

# International Student Handbook

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## I. BEFORE YOU ARRIVE: PREPARING TO MOVE TO LEWIS UNIVERSITY

### Housing

#### Y Living on campus

Once you submit a housing application with a deposit, the Office of Residential Life will assign you to one of the Lewis University residence halls. Students normally reserve a room for a year at a time, and may continue their residency in following years.

Residence hall rooms are furnished with beds, desks, chairs, closets, microwave ovens, and small refrigerators. Laundry facilities are free, and wall connections for telephones, cable television and free Internet hookups are standard. Students must furnish sheets, blankets, pillows, towels, and any other amenities (e.g., lamps, wall pictures, radios, etc.). However, for students traveling from another country, it is often inconvenient to carry these things in luggage.

More information about living on campus can be found [here](#)

## Medical Insurance and Immunizations

### Y Medical Insurance

The costs of medical treatment in the U.S.A. are extremely high. As part of this relationship with you as a full-time international student scholar, we facilitate the mandatory health insurance program provided to you through LewerMark. Visit the health insurance provider, LewerMark's [webpage](#) for important links.

### Y Center for Health and Counseling

The [Center for Health and Counseling Services](#) offers several services, including treatment of minor accidents and illnesses, immunization, assistance with medical insurance claims, and assistance finding doctors and other health care specialists. Additionally, the Center offers personal counseling and crisis intervention. Most services offered by Health and Counseling are free of charge.

### Y Immunization Requirements

In accordance with the State of Illinois College Immunization Code, Lewis University is required to collect proof of immunizations. Apart from Covid vaccination, all students are required to complete immunization requirement form

However, this can be completed either in your home country or in the US. If you have already received your immunization (during childhood) in your home country, kindly complete the form with an attestation (seal & signature) from your registered physician/doctor. There is no need to get immunized again. Kindly note that TB screening should be done only in the US. The Center for Health does TB screening for nominal charges. TB screenings are covered under the \$500 Wellness Benefit. It can be found in the plan brochure under the description of the Wellness Benefit.

For more information about immunization requirements for college attendance, [visit](#)

### Y COVID-19 Vaccination Requirements

All students must be fully vaccinated prior to travel to the US. The health and wellbeing of our campus community remains our highest priority. Our students and faculty are currently working side-by-side in the classroom, online and in hybrid modalities while maintaining guidelines set forth by the CDC and the State of Illinois. Our response will recognize that while the virus remains present in society, the community spread and stress on our healthcare systems have been significantly reduced.

For more information, protocols and resources on COVID-19 at Lewis University, [visit this page](#) curated by the Health Services department.

## Budgeting & Tuition Payments

### Y Plan Your Budget



In addition, you may wish to bring prescription medications (be sure to use the original container with the doctor's information on it), or medications that you are accustomed to for specific health problems. "Over the-counter" or drugstore medications for minor ailments are readily available. People who wear glasses or contact lenses should bring an extra pair of eyewear and the prescription, in case eyewear needs to be replaced.



## II. WHEN YOU LEAVE: TRAVELING TO THE UNITED STATES

### Plan Your Arrival

#### Y Arrival Date

We recommend new international students and scholars to arrive on campus two weeks before a semester begins. This allows us to help you get many daily life matters settled. It also allows you to get accus

If you arrive and you do not find a person to meet you, call one of the following numbers until you reach a person to talk to:

International Students and Global Scholars Services:

- o +1 815836-5549 or +1 815836-5017

Lewis University Police Department (LUPD)

- o +1 815836-5222

Some newly arriving students have family or friends in the area, and will prefer to be met by them. If this is your circumstance, please also let us know of your arrival plans at least a week in advance. Then we will look forward to meeting and greeting you when you first visit the campus.

#### Y Airport Pickup

Lewis University's International Student and Global Scholar Services Office provides airport assistance for those who need to be picked up from the airport. You will need to contact the office prior to arrival (815 836-5549) to make arrangements. We work with an outside agency and for a fee you can be picked up from the airport. Using the 42ng the 42n 78 486q 0 (the 42n)4(g)4( )9(the 42n).024 +54( 78 486q 0



Your student ID doubles as your meal card. Cards are non-transferable, and cannot be used by anyone but the purchaser. Meal cards are credited at the beginning of the semester with half the amount of the total meal plan. The other half will be applied to the meal card during the halfway point of the semester.

#### Y Off-campus / Commuter Plans

If you decide to live off-campus, the university also has an Off-Campus Meal Plan. The Plan will allow commuting students to enjoy the convenience of eating at the off-campus dining halls using your university student ID.

