



Welcome to Clemson University! Congratulations on your admission to Clemson University! We at International Services are so excited to have you as a member of our Clemson Family!

The information found below contains helpful tips to make your arrival and transition to Clemson as easy as possible.

Contents

International Student Arrival Guide	2
International Student Organizations	2
U.S. Arrival Date	2
Updates on Travel to the U.S.	2
Airport Shuttles	2
Housing Options	3
Clemson University COVID-19 Guidance	3
University's Required Immunizations	3
Deadline for Payment of Tuition and Fees	3
International New Student Orientation	3
Graduate School and Undergraduate Studies Orientation	3
VPN Access	4
SEVIS Check-in through the iStart Portal	4
Applying for a Social Security Number (SSN) at the Social Security Administration (SSA)	4
Graduate Assistants - Employment Eligibility	4
New Student Checklist and Submitting Final Transcripts to the Graduate School	4
Submitting Final Transcripts to Undergraduate Admissions	5
TigerOne ID Services	5
MyClemson App	5
CU Safe Alert and Rave Guardian App	5

International Student Arrival Guide

To help you prepare for your Clemson Experience, we developed our [International Student Arrival Guide](#), which offers resources to help you with the transition to living and studying at Clemson University.

International Student Organizations

Clemson has a multitude of international student organizations that are a valuable support system for new international students. Please take time to review the various student and community organizations listed in our [Arrival Guide](#).

U.S. Arrival Date

International students can arrive in the U.S. no earlier than 30 days before classes start. Classes at Clemson University will begin on **January 10, 2024**, so new students can enter the U.S. on or after **December 11, 2023**. If you are an international student transferring to Clemson University from another U.S. school, you can remain in the U.S. over the winter break or return to the U.S. with a Clemson I-20 and a valid visa if you are currently outside the U.S.

Updates on Travel to the U.S.

- Before traveling to the U.S., you must review your I-20 for accuracy **and print and sign the bottom of page 1**.
- Make sure to have easy access to your passport and I-20 while traveling. You will need to show these items to officials, so having them safely in your carry-on bag is preferred.
- The U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC) no longer requires non-U.S. citizens to show a negative COVID-19 viral test or documentation of recovery from COVID-19 to board a plane to the U.S.

Airport Shuttles

Clemson University offers airport shuttles from the Greenville-Spartanburg Airport and the Charlotte Douglas International Airport. You can find information on the shuttle service [here](#). If the Clemson shuttle is not convenient for your arrival time or location, you can use commercial shuttles/taxis to bring you to Clemson. Commercial shuttles/taxis can be expensive, especially if you arrive in Charlotte or Atlanta. It may be beneficial to email/call a company in advance for the cost and availability of transportation.

- The distance from the Greenville-Spartanburg Airport to Clemson is 45 miles (55-minute drive). Information on shuttles and taxis can be found [here](#).
- The distance from the Charlotte Douglas International Airport and Clemson is 130 miles (2-hour drive). Information on shuttles and taxis can be found [here](#).
- The distance from Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport and Clemson is 130 miles (2-hour drive). Information on shuttles and taxis can be found [here](#).

Another option for transportation to Clemson may be current students in one of Clemson's many international student organizations. Information on these organizations can be found in the [Arrival Guide](#). You are welcome to contact them for guidance and assistance on arriving at Clemson.

If you are arriving to study at one of our Innovation Campuses in and around Charleston, you can arrive at the Charleston International Airport in Charleston, SC. Information on shuttles/taxis from this location can be found [here](#).

Housing Options

Securing housing will need to be a priority for you as you prepare for your upcoming move to Clemson. Finding housing while outside the U.S. is a challenge. However, you can find valuable information on housing options [here](#).

Clemson University COVID-19 Guidance

Clemson University provides [COVID-19 Guidance and Campus Resources](#), which are aligned with CDC guidelines, to help students, faculty, and staff manage their health and protect the health of others.

- Clemson University encourages but does not require individuals to be vaccinated against COVID-19.
- COVID-19 testing on campus is voluntary but remains available for those experiencing symptoms. More information about COVID-19 testing is available [here](#).

University's Required Immunizations

All new Clemson undergraduate and graduate students are required to have specific immunizations. Student Immunization Forms or a verified copy of your immunization record must be uploaded to Clemson's Student Health Services' secure online health portal. These items must be submitted before December 1 for spring enrollment. Students not compliant with the immunization requirements may have a hold placed on future registrations. Information on the immunization requirement can be found [here](#). Student Health Services offers several immunizations at Redfern Health Center for a nominal fee. The list of immunizations offered by Redfern can be found [here](#). For additional questions on immunizations, please contact Redfern Health Center [here](#).

Deadline for Payment of Tuition and Fees

For Spring 2023, all payments must be posted to the student's account by **January 4, 2024**. International students can pay their tuition and fees from their home country using the instructions found [here](#). However, once you arrive in the U.S., you can pay with a credit card or sign up for the Clemson University Four Payment Plan via [iRoar](#). You can contact Student Financial Services with billing questions via phone at 864-656-5592, via chat on their [website](#), or via email at studentbillquestions@clemson.edu. Additional information on paying your tuition and fees can be found [here](#).

International New Student Orientation

Our office will hold one orientation session for new international students arriving for Spring 2024. Orientation will focus primarily on maintaining your immigration status as a Clemson University student. We will provide important information on course requirements, synchronous vs. asynchronous course enrollment, work authorization opportunities, timelines, etc.

