The Office for International Programs staff advises international students and scholars on matters pertaining to their non-immigrant status. We offer a wide range of programs and support services to more than 750 international scholars, students, staff, and faculty at Loyola University Chicago. Our office works with Loyola’s international community in advising, immigration policies, educational and community affairs, and outreach.

About Loyola University Chicago

Loyola University is a private, urban university with five campuses and more than 150 undergraduate and graduate degree programs. Founded by Jesuits in 1870, today the university is home to 16,000 students from a wide range of religious, ethnic, and economic backgrounds. Loyola has a strong connection to the city of Chicago, evidenced by the many community- and service-based initiatives that directly benefit both the city and the Loyola student body.

Loyola's Lakeshore Campus (LSC) is home to the College of Arts and Sciences, the Graduate School, and the School of Nursing. About 2,100 students live on the Lakeshore Campus, where they can easily access the university's main library, sports center and worship spaces. The surrounding neighborhood, Rogers Park, is an ethnically diverse residential neighborhood on Chicago's far north side—it has 63,000 inhabitants who speak a collective 80 languages. The multicultural and international character of Rogers Park is evident in the variety of local restaurants, shops, and cultural institutions.

The Water Tower Campus (WTC) is home to the Schools of Business Administration, Education, Law, Professional Studies and Social Work, and to selected programs of the College of Arts and Sciences. The Major buildings include Lewis Towers, Maguire Hall and the 25 E. Pearson Building. Downtown Chicago bustles outside the doors of the Water Tower Campus, located just off North Michigan Avenue's "Magnificent Mile." The downtown campus keeps the Loyola community strongly tied to Chicago's thriving business community and cultural traditions.
The Office for International Programs is open Monday–Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Advising Walk-in hours are: Monday–Wednesday from 1:00–4:00 p.m.

If you are unable to come during walk-in hours, please email iss@luc.edu to schedule an appointment.

Meet our International Student and Scholars Staff!

**Tami Renner**  
Assistant Director, International Student & Scholars, PDSO, RO.  
trenner@luc.edu, Sullivan Center 206

**Marian Carlson**  
International Student Advisor  
mcarl2@luc.edu, Corboy Law Center 808

**Jennelle Dronkers**  
International Student Advisor  
jdronkers@luc.edu, Sullivan Center 206
Get involved at LUC!

Student Organizations

Loyola offers more than 100 student groups, which include the following types of organizations:

- International Student Organizations
- Academic/Honorary
- Club Sports/Athletics Cultural/Ethnic
- Government/Programming Boards
- Greek Affairs (Fraternities and Sororities)
- Hobby/Special Interest
- Media
- Political/Social Issues
- Service/Spiritual

For a complete list of activities, visit Loyola’s activities page.
Students are welcome to use the Loyola Wellness Center as often as necessary to maintain or improve their health. Students are required to make an appointment beforehand. For information on the services provided by the wellness center visit, http://www.luc.edu/wellness/

The Wellness Center is located at: 6439 N. Sheridan Rd., Suite 311 Chicago, IL 60626 Telephone: 773-508-2530 Fax: 773-508-8790

**Health care** in the United States can be very expensive if you do not carry adequate health insurance. The U.S. uses a privatized system, so individuals and families are responsible for making their own health insurance arrangements. Loyola assesses a fee automatically for insurance on your student bill, but you can opt out of this program if you carry your own healthcare plan.

If you have your own insurance you should waive Loyola’s plan as soon as you arrive so you do not miss the deadline. Uninsured people risk extremely high medical bills that can have devastating financial consequences. For more information about Loyola University Chicago’s insurance place, visit http://www.luc.edu/bursar/insurance.shtml

Immunizations

Proof of immunity is an Illinois state requirement. All Loyola students must complete the two-step process to verify proof of immunity. Incomplete immunization information will block access to registering or changing classes. (Please fill out the Immunization form as part of application packet, which can be found at www.luc.edu/regrec/immunization.pdf).

