Welcome to Georgia Tech!
Spring 2022
Pre-Arrival Webinar

https://isss.oie.gatech.edu/
info@oie.gatech.edu
OIE International Welcome Series

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

- OIE’s Welcome Series is designed to offer various immigration and informational sessions
- Attendance is strongly encouraged
- We look forward to seeing you at our Spring Semester Welcome Party January 27th!
Webinar Agenda

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
• U.S. Travel Restrictions & Guidance
• Arriving in Atlanta & Getting to GT
• First Days at GT
• Q & A (immediately after the webinar presentation)

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

- All virtual (you do not need to come to OIE Office)
- E-Forms available 30 days prior to start of Spring Semester

- Log-in to iStart: istart.gatech.edu
- Go to F/J Student Arrival and Check-in
- Select OIE Check-In Spring 2022
  - Complete Arrival Confirmation (before arrival)
  - Complete Immigration Regulations Acknowledgement
  - Complete Immigration Document Upload (after arrival to U.S.)
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 – Choose 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
Arriving at U.S. Port of Entry

Documents Required to Enter the U.S.
- I-20 or DS-2019
- Valid Passport
- Valid F-1 or J-1 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. It may take 2-3 days to show up in the system.
- You will upload your electronic I-94 record as part of international student check-in. More info: https://isss.oie.gatech.edu/content/electronic-i-94-record
International Student Check-In

After Arrival to U.S.

- Log-in to iStart to access Check-in e-forms. Complete
  - Immigration Regulations Acknowledgement
  - Immigration Document Upload
- Upload copies of signed I-20 or DS-2019, U.S. visa and most recent I-94 record.
- Students who have transferred from another U.S. school with a SEVIS transfer are also required to upload a copy of their Travel History, available at CBP site [https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94](https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94)
- Provide a U.S. physical address and phone number
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://isss.oie.gatech.edu/.

Troubleshooting tips are available at https://isss.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.
U.S. Travel Requirements

Traveling to the U.S. from Abroad:

• Travel requirements for entering the United States have changed, effective Nov. 8, 2021. Additional guidance is now available regarding Covid-19 vaccination requirements for certain visa holders who travel to the United States after being abroad. You are encouraged to familiarize yourself with the requirements and guidance outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

• Nonimmigrant Air Passengers Arriving in the U.S. are required to show Proof of Negative COVID-19 Test or Recovery from COVID-19 and either documentation that they are fully vaccinated or documentation that supports an exception to the vaccine requirement. Entry requirements for those entering by land ports at the U.S. and Mexico border will also be enacted.

• Find out more about international travel and U.S. entry requirements and recommendations outlined by the CDC.
U.S. Travel Requirements & Guidance

If you are fully vaccinated:

- Get tested with a Covid-19 viral test no earlier than 3 days prior to travel.
- Travel with proof that you are fully vaccinated against Covid-19.

If you are not fully vaccinated:

- **Limited exceptions** apply to the vaccination requirement, so you may not be allowed to enter the U.S. Nonimmigrant children under the age of 18 are exempt from the vaccination requirement but must show proof of a negative Covid-19 test taken no earlier than 1 day in advance of travel.
- If you determine you are eligible for an exception, travel with supporting documentation and a viral test taken no earlier than 1 day prior to departure.

Prior to departure, please review the CDC website for the **most current guidance on entering the U.S.**

Visit the [CDC site](https://www.cdc.gov) 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.
U.S. Travel Requirements & Guidance

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 vaccine.

To be considered fully vaccinated, you must have received a vaccine that is FDA approved or authorized, or a vaccine that is listed by the World Health Organization (WHO) for emergency use.

If you don’t meet these requirements, regardless of your age, you are NOT fully vaccinated. Keep taking all **precautions** until you are fully vaccinated. Visit the CDC site for **additional considerations** if you have a condition or are taking medications that weaken your immune system.
U.S. Travel Requirements & Guidance

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.
- Avoid being around people who are at increased risk for severe illness for 14 days, whether you get tested or not.
- Monitor for symptoms of Covid-19 and get evaluated if you develop symptoms.

If you have received a vaccination on the WHO-approved list, the CDC does not recommend that you receive an additional vaccine from the FDA-authorized list. However, individuals who have not yet received vaccinations on the FDA or WHO lists are strongly encouraged to get an 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.
Covid-19 Vaccine & Testing Resources on Campus

https://health.gatech.edu/coronavirus/health-information

Covid-19 Vaccines

- Available for free on campus
- Students may make a vaccine appointment at mytest.gatech.edu using these instructions: health.gatech.edu/coronavirus/vaccine/appointments.

Covid-19 Testing

- Surveillance testing available for free on campus
- Check health.gatech.edu/coronavirus/testing for campus testing hours, locations, and options
• **Tech Moving Forward:**
  https://health.gatech.edu/tech-moving-forward

• Find the latest updates regarding Covid-19 Vaccines, Testing and Quarantine guidance
OIE Video Series
https://isss.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
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

**Ride Share:**
- Uber and Lyft are available if you have the app downloaded to your phone
- Be sure to verify the car, license plate and driver match the details given in the app before entering a car
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, access 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
Public Transportation on and around Campus

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

Health Insurance & Immunizations Requirements

- F-1 and J-1 students are 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, January 10

**Phase 2 Registration**
January 6 – January 14 (4pm)

**Tuition and Fees Payment deadline**
Tuesday, January 18 at 4:00pm ([www.bursar.gatech.edu](http://www.bursar.gatech.edu))

**School Holiday – GT will be closed**
Monday, January 17 (Martin Luther King, Jr. National Holiday)

Find important dates at the Academic Calendar: [http://www.registrar.gatech.edu/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/iss/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://isss.oie.gatech.edu/welcome-series
OIE Check-In: https://isss.oie.gatech.edu/isss-check-in
Advising: https://isss.oie.gatech.edu/content/isss-advising
Email: info@oie.gatech.edu
Follow us on Instagram: https://instagram.com/gt_isss