All fulltime, non-

Holiday Inn	205 Remington Blvd., Bolingbrook	630-679-1600	1/4 Mile west of Rt. 53 on Remington Blvd Full Service Hotel, Pool, Business Services, Meeting Rooms
Ramada Inn Limited	520 S. Bolingbrook Drive Bolingbrook	630-972-9797	I-55 & Rt. 53, next to Union 76
Comfort Inn	3235 Norman Avenue, Joliet	815-436-5141	Pool, Close to Lewis and Mall
Comfort Inn	135 S. Larkin Avenue, Joliet	815-744-1770	Pool
Fairfield Inn	3239 Norman Avenue, Joliet	815-436-6577	

## Money Matters

### Y Planning First Year Costs at Lewis University

The amount of money set aside for your school year (and indicated on ~~your DS~~ 2019) may seem very large. However, it is a ~~good~~ idea at the beginning of your stay to carefully ~~plan~~ a budget for your first semester and first year. List the actual amounts of your costs (some must be estimated), deduct your fixed costs (initial ~~one~~ time costs and periodic costs that do not vary from month to month), and this will tell you how much you have left to spend on a monthly basis. Expenses that you will have include tuition, books, health insurance, housing, food, communication (mail and telephone), transportation (local transportation? a ~~car~~ holiday travel?), clothing, personal expenses, and recreation.

### Y Beyond Your First Year

Plan realistically for the costs of your entire stay at Lewis. Make a budget similar to the one for your first year. For long-term planning, keep these things in mind:

- There may be slight increases in tuition each year.
- Note that if you move from a campus residence to an ~~off~~ campus residence, or vice versa, your living expenses may change.
- If you live off campus, you will need automobile transportation, with ~~the~~ associated costs of insurance, fuel, and maintenance.
- If you are seeking a degree that holds classes, clinical hours, etc. off campus at satellite sites (e.g. in education, business, or some other disciplines), be prepared to buy a car or arrange ~~rides~~ rides with classmates.
- Be aware that parttime, on-campus employment can assist with your costs, but probably cannot cover them all. International students are permitted to work parttime on campus for a maximum of 20 hours per week.
- Note about Financial Aid ~~Financial Aid~~ from U.S. federal and state grants and scholarships is available only for U.S. citizens and Resident Aliens. Lewis University has very few other scholarships, fellowships, or other aid for international students at this time. You are responsible for your costs for the duration of your stay at Lewis.

### Y Banks and Credit Unions

The local credit union and banks provide many kinds of financial services, such as savings and checking accounts, cashier's checks, money orders, loans, inter-~~bank transfers~~, ~~tr~~avelers' checks, and safe-~~deposit~~ boxes for valuables.

It is not advisable to carry large amounts of money with you or keep it in your room or apartment, where it is vulnerable to theft. Place it in a bank account. Also, if you have any valuable items such as jewelry that could be stolen, you should rent a safe ~~deposit~~ box at a bank.

You may wish to have both a checking account for current expenses and a savings account for reserve funds; you may transfer funds from your savings to your checking account when needed for current expenses.

## Health Insurance

As an international student, you are automatically enrolled under the school's health insurance policy. This will be discussed thoroughly during your mandatory international students orientation program (ISOP). Coverage dates are as follows:

- o Fall Semester: August 1 to December 31
- o Spring Semester: January 1 to May 31
- o Summer Semester: June 1 to July 31

Summer is required for new students but optional for continuing students.

## Helpful Resources

### Y Athletics at Lewis University

Lewis athletic teams are part of the Great Lakes Valley Conference, an important NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) Division II Conference. Lewis has men's and women's teams in baseball/softball, basketball, track/cross country, volleyball, golf, soccer, tennis, and swimming.

Additionally, the Lewis University Intramural Sports Program offers an opportunity for all Lewis students to participate in team and individual sports. The Intramural Office is located in the Student Recreation and Fitness Center. Find out more about our athletics teams' news and events at: <http://lewisflyers.cstv.com/>

### Y Bookstore

You may buy your textbooks at the Lewis University Bookstore. Some of the textbooks which are used; these are less expensive. At the end of the semester, you may sell books you do not need back to the bookstore. (They must be unmarked, however.) The bookstore also carries snack items, stationary supplies, and items with the Lewis University logo on them. <https://www.bkstr.com/lewisstore>

### Y Business Office

The Business Office is responsible for providing students with information concerning [their costs](#) and [payment options](#). The policies and procedures related to your billing and the collection of tuition, room and board, fees, and other related charges are located throughout [this site](#).

### Y Campus Police

Lewis University Police Department (LUPD) is available 24 hours in the Information Center at the main entrance of the University. Campus Police can assist students with lost and found items, parking stickers for cars, a Lewis ID, filing incident reports for theft or accidents, and all other emergency matters.

Campus Police can also be contacted using the Emergency campus telephones which are placed in each residence hall and in several campus buildings. These boxes are different colors (depending on the

LUPD Emergency Number: (815) 836 5911

LUPD NONEmergency Number: (815) 836 5222

Y Financial Aid Services

Through financial aid and other benefits, students receive a private education at Lewis University for less than the cost of a state or public university. Learn more about [LUPD](#).

The Office of Financial Aid Services is available to discuss financing options and information related to federal, state, and institutional programs. Office Hours are Monday thru Friday 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. The Office of Financial Aid Services is located in the Learning Resource Center on the First Floor.

Y International Students and Global Scholars Services (ISGSS)

The Office of International Students and Global Scholars Services (ISGSS) provides services and advocacy for international students and global scholars. For more information, contact the ISGSS at (815) 836-5222 or visit our website at [www.lewis.edu/isgss](#).