For more information on immunizations, please visit Loyola’s Wellness Center website.

For more information on immunizations, please visit Loyola University Chicago’s Wellness Center website at http://www.luc.edu/wellness/
Finances

You will need to carefully plan your budget before arriving at Loyola University Chicago. As wire transfers can sometimes take weeks or even months, you will need to bring sufficient funds to cover your initial school supplies and other expenses. However, you should not carry large amounts of cash. **Traveler’s checks** are a far more convenient and secure way to transport larger amounts of money. Once you arrive, you can open a local bank account to facilitate day to day transactions. If you bring a bank draft from your country to open an account you may not withdraw funds from the account until the check has been approved for collection. Since this process usually takes about 10 to 15 days, do **not** rely on a bank draft for immediate cash. **Chase, Bank of America, and Harris** are some of the larger banks in the area that have many automatic teller machine (ATM) locations throughout the city. You can use these **ATM’s** to access your bank at home although there is usually an additional fee for each usage. You should research your bank’s policies before leaving so you are not surprised by additional charges later. Be sure to keep an eye on your checking account balance as you may be charged an overdraft fee.

While many **landlords** and utility companies provide an online payment option, there are still some companies that require you to use actual checks to pay for services. Below is a diagram of how to **write a check** if you have not had experience with it in the past.

In order to open a **bank account** you do not need a social security number but you may need to go through a few extra steps as an international student. You will need to bring your **passport** with your visa stamp, a **second form of I.D.**, such as a credit card or student I.D., verification of your address, and a letter from OIP verifying your status as an international student. You will also need to bring at least a portion of the funds you wish to deposit. You do **not** need to bring the entire amount but usually there is a minimum opening balance of around $100 USD.
Welcome to Chicago!

Chicago is the third largest city in the United States. Despite its large size, you will find it very manageable. Chicago is a city of many diverse neighborhoods that have been built and developed according to their unique histories and ethnic backgrounds. To the east, Chicago stretches 29 miles along the coast of Lake Michigan, one of the five Great Lakes. In the summer, the beaches are filled with people and boats set sail. The heart of Chicago is called the "Loop", due to the looped formation of the elevated metro system ("the El"). This part of the city contains its financial district and some of the world's largest buildings and famous cultural institutions. You will have many opportunities to explore Chicago's diversity in people, architecture, cuisine, and more.

Chicago has four distinct seasons, all of which require different types of clothing. You will be arriving at the end of summer, typically a pleasant time of year, although it can get as hot as 100ºF (37ºC) and humid. Fall (autumn) days are cool and often rainy. Winter temperatures can dip below 0ºF or lower especially with the wind off of Lake Michigan. January is the coldest month in Chicago, which you will be able to avoid if you go home during winter break. Winter is very long and it is very important to have adequate clothing to keep warm. You should invest in a warm winter coat, hat, and gloves.

Resources
For more information, visit Explore Chicago.

For events around the city, go to the Chicago Reader.

For the latest on what’s going on around the city, go to Metro Mix.

For information about public transportation in Chicago, go to Chicago Transit Authority (CTA)

For general information about Chicago, visit Loyola's options.

American University System & Customs
For more information on adjusting to American Culture and the American University System, click here.
How can I speak with an International Student Advisor?

Advising Walk In hours are:
Monday-Wednesday from 1:00-4:00 p.m.

If you are unable to come to come in during walk-in hours, please email your specific advisor to schedule an appointment by clicking on their name below.

Marian Carlson is at the downtown Water Tower Campus. If you are an F-1 student and your program department is located at the WTC please visit Marian at Corboy Law Center Rm. 808 during walk-in hours or email her to make an appointment.

Jennelle Dronkers is at the Lake Shore Campus in Rogers Park. If you are an F-1 student and your program department is located at the LSC please visit Jennelle in the Sullivan Center building, Room 206, during walk-in hours or email her to make an appointment.

