

An aerial photograph of the University of Connecticut campus at dusk. The image shows various university buildings, including a prominent domed structure, surrounded by trees. The sky is dark with some clouds. The text is overlaid on this background.

UConn

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

Preparing for Arrival

Arthur Galinat

Director, International Student & Scholar Services

Agenda

- 1 Center for International Students and Scholars
- 2 Practical Matters
- 3 Student Visa Process
- 4 Travel to U.S.
- 5 Welcome and Orientation Program

1

Center for International Students and Scholars (CISS)

Storrs:

- International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) including 4 International Advisors
- Intercultural Programs and Support and UCAELI

Hartford:

- 1 International Advisor in GBLC

Stamford:

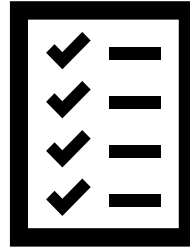
- 1 International Advisor in Business Suite

Contact **international@uconn.edu**



2

New Student Onboarding Checklist



- ✓ **Pre-Orientation Tasks:** Tasks that need to be completed before the start of your orientation program.
- ✓ **Pre-Semester Tasks:** Tasks that need to be completed before the start of the fall semester.
- ✓ **www.orientation.uconn.edu/task-list/** > Student Onboarding Login



2

Student Health History Form

- <https://studenthealth.uconn.edu/health-information/>
- Upload Official Immunization Records AND/OR UConn Health History Form
- Submit forms as early as possible, submit partial forms and complete as many immunizations before coming to campus.

✓ Required Trainings

- Alcohol EDU
- <https://studenthealth.uconn.edu/alcohol-substance-support/>

✓ www.orientation.uconn.edu/task-list/ > Student Onboarding Login

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT STUDENT HEALTH HISTORY FORM				
Submit all completed forms and any attachments by scanning and uploading to the Student Health Portal - myHealth.uconn.edu				
Student Last Name:		Student First Name:		Student Middle Name:
Date of Birth: MM/DD/YYYY		Sex Assigned at Birth:	Gender Identity:	Net ID:
		Chosen Name:		Pronouns:
IMMUNIZATION HISTORY				
1. MEASLES, MUMPS, RUBELLA (MMR) Vaccination - required of all students born after 1957				
OPTION 1:	Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) Vaccination (First dose must be given on or after your first birthday to be accepted)		Dose #1 MM / DD / YYYY	Dose #2 MM / DD / YYYY
OPTION 2:	In lieu of proof of vaccination above, a titer showing immunity to each individual disease is an acceptable alternative to the vaccination.			
	Measles Titer Result: <input type="checkbox"/> Immune <input type="checkbox"/> Not immune		Date _____ MM/DD/YYYY	
	Mumps Titer Result: <input type="checkbox"/> Immune <input type="checkbox"/> Not immune		Date _____ MM/DD/YYYY	
	Rubella Titer Result: <input type="checkbox"/> Immune <input type="checkbox"/> Not immune		Date _____ MM/DD/YYYY	
*If not immune, you are required to receive a booster MMR and repeat the titer or receive two MMR vaccines in lieu of the booster and titer				
OPTION 3:	An incidence of disease will take the place of a vaccine requirement. (Must be filled in by a physician/APRN/PA)			
	Measles Disease MM/DD/YYYY	Mumps Disease MM/DD/YYYY	Rubella Disease MM/DD/YYYY	
2. VARICELLA Vaccination - required for all students born after 1979				
OPTION 1:	Varicella Vaccination (First dose must be given on or after your first birthday to be accepted)		Dose #1 MM / DD / YYYY	Dose #2 MM / DD / YYYY
OPTION 2:	In lieu of proof of vaccination above, a titer showing immunity to the disease is an acceptable alternative to the vaccination.			
	Varicella Titer Result: <input type="checkbox"/> Immune <input type="checkbox"/> Not immune		Date _____ MM/DD/YYYY	
*If not immune, you are required to receive a booster and repeat the titer or receive two Varicella vaccines in lieu of the booster and titer				
OPTION 3:	An incidence of disease will take the place of a vaccine requirement. (Must be filled in by a physician/APRN/PA)		Varicella Disease MM/DD/YYYY	
3. MENINGOCOCCAL(MCV4) Vaccination - Required of all students living in University housing Supporting documentation required				
<input type="checkbox"/> Menactra <input type="checkbox"/> Menveo <input type="checkbox"/> Nimenrix <input type="checkbox"/> MenQuadfi Must cover strains A, C, Y, W-135 Polysaccharide strain not accepted		Date MM / DD / YYYY	Vaccination must have been given within 5 years of your first day of classes at UConn.	Exceptions to requirement: <input type="checkbox"/> I will not be living in campus owned housing.
4. CLEARANCE TO PLAY CLUB SPORTS				

