

Pre-Arrival Webinar Fall 2025

Welcome to Georgia Tech!



Office of
International Education

This webinar is being recorded. Both the recording and the slides will be available on our Welcome Series page within 5 business days of this event.



Georgia
Tech.

Webinar Agenda

- What is our focus today?
 - OIE Check-In
 - Traveling Considerations
 - Arriving to Atlanta & Settling In
 - Helpful Resources
 - Questions & Answers (Q&A)

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Session Guidelines

- This webinar is being recorded. Both the recording of this webinar and the slides will be available on our Welcome Series Event website within 5 business days of today.
- Please hold your questions until all information has been presented.
- Utilize the Q&A function at the bottom of your screen to ask your questions during the Q&A.
- Before posting your question, please review the other questions submitted. If you see your question asked, like the question.

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New Student Webpage

- Have you checked out our [New Student webpage](#)?
 - Find quick access to information and resources on the OIE Check-In, housing, transportation, BuzzCard, employment, student organizations, and much more.
 - Follow the [New International Student Checklist](#)
 - Review the [Campus Compass](#) for a comprehensive guide to Atlanta and settling in, including shopping, banks, driver's license, and safety tips.



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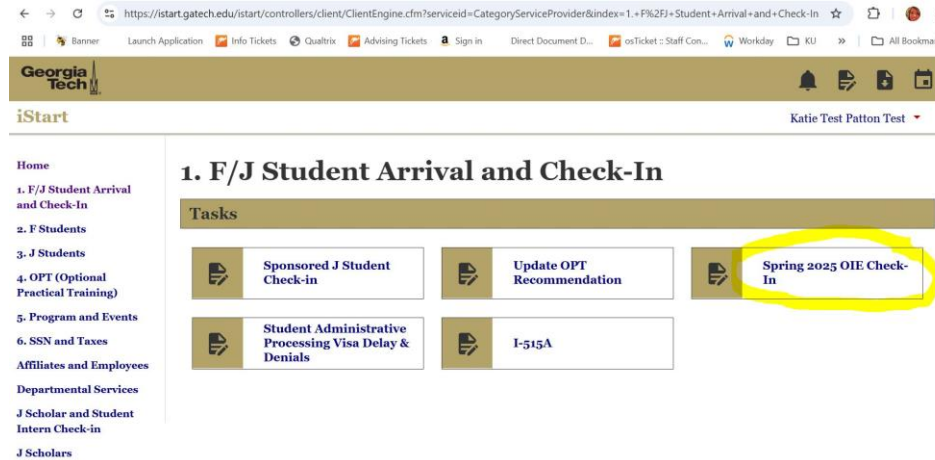
Why is OIE Check-In important?

- U.S. Federal Regulations require all international student visa holders to complete the OIE Check-In.
- The OIE Check-In e-forms for fall 2025 are live! They were published on July 14, 2025.
- Completed virtually in iStart – You are not required to visit OIE's office to complete your OIE Check-In.
- Changes your immigration record from “**Initial**” to “**Active**.”
 - Your record must be in “Active” status in order to apply for a [U.S. driver's license](#) and [Social Security Number](#).
- Failure to complete OIE Check-In will result in the termination of your immigration record. This means that you would be considered as out-of-status by the Department of Homeland Security and you would no longer be eligible for on-campus employment, practical training, travel signatures for re-entry to the U.S., or any other benefits of F-1 status.

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How do I complete my OIE Check-In?

1. Log into iStart (istart.gatech.edu)
2. Go to F/J Student Arrival and Check-In
3. Select Fall 2025 OIE Check-In
 - Arrival Confirmation (pre-arrival)
 - Immigration Regulations Acknowledgement (post-arrival)
 - Immigration Document Upload (post-arrival)



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OIE Check-In (pre-arrival)

- Submit the Arrival Confirmation e-form as soon as your plans are confirmed and no later than **August 15, 2025**.
 - Arriving in Atlanta to start my program at Georgia Tech by the start of classes.
 - I am still planning to come this semester but I am unable to arrive by the start of classes and need support with late arrival.
 - I'm not coming to Georgia Tech in Atlanta this term but I will in a future semester.
 - I no longer plan to attend the Georgia Tech Atlanta Campus.

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OIE Check-In (pre-arrival)

- Important reminders for those requesting support with Late Arrival:
 - If you plan to arrive late due to visa denials or administrative processing, please submit the "Student Administrative Processing Visa Delay" e-form within iStart.
 - After submitting your Arrival Confirmation e-form, the late arrival request will be sent to your academic department for review and approval or denial. Late arrival approval is not guaranteed and is subject to the academic program's permission.
 - Warning: Arriving late to the U.S. can result in delays with employment onboarding which may cause a delayed or decreased employment stipend payment.
 - If you are not able to arrive by the latest arrival date, you will need to speak to your department about your options to defer your attendance to a later term.
 - Bilateral undergraduate exchange students must arrive in time to attend FASET orientation on August 14, 2025.

