International Student Orientation Program

presented by the

International Center
Gengras Student Union, room 327
Today’s Orientation Schedule

- Welcome and Orientation Introduction
- “Getting to know you"
- Immigration Regulations and University Policies
- University and Community Programs and Events
- Lunch and Resource Fair
- “Culture Shock”
- "Living in America"
- Class Participation and Plagiarism
- Campus tour or Shopping to Walmart
- Barbeque
How You Can Reach Us

The International Center
Gengras Student Union, Room 327
Phone: 860-768-4870
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e-mail:
Sarah O’Leary: saoleary@hartford.edu
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visit us on the web at
http://www.hartford.edu.international-center
Check out the International Center’s Website! **Fast and Easy** access to information on…

- Programs and Events
- Study Abroad Opportunities
- Immigration and Visa Information
- U.S. Government Resources
- Connecticut and Hartford Area Resources
- On and Off-Campus Employment Options
- Social Security and U.S. Income Tax Information
- Health Insurance
- On and Off-campus Housing Options
- Driver’s License Information
- Student Associations and Clubs
- World–Wide Travel
- and much more…

www.hartford.edu/international-center
It’s Been a Long Hard Road!

YOU started here at a U.S. Embassy

And YOU Made it to HERE!
A Little About Our International Students

The UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD is home to over 660 international students and scholars from over 68 countries around the world.
International Student Profile by Country of Origin – Spring 2015

- Saudi Arabia: 177
- India: 140
- Kuwait: 46
- PR China: 34
- South Korea: 25
- Turkey: 19
- Canada: 14
- Jamaica: 11
- UAE: 7
- Australia: 6
- Mexico: 6
- Taiwan: 6
- Venezuela: 5
International Student Profile
by Degree – Spring 2015

- ELI: 18
- Associates: 2
- Bachelors: 316
- Masters: 223
- Doctorate: 23
The International Center offers a variety of services and programs for our international students and scholars including:

- Immigration services, personal counseling and referral
- University liaison with the Departments of Homeland Security and the State, U.S. Embassies, foreign governments and international organizations
- Educational and support programs for international students
- Study Abroad opportunities to more than 60 locations throughout the world
- Encourage and support faculty exchange programs and curriculum development
- Assist Admissions with recruitment and External Relations with alumni development
Programs offered through The International Center

**Orientation Programs**

**Workshops and seminars**
- Immigration and Employment Workshops
- Tax Seminars
- Classroom Visits
- Resource Fairs
- Study Abroad Opportunities

**Cultural events including**
- Holiday Celebrations and Festivals
- Travel Trips and Excursions
- International Week

**University and Community Outreach Programs**
- Global Ambassador Club
It’s Time To Break The Ice
What you are about to learn may scare you but....

DON'T PANIC
U.S. Immigration Regulations

Student Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS)
The SEVIS system is an integrated, web-based and “real-time” information transfer system between the University and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

SEVIS has been created by the DHS to monitor the educational activities of all international students studying in the United States.

Insure compliance with (DHS) and Department of State (DOS) student and exchange visitor regulations.
### Personal Information

- **SEVIS ID:** 0069279927
- **Family Name:** Al Rayhash
- **First Name:** Ali
- **Country of Birth:** SAUDI ARABIA
- **Date of Birth:** 09/20/1994
- **Country of Citizenship:** SAUDI ARABIA
- **Gender:** MALE
- **Foreign Address:** King Abdullah St, Najaf, SAUDI ARABIA
- **U.S. Address:** 8 Vista View Drive Apt 1 Bloomfield, CONNECTICUT 06002
- **Email Address:**

### Program Information

- **Status:** ACTIVE
- **Visa Type:** F-1
- **School Name:** University of Hartford
- **Major:** Bachelor of Science
- **Program Start Date:** 01/22/2013
- **Program End Date:** 12/22/2017
- **Normal Length of Study:** 80
- **Current Session Start Date:** 08/26/2013
- **Current Session End Date:** 05/20/2013
- **School Requires English Proficiency:** Yes
- **English Language:** Yes
- **English Language Instruction will be provided at the University of Hartford.**