All Club Sports athletes must submit Clearance to Play verification from their healthcare provider that states they have had a physical examination within one year of the sport season's start date.

2 Paying Your Fee Bill



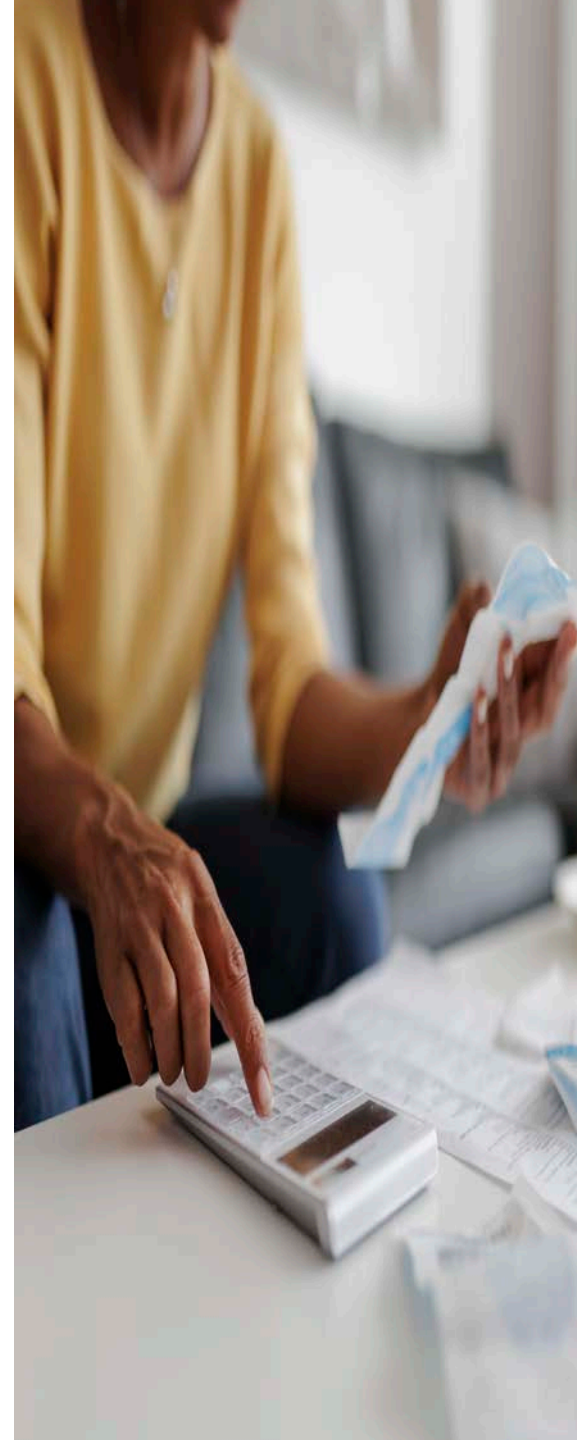
DO:

- Pay your fee bill by the deadline:
August 1
- If paying by international wire transfer, use these two methods:
 - Convera GlobalPay
 - Flywire
- Visit www.bursar.uconn.edu to learn more



DON'T:

- Do not wire money directly from your bank to UConn
- Do not wire additional funds for your student – only wire the amount owed on your fee bill.



