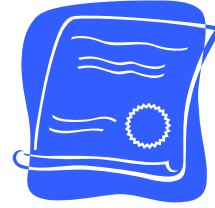




I have a VISA, now what?



1. Purchase an airline ticket

When purchasing tickets, please **DO NOT PLAN TO ARRIVE AT EIU BEFORE January 5, 2010**. Please land in **Chicago's O'Hare International Airport by 12:00 p.m.** or shortly after. This will allow time for you to pass through customs and take our shuttle bus to Charleston, Illinois.

*If you arrive on **January 5 - 6, 2010**, International Programs will provide a free shuttle from Chicago's O'Hare Airport to Eastern. Please see #2 for more details.

2. Inform International Programs about travel plans and reserve temporary housing

Once you have your travel plans confirmed, please e-mail them to International Students and Scholars at sesonger@eiu.edu so that we will know when to expect you. Please include the following information:

- Name
- Date of Arrival
- Time of Arrival
- Airline Name and Flight Number

For those students whose flights arrive at **O'Hare airport before 1:00PM Central Standard Time on January 5 or 6**, EIU will provide a free shuttle service from the airport to campus. However, you **MUST** e-mail Marilyn Holmes (maholmes@eiu.edu) to reserve transportation to EIU. In addition to the information above, please also let us know how many suitcases that you are bringing.

International Programs can also provide free, temporary housing to those who request it beginning on the nights of January 5 and 6.

3. Reserve permanent housing

There are three main choices for permanent housing around EIU's campus:

1. **Residence Halls (On-Campus)**
2. **University Apartments (On-Campus)**
3. **Privately-Owned Housing (Off-Campus)**

1. Residence Halls (On-Campus):

This is an on-campus housing option, which includes over 15 different residence halls to choose from. For a list of services in the residence halls, please see EIU Housing's webpage at: <http://www.eiu.edu/~housing/>

PLEASE NOTE: ***All First-Year undergraduate students are required to live in the residence halls.**

If wanting to live in the on-campus residence halls, please send Kelly Miller, (kpmiller@eiu.edu) the Assistant Director of Student Housing, the following information:

1. Name
2. Year in school
3. Sex
4. Date of birth
5. Are you planning on staying in the residence halls during breaks? (i.e. Spring Break) Your housing assignment will be made upon arrival. You will fill out the application with the housing deposit upon arrival.

2. University Apartments (On-Campus):

The University Apartments at Eastern include 154 efficiency and one-bedroom apartments. To be eligible to live in University Apartments, a student must meet one of the following stipulations:

- Graduate Student
- Undergraduate Married Students
- Undergraduate Student with children
- Undergraduate Student who is 24 years old or older

Students who meet the stipulations should print out the application form from www.eiu.edu/~housing/unapp.pdf and mail it to Ms. Mathews (sgmathews@eiu.edu):

Suzanne Mathews
EIU Housing
600 Lincoln Avenue
Charleston, IL 61920

Please fill out the application and contact Ms. Mathews. To be considered for an apartment, pay the application fee/deposit of \$125 and the advance payment of \$300. Checks or money orders are to be in US dollars and sent to the International Programs office. We suggest that you please consider sending the check or money order by express mail to ensure delivery. In addition, credit cards may be used to pay the fees/deposit. Please use the following process to pay by credit card:

- Email Amanda Harmon at alharmon2@eiu.edu
- State that you are paying the **\$125 application** fee/deposit or the **\$300 advance payment** or both. We encourage paying **both** to be considered for an apartment.
- List the following information in the email to use a credit card to pay for the deposit/fees:
 - Eastern ID # (We will gladly provide your number. Please contact Sue Songer at sesonger@eiu.edu)
 - Credit Card #
 - Expiration Date
 - Credit Card Company (Visa, MasterCard, etc.)

If any problems paying arise, please feel free to contact International Programs at interntl@eiu.edu.

3. Privately-Owned Housing (Off-Campus)

There are many private apartments available in Charleston, at an average cost of \$350 per person each month plus the cost of electricity, water, etc. The information for several rental companies is listed on the website of the City of Charleston: www.charlestonchamber.com/rentals.html or <http://www.jg-tc.com/>.

Other rental announcements can be found in the local newspaper: please contact a member of the Office of International Programs immediately upon your arrival for assistance. *If you are not able to find an apartment before you are required to move out of temporary housing, you will need to be prepared to pay to stay in a local hotel until you do.*

4. Attend New International Student Orientation

New International Student Orientation begins at **9:00AM on Thursday, January 7, 2010** in Blair Hall 1165 (directly across from the Office of International Students and Scholars). This is a **MANDATORY** orientation from **January 7 – 8, 2010** for all new and transfer international students. We look forward to seeing you there!

If you have any questions or concerns not addressed in this document, please email us at international@eiu.edu or Marilyn Holmes directly at maholmes@eiu.edu.