### Financial Information

- **Number of Dependents:** 0
- **Tuition Fees:** $53,132.00
- **Living Expenses:** $7,505.00
- **Dependent Expenses:**
- **Other Costs:**
- **Other Comment:**
- **Total Expenses:** $46,102.00
- **Total Funding:** $46,102.00

### Travel Information

- **Passport Number:** 1033809
- **Visa Number:** F335403
- **Visa Issue Date:** 12/10/2012
- **Visa Issue Post:** RIYADH (KIO)
- **Point of Entry:**
- **Date of Entry:**
- **Point of Departure:**
- **Date of Departure:**

### I-901 SEVIS Fee Payment Information

- **Transaction Type:** Payment
- **Transaction Date:** 12/10/2012
- **Transaction Amount:** $105.00
- **Fee Payment/Receipt Number:** C0010004888904
What information does the DHS want collected and reported from our International Students and the University?

- Name
- Local and foreign country address
- Program (degree and major) and program changes
- Start and end date of each semester
- Employment information
- Extension of stay requests
- Change of status requests
- Visa and passport information
In addition, the University is required to collect and report the following information:

- School transfers
- Failure to enroll or resume studies
- Failure to maintain full-time status
- Any change in name or address
- Disciplinary action
- A student’s graduation earlier than expected
- Any other failure to maintain status or complete program
Your Immigration Documents

**Passport**

- Your Passport **must** be valid at all times.

- If your passport expires, you **must renew it** through your consulate in New York or embassy in Washington D.C.

- If you lose your passport **you must report** it to the local police department and apply for a new one through your embassy or consulate.
Your Immigration Documents

**U.S. Visa Stamp**

- Your U.S. Visa is only permission to enter the border of the United States. **It is NOT your permit to stay in this country**

- You may remain in the U.S. with an expired visa. If you leave the U.S. and your visa is expired, **you must obtain a new visa** to re-enter the U.S.
I-20 Form

- After your initial entry to the U.S., this form becomes your “Travel Document”

- If you lose this form it must be replaced. Contact the International Center

- Make sure all the information on this form is correct, including your Name, Date of Birth, Degree program and program “end date”

Do Not Let your I-20 expire Do Not -
I-94 Arrival Record

- The I-94 and I-20 forms are the documents that allow you to remain in the U.S.

- If you lose this document, you may download a new copy at: https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/request.html

- Keep a copy of this document with your passport and submit a copy to the International Center on your arrival to the U.S.
Full-time Student Status

- Undergraduate students must be enrolled for a minimum of **12 credits** each semester.
- Graduate students must be enrolled for a minimum of **9 credits** each semester.
- You must be enrolled **full-time** from the beginning to the end of each semester.
- Students enrolled in the English Language Program are considered full-time and meet the DHS requirement.
- You are **not required to enroll in the summer semester** - it is your choice.
- You may “audit” a course but must still be enrolled for the minimum number of credits required by the DHS.
- You **must** have approval from the International Center to be enrolled part-time.

Click here for more information regarding the full-time enrollment requirement.
“On-line” and “Audit” Courses

On-line Courses

- You may only register for **ONE on-line course per semester** as part of your minimum credit load of either 9 or 12 credits.
- You may only take a 3-credit course on-line. You **may not** take a 1 or 4 credit course on-line even if it is available.
- You may enroll in as many on-line courses as you wish during the Summer.

Audit Courses

- Generally, you must receive credit toward your degree program. You may **“audit”** a course but you must still be enrolled for the minimum number of either 9 or 12 credits required to maintain your full-time status.

[Click here](#) for more information about the guidelines for enrolling in on-line courses.
Transferring Schools

- Transfers to the University of Hartford **must be completed within 15 days** from the beginning of your first semester.

- If you have studied in the U.S. prior to attending the University of Hartford, **you must present verification that you were enrolled as a full-time student** while attending your previous institution.

