, not the back entrance.

You will be able to move into your room between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM on Arrival Day (May 15th). Please check in at the MAT lobby to get your key.

### Orientation
The Global Gateway Program (GGP) and the Office of International Education (OIE) provide orientation for all international students. You will receive an orientation schedule a few weeks before arrival to your UVM email address. Orientation covers information on: immigration, UVM student life, cultural adjustment, the GGP curriculum, and health and safety. **Participating in orientation is mandatory.**

OIE’s website includes more information about what to expect at orientation: [https://www.uvm.edu/oie/orientation](https://www.uvm.edu/oie/orientation).

The first few days of orientation will include fun and interactive workshops, presentation and activities to start your success at UVM. You will have a chance to:
- Set up a bank account* and cell phone service
- Shop for essential items for your room
- Take your English Placement Test
- Go over important rules and regulations
- Make friends before classes begin
- Get settled before classes begin
- Explore your new home!

*Students should have a minimum of $25 to open a new bank account. DO NOT carry large amounts of cash with you or keep large amounts of cash in your room.

### Meals
You will have meals provided throughout orientation week, beginning on arrival day for evening dinner. This will continue until your regular meal plan begins close to the start of classes.

### Accommodation
GGP students live in Marsh-Austin-Tupper (MAT) Residence Hall. You will be in a double room, most likely with another GGP student. Each person in the room will have a twin bed, desk, chair, dresser, mirror, towel rack, and small wardrobe. There are shared bathrooms, laundry, and a kitchen in MAT. Students may not request a single room. All rooms are doubles.

All accommodation fees have been included in your final bill for the semester. There is no additional payment required for break housing while you are a GGP student.

More information about MAT and the other residence halls is on the UVM Residence Life website: [https://reslife.uvm.edu/halls](https://reslife.uvm.edu/halls).
GGP students are automatically enrolled in an unlimited meal plan. This means you can eat as much as you want at any of the three UVM cafeterias. Other dining options on campus require cash or “points”.

**About Burlington**

**Basic Information**
University of Vermont’s campus is in Burlington, the largest city in Vermont. The city is located on Lake Champlain, between the Adirondack and Green Mountains. Burlington International Airport (BTV) is only 4.5 kilometers from campus and is served by many major airlines.

Population (city): 42,000  
Population (metro area): 211,000

**Distance to Major Cities**
- Montreal: 90 minutes  
- Boston: 3.5 hours  
- New York City: 5 hours

**Smoking & Alcohol**
On August 1, 2015, UVM became a tobacco-free campus. This means you cannot smoke anywhere on the UVM campus. Smoking is also banned in many public places in the U.S.

The legal drinking age in the U.S. is 21. No alcohol is allowed in the UVM dormitories, regardless of a student’s age.

**Popular Activities**
Burlington is well-known for many outdoor activities. There are hiking and biking trails in and around the city. Smugglers Notch, Sugarbush and Stowe are popular ski areas within 45 minutes of campus.

Burlington also has an active theater and music community. The Flynn Theatre for the Performing Arts and other local theaters have regular performances. There are over 45 art studios and galleries in the city, as well as fun and lively music scene.

Church Street is the heart of downtown Burlington and is home to retail stores, coffee shops, restaurants, and cafes. The marketplace is only a 10 minute walk from campus and is open year-round.
Weather
Vermont has four distinct seasons, with very cold winters and warm, humid summers. It can snow as early as October, although it is more common for snow to begin in late November/December.

Below are average temperature ranges for the different seasons, but keep in mind that some days will be much colder or much warmer than this. Plan to bring clothing for a variety of weather conditions.

Spring (Mar – May)  -6C – 20C
Summer (Jun – Aug)  13 C – 27C
Fall (Sep – Nov)  -1C – 21C
Winter (Dec – Feb)  -12C – 1C

Spiritual Centers
You can find a welcoming spiritual community in the area for any religion. The UVM Interfaith Center provides a place for students to gather, pray, meditate, build community and learn more about spirituality and religion. UVM also has a number of student groups related to spirituality.

UVM Interfaith Center
400 S. Prospect St. Burlington (Redstone Campus)

Cathedral Church of St. Paul (Episcopal)
2 Cherry St. Burlington

Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society
2 Duane Ct. Middlebury

Christ Church Presbyterian
2 Cherry St. (lower level) Burlington

Dormition of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Church
600 South Willard St. Burlington
First Church of Christ Scientist
420 S. Union St. Burlington

Islamic Society of Vermont
182 Hegeman Ave. Colchester

Ohavi Zedek Synagogue
188 N. Prospect St. Burlington

Shambhala Meditation Center
187 S. Winooski Ave. Burlington

The Catholic Center at UVM
390 S. Prospect St. Burlington

International Food
Burlington and the surrounding towns have a number of international restaurants and grocery stores. A few are listed below.