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OIE Check-In (pre-arrival)

- Important reminders for those requesting I-20 form deferrals:
 - After submitting your Arrival Confirmation e-form, the deferral request will be sent to your academic department for review. They will review the request and confirm to OIE they are aware and approve or deny the I-20 form deferral.
 - OIE is not able to update your I-20 form until your academic department confirms their support within the Arrival Confirmation e-form.
 - If you are planning on deferring your admission, please ensure to contact the appropriate offices:
 - **Undergraduate Students:** if you have not already requested a deferral, please contact Undergraduate Admissions for the deferral deadline and to learn how to request a deferral in your Admissions Portal at admission@gatech.edu.
 - **Graduate Students:** Please contact your Graduate Coordinator for information on the deferral process.
 - Admission deferral is subject to Undergraduate Admissions or the Office of Graduate Education's approval.
 - Once your admission has been verified for the updated term, OIE will issue the updated I-20 form.

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OIE Check-In (post-arrival)

- Confirm your arrival to the U.S. by logging into iStart and completing the remaining 2 e-forms within the OIE Check-In e-forms:
 - Immigration Regulations Acknowledgement and
 - Immigration Document Upload
 - Provide a U.S. physical address and phone number.
 - Upload copies of your F-1 or J-1 visa and most recent [I-94 record](#).
 - Special Note: Students that transferred their immigration records will also be asked to upload a copy of their [U.S. Travel History](#).
- After all required check-in e-forms have been submitted, an OIE advisor will review your submission and activate your SEVIS record within [our processing times](#). You will receive an email confirmation when your SEVIS record has been activated.
- If you need help completing your OIE Check-In, join OIE during our [virtual drop-in advising hours](#) or email info@oie.gatech.edu.

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What are the OIE Check-In Deadlines?

	Arrival Confirmation e-form	Immigrations Acknowledgement e-form	Immigration Document Upload e-form
Arriving on Time by August 18, 2025	August 15, 2025	August 22, 2025	August 22, 2025
Late Arrival Needed	August 15, 2025	September 14, 2025	September 14, 2025
I-20 Deferral Needed – coming to GT Atlanta campus in a future term	August 15, 2025	Immigrations Acknowledgement Not Required	Immigration Document Upload Not Required
No longer attending	August 15, 2025	Immigrations Acknowledgement Not Required	Immigration Document Upload Not Required

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Arriving at U.S. Port of Entry

- Documents Required to Enter the U.S.
 - Valid Passport
 - I-20 form (F-1 student visa holder) or DS-2019 form (J-1 student visa holder)
 - Valid F-1 or J-1 Visa
 - Copy of I-901 SEVIS Fee Receipt (strongly recommended)
 - Carry these documents with you. Do not pack in luggage or check-in baggage.
- You will be issued an electronic I-94 record upon entry into the U.S.
 - Find your electronic I-94 record on [CBP's website](#). 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://isssoie.gatech.edu/content/electronic-i-94-record>
 - Check out our [Customs and Border Protection Video available on the OIE website](#).

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Travel Considerations

- There are several resources we recommend you review in preparation for your travels to the U.S. Please make sure you carry your passport, visa, I-20/DS-2019, and SEVIS I-901 fee receipt with you on the plane.
- We recommend you review the [recent Presidential Proclamation](#) for more information about any travel restrictions and the [OIE FAQ](#) for other visa related information.
- Please also stay informed regarding any travel updates by contacting your airline and reviewing information on the [CDC](#) and [local U.S. Embassy or Consulate](#) webpages.

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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
 - Before putting luggage inside, agree upon how price will be determined (meter or flat rate)
- MARTA: <https://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
 - Closest stops to GT: North Avenue and Midtown
- Ride Share:
 - Uber and Lyft are available if you have the app downloaded to use your phone
 - Be sure to verify the car, license plate, and driver match the details given in the app before entering a car

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First Days at Georgia Tech

- First Official Day of Classes
 - Monday, August 18
- Phase 2 Registration
 - Ends August 22 by 4:00pm ET
- Bursar's Tuition and Fees Payment Deadline
 - Monday, August 25 by 4:00pm ET
 - Find out more about tuition, classifications, and more on the [Bursar Office website](#)
- Find important academic dates on [GT's Academic Calendar](#)
- To learn of other GT events and GT Office closures, visit the [Campus Calendar](#)