- Failure to properly transfer from one school to another will result in the **loss of your F-1 status** and subject you to the loss of associated benefits including on and off-campus employment and Practical Training.
The **DHS requires** that you report your local address to them.

- This must be done **within 10 days** of changing addresses. You **must report** the change to the International Center
- The International Center will report the change **electronically** to the DHS
- Failure to report a change of local address will subject you to penalties from the DHS including monetary fines and **possible loss of student status**
Student Employment Regulations
On-Campus Employment

- You must maintain **Full-Time** student status to work on-campus.
- You must be in **“Good Academic Standing.”** If you are on academic probation you may not be employed on or off-campus.
- You may **not work more than 20 hours per week** when school is in session (Fall and Spring semesters). You may work more than 20 hours per week during the winter and summer breaks.
- You may work multiple jobs but you **may not exceed 20 hours** per week combined.
- You **must have a Social Security number** to be employed on-campus. The International Center can assist you in obtaining the number.
The Best Places to Find On-Campus Employment

- Dining Services
- The Bookstore
- Computer Services
- The Library
- The Sports Center
- Facilities
- Lincoln Theater
- Academic Departments
- Administrative Departments
Off-Campus Employment

- Off-Campus employment is restricted by the DHS
- You may not request off-campus employment until you have been in F-1 status for a minimum of one academic year or 9 months
- If permission is granted for off-campus employment, you may only work in your field of academic study
- You must have written permission from either the international Center or the DHS to be employed off-campus

Click here for more information about off-campus internships
Working off-campus without the proper permission is a violation of Federal Immigration law and may subject you to removal from school and deportation.

In almost all circumstances, you may work no more than 20 hours per week while school is in session.

You must apply for and have a US Social Security number/card for employment. Please keep in mind that even if you have a SSN it DOES NOT grant you permission to work off-campus.
When You Get the Urge to Travel

**Within the U.S.A**
- You may travel anywhere in the U.S.
- No special permission is required
- You should always carry your passport when away from the local area
- When traveling away from the area, let others know where you will be and return

**Outside the U.S.A**
- You may need to obtain an entrance visa to enter another country other than your own
- Your U.S. visa must be valid for re-entry back to the U.S.
- You I-20 must have a current signature from the International Center to re-enter the U.S. Please come in at least two weeks prior to your departure
- You should always carry financial documents and your student ID card
Immigration Rules Summary

- Always maintain your full-time student status. As an undergraduate you must maintain a minimum of 12 credits per semester. If you are graduate, you must maintain a minimum of 9 credits per semester.

- You must always have a current signature on your I-20.

- Do not violate Immigration employment regulations related to on and off-campus work.

- All new students must report to the International Center with their passport, I-20 (or DSP 2019) form, and I-94 document. You cannot register for courses until you do.

- You MUST report any change to your local address within 10 days to the Center.

- Do Not Let your I-20 expire Do Not -
UNPLUG YOURSELF!

Some Fun Things **YOU** and your **friends** can do this Fall Semester!
So Many GREAT Programs at the University

The Many Programs Offered by the University

- Cinema
- Sports
- Dance
- Art Exhibits
- Theater
- Concerts
- Lectures
Programs and Events Sponsored by the International Center

Join the...

Global Ambassador Club
open to all students

What is a Global Ambassador Club?
The Global Ambassador club at the University of Hartford strives to bring together international and national students from all backgrounds.

Through sponsored activities and events, we hope to bridge international friendships, establish connections, increase intercultural understanding and awareness, and create an international community where everyone can have fun and feel at home.

For more information please contact
The International Center
6SU 227
860.768.4870
International Student Pizza Social Hour

September 15, 2015
11:30AM – 1:00PM
Six Flags
September 26, 2015

Spend the day at the largest amusement park in New England

Bring some friends and enjoy the rides and fun at Six Flags!
Paintball
October 10, 2015

Join International Center staff for an afternoon of paintball! It’s only $25 and it's GREAT fun.