Please mark your calendar to attend Orientation on **Tuesday, January 9, 2024, from 1-3 pm in G-33 Jordan Hall**. If you are a new student, not enrolled on Clemson's main campus, we will provide you with a recording of Orientation after January 9.

Graduate School and Undergraduate Studies Orientation

Undergraduate and graduate students are required to attend separate orientations in addition to the international student orientation. Additional information and sign-up details can be found [here](#).

VPN Access

It is extremely important that you have access to the [iStart Portal](#) as an international student at Clemson University. International Services uses iStart to review and complete your immigration requests, and you must use iStart to complete the required SEVIS check-in, update your immigration record, request employment authorization like CPT and OPT, etc.

If you are off-campus and need to login to iStart, you must follow Clemson's Computing and Information Technology (CCIT) instructions on accessing Clemson's [Virtual Private Network](#) (VPN). Once you have accessed the VPN, you can then open iStart. If you cannot access the VPN, please contact [CCIT](#) for assistance.

SEVIS Check-in through the iStart Portal

One of the first items to take care of when you arrive in the U.S. is to complete your SEVIS Check-In using the [iStart Portal](#). Please note the following:

- SEVIS Check-In cannot be completed prior to your arrival in the U.S.
- SEVIS Check-In is of utmost importance if you are a new Graduate Assistant (GA) and need to apply for a social security number (SSN) to begin your GA position. If you delay completing your SEVIS Check-In, it will delay your applying for and receiving an SSN.
- SEVIS Check-In is done through the iStart Portal and does not require you to come in person to International Services.
- To complete your SEVIS Check-In from off-campus, you must first access Clemson's VPN and then access iStart, or you will be unable to open iStart.
- Information on how to complete your SEVIS Check-In can be found [here](#).

Applying for a Social Security Number (SSN) at the Social Security Administration (SSA)

To receive a stipend for a GA position or to be paid for on-campus employment, international students must have an SSN. Applying for and receiving an SSN can be an issue for new students arriving on campus for the first time who need to begin receiving their GA stipend. Information on applying for an SSN can be found [here](#) along with helpful tips below:

- Complete your SEVIS Check-In immediately upon arrival in the U.S.
- If you have an SSN issued by the Social Security Administration (SSA), you do not need to apply for a new SSN. Once issued, an SSN does not expire or need to be renewed.
- You are required to apply in person for an SSN at a local SSA office. There are SSA offices in Anderson, Greenville, Charleston, and [other cities throughout SC](#).
- You must take the documents listed [here](#) to the SSA to apply in person for your SSN.

Graduate Assistants - Employment Eligibility

Additional information on employment as a Graduate Assistant at Clemson can be found [here](#).

New Student Checklist and Submitting Final Transcripts to the Graduate School

Helpful information for all newly accepted graduate students can be found [here](#).

Graduate Admissions accepts unofficial transcripts during the admission process, but official transcripts are required of admitted applicants who intend to enroll at Clemson. Final official transcripts are transcripts sent directly to Clemson University's Graduate Admissions Office from the issuing institution. Helpful information concerning the submission of final official transcripts can be found [here](#) or by contacting [Graduate Admissions](#).

Submitting Final Transcripts to Undergraduate Admissions

Clemson University requires first-year undergraduate applicants to self-report their high school transcripts. Students who are admitted to Clemson will be required to send official transcripts before enrolling in classes. After submitting your application, a link to the SRAR system will be available in your [Applicant Portal](#). Additional information on International Undergraduate Admissions can be found [here](#).

TigerOne ID Services

The TigerOne ID is the official Clemson University ID for students, faculty, staff, etc. As its name implies, the TigerOne ID is your one-stop shop for campus identification, access, purchasing, and more. The TigerOne ID is the key to accessing buildings on-campus, checking out materials from the Cooper Library, printing, CCIT computer support services, etc.

As the official University ID, TigerOne ID is an identity tool for the safety and security of our campus. It should always be in your possession and presented to any University official upon request. The TigerOne ID is nontransferable and should not be altered in any way.

You can request a physical card. However, the TigerOne ID can also be linked to your Apple and Android devices for easy access. Before downloading the digital TigerOne ID, please check your device compatibility. Information on the TigerOne ID can be found [here](#). If you have any issues with your ID, please contact [TigerOne](#).

MyClemson App

The [MyClemson App](#) makes connecting with Clemson easy. You can download this app on your smartphone, tablet, or computer. It provides access to campus maps, transit schedules, safety, academic information, etc. We recommend downloading it [here](#).

CU Safe Alert and Rave Guardian App

Clemson University is committed to providing a safe campus environment. [CU Public Safety](#) provides safety information. To help you feel secure in your new environment, Clemson provides CU Safe Alerts, which are text messages and emails sent to notify faculty, staff, and students during campus emergencies and disruptions. We recommend signing up to receive CU Safe Alerts [here](#).

The [Rave Guardian App](#) is a free app that turns your smartphone into a personal safety device that allows you to connect with friends who can virtually walk with you on or off campus. You can learn more about the Rave Guardian App and download it [here](#).

We hope you find the information above useful and helpful. If you have any questions regarding the information above, please [contact us](#). We are available to assist you via phone, email, or by scheduling an appointment with an immigration advisor [here](#). Once again, the International Services Team is very excited to meet you and welcome you to Clemson University!

We will be sending more helpful information next week!

Take care,

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