African
Community Halal Store
128 North St. Burlington

Mawuhi African Market
160 N. Winooski Ave. Burlington

Arabic/Middle Eastern (halal)
Ahli Baba’s Kabob Shop
163 Main St. Burlington

Istanbul Kebab House
175 Church St. Burlington

Nadia International Market
325 Main St. Winooski

Asian
Central Market Taste of Asia
242 N. Winooski Ave. Burlington

Gaku Ramen
144 Church St. Burlington

Hana Japanese Restaurant
150 Dorset St. South Burlington

Himalayan Food Market
97 North St. Burlington

HJ House
95 St. Paul St. Burlington

Hong’s Chinese Dumplings (food cart)
35 Church St. Burlington
Pho Hong
325 N. Winooski Ave. Burlington

Sherpa Kitchen
119 College St. Burlington

Thai Phat (grocery store)
100 North St. Burlington

**European**
Café Mediterano
17 Park St. Essex Junction

Euro Market – A Taste of Europe
1295 Williston Rd. South Burlington

Leunig’s Bistro
115 Church St. Burlington, VT

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**Life in Burlington**
Visit the OIE website for more tips on local transportation, health and safety, and Vermont winters!
https://www.uvm.edu/oie/burlington

**Campus Activities**
UVM Bored – campus and Burlington events & activities:
Life in the U.S.

Cultural Adjustment
If this is your first time living in the United States, it is good to prepare yourself for the adjustment period that typically comes with an international move. Staff of the Global Gateway Program will talk about the various stages of culture shock at Orientation.

Tips for Cultural Success:
• Have a sense of humor. Being able to laugh when things don’t go as you expect helps ease the stress of the situation.
• Expect a different educational system from your home country. For example, American instructors expect students to actively participate in class. You will learn more about the American classroom during orientation.
• Get involved in your community and campus. You will feel more comfortable in your new living environment by developing relationships.
• Be patient and give yourself time to go through the process of adjusting to your new home.
• Take care of yourself. Eat well, exercise, and learn relaxation techniques.

U.S. Etiquette Basics
It is difficult to generalize any culture into universal “dos and don’ts”, but below are generally acceptable guidelines for being polite in the United States:
• Tipping is expected in many situations when you receive a service (for example, you usually tip a waiter at a sit-down restaurant, your taxi driver, and your hair stylist). There are a number of websites and mobile apps to help you calculate an appropriate tip.
• Talking about sensitive topics like money, politics, religion or personal issues is generally only done between close friends.
• Americans generally smile often, even at strangers. This is a basic sign of politeness and should not be misinterpreted as something more personal.
• Treat others as you would like to be treated. Be calm, respectful, and polite with anyone you meet.
• Staring is considered impolite. On the other hand, when you are talking with someone, it is important to maintain regular eye contact to show you are interested in the conversation.
• People generally greet each other with handshakes and do not touch during conversation unless they are close friends or relatives. This is especially important when men and women interact.
• Littering (not throwing away garbage) is very impolite. For example, if you smoke, you should put your cigarette ends in a trash container when you are done.

Health & Safety
You will learn much more about how to stay healthy and safe during orientation, but here is some basic information to help you prepare.

Insurance
All Global Gateway students are covered under the UVM student health insurance plan (SHIP). You can find out about the plan here: https://www.uvm.edu/health/health-insurance-information

Campus Safety
UVM Police Services serves the UVM campus to ensure the safety of students, faculty and staff. Here are some general things you can do to keep yourself safe as well:
• Be aware of your environment: don’t walk alone late at night and always keep valuables out of sight.
• Do not leave your belongings unattended.
• Always lock your room.
• Keep your cell phone charged in case you need it during an emergency.
• CatAlert is UVM’s emergency notification system that immediately alerts students to any dangerous or emergency situations on campus. Pay attention to any CatAlerts you receive by email or text.
• Always follow the instructions of police officers.
**Academics**
Your program requirements will be slightly different from your classmates' depending on your instructor(s) and program. However, all students will learn about the following basic policies at new student orientation:
University of Vermont Global Gateway Program
• Attendance
• Academic integrity
• Immigration requirements
• General classroom expectations

**Budgeting**
A budget is simply a plan on how you will spend your money. We encourage you to prepare a monthly budget to avoid the risk of overspending. A budget will also help you save for the future. Saving money is important if you have an unexpected or emergency expense, or if you would like to make a larger purchase later.

**Approximate prices in Burlington:**
• Mobile phone service: $80-$100/month
• Mobile phone activation: $300-500 with national carrier (Sprint, AT&T, T-Mobile, Verizon)
• Movie ticket: $6.75-8.75 in town
• Dinner at a restaurant: $10-30/per person + tax + tip (It is common to tip your server 15% on top of bill)
• Coffee: $2/cup; $3-5 for specialty coffees

Online Budgeting Resources
These websites and applications will help you create, manage, and calculate your budget.
Mint: [www.mint.com](http://www.mint.com)
YNAB: [www.youreneedabudget.com](http://www.youreneedabudget.com)
Power Wallet: [www.powerwallet.com](http://www.powerwallet.com)
We look forward to meeting you!

Campus map