Bring your friends and make up your own team and see just who is the best on the field.
Lyman Orchards
October 24, 2015

Take a day trip to Lyman Orchard - "The Maze." This is fun and something just a little bit different and best of all it's FREE!!

Ever been lost in a maze? Now is your chance to find your way out! Take a walk through the corn stalk maze at the orchard. Bring your friends and see if you can get through the maze before them!!

Enjoy some great New England apple cider or pick apples while you are there. It's a fun way to spend a Fall afternoon.
14th Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon

November 17, 2015
11:30AM – 1:30PM

Celebrate the American tradition of Thanksgiving. Join University faculty and staff at our FREE Thanksgiving Luncheon.
It's... TIME FOR LUNCH and our Resource Fair
Are **YOU** Feeling...
Support
Just Ahead
Academic Support Services
Helping you to Succeed

Student Success Center
The Center assists ALL students

English Language Institute
Provides intensive English language training

Center for Reading and Writing
Offers one-on-one assistance and tutoring

Learning Plus
Supports students with learning disabilities
The **Student Success Center** is available to provide assistance and support in a wide range of areas. For example, students can visit the Student Success Center if they need help with:

- one-on-one tutoring
- time management assistance
- academic problems
- getting involved with clubs and organizations
- personal issues

The Student Success Center is located in the rear of B-Complex, just off Alumni Plaza. No appointment is needed – students can just drop in.
Other Support Services

- Connections Health Education and Wellness Center
  - Offers comprehensive health promotion services for the University community

- Counseling and Psychological Services
  - Provides counseling on personal, social and academic problems

- Career Services
  - Provides advising and assistance in finding employment and internships
Academics
Academic Advising

Don’t forget to introduce yourself to your Advisor!!

Will consult with you on the best ways and means to achieve your academic goals

Can guide you in choosing your major or area of concentration and discuss pertinent academic regulations and procedures

Why do I need an Academic Advisor??

Will assist with course registration, course placement, degree requirements

Can offer you guidance and suggestions for your future career
**Blackboard** is a learning management system that provides a ready-made online course that can be used to supplement face-to-face instruction or to teach online.

In addition to being able to post articles, assignments and other course documents, it includes teaching tools such as discussion boards, blogs, journals, online tests and surveys.

**Blackboard course sites are created automatically for all scheduled courses. You will receive instructions for logging in to Blackboard when you apply for your University email.**
Important Bursar Course “Withdrawal” Dates

- **Monday 9/14**
  - Last day to withdraw from class and receive 60% tuition credit

- **Monday 9/21**
  - Last day to withdraw from class and receive 40% tuition credit

- **Monday 9/28**
  - Last day to withdraw from a class and receive 20% tuition credit—no further tuition credit after this date

- **Monday 9/28**
  - No further tuition credit after this date
E-mail Accounts

- E-mail accounts are automatically generated for students upon course registration. A new student letter is mailed to your home address within 24 hours of registration. Login information for Webmail and the eBilling system are included in the letter.

- Students who have not been issued an e-mail account or are having trouble accessing Hawkmail should contact Computer Support Services located on the 1st floor of the Beatrice Auerbach Computer and Administration Center.

- Please note that e-mail is used as an official means of communication between the school and the students. Therefore, it is important to check your University of Hartford e-mail account on a daily basis.
Obtaining Your Student ID Card

All students must obtain a student ID, also called a HawkCard.

- You can use it to make purchases by using HawkCASH, Dining Dollars or Meal Plan meals at any dining facility on campus.

- You can use your HawkCASH at the bookstore, vending machines, laundry machines, and with selected merchants off campus. Your HawkCard is used for access to residence halls and selected labs.

- Use your HawkCARD as a means of payment at participating locations both on and off-campus! There’s no need for cash or credit, just use your HawkCASH! The Meal Plan cannot be used at off-campus locations.

The student ID office is located in the Gengras Student Union. The office hours during the academic year are Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Fridays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
UHTXT is a mass notification system that enables University students, faculty, and staff to receive alerts and updates as text messages on cell phones.