2

Paying Your Fee Bill

Payment Methods

Flywire and Convera Videos

<https://bursar.uconn.edu/departments/cash-operations/student-payments/>

Payment Plans -

<https://bursar.uconn.edu/departments/cash-operations/student-payments/payment-plans/>



The image shows a screenshot of the Convera payment interface for the University of Connecticut (UConn). The header features the Convera logo and navigation links in Hindi: 'भुगतान करें' (Pay), 'अपना भुगतान ट्रैक करें' (Track your payment), and 'युक्तियाँ और अक्सर पूछे जाने वाले प्रश्न' (Help and frequently asked questions). A 'PRICE PROMISE' badge and a user profile icon 'HI' are also visible. The main banner displays the text 'अपनी स्वदेशी मुद्रा में छात्र की फीस का भुगतान करें' (Pay your student fee in your home currency) over a photo of three students. Below the banner, there is a form with a dropdown menu for 'आपका बैंक कहाँ स्थित है?' (Where is your bank located?). A link 'Why is my country not listed?' is provided. The payment details show 'Payment to University of Connecticut' with a currency selector set to 'USD' and a value of '0'. The UConn logo is displayed on the right side of the form.

2

What to Know About Money


- Credit/debit cards are the most common forms of payment. U.S. based credit card companies should be accepted. Cash is accepted in most places.
- Paying through WeChat or AliPay is not common. Apple Pay/Google Pay is more common.
- Emergency cash (\$100-\$500)
- After setting up a bank account in the U.S., money can be wired from your home bank account to U.S.
- If you will carry more than \$10,000 or foreign currency equivalent, it must be declared at U.S. customs.



2

What to Pack vs. What to Buy

What We Provide

- Bed and Mattress
- Dresser/Bureau
- Closet or Wardrobe
- Desk/Writing Surface & Chair
- [Internet Service](#)  Wired and Wireless

- CISS offers shopping trips at the start of the semester.
- Items shipped to campus or ordered cannot be picked up until the start of the semester.
- Weather will be hot in August. Winters are very cold and layers/winter clothing are important (but can be purchased after arrival).

Standard Items to Bring

- Quilt, comforter, pillows
- Two sets of bed linens
- Towels, washcloths, bathrobe
- Bathroom carry-all (for shampoo, soap, razors, etc.)
- Flip Flops (for the shower)
- Cleaning Supplies (residents are responsible for cleaning own room)
- Laundry basket/bag
- Laundry detergent (High Efficiency/HE detergent for front loading washers)
- Stackable crates, storage containers
- Fans (no ceiling fans)
- Posters and decor
- Snacks
- Backpack
- School supplies
- Computer, laptop
- UL Approved power strip
- Television, DVD or streaming player
- Trash can
- Umbrella

Visit www.reslife.uconn.edu/living-on-campus/items-to-bring/ to learn more

STUDENT HEALTH & WELLNESS

Medical Care

- Physical exams, preventative medicine, immunizations
- Extended & overnight care
- Bloodwork & radiology
- Nutrition & physical activity counseling
- Nurse couch wellness visits

25,964
medical appointments
annually

Mental Health

- Individual & group therapy
- Clinical case management
- Let's Talk: Mental Health Office Hours
- Medication management
- Mindfulness, meditation, yoga

