



ARRIVAL AND ORIENTATION INFORMATION

SPRING 2012

International Study Center



www.jmu.edu/isc

CONTACT INFO

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IMPORTANT DATES

January 3, 2012	PRE-ARRIVAL DOCUMENTS (Health Forms, ISAR)
January 7-8, 2012	Arrival to Washington DC, Dulles Doubletree
January 8, 2012	Transport to JMU by coach bus. Move-In Day
January 8-13, 2012	OIP Transitions orientation begins

PRE-ARRIVAL DOCUMENTATION JANUARY 3, 2012

The ISAR form and health forms must be submitted to Joyce Risse-Rodriguez by January 3, 2012. If these forms are not submitted before this time, you will experience difficulty registering upon arrival.

- ISAR form: contact Joyce Risse-Rodriguez at jrisserodriguez@studygroup.com
- Health Forms can be downloaded here:
http://www.jmu.edu/healthctr/wm_library/UHC_HR.pdf

ARRIVAL TO THE UNITED STATES JANUARY 7-8, 2012

ARRIVAL AIRPORT	ARRIVAL ACCOMMODATION
Washington Dulles (IAD)	Doubletree Hotel in Sterling 21611 Atlantic Boulevard Sterling, VA 20166 +1-703-230-0077

Please inquire with your local agency or Joyce Risse-Rodriguez before arrival. All students will be asked to arrive by the 7th of January to the Doubletree Hotel in Sterling. The hotel is 10 minutes from the Dulles airport and is accessible by FREE airport shuttle from all terminals.

Students are responsible for booking and payment of hotel accommodation on their own. Please book under "Study Group". Cost per night is \$69 plus tax and payment must be made by credit card.

TRANSPORTATION TO JMU/MOVE-IN DAY JANUARY 8, 2012

TRANSPORTATION TO JMU

Students must check out and be ready in the hotel lobby at 9:00AM. Transportation will be waiting for students outside in the hotel parking lot. The ride will leave at 9:15AM to drive students directly to orientation at James Madison University. The ride will arrive to the JMU campus at approximately 11AM. Please confirm your seat on the transportation with Joyce Risse Rodriguez by no later than December 15th.

Students who do not stay in the Doubletree and decide to arrive to JMU on their own must arrive on January 8th by 11 AM to the International Study Center office located in Memorial Hall. Should students arrive before the scheduled time, they will be asked to return to the office on the 8th when the campus is fully prepared to assist them.

ON-CAMPUS MOVE-IN

For those students who have pre-registered for on-campus accommodation they will be given their dormitory assignments on this day.

OFF-CAMPUS MOVE-IN

For those students who have pre-arranged their accommodation in the Harrisonburg area they will be free this day to move into their accommodation. If off-campus accommodation has not been arranged yet, students are encouraged to use this day to find out more information about the local accommodation options. Apartments will not process deposits by cash. Deposits range from \$500 - \$700 USD. Bank orders or money orders will be needed.

Special rates at local hotels will be available for those students who have decided to take more time to figure out where best to settle in the Harrisonburg area. These rates can be found at the following local area hotels:

<http://www.jmu.edu/parents/Hburgaccom.shtml>

ORIENTATION JANUARY 8-13, 2012

A special international student orientation has been developed to address some of the information and opportunities that you need to know as well as to enable you to grasp new concepts about U.S. American culture and student life. This fun, interactive, educational International Student Orientation includes workshops, presentations, and activities. Students will take placement tests during these days in order to confirm their study plan at the International Study Center as well as organize a bank account and shop for essential items for their new home.

Be prepared to:

- Discover how to make JMU an unparalleled educational experience
- Make friends before classes begin
- Get tips from faculty on how to succeed in the classroom
- Get the scoop on differences between high school and college
- Take in some great entertainment
- Get settled before classes begin
- Explore new cultures

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK



If you aren't already following us on Facebook, you can stay informed with news and pre-arrival updates on our Facebook Page: <http://www.facebook.com/iscjamesmadisonuniversity> You can also connect with new, current and past ISC students by joining our [Facebook Student Group](#)

NOT A MEMBER OF FACEBOOK?