No advertisements or non-emergency alerts will be sent to the registered phones. Your information is not shared with or sold to third parties.

You must sign up for the service in order to receive alerts. You may choose to opt-in or opt-out of the service at any time.

You are responsible for any text messaging charges from your wireless service provider.

You may sign-up by going to the University’s website (www.hartford.edu) and typing in “text alert system” in the search engine.
An Overview of the U.S. Healthcare System

Click here for video (frame 112)
Injury and Sickness Insurance Coverage

- You are **required** to have accident and sickness insurance coverage if you are on an F-1 or J-1 visa
- You will be automatically charged for the University’s insurance policy at the time of registration
- The cost is **$1,600 per year**
- You may “request a “waiver” from the university policy if you have another insurance policy which is equal to or greater than the coverage offered through the university
- All “waivers” must be requested through the International Center. You must present acceptable proof (a copy of the insurance plan) that you have appropriate private insurance coverage by **September 30, 2015**

[Click here](#) for more information about our Insurance plan
You and the Law

- All **U.S. Federal and State laws** apply to you. This includes all Immigration regulations.

- You are subject to all Federal and State **drug, alcohol and driving laws**.

- You are subject to all University of Hartford **judicial rules and regulations**.

- If you **enter into a contract**, you are subject to the terms of those agreements (housing, phone service etc).

- Prevent law suits!

- What do you do **if you get in trouble??**
All F-1 and J-1 students and exchange visitors **must file a federal income tax return** annually even if you had **NO** income.

Federal Tax returns are typically due by **April 15th** for income received during the previous year. Income may include any wages received from employment, including RA positions, scholarships, fellowships, or other grants or financial aid.

It is **your responsibility** to file an income tax return.

The university **does not provide** individual income tax preparation. We do offer you access to a income tax software program at a nominal fee.

[Click here](#) for more information about US taxes
A Social Security number is a personal identification number issued by the U.S. Government

- You cannot have a SS Number unless you are employed and are **NO exceptions** to this rule
- A number **is required** if you are employed on or off-campus
- You **may not begin on-campus employment** without a number
- You may apply to the local SS Office in Hartford for your number: **you must** present letters verifying your status from the International Center and your on-campus employer
- The process may take from two weeks to several months to complete

[Click here](#) for more information about Social Security Numbers
Connecticut State ID

The International Center recommends that you apply for a CT State ID as a form of identification.

Apply through the International Center. You will need the following documents:

- A full time student verification letter from the International Center
- Passport
- I-20 form
- I-94 Arrival Record
- 1 piece of mail showing your local Connecticut address
Feeling lost?
Where To Go For Help?

- Immigration Questions - International Center
- Medical Insurance - International Center
- Academic Counseling - Academic Advisor
- Registration – Registrars Office (SASC)
- University ID Card - ID Office, GSU
- Payment for Tuition and Fees - Bursar’s Office (SASC)
- Drivers License and State ID - International Center
- On-campus Housing - Residential Life Office (Quad F)
- University Internet and Mail Access - Information Technology
- Off-Campus Housing - International Center
- For an On-campus Emergency – Public Safety, Dial 7777
- Health Services - Health Service Office (Sports Center)
We are done talking at you, let’s work in groups!
Being American

- Personal control
- Change
- Time
- Equality and Fairness
- Individualism and Interdependence
- Action/work orientation
- Self-help and initiative

- Competition
- Future orientation
- Informality
- Directness openness and honesty
- Practicality and efficiency
- Materialism and acquisitiveness
Culture Shock continued

The 5 Phases of Culture Shock

I LOVE IT HERE! FIGHT ON!

NO ONE UNDERSTANDS ME. EVERYTHING IS SO DIFFERENT...

OH IT'S NOT BAD HERE AFTER ALL. I EVEN KIND OF LIKE IT!