Tami Renner is at the Lake Shore Campus in Rogers Park. If you are a J-1 student or scholar or if you have an H-1B visa, please visit Tami in the Sullivan Center building, Room 206, during walk-in hours or email her to make an appointment.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I obtain a Visa:
http://www.luc.edu/iss/outside.shtml

How do I obtain an Illinois Driver’s License?
http://luc.edu/iss/obtaininganillinoisdriverslicense/

How do I obtain a Social Security Number?
http://luc.edu/iss/obtainingasocialsecuritycard/

What do I need to do if I am traveling to another country?
http://luc.edu/iss/travelinstructions/

How can I open a U.S. bank account:
http://luc.edu/iss/openingausbankaccount/

How can I work in the United States?
http://luc.edu/iss/studentemployment/
Glossary of Useful College Terms

**Academic Advisor:** A faculty member who guides a student in his/her course selection.

**Academic Year:** The period of time during which formal instruction is offered, lasting from September to May. The period from June through August is not generally considered part of the academic year, even if summer sessions are held.

**Alumni:** Those who have graduated from an institution.

**Audio-Visual (AV):** Equipment like tape recorders and film or slide projectors can be borrowed from this department.

**Audit:** To attend a course for purposes of attaining information only and not to receive a grade. No credit is given for an audit. Consult the college catalog for the procedures to follow to register for an audit.

**Bachelor’s Degree:** A degree awarded by a four year college or university.

**Bursar:** The person to whom a student pays tuition and fees.

**(Academic) Calendar:** The formal schedule of academic year events which includes examination periods, registration periods, and school holidays.

**Call Number:** The code on each library book that separates the books by field.

**Campus:** The physical grounds and buildings of the institution.

**Career Development Center:** The CDC helps students and alumni find employment and graduate schools. They also have a resource library which is available to anyone.

**Catalog:** A book describing an institution’s courses, regulations, fees, tuition, faculty, location, entrance and other academic requirements, scholarship and financial aid information.

**Class:** This word has several definitions. It can refer to a course of instruction (i.e. English class); it can refer to a group of students taking a particular course together (i.e. a class of English students); or it can mean all the students who are in the same year of study (i.e. the first year class).

**Commencement:** The ceremonies held upon completion of a student’s studies. Also called graduation.

**Conditional Admission:** Colleges might accept some students who do not meet admission standards on the condition that they meet those standards soon after they enroll (for example, students may be told they need to attain a higher level of English proficiency).

**Counselor:** Professional psychologist trained to serve persons experiencing academic, interpersonal or psychological problems. Free and confidential, consultations are available at the Counseling Office, located in the Health & Wellness Center.
**Credit:** A unit (generally numerical) given to students who have successfully completed a course.

**Curriculum:** The course of study offered.

**Dean of Students:** The Dean, Jane Neufeld, is responsible for student affairs at the university.

**Dormitory (Dorm) or Residence Hall:** A building on campus used to house students.

**Drop/Add:** Dropping a class or changing classes during the term. See the luc.edu website for specific information regarding drop/add procedures.

**Elective:** A course students may choose to take which is not part of the required curriculum.

**Faculty:** The group of professors and instructors who make up the teaching staff of an institution.

**Freshman or First Year Student:** An undergraduate student in his/her first full academic year. May also be used to classify a student in the first year of high school.

**Full Course Load:** The minimum number of courses a student must take to be considered a full-time student.

**Grade:** Grade refers to the letter given to evaluate a student's performance on an assignment, examination, or the entire course.

**Grade-Point Average:** An average grade (numerical) which is derived from a formula which takes into account grades received and the number of credit hours for each course taken.

**Graduate:** Graduate can refer to the level of study beyond the baccalaureate. Graduate can also refer to a person who has successfully completed high school or college. Finally, graduate may be used as a verb to describe the act of receiving a high school or college diploma.