It's free to join but you need to sign up at: facebook.com. Follow the instructions to register your details. Once you receive your new JMU email address, feel free to use it when you register. Our FB page gives you automatic access to all JMU students on Facebook! You will then need to check your email and click on the link confirming your email address.

MEDICAL INFORMATION

There are medical facilities located on and near campus. Be sure to complete your Health Center Record form and send it to your agent/Study Group representative to ensure you don't have any trouble registering when you arrive to campus. Staff will ensure you are registered at the campus Health Center, and will show you where the closest pharmacy is located and where you can get medicine.

OPENING A BANK ACCOUNT

If you are coming to the US for at least an academic year, we recommend that you open a bank account. Before opening an account, you should have some cash with you to deposit into your new account. As part of the Orientation, we will aid you in opening a bank account. Warning: DO NOT carry large amounts of cash with you or keep large amounts of cash in your room at your residence hall.

THE COST OF BEING A STUDENT

You will need to budget carefully to cover all of your living costs, including clothes, transportation, books, and entertainment. If you live on campus during the Foundation Diploma, your fee to Study Group includes a meal plan. If you live off campus during the Foundation Diploma, a meal plan is not included in the fee, but can be added at an additional cost to the student.

It is difficult to estimate how much money you will need over a year as this depends on individual lifestyles and circumstances. Remember, you will spend more money at the beginning of the semester as you will need to buy items such as room/bed supplies, books, and special equipment for your course. Books can cost on average \$250-\$500 per semester. Small charges may also be made by some departments to cover supplementary materials or services. Budgeting for living expenses will be discussed during your first week.



LIVING IN THE US

SOCIAL ATTITUDES

Life in the US will almost certainly be different from what you are used to. It is difficult to say what is the American way of life as attitude and outlooks vary considerably according to where you are in the country. The US is a grand mixture of cultures, lifestyles, and landscapes. You will find similarities as well as differences between your home country/culture and the US.

JMU is known for its friendliness and hospitality. You will find that people – even strangers – will look you in the eyes and smile as you pass by, possibly even offering a kind greeting. You will find Harrisonburg to be a quiet city, but one that has a lot to offer as well.

MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR TIME

JMU offers you great resources, from the state-of-the-art recreation center (UREC) to the award-winning dining halls, from the libraries to the on-campus movie theater. If you have a particular hobby, chances are someone has started a club that celebrates it. There are countless activities for your academic and social life and for you to become an enlightened citizen of the world.

DRINKING

Alcohol is legal to anyone aged over 21. There are strict rules against underage drinking and severe consequences. Drinking is often associated with a party lifestyle and atmosphere for college students. For those over 21, it is acceptable to drink in moderation in public.

SMOKING

Smoking is banned in many public places in the US. On campus at JMU, there are restrictions about where students can smoke. While smoking, you must remain 25 feet away from all buildings on campus. It is advisable to refrain from smoking indoors at all times. If you are being hosted by friends, always ask if it is ok to smoke outside and where an acceptable place to smoke is located.

HOMESICKNESS

To start with, everything will be new, exciting and different, but as time goes by you may start to wish that things were the way they were back home. Don't despair as this stage will pass – and much more quickly if you talk to someone about how you are feeling.

SPECIALIST AND INTERNATIONAL FOODS

There are many shops and restaurants in the area which sell these types of foods. You may also find that some of the larger supermarkets stock some of the products that you need.

THINGS TO BRING

- A warm coat (normal winter temperatures are 30-40° Fahrenheit or 0° Celsius; there will be snow and ice during winter; it may get as cold as 10-20°F or -15°C)
- An umbrella
- Items that remind you of home (pictures, clothing, crafts, etc)
- Bed linens, pillows, blankets, and towels are not provided by the residence hall. You can bring these with you or purchase them after you arrive on one of the shopping trips during Orientation.
- Toiletries
- Clothing: Casual, Formal, Athletic
- Shoes: Casual, Formal, Athletic, Hiking