18,504
mental health
appointments

Pharmacy

- Prescriptions & over-the-counter medications
- Medical supplies

6,334
prescriptions filled by
pharmacy

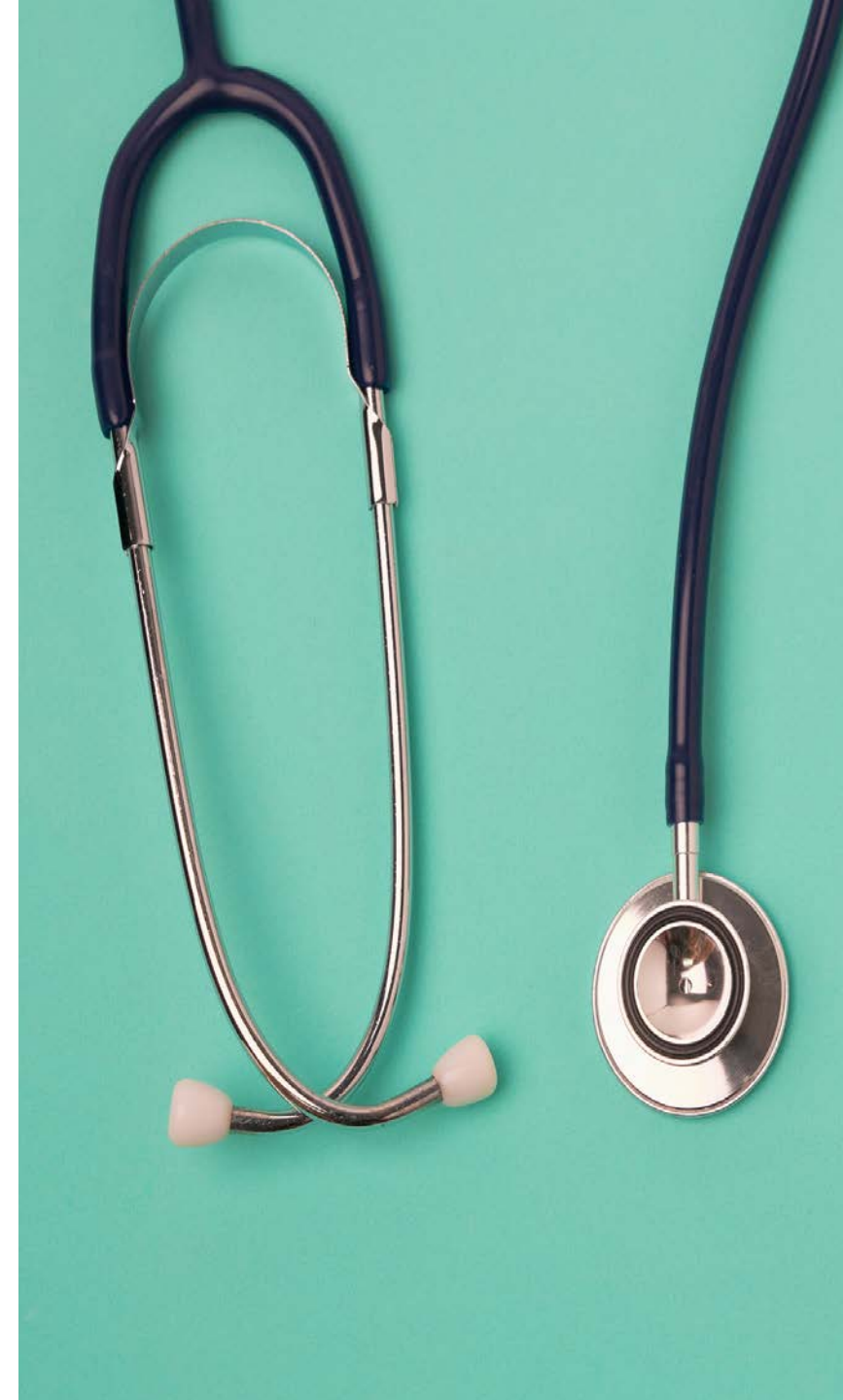
Health Promotion

- Wellness education, programs, and partnerships
- Community impact initiatives

2

About Health Insurance

- Healthcare is very expensive!
- UConn Student Health Insurance Plan (UConn SHIP) is the best option for insurance.
- UConn SHIP is on the fee bill. It covers physical and mental health services, but dental insurance must be purchased separately.



2

Student Privacy in the U.S.

