Welcome to Georgia Tech!
Fall 2021
Pre-Arrival Webinar
OIE International Welcome Series

https://oie.gatech.edu/isss/welcome-series

- OIE’s Welcome Series is designed to offer various immigration, informational, and social events for your interest!
- Attendance is strongly encouraged
- **OIE Info Session:** July 27, 8:00-9:00 a.m. EDT
Welcome to our Pre-Arrival Webinar for new students!

We will cover:

• International Student Check-In
  ▪ Prior to Arrival
  ▪ Upon Arrival
  ▪ Getting Your Hold Removed
• Arriving in Atlanta & Getting to GT
• First Days at GT
• Q & A (immediately after the webinar presentation)

Find information at https://oie.gatech.edu/ISSS_Pre-Arrival
International Student Check-In

- All virtual
- E-Forms available 7/24/2021

- Log-in to iStart: istart.gatech.edu
- Go to F/J Student Arrival and Check-in
- Select OIE Check-in Fall 2021
  - Complete Arrival Confirmation
  - Complete Immigration Regulations Acknowledgement
  - Complete Immigration Document Upload
International Student Check-In

Prior to Arrival to U.S.

• Log-in to iStart to access Check-in e-forms.
  (F/J Student Arrival and Check-In → OIE Check-In)

Arrival Confirmation – *Chose one of the following options:*

- Arrive in Atlanta to start my program at Georgia Tech
- Arrive to Atlanta this term to attend Georgia Tech but would like support with late arrival
- Start program remotely this term
- Start program at one of Georgia Tech's campuses outside the U.S.
- Will not start program this term and will defer admission
- Will not come to the Atlanta campus to attend Georgia Tech
International Student Check-In

After Arrival to U.S.

• Log-in to iStart to access Check-in e-forms.
  (F/J Student Arrival and Check-In → OIE Check-In)
• Immigration Regulations Acknowledgement
• Immigration Document Upload
International Student Check-In

Getting Your Hold Removed

✔ Complete all steps online. You do not need to come to OIE Office.

✔ After all required check-in e-forms have been submitted, an advisor will review your submission, activate your SEVIS record, and remove the OIE hold. You will receive email confirmation when your SEVIS record has been activated.

Your SEVIS record will not be activated until you complete OIE check-in after arrival to the U.S. You are required to complete this process within 30 days of the start of classes.
International Student Check-In
Troubleshooting

International Student Help Desk is available to help!

OIE Student Assistants can help answer Check-In questions. More information will be posted soon at https://oie.gatech.edu/isss.

Troubleshooting tips are available at https://oie.gatech.edu/isss/istart-help.
If you have any challenges with completing the International Student Check-In process, please try the following:
• Make sure the file you are uploading is a PDF or JPEG file
• Make sure the file size of the PDF or JPEG is under 1 MB
• Upload the PDF or JPEG file using a different browser
• Upload the PDF or JPEG file using a different computer
• If you are still having trouble after completing the above steps please email us at info@oie.gatech.edu

For support with IT or Georgia Tech account issues, please contact OIT
OIE Video Series
http://oie.gatech.edu/video_series

• Created to help international students prepare for life at GT and in the U.S.
• Included videos
  ▪ Arriving in the U.S.
  ▪ Academic Transitions: Successful Interactions with Faculty & Staff, Academic Expectations, A Student’s Role in the U.S. Classroom
  ▪ Cultural Transitions
  ▪ Safety in the U.S.
  ▪ Health insurance in the U.S.
  ▪ GT Videos
  ▪ Community organizations
Covid-19 Safety
https://health.gatech.edu/coronavirus/health-information

Covid-19 Vaccines
• Highly encouraged, not mandatory
• Available for free on campus

Covid-19 Testing
• Available for free on campus
Health & Safety Guidance After International Travel

Before Arrival to the U.S.

• All Air Passengers Arriving in the U.S. are required to show Proof of Negative COVID-19 Test or Recovery from COVID-19

After Arrival to the U.S.

If you are fully vaccinated:

Get tested for Covid-19 within 3-5 days after arrival in the U.S. Monitor for symptoms of Covid-19 and get evaluated if you develop symptoms.

Note: In general, people are considered fully vaccinated:
2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or
2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen vaccine.
Health & Safety Guidance After International Travel

After Arrival to the U.S.

If you are not fully vaccinated:
- Get tested for Covid-19 within 3-5 days after arrival in the U.S.
- **Self-isolate for 7 days.** Note that the CDC recommends you stay isolated for the full 7 days, even if your test results are negative.

- **Self-isolate for 10 days** if you cannot get tested. Monitor for symptoms of Covid-19 and get evaluated if you develop symptoms.

Check [https://health.gatech.edu/coronavirus/testing](https://health.gatech.edu/coronavirus/testing) for campus testing hours, locations, and options for Georgia Tech’s free surveillance testing programs.
Health & Safety Guidance After International Travel

If you have received a vaccination on the World Health Organization (WHO) approved list, the CDC does not recommend that you receive an additional vaccine from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorized list. However, individuals who have not yet received vaccinations on the FDA or WHO lists are strongly encouraged to get a FDA authorized vaccination once they arrive on the Georgia Tech campus. These individuals should work with a medical professional to understand the best vaccine option for them and can do so by scheduling an appointment at Georgia Tech’s vaccine clinic.

