

INDIANA **TECH**

International Graduate Student Pre-Arrival Guide

2024-2025



International Admissions Office (IA)

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Academic Calendar

Refer to our website for updated information on class start dates:

- <https://registrar.indianatech.edu/calendars/graduate/>

Before You Leave Home

Checklist

Careful planning and preparation by students and exchange visitors can ensure that your arrival to the U.S. is smooth. Here are some things you should do prior to departure:

- Students cannot enter the U.S. more than 30 days prior to the program start date
- Carry all their original documents
- Make sure they have their printed and signed I-20 to present when they are entering the country
- Passport should be valid for at least 6 months beyond their travel date
- Carry the enrollment verification letter that has been provided to them explaining the Leap Advantage program (template has been emailed to you as well if you need to process any)
- They speak confidently about their program and Indiana Tech
- Have their local U.S. address details with them if they are asked
- Have campus address and contact information
- If they have already paid for their tuition, carry the receipt showing that
- Make sure that your passport and non-immigrant visa are valid for entry into the United States. The passport should be valid for at least six months beyond the date of your expected stay.
- Check to see that your visa accurately reflects your correct visa classification.
 - If your review indicates any discrepancies or potential problems, visit the U.S. Embassy or Consulate to obtain a new visa.
- Book your tickets in advance to get the best deal, and don't forget to take advantage of student discounts!
 - Avoid paying higher fares in the rush months of August/September (booking your round trip ticket early can ensure this).
- Make sure you arrive on campus on the date listed in section #5 on your I-20 or section #3 on your DS-2019.
 - Students and exchange visitors entering the United States for the first time under their respective non-immigrant visa classification may only be admitted up to 30 days prior to the program start date. Do not make plans to arrive more than 30 days before the start date of your program, as indicated on your I-20 or DS-2019.
- **Inform International Admissions (IA)** with details of your arrival plans by email: IntlGradAdmissions@indianatech.edu
- See a dentist and an eye specialist. Indiana Tech's health insurance does not cover dental care or eye care.
- Check with the airline you will be using regarding baggage weight allowances and size specifications.
- Label all luggage pieces inside and out with your name, destination, and Indiana Tech's address (1600 E Washington Blvd., Fort Wayne IN 46803 USA)
- Make sure you have contact addresses and phone numbers of all friends and relatives, as well as the International Admissions Office.
- Organize your finances. Arrange to transfer funds to a U.S. bank and make sure you have funds available for travel, expenses upon arrival, tuition, and housing.

Health Insurance

- **Health Insurance:** It is **strongly recommended** that all international students have medical health insurance and evacuation/repatriation coverage. Indiana Tech encourages all international students to obtain health insurance coverage to cover any incurred medical expenses while in the U.S.

To view suggested insurance options for International students visit the [Student Health Insurance](#) page and scroll down to the International Students section.

Link: <https://financialservices.indianatech.edu/costs/student-health-insurance/#international>

What to Consider When Packing

Documents to Bring with you in Your Carry-on Luggage

- Valid passport
- I-20 (The immigration officer at the embassy or consulate may put this in a sealed envelope. Do not open the envelope; the officer at the airport will open it.)
- Payment receipt of SEVIS fee
- Visa exempt students (Canadians) entering the U.S. for the first time should have a I-797 form, Receipt Notice, or Internet Receipt verifying SEVIS Fee payment.
- Evidence of financial support (Bank Statement and Affidavit of Support)
- Name and contact information of Designated School Official or Responsible Officer at Indiana Tech:

International Graduate Admissions

Phone: 1.260.422.5561, ext. 2436

Email: IntlGradAdmissions@indianatech.edu

Office: 1600 E Washington Blvd., Fort Wayne IN 46803 USA
Andorfer Commons, Second Floor