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First Days at Georgia Tech

- Orientations
 - **Undergraduate students:** [FASET](#)
 - **Graduate students:** The Office of Graduate Education will hold a new graduate student orientation session. Please review the Office of Graduate Education's [Orientation website](#) for the date and further details. In addition, your academic department may also hold their own orientation session. Please communicate directly with your department to find out more.
 - [OIE's Welcome Series](#)
- Getting a Buzzcard (GT identification)
 - Used to enter buildings, check out books from the library, access your meal plan, etc.
 - After you have confirmed your acceptance to Georgia Tech, you are eligible for a BuzzCard. Find out more information on the [BuzzCard Office's webpage](#).

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First Days at Georgia Tech

- Public Transportation on and around Campus
 - GT has multiple transportation services and parking available on campus: <http://pts.gatech.edu>
 - MARTA around Atlanta: <https://www.itsmarta.com/>
- Health Insurance & Immunizations Requirements
 - F-1 and J-1 students are automatically billed for the mandatory student health insurance and then required to enroll themselves. Students with comparable health insurance coverage can request a waiver to opt-out. Questions about this process should be directed to [Stamps Health Services](#).
 - All GT students are required to show proof of the required immunizations in order to attend GT. These immunizations can be obtained at the STAMPS health center after arrival in the U.S. if you are unable to obtain them before coming to the U.S.
 - Helpful Resources:
 - Student Health Insurance: <https://health.gatech.edu/student-health-insurance/>
 - Immunization Requirements: <http://health.gatech.edu/immunization/requirements>

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First Days at Georgia Tech

- Employment

- F-1 and J-1 student visa holders are eligible for up to 20 hours of on-campus employment during the fall and spring terms.
 - On-campus employment means that you are paid by Georgia Tech or working at a Georgia Tech location with an employer that is contracted to provide services to students, such as a food store in the Student Center.
 - If you have any questions about how to complete your GT employment onboarding consult with your hiring department and/or Human Resources.
- In order to be eligible for off-campus employment, F-1/J-1 student visa holders must obtain valid work authorization such as OPT or CPT. Additional information about these benefits can be found on [our employment overview website](#).
- Helpful Resources:
 - OIE: <https://isss.oie.gatech.edu/content/campus-employment>
 - GT HR: <https://hr.gatech.edu/student-employee-resources>

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Important Scam Information

- Be aware of phone scams where callers claim to be from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), U.S. 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.
- Federal, state, and local law enforcement 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:
 - Never give out your personal information to individuals who call you on the phone.
 - Do not respond to threats of deportation by wiring cash, buying gift cards, etc. Federal officials will never ask you to send money to resolve immigration or tax violations.
 - If you feel the call is unexpected or suspicious – hang up and contact GT Police.
- Review our [Scams 101 webpage](#) for more information

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OIE Video Series

- Created to help international students prepare for life at GT and in the U.S.
- Available videos can be found on our [Resources for Cultural Transition webpage](#):
 - 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



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Upcoming Welcome Series Events

- **July 23 – Health & Safety**
 - This session will feature presentations from Stamps Health Services and the Georgia Tech Police Department (GTPD). Topics covered will include health insurance, on-campus medical services, safety, and scam awareness to help you stay well and safe at Georgia Tech.
- **July 30 – How to Succeed as an F-1/J-1 Visa Holder**
 - In this session, we will focus on the federal regulations for F-1 and J-1 visa holders and review how to maintain visa status while at Georgia Tech. All new and transfer international students and scholars need to plan to attend this very important session.
- **August 6 – GT Traditions & U.S. 101**
 - This session is a "crash course" on the U.S. and GT. The Student Alumni Association (SAA) will share about GA Tech's history and traditions, the Wellness Center will discuss wellness resources, and the Center for Mental Health Care and Resources will also provide guidance related to culture shock and adjustment.
- **August 12 – Get to Know Campus Scavenger Hunt**
 - Get to know campus like a pro! Join us for a fun way to discover the ins and outs of campus! Solve clues, meet others, and uncover hidden gems as you navigate your way around campus and make new friends!
- **August 13 – Welcome Party**
 - Come get acquainted with campus and meet some of your fellow incoming classmates.
- More information can be found on our [Welcome Series website](#).

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It's time for Q&A!

- Sample topics for your questions:
 - OIE Check-In
 - Traveling Considerations
 - Arriving to Atlanta & Settling In
 - Helpful Resources
 - Welcome Series Events

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Thank you for attending today's event.
Please use the link below to provide
feedback on today's session:

https://gatech.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_aXo6bRvYoyOHIGi

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