



Incoming 1:1 Exchange Student – Estimated Semester Expenses

Estimated cost of living based on J-visa student information from Auburn University International Student and Scholar Services.

Initial University Charges:

(MANDATORY one-time charges)

	Fall 2018	
	Undergraduate	Graduate
Tuition	No Charge at AU	No Charge at AU
Mandatory Health Insurance (per semester)	\$996	\$996
Tiger Card Fee (student ID card)	\$25	\$25
Per AU policy, mandatory AU dining fee for <i>undergraduate students</i> living off campus. This covers on-campus meals and snacks.	\$300	N/A
NOTE: Students charged TOTAL of \$300 for semester.		

Estimated one-time expenses (books, school supplies, apartment materials) \$250 \$250

Estimated Monthly Living Expenses:

(per month charges)

	Fall 2018	
	Undergraduate	Graduate
Housing	\$400-\$775	
Meals – on own (lower cost if shop for groceries and cook own meals, higher if eat out a lot)	\$400-\$650	
Utilities (water, gas, electric) – may be included but if not:	\$0-\$110	
Miscellaneous	\$120	
Range of Monthly Expenses	\$920-\$1655	

*All figures above are estimates of cost and may be subject to change. Does not include travel expenses.



Incoming 1:1 Exchange Student – Frequently Asked Questions

Please review the following information in preparation for your term at Auburn University. If your question is not listed, email your contact in the Auburn University Office of International Programs.

Application/Enrollment/Arrival

1) DS-2019, Certificate of Eligibility for J-1 Status, and J-1: What do these terms mean?

Upon acceptance as an exchange student at Auburn University, you will complete an application for an official DS-2019 form, which is also called a Certificate of Eligibility for J-1 Status. This application is submitted to the AU Office of International Programs, who then issues an official document to be taken to the visa appointment at the U.S. Embassy or Consulate. J-1 refers to the type of visa for which you will apply. An email with details about scheduling a visa appointment is sent to all applicants after the issuance of the official DS-2019 form.

2) The DS-2019 application asks for a financial statement showing funds to cover my expenses while in the United States. What type of document is acceptable? Also, do I have to pay this amount when I submit my DS-2019 application?

This can be a bank statement or letter (for your account or that of your parents), a scholarship award letter, or a combination of these that shows the total amount requested on the DS-2019 application. (Further details are available on page 5 of the DS-2019 application.) You do not have to submit a payment of this amount when applying for the DS-2019 form. The statement simply serves to show that you have funds to cover your expenses while in the U.S. (such as accommodation, meals, mandatory health insurance, etc.).

3) At which airport should I arrive? Will someone be there to meet me?

We recommend arriving at the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. Located in Atlanta, Georgia, it is a major international hub and is only 1.5 hours driving distance from Auburn. We will not meet you at the airport but do provide information on what transportation options are available to bring you to Auburn. We will pick you up once you arrive in Auburn and take you to your accommodation.

4) On what date should I arrive? When should I depart?

Recommended arrival and departure dates vary each term and will be sent to you. Please be sure to arrive on the date(s) specified – many restaurants, businesses, and transportation options are closed or offer very limited service before classes begin. Arrival and departure dates can also be affected by your chosen accommodation. NOTE: It is recommended that you secure your visa before booking flights.

5) I read something about a health insurance requirement. Do I need to purchase insurance before arrival?

No, you do not need to purchase insurance prior to arrival at Auburn University. All J-1 students are required to participate in the Auburn University Group Health Insurance plan. This policy provides health care coverage while the student is in the United States and is provided by United Healthcare Student Resources. (For more information, visit <http://www.auburn.edu/academic/international/issr/insurance>.) The fee for this coverage is charged to your student account at Auburn.

6) What if I am already covered by insurance from my home country? Do I have to pay for the AU insurance?

Enrollment in the AU international student insurance is required unless a waiver form is received and approved. The waiver form must be completed in its entirety by you and by your home insurance company. No other form of documentation can be accepted (e.g., certificate of coverage). To be approved, the waiver must show that your home insurance coverage is equal to or greater than the insurance offered by Auburn. There is no guarantee the waiver will be approved. *Please note: Former exchange students have advised accepting the AU insurance because of problems they had with their home insurance not being accepted at medical facilities here in Auburn. The healthcare system in the United States is quite different than what you may have in your home country.*

7) Can I work/have a job while studying at Auburn University?

J-1 visa holders cannot work at off-campus locations but may hold on-campus jobs with a limit to the number hours worked per week. Keep in mind that on-campus jobs fill quickly and may be limited. (NOTE: This is subject to change without notice. If you are interested in working, please verify this information with your Auburn immigration advisor upon arrival on campus.)

8) What types of accommodation are available? Can I live on campus?

Information regarding accommodation will be sent to you upon issuance of your DS-2019 form. Currently, on-campus housing is extremely limited and may not be available to incoming international exchange students. While the location of on-campus allows students to walk virtually everywhere, there are additional regulations for living in the residence halls (limitations on overnight visitors, more expensive required meal plan, no alcohol allowed, etc.). If interested in on-campus housing, you can inquire after your exchange application has been accepted.

9) How do I enroll in classes? Where can I find a list of what is available during my term at Auburn University?

