



# *Welcome to Eastern Illinois University!*

## **UNIVERSITY INFORMATION**

Eastern Illinois University (EIU) is a state-assisted institution located in east-central Illinois in Charleston. Charleston has a population of 20,000 and lies eight miles east of interstate 57 on Illinois Route 16. Eastern's campus is located at the south edge of Charleston on 320 beautiful acres of landscaped grounds and is home for more than 10,000 students of which approximately 2,000 of those are graduate students. What is now Eastern Illinois University was established in 1895 as Eastern Illinois State Normal School. During the next 63 years, the school's name changed three additional times before attaining University status in 1957. Over sixty campus buildings display a variety of architectural styles. All buildings are within easy walking distance and being made fully accessible. Adjacent to the central campus lie a number of recreational fields, a campus pond, wooded tracts and a jogging trail.

Eastern Illinois University serves as the primary cultural center for the area. Plays, concerts, art exhibitions, lectures, and symposia are a regular part of campus life. Many off-campus cultural activities are also held regularly, for example, poetry readings, historical reenactments, community theatre, group discussions, and more.

## **UNIVERSITY MISSION**

The University's mission is to provide superior yet accessible undergraduate and graduate education in the arts, sciences, humanities, and professions. Instruction is usually delivered to small classes allowing close individual attention and guidance by distinguished faculty from some of the finest institutions in higher learning.

## **CHARLESTON AND THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITY**

Charleston, Illinois, is a safe, affordable, and friendly city. According to statistics published by state and federal law-enforcement agencies, Charleston and Coles County have very low crime rates. A recent survey of crime in 467 college communities showed Charleston was among the 20 safest. (Joseph Schwartz, *Crime at College: the Student Guide to Personal Safety*).

State parks, national forests, and nature preserves encourage outdoor activities such as camping, boating, canoeing, fishing, hiking, and climbing. Bicycling and horseback riding through the scenic countryside are also popular leisure activities in the area. Eastern has an on-campus recreation facility with a full range of fitness programs and equipment.

## **ORIENTATION**

As a new international student at Eastern Illinois University, you are **REQUIRED** to attend the Orientation sessions held prior to the beginning of the semester. The Office of

International Students and Scholars (OISS) organizes this event to introduce you to student life at EIU. Orientation is required for enrollment at EIU as many tasks must be completed before the classes begin. Some of the activities during orientation are:

- medical clearance
- submission of immunization records
- application for an EIU identification card (I.D.)
- English language placement testing
- meet with academic advisors
- register for courses
- apply for a Social Security card
- establish local bank account

The Orientation sessions also provide an opportunity for you to become acquainted with OISS staff and to meet current international students. We hope these sessions are informative and enjoyable. Most students also appreciate this time to recover from jet lag and adjust to their new surroundings.

### **WHAT EXPENSES SHOULD I EXPECT BEFORE SCHOOL BEGINS?**

It is necessary to have adequate funds for the first few weeks when your initial financial costs will be high. Food and miscellaneous expenses are estimated at \$25.00 per day. Please be prepared to make a down payment of \$ 125 for university housing. Off-campus landlords require a deposit of at least the first month rent and a security deposit. This could range from \$600.00 - \$1000.00. As there is no quick way to convert foreign currency or checks drawn on foreign banks in Charleston, we suggest you purchase travelers checks for your initial expenses. (Please do not carry large amounts of cash with you or in your luggage.)

### **ENTRY VISA APPLICATION**

Now that you are in receipt of Form I-20 or Form IAP-66, you can apply for your U.S. ENTRY visa at the nearest embassy or consulate (AIT in Taiwan). Please read the I-20 and complete item # 11 on page 1. Form I-20, along with evidence of support, should be presented to the U.S. Consular Office when applying for the visa.

Please note that you are required to attend the university whose I-20 was used to obtain the visa for at least the first semester. In the event that you decide to attend another university after the entry visa has been issued, you must contact the consular office before departing from your home country.

### **TRANSFER STUDENTS FROM OTHER U.S. UNIVERSITIES**

If you are a transfer student from another university in the United States, it is necessary to complete Immigration formalities. You are required to inform the International Student Advisor of your intent to transfer to Eastern Illinois University prior to leaving your present school. Please also request a letter of full-time enrollment during the semester immediately preceding the transfer (excluding an authorized vacation period). Students who did not maintain full-time status must be reinstated before transferring. It will be

necessary to register with our office immediately upon your arrival for completion of transfer formalities. If you are traveling home before transferring, a visit to the U.S. Embassy or Consulate is necessary only if the visa is no longer valid.

#### **DEFERMENT OF ADMISSION**

If you wish to postpone your admission to a future semester, please contact the OISS for instructions.

#### **CANCELLATION OF ADMISSION**

If you decide not enroll at Eastern Illinois University, Form I-20 must be returned to the OISS.

**HEALTH INSURANCE:** The mandatory EIU health insurance policy goes into effect only 48 hours prior to the first day of classes. The OISS will provide interim coverage for **new students** starting on the first arrival day and during the mandatory orientation period, but not prior to that. It is essential for you to make arrangements for insurance coverage prior to the first arrival day.

If you have a government-sponsored health insurance policy and provide proof of that policy, you may apply for a waiver of the mandatory EIU health insurance policy requirement and a refund of the insurance premium at the Office of Financial Aid within the first ten days of classes.