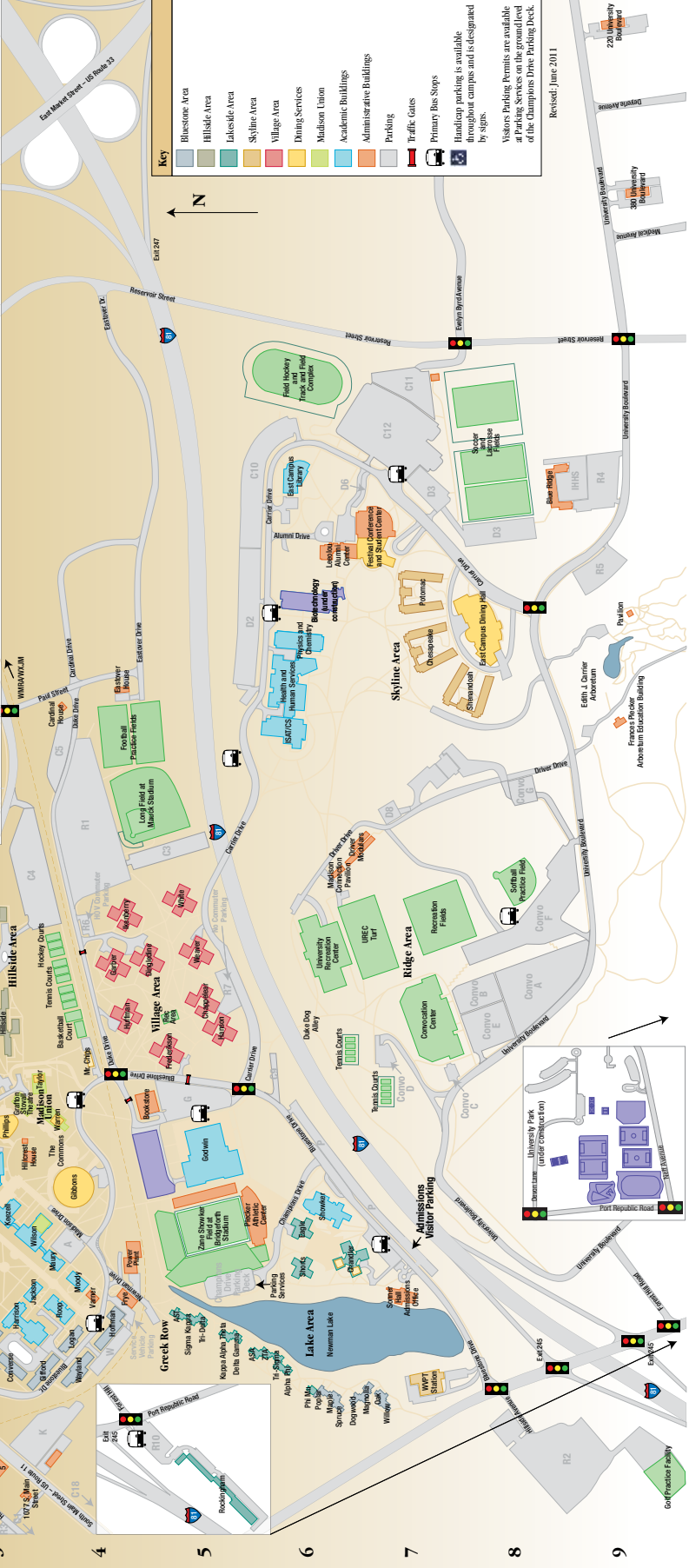
JMU HOLIDAYS

The residence halls close at JMU for certain American holidays, such as Thanksgiving and Christmas. There is also a week-long break during March called Spring Break. During these times, students are not allowed to stay in their residence halls.



JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

Building Key	
A-1	Chapel Hill
A-2	Cleopatra Hall
A-3	Cleveland Hall
A-4	Commons, The
A-5	Commerse Hall
A-6	Commerse, The
A-7	Convection Center
A-8	Dapartment Hall
A-9	Dapartment House
A-10	Dapartment House
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Building Key	
B-1	Stuffs Center
B-2	Bolder Hall
B-3	Tree Houses
B-4	University Park
B-5	University Recreation Center
B-6	University Services Building
B-7	Vander House
B-8	Walton House
B-9	Walton Lane Bus
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