This process varies depending on the Auburn University college or department in which you will be enrolled. Typically, more detailed information regarding classes will be sent to you after the issuance of your DS-2019 form, but some faculty advisors may contact you sooner.

Auburn University and the City of Auburn

1) What transportation options are available at the University and in the City of Auburn?

Several options are available to help you get where you need to go. The primary bus system is called “Tiger Transit” and is free to all students with their student ID card. These routes run from multiple locations throughout the city and bring passengers to campus. Also available are the “Tiger Ten” (a free night service on the weekends from downtown to various off-campus locations), the “AU Public Safety Night Security Shuttle” (a free option that transports passengers from one on-campus location to any other on-campus location), and “Tiger Taxi” (a local taxi service). Detailed information will be provided upon arrival.

It is important to note that some of these services do not begin until the first day of classes for the term, which is why we recommend not arriving prior to the arrival dates provided to you.

2) What is a Tiger Card, and how/when do I get one? How is it different from an Ignited Card?

Tiger Cards are the Auburn University student ID cards. You will be taken upon arrival to have one made. Keep this with you at all times – it gives you access to Tiger Transit, the Campus Recreation and Wellness Center,

dining funds (see “dining fee” below), and many other services on campus. Do not lose this card – you will be charged a fee to replace it!

An Ignited Card is needed for access to University sporting events. These can be obtained from the Ticket Office in the Auburn University Arena.

3) What is the “dining fee,” how do I pay it, and how do I use it?

The dining fee is a mandatory fee charged to all undergraduate students enrolled at Auburn University. It is \$300 per semester and is charged to your student account (“eBill”) when you arrive. You pay the charge on your eBill, and \$300 is then added to your Tiger Card for you to use like a debit card at any on-campus dining facility.

Students classified as graduate-level are not charged this fee, but they can add money to their Tiger Card if they wish.

4) How can I access my Auburn email account?

Your Auburn email account will be activated after you arrive. It is very important to check this account at least once per day while on campus – professors, student activities, billing, the Office of International Programs, and others will all contact you at this email address, and you may miss something important if left unchecked.

5) Canvas, Tigeri, and eBill: What’s the difference?

Canvas is an online system used by some professors to post and receive assignments and send messages to the entire class.

Tigeri is the portal to your student account – you can look up your class schedule, gain access to your email account, link to your eBill, and much more. You cannot access this until after you’ve activated your Auburn email account.

eBill refers to the online record of all charges sent to your student account. You can view an itemized list of charges and will be able to pay any fees online through this system.

6) Where can go if I get sick or need to see a physician?

The Auburn University Medical Clinic is located on campus and offers a variety of services. You should seek care at this clinic first as outlined by the student health insurance in which you will be enrolled. More information on the clinic can be found at <https://cws.auburn.edu/aumc>.

7) What if I need to open an American bank account and/or buy an American cell phone/SIM card?

Information on opening a bank account or obtaining an American phone number will be provided once you arrive in Auburn.

8) What’s the weather like in Auburn?

In general, winters are mild, spring and autumn are pleasant, and summer is long, hot, and humid. Rain can be common, so it is recommended to bring or buy an umbrella and/or rain jacket. It’s also always a good idea to check the forecast frequently because temperatures and precipitation can vary widely from one day to the next.

9) Will I have access to recreation and sports facilities?

All students classified as undergraduates have free access to the Auburn University Recreation and Wellness Center, a cutting-edge facility with ball courts, cardiovascular machines, weight machines, pools, a climbing wall, an indoor track, group fitness classes, and more. There are also intramural and club sports teams you can join. You only need to show your Tiger Card to enter.

Students classified as graduates can pay a fee to access the facility.

If you are unsure how you will be classified while at Auburn, you can ask your contact in the Office of International Programs.

10) How can I get involved on campus?

There are hundreds of student organizations, club sports, and other activities you can join if interested. At the beginning of each semester, Organization Days takes place on Haley Concourse and is an opportunity to visit tables set up by different organizations to learn more about them. Additionally, you can visit http://www.auburn.edu/student_info/student_affairs/studentaffairs to find out more about the options available.

11) I've heard the American football games at Auburn University are an experience not to be missed – can I get tickets?

Student tickets are available for purchase based on seniority (meaning higher level students receive first pick), and they typically sell out far in advance of the beginning of the season. It is also possible to buy tickets from other students who cannot attend a game, usually a week or so before. You can ask for more information about ticket purchases upon arrival if this is of interest to you.

12) Where can I go for groceries/clothing/necessities/etc.?

Tiger Transit runs shuttles to Walmart and Tiger Town a few times a month. Walmart is closer to campus and a good option for everyday items – they stock virtually anything you may need. Tiger Town is an outdoor shopping center with restaurants, clothing stores, a grocery store (Kroger), and other stores selling miscellaneous goods.

Tiger Transit also runs to Village Mall, an indoor shopping facility with fast food restaurants and clothing stores.

Kroger and Publix are two popular grocery stores located in Auburn, but you will need to take a taxi to and from these locations as Tiger Transit does not have service to them.

13) I plan to travel while I'm studying at Auburn University – is that okay?

Absolutely! However, if you plan to travel internationally for any reason, you MUST check in with your Auburn immigration advisor. Failure to do so may result in an inability to re-enter the United States.