Students may make a vaccination appointment by visiting https://mytest.gatech.edu and using these instructions: https://health.gatech.edu/coronavirus/vaccine/appointments.

Visit the CDC site for recommendations before and after international travel as well as considerations before domestic travel. Do be aware that public health guidance is subject to change.
• Tech Moving Forward: https://health.gatech.edu/tech-moving-forward

• Find the latest updates regarding Covid-19 Vaccines, Testing and Quarantine guidance
Arriving in Atlanta

- **Documents Required to Enter the U.S.**
  - I-20 or DS-2019
  - Valid Passport
  - Valid U.S. Visa
  - Copy of I-901 SEVIS Fee Receipt (strongly recommended)
  - *Pro tip!* Carry these documents on-board with you. Do not pack in luggage.

- **You will be issued an electronic I-94 record upon entry into the U.S.**
  - Find your electronic I-94 record at [cbp.gov/i94](http://cbp.gov/i94)
  - You will upload your electronic I-94 record as part of international student check-in

Customs and Border Protection Video available on OIE website: [http://oie.gatech.edu/video_series](http://oie.gatech.edu/video_series)
Getting to GT from the Airport

- GT is located in Midtown Atlanta: 12 miles north of the airport

**Transportation to Georgia Tech**

**Taxi:**
- Available outside baggage claim at airport
- Typically a flat rate of $32, but may differ a bit
- Before putting luggage inside, agree upon how price will be determined (meter or flat rate)

**MARTA:** [http://www.itsmarta.com/](http://www.itsmarta.com/)
- Follow signs at baggage claim
- Purchase a Breeze Card: re-loadable card that you can use again
- Card is $2 plus additional fare for trip ($2.50)
- Closest stops to GT: North Avenue and Midtown

*Uber and Lyft is available if you download the app!*
First Days at Georgia Tech

Orientation

- **Undergraduate students**: FASET - https://transitionprograms.gatech.edu/content/faset-orientation

- **Graduate students**: Graduate Orientation and Academic Department orientations - http://www.gradadmiss.gatech.edu/orientation-gradexpo
  - GradHiring - https://hr.gatech.edu/gradhiring

- **OIE’s Welcome Series** - https://oie.gatech.edu/welcome/sessions

Getting a Buzzcard (GT identification)

- Used to enter buildings, check out books from library, use your meal plan, etc.

- After you have confirmed your acceptance to Georgia Tech, you are eligible for a BuzzCard.
  - Submit your Buzzcard photo online. Contact the BuzzCard Center for BuzzCard pick-up instructions: https://buzzcard.gatech.edu
Additional Information

Public Transportation on and around Campus
- MARTA around Atlanta: [www.itsmarta.com](http://www.itsmarta.com)
- GT has multiple transportation services and parking available on campus: [http://pts.gatech.edu](http://pts.gatech.edu)

Health Insurance & Immunizations Requirements
- Automatically enrolled in the mandatory student health insurance. Students with comparable health insurance coverage can request a waiver to opt out.
- Student Health Insurance: [https://health.gatech.edu/finance/insurance](https://health.gatech.edu/finance/insurance)
- Immunization Requirements: [http://health.gatech.edu/immunization/requirements](http://health.gatech.edu/immunization/requirements)
Important Dates

First Official Day of Classes
Monday, August 23

Phase 2 Registration
August 14 – August 27 (4pm)

Tuition and Fees Payment deadline
Monday, August 30th at 4:00pm (www.bursar.gatech.edu)

School Holiday – GT will be closed
Monday, September 6th (Labor Day)

Find important dates at the Academic Calendar:
http://www.registrar.gatech.edu/calendar/
Important Scam Information

- Be aware of phone scams where callers claim to be from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), or Atlanta PD and threaten to have a person arrested or ask for money related to taxes or other allegations.

- These agencies will never call and demand immediate payment over the phone, ask for your credit card info or threaten to call the police or immigration authorities to have you arrested or deported.

- Remember these tips:
  - Always verify who you are speaking to.
  - Never give out your personal information.
  - If you feel the call is unexpected or suspicious—hang up and contact GT Police.

OIE Scam Information: [https://oie.gatech.edu/isss/scams-101](https://oie.gatech.edu/isss/scams-101)
Questions & Answers

• Sample topics for your questions
  ▪ International Student Check-In
  ▪ Preparing for Arrival
  ▪ Arriving in Atlanta
  ▪ Getting to GT
  ▪ First Days at GT

Example:
Is MARTA a safe option?

Additional Resources:
International Student Welcome & Resources:
https://oie.gatech.edu/isss/welcome-series
OIE Check-In: https://oie.gatech.edu/isss-check-in
Advising: https://oie.gatech.edu/isss_advising
Email: info@oie.gatech.edu
Follow us on Instagram: instagram.com/gt_isss