Clothing

- The climate in Indiana changes with the seasons. The fall season (August/September) is generally warm with its bright colors and moderate temperatures. In the winter season (December/January), the climate is cold and it snows heavily (10°F/-12°C). It is recommended that you bring warm clothing with you such as a hat, scarf, snow or rain boots, sweaters, and a warm winter coat. However, winter clothing is available in Fort Wayne at reasonable prices. In the spring (April/May), temperatures are moderate, although it can still be quite cool, particularly in March and April. The temperatures in summer can get rather warm. Summer is hot and humid. Temperatures of 90°F (33°C) and above are not unusual. You are advised to bring some light clothing for this season. Information about average monthly temperatures in Fort Wayne can be found in www.weather.com
- Indiana Tech is an informal school, and so apart from weather considerations, feel free to dress exactly how you like. You may, however, want to consider bringing one business professional outfit for job interviews or other formal events.

School Materials

- Having a computer is very useful, although not mandatory. There are several computer labs around campus, including a 24-hour lab in the new Academic Center. Because of this, you do not necessarily need a personal computer. Since you might be submitting homework online, as well as typing papers, having a personal computer is very convenient.

Remembering Home

- Carry some photographs, your favorite books, or movies. There are always days when you want to share memories with your new friends, or just want to look back at some of the times you had before coming to Indiana Tech. These things take up little space and can give you that extra comfort in a new place.

Bedroom Items

- Bedding items like bedspreads, pillows, and comforter, etc. These will not be provided by the university. You can pack them or purchase them after you arrive. We advise you to bring a blanket and a towel if you have space in your luggage.

Carrying Currency

- Be certain you arrive to Indiana Tech with sufficient U.S. dollars (\$) or access to funds to meet your living expenses for the first month. If you live off-campus, some property owners will require you to pay both the first and last month's rent in advance, as well as a security deposit.
- Plan ahead to avoid problems. However, do not carry large amounts of cash with you! You may purchase a Visa Travel Money card, which can be used at most stores in the U.S. Do not place your cash or credit cards in your checked luggage. Wearing a money belt or pouch that can be kept out of sight under your clothing is recommended while traveling.
- If you bring your own national currency, please exchange it for U.S. dollars upon arrival to the airport because there are no banks that can immediately exchange currency in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Some banks provide this service for a fee, but it takes several days to get your money exchanged.

Winter Clothing

- **Footwear:** This is really an essential part of feeling warm. Warm socks and snow-proof shoes can make a huge difference in dealing with the cold temperatures.
- **Scarves, Hats, and Gloves:** These are great additions which add extra warmth, and help deal with the wind. Keeping your neck, ears and hands warm can greatly influence how warm you feel.

It would be practical to:

- Prepare a list of all the items you intend to take along
- Weigh each individual bag or box before leaving the house to make sure that you are within weight limits.
- Strap your luggage securely to make sure that it does not open during airport transfers or

in transit.

- Pack your handbag light enough for you to carry over long distances within the airports.
- Baggage trolleys are not allowed in the post-immigration areas of most airports.
- Carry a small amount of your country's currency as well as U.S. dollars (\$) in case you need to pay for excess baggage or for snacks during the preflight wait at the airport. Liquids are not permitted past the security check-in.

Consider purchasing suit case and luggage straps with TSA approved locks. The TSA has the right to inspect your luggage. If you have TSA locks, they can unlock your bag instead of breaking your lock to see what's inside.

How To Get to Indiana Tech - Arrival to the USA

Air Transportation to Fort Wayne, Indiana

- Be sure to arrange air transportation with Fort Wayne, Indiana as your final destination. The next closest major airport is approximately 190 miles/300 km away, and you will incur substantial ground transportation cost if your final destination is a major U.S. city other than Fort Wayne.
- After you clear U.S. customs and immigration at your port of entry, you may board connecting domestic flights to Fort Wayne. The airport serving Fort Wayne is Fort Wayne International (FWA). It is served by several major domestic airlines, and you should have no difficulty securing a flight to the city of Fort Wayne. Fort Wayne International is approximately 10 miles/15 km from the Indiana Tech campus. The website is www.fwairport.com.
- IA arranges for pickups (for undergraduate students only) from the Fort Wayne Airport (FWA), Greyhound station or Amtrak rail station upon arrival. To be picked-up for any of these three locations please send an email to IntlGradAdmissions@indianatech.edu