- Student information is private and can only be shared with the student and those they delegate. Share your information with parents now. Add parents to the Parents Family Portal.
- <https://privacy.uconn.edu/ferpa-overview/>
- Students must add parents individually and indicate what records they can access



3

Student Visa Overview

1. Request Form I-20/DS-2019
2. Pay SEVIS I-901 Fee
3. Submit the DS-160 Form

4. Schedule Visa Interview
5. Attend Visa Interview
6. Administrative Processing
7. Arrival to the U.S.



3

Request Form I-20

1. Visit www.issu.uconn.edu > “New Students & Scholars” > “Request I-20 or DS-2019”
2. Print and sign your Form I-20 after downloading from the ISSS Portal.
3. Keep your I-20/DS-2019 form safe, as you’ll need it for your visa interview.



Log in to get started.

Log in with UConn NetID

Log in with Portal Account

3

Pay the SEVIS I-901 Fee

1. Pay the SEVIS I-901 Fee before your visa interview.
 - \$350 – F-1 student visa
 - \$220 – J-1 exchange visitor visa
2. Visit **www.fmjfee.com** > Pay online and print receipt for visa interview and travel to U.S.



3

Submit DS-160 Visa Application Form

1. Visit www.ustraveldocs.com for links and instructions.
2. Complete non-immigrant visa application online (DS-160 form)
3. Pay visa application fee \$185
 - Fee payment instructions are different in every country!

Apply for a U.S. Visa

At this website, you can learn about obtaining a visa, as well as applying for your visa.

- How to apply for your nonimmigrant visa for travel to the United States
- What documents, photos and information you need to apply for your visa
- How to access visa application forms and instructions
- How to pay your visa application fee
- Schedule your interview at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate General
- Find important information about U.S. Embassies and Consulates General

Choose your specific location by clicking below.

3 Prepare For Visa Interview

Documents to bring:

- ✓ UConn I-20 Form
- ✓ Passport
- ✓ I-901 Fee Receipt
- ✓ DS-160 confirmation page with the barcode
- ✓ Financial documents
- ✓ Other recommended supporting documents (**see US Travel Docs website**).

What to expect:

- Wait in line outside and then a separate waiting room.
- Follow all rules regarding electronics and backpacks!
- Go to interview room / counter / window for visa interview.



3

Common Questions at Visa Interview

- School Name?
- Program Name (Major)?
- Funding: How are you paying for your studies?
What do your parents do for work?
- Your U.S. address? Are you living on-campus, off-campus? Do you know what city or town UConn is located in?
- What are your future plans after graduation?



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Visa Interview Decision



Outcome #1: **Visa Approved**

Follow up: a slip of paper with passport shipping instructions.



Outcome #2: **Visa Refused** for "Administrative Processing" (221G)

- Background Check
- Common for students in sciences
- Technically a refusal → follow all instructions and wait; may take 2 weeks - 60 days (or more) but may eventually be approved.



Outcome #3: **Visa Denial**

Incomplete or inaccurate forms, insufficient financial proof, lack of ties to your home country, criminal history, overstaying your previous visa, etc.



3

Visa Interview Decision 221(g)

1. Read all instructions.
2. Gather requested documentation
3. Submit to Embassy by deadline

Date 9/8/2022

Dear Applicant,

We are unable to conclude processing of your non-immigrant visa application at this time, as we require additional information. Your visa application has been refused under 221(g) of the United States Immigration and Nationality Act, pending the receipt and review of the information and documents as indicated below. Please be advised that for U.S. visa purposes, including ESTA (see <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov>), this decision constitutes a denial of a visa.

Please provide the additional supplemental information specified below.

- ☐ Valid Passport
- ☒ Supplemental Questionnaire. You will receive an email from U.S. Embassy Helsinki. Please fill out the attached questionnaire and return it to helsinkiiv@state.gov
- ☐ Employment Contract/Employers' Letter of Support
- ☐ Proof of Finances (e.g. last three months bank statements and salary slips)
- ☐ Finnish Population Extract (virkatodistus) including all family members
- ☐ Recent photo that meets guidelines with your full name written on the back of the photo (<http://cdn.ustraveldocs.com/fi/fi-niv-photoinfo.asp>)
- ☐ Notarized Letter of Consent from biological parent(s) and/or court order which grants sole custody including travel decisions
- ☐ Criminal Documents: Full court record including case description, charges, and the verdict (criminal record alone not sufficient)
- ☐ Criminal History Extract (rikosrekisteriote) from Legal Register Centre <http://www.oikeusrekisterikeskus.fi>
- ☐ SEVIS Fee receipt (paid at www.fmjfee.com)
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☒ Your application requires additional administrative processing and/or additional clearances. We will contact you when the administrative processing is completed.