CULTURE SHOCK
Culture Shock
A closer look at what you might experience

**The Honeymoon:** Everything is new and life seems so exciting.

**Culture Shock (Crisis):** A mixture of feelings, such as anxiety and confusion, normally experienced in a different social environment. The excitement of your new surroundings begins to wear off and you’re becoming frustrated. You wonder why small things can become such big issues and are probably missing home.

**Initial adjustment:** Eventually you’ll find that you can adjust to the quirks you’ve encountered. You develop a routine and are feeling more in control. You’re getting used to the environment.

**Mental Isolation (Revisiting Crisis):** Though you’re more used to your surroundings, you feel alienated. People do things differently in this culture and it doesn’t make much sense. Free time can get lonely, so your isolation might get worse on weekends or holidays. You’re not sure whether moving to a new country was such a good idea.

**Acceptance and Integration:** As you learn to cope with the differences of the new culture, develop a deeper social network, and integrate into your environment, you’ll find that life is much more manageable. This foreign place doesn’t seem so foreign anymore!
Stay active: Keep doing the things you enjoyed back home

Improve your English skills: Not being able to communicate properly is a large factor in making you unhappy.

Participate in community and school events: A great way to work out the kinks of a new culture while getting to know people on a personal level.

Maintain focus on the reason you are here: Enjoy yourself, but don’t be blinded by drinking, shopping, or whatever vice you may develop. Remember why you are there and don’t confuse your priorities.

Make friends: You’re a foreign student in a foreign land, so meet other foreigners that you can relate to. If you can meet up with someone who has been here a while, do it. Having no friends in a foreign country is not easy to deal with for most people.

Stay positive and avoid negative people: Negativity is infectious. You don’t want to compound your problems, so try to find friends who are upbeat about their lives'.
What is expected in a college classroom?
Inappropriate Behavior in the Classroom

Your Professors expect you to exhibit appropriate classroom behavior

Texting on your phone

Wearing a hat in class

Sleeping in class!

Eating in class
Plagiarism - What is it and what are the consequences for it at an American College?

- You are expected to **do your own work**
- There are many forms of plagiarism
Class Participation and taking an active role in your success

- You are expected to **attend all your classes**. Failure to attend class may result in a lowered grade or removal from the course. This may result in a grade of “F” for the course or place you out of legal F-1 status.

- Many professors **expect you to participate** in classroom discussion. This may be different than what you are used to in your home country. Some professors will count your class participation toward your final grade.

- **DO NOT wait until the last minute** for help from a professor, lack of planning on your part does not constitute an emergency on their part.
**Downloading Videos, Music and Text Books**

- **DO NOT** download music, videos or text books that are protected by copyright laws using the University’s computer server. It is illegal and you may be subject to loss of university privileges including living on-campus.
Things you **Need** to Do
If you Haven’t Already Done them

- Meet with your **academic advisor** and register for courses.

- Be sure that you have given your **Immunization/medical record** to our Health Services Department (located at the Sports Center).

- Get your **Student ID Card** at the Photo ID Office in Gengras Student Union.

- **Purchase your books** at the University bookstore. Please bring a copy of your registration form.

- Visit the **Residential Life Office** if you will live on-campus to get your room assignment (Complex F).
Be sure that you have been assigned a **University email account**. If you do not have an account then go to our Information Technology Department.

Open a **bank account**. The closest bank to campus is the Bank of America located at 836 Park Avenue, Bloomfield CT. You will need your passport and other immigration documents to open an account.

Purchase a **phone** if needed (ATT, Verizon, Sprint and T-Mobile).

If you are **planning to work on-campus**, you will need to apply for a U.S. Social Security Card. The International Center will assist you in this process.

If you are planning to get a **Connecticut State ID or a Connecticut Driver’s License** you must come to the international Center to start the process and receive instructions on how to apply.
What do you need to do **now**?

What do you need to do the **first month of school**?

What do you need to do at the **end of the semester**?
Questions Taken Here

What are your concerns

This PowerPoint Presentation is located on the International Center’s Website and the answers to many of your questions can be found there http://www.hartford.edu/international-center
The Staff of the International Center supports the University mission to enhance the quality of education and service to our International Students.