Ground Transportation to Fort Wayne, Indiana

- **Bus:** You can travel by bus through Greyhound Bus service. You can book your tickets by going to the [Greyhound website](#).
- **Train:** You can travel by train through Amtrak. You can book your tickets by going to the [Amtrak website](#). Please note that there is no train station in Fort Wayne, IN. However the closest train station is 30 minutes away in Waterloo, IN. If you know someone can pick you from Waterloo, IN train station, only then travel by Amtrak.
- **Uber/Lyft:** Students can use Uber/Lyft from airport to their hotel/accommodation.

Where is the college located?

Indiana Tech is located just east of downtown Fort Wayne, Indiana, at 1600 E. Washington Blvd. Anthony Boulevard borders the campus on the east and King Street on the west.

Upon Arrival to Indiana Tech

International Student Orientation

- Upon arrival to Fort Wayne, you will be quite excited that you have finally arrived and anxious to begin your journey in the U.S. You may, however, still have questions or concerns about what to expect from your new American life and U.S. University. The International Admissions team understands these concerns and wants to provide you with the most information possible to make this transition an easy one.
- Therefore, you will be required to attend orientation the first week you will be in the U.S. This is a great opportunity to meet some other new international students who are experiencing the same things as you.

Part of this orientation will be checking in with the International Admission office, verifying your identity and providing our office with these required documents:

1. Your passport
2. The F-1 visa stamped in your passport
3. Your form I-20
4. The form I-94 issued at the Port of Entry (POE), if applicable

Life Here at Tech

Academics & Accreditation

Indiana Tech is a non-profit, co-educational university. The university is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, approved by the United States Department of Education and certified by the State Approval Agency for enrollment of veterans and eligible persons. The biomedical, mechanical, and electrical engineering programs are also accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET).

Student Services

McMillian Library

The Library Services at Indiana Tech provide convenient access to those resources needed to support student learning. The McMillen Library, housed in our new Academic Center, is a state-of-the-art facility which includes a Starbucks' Café for a nice cozy atmosphere, computer clusters enabling immediate electronic access to the online catalog, the Internet, a multimedia room and a small conference room for study groups or meetings.

Campus Safety

Indiana Tech offers a 24-hour security service to the campus community based in Andorfer Commons. The security team assists with issues from on-campus emergencies, lost property, safety advice and more.

The Career Center

The Career Center provides free services to students and alumni about professional development. They aid in advising, resume critiques, mock interviews, employment programs, career exploration and job search preparation. The Career Center is located in Andorfer

Commons, second floor.

The Fitness Center

The Fitness Center includes a gym that provides individuals with a great atmosphere, state of the art equipment and knowledgeable and friendly staff. The gym offers convenient hours for those who are early birds as well as for those who get off work late or prefer to work out at night. They offer classes for people who prefer to exercise in groups as well as training for athletic events. The Fitness Center also provides individuals with access to an on-campus nurse as well as stress free living seminars, deep tissue massage therapy sessions, as well as self-defense classes to help promote greater wellness for everyday living.

Recreation

In addition to the recreational facilities located in the residence halls, Andorfer Commons features a movie theater, and a recreation center equipped with several large screen cable televisions, a bowling alley, billiards, air hockey, ping pong, foosball, student and campus life organizations, campus store, Career Planning and Development Center, McMillen Library, and more. The Schaefer Center's Fitness Center features a gymnasium containing basketball and volleyball courts, a weight room, and a running track. There also are outdoor basketball, tennis and volleyball courts. Intramural athletics and other social and recreational activities that take place throughout the school year (sponsored by either the university or campus organizations).

Athletics & Student Organizations

Indiana Tech competes in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (N.A.I.A.) as a member of the Wolverine–Hoosier Athletic Conference. Along with athletics, Indiana Tech offers a variety of