Please submit your documents via:

- ☒ Email - Send PDF files to helsinkiiv@state.gov. Attachments must not exceed 3MB.
- ☐ Mail - In order to submit the requested documents, please visit: <http://www.ustraveldocs.com/fi>. Click on "Application Pending Further Action:" and then click "This web page" for directions on how to submit the documents via post.
- ☐ Hand Delivery - Bring your item to Itälinen Puistotie 14 A, Gate A (Consular Gate).

If you fail to respond within one year of this 221(g) refusal, your application will expire.

To Check the Status of Your Application, please visit <https://ceac.state.gov/ceac/>.

U.S. Embassy Helsinki

Consulate General of the United States of America
5/1 Ho Chi Minh Sarani
Kolkata 700071 (India)

Barcode No. AA _____ Date: _____

Your application for a nonimmigrant visa has been refused for administrative processing under section 221(g) of the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act. The visa application will be reconsidered when all documentation is received and administrative processing is complete.

☐ Please send all the information, as given below to KolNIVAdmin@state.gov, using the subject line "Passport No.....Your Last Name, Your First Name" (example: Passport No. Z1234567 - DOE, John). Your application will not be reconsidered until you submit the requested information.

The e-mail should have the following **separate** attachments:

1st attachment: Résumé/CV to include (MSWord /.pdf):

- ☒ a) Detailed résumé/CV, including your professional and academic background.
- ☐ b) List of publications.
- ☐ c) List of references from your country of birth/residence.
- ☐ d) Detailed travel itinerary.

2nd attachment strictly in MSWord with the following information:

- ☒ Research: A detailed abstract of:
 - a) Any research/work you intend to conduct in the U.S.
 - b) All past and/or current research in all countries.
 - c) Your current/past job title and a **detailed** description of your work.
- ☒ 3rd Attachment (.pdf): Letter(s) of support from the financial sponsor.
- ☒ 4th Attachment (.pdf):
 - a) Letter(s) of recommendation from a United States source and/or letter from the U.S. University / employer.
 - b) Résumé/CV of faculty research advisor
 - c) Letter of invitation

☐ Please complete the **DS-5535 form attached** with a **blue pen**, scan and send it to KolNIVAdmin@state.gov, using the subject line "Passport No.....Your Last Name, Your First Name" (example: Passport No. Z1234567 - DOE, John). Your application will not be reconsidered until you submit the requested information.

IMPORTANT:

1. Please note the maximum size of each email attachment should not exceed a file size of 2MB. If required you may attach multiple files but each file should not exceed the size limit of 2 MB.
2. Please avoid incorporating charts, images, table formats, symbols and special characters, when preparing the documents.
3. For any information that does not apply to you, please mention "NOT APPLICABLE" under the respective header. Please avoid vague or incomplete information.

Please ensure that you receive an "Auto-Reply" when the e-mail is sent to KolNIVAdmin@state.gov. Processing takes a minimum of 60 days, or longer. We are unable to provide a specific completion timeline. You do not need to return in person to the Consulate unless you are contacted by the consulate. You will receive an email from the Consulate when the process is complete, and if required, you will be guided to submit your passport at the VAC.

☐ Please pay your SEVIS Fee at: www.fmjfee.com. Scan your SEVIS Fee receipt, as proof of payment, to KolNIVAdmin@state.gov and request for a new appointment.

☐ Other administrative processing. Please email the following to ConsularKolkata@state.gov:

.....

The status of your case can be tracked at this link: <https://ceac.state.gov/CEAC/>

Note: Failure to submit the required information within one year will cause your application to expire.