**Health & Wellness Center:** Medical assistance and a variety of wellness resources are available at the Health & Wellness Center.

**Humanities:** The branch of learning which constitutes the backbone of the liberal arts education. The Humanities include languages, history, literature, and philosophy.

**Iggy’s List:** a Loyola student classifieds website with postings for students looking for roommates, apartments, furniture, employment, etc.

**Junior:** An undergraduate student in his/her third full year of college. May also be used to classify a student in the third year of high school.
**Loan(s):** Money borrowed but required to be repaid within a specific time period.

**LOCUS:** Online system to help Loyola students manage their academic and financial information. This is where you can search for classes, enroll, view your grades, order transcripts, and apply for graduation.

**Student Government:** represents the student body when the administration makes decisions.

**Major:** The field or subject which a student has chosen as his or her principal area of study, i.e. mathematics, economics, anthropology, biology, art, French. Students may have more than one major.

**Minor:** A subject or field which a student has chosen as an area of study secondary to his/her major.

**Orientation:** A period in which students are introduced to the college, its programs, and its facilities.

**“PC” (Politically Correct):** a term for popular social, political or educational thought; often used to characterize terms deemed culturally appropriate to describe a group of people

**Prerequisite:** A course which a student must complete before being permitted to enroll in another course.

**Provost:** The person in charge of academic affairs.

**Quiz:** Short test, sometimes given without advance notice.

**Registrar:** The person at the college or university who is responsible for student enrollment (and academic) records. **Registration:** The process of choosing a program of courses for the semester and having it approved that occurs each term.

**Requirements:** Courses that must be taken in order to graduate with a particular major or degree.

**Reserve:** When a book is on reserve, it means that the book cannot be removed from the Library, and generally can only be borrowed for a short period of time. This is usually done when the library has only a few copies of a book that is required reading for a particular course.

**Resident Assistant:** A student who lives in the residence hall and is available to help residents (R.A.): with living arrangements and other school-related questions.

**RSVP:** This term, meaning please respond, is often listed on invitations. Tell the host/hostess if you can or cannot attend the event, so they can prepare for it adequately.
**Scholarship:** Also called a grant; this money does not have to be repaid (loans must be repaid). Scholarships for international students are generally based on financial need as well as academic merit.

**Semester:** One of the two terms (grading periods) in an academic year. A semester usually lasts from thirteen to fifteen weeks.

**Senior:** An undergraduate student is his/her fourth full year of college. Can also be used to designate a student in the last year of high school.

**Social Security Number (SSN):** A number assigned by the United States government to U.S. citizens. This number is also required for all international students who wish to work in the U.S. Many application forms request that students list their SSN or SS card, which may then become a form of a student identification number.

**Sophomore:** An undergraduate student in his/her second full academic year. Can also be used to designate a student in the second year of high school.

**Syllabus:** A course outline prepared for students by the professor.

**Take-Home Exam:** These are like homework; students are given a question or a number of questions to answer within a specific number of days. To justify the length of time afforded, a high quality of work is expected. As with term papers, all non-original sources and material used or referred to should be acknowledged in footnotes/citations and a bibliography.

**TOEFL:** Acronym for Test of English as a Foreign Language. Grades from this test are very often used to determine the admissibility of international students or the level at which the students should be placed in English-language courses.

**Transcript:** The official record of a student's courses and grades. Students may request copies from the Registrar's Office.

**Tuition:** The cost of the academic program undertaken. Tuition must be paid before each term or for a full academic year.

**Tutor:** A private teacher who assists students outside normal classroom periods.

**Undergraduate:** The general definition is that of a college student aiming to complete a bachelor's degree.

**Withdrawal:** Exiting a class before the end of the term.

**Zip Code:** A five- or nine-digit number used in an address when sending mail to or within the U.S. This number aids the post office in delivering mail.