For further inquiries call -

From India: +91-120-4844644 (or) +91-22-62011000; From U.S.: +1-703-520-2239

Nov. 2021/08

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Supplemental Questionnaire for Visa Applicants

- All countries visited in last 15 years
- All previous passports held
- Sibling, children, spouse bio info
- All addresses last 15 years
- All phone # and emails last 5 years
- All social media usernames
- All employers last 15 years



General Instructions		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If you are unsure of the answer to a question, please provide a response to the best of your knowledge. For example, if you are unsure of an exact address, provide the city, state, and street name if you can recall them. U.S. Department of State will consider all the information derived from the form in its entirety.• Failure to answer every question will not necessarily preclude visa issuance, as the application is considered in its entirety.• If you believe a particular question does not apply to you or your circumstances, please write "not applicable" or "N/A."• If you need more space to respond to a question, please write the rest of your response on a separate sheet of paper.• Aside from your name, date of birth, and visa classification, please only provide information not included in your current visa application. For example, if all of your children are listed in your current visa application (Form DS-160 or DS-260), you do not need to list them again.		
Personal Information		
Surname(s)	Given Name(s)	
Date of Birth (mm-dd-yyyy)	Visa Type/Classification	
Passport and Travel History		
Have you travelled to any country (other than your country of residence) in the last 15 years? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, provide details for each trip, including locations visited, date visited, source of funds, and length of stay.		
Have you ever held a passport other than the passport listed in your visa application? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, provide the following information.		
Country of Issuance	Passport Number	
Relatives		
Siblings (brothers and sisters) - Provide the full name(s) and date of birth of any sibling (full, half, step, adopted), living or deceased.		
Surname(s)	Given Name(s)	Date of Birth (mm-dd-yyyy)
Children - Provide the full name(s) and date of birth of any child (minor and adult), living or deceased. Children includes natural children, step-children, and adopted children.		
Surname(s)	Given Name(s)	Date of Birth (mm-dd-yyyy)

3

What If I Can't Get a Visa Appointment?

- Don't panic!
- If you can schedule an appointment but it is too late for you to arrive on time to UConn, schedule that appointment anyway.
- Follow instructions on US Travel Docs or U.S. Consulate Website on how to request an expedited appointment. Contact ISSS if you need help.
- Keep checking back on the appointment website to see if new appointments open.



4 Travel to the U.S.

Present:

- Passport with F-1 visa
- I-20

Keep in carry on (in case asked):

- Financial documents
- Admission letter
- Any other documents you brought to your visa appointment
- Computers, phone
- Fingerprint, Eye Scanning
- Secondary Inspection



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

4 Travel to the U.S.

Earliest arrival: 30 days before Program Start Date on your I-20

Arrive by: August 16 (Storrs)
August 20 (Stamford)

Airport Shuttles to Storrs Campus **on August 16** from:

- Boston/Logan Airport
- JFK Airport (New York city)
- Newark Airport (New Jersey/Greater New York)
- 10 – 11:30 am

Reserve your spot:
Cost: \$60



5

CISS Welcome and Support Program: Storrs

Friday, August 16

- Arrival to campus and move-in
- Airport shuttle with shopping trip

Saturday, August 17

- International Services Fair – open bank account, set up U.S. cell phone plan.
- Parent and family meeting
- Shopping trip (sign up required)
- Social event

Sunday, August 18

- Brunch on campus
- Immigration Check-In
- Meet your Welcome Program Student Leader

Monday & Tuesday, August 19-20

- Attend Welcome Program sessions and activities
- Health screening
 - TB Test
 - Meningitis vaccine and any other required vaccines



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University Orientation and Husky WOW

Wednesday - Thursday; August 21-22

- *University Orientation*
- Participate in sessions and activities
- Meetings with orientation groups
- Academic advising

Friday - Sunday; August 23-25

- *Husky WOW Opening Weekend:*
- New student move in
- Fun events and activities to welcome you to campus



Questions?

international@uconn.edu

- Questions about visa, travel and preparing for arrival

livingoncampus@uconn.edu

- Questions about on-campus housing

onestop@uconn.edu

- Questions about registration, fee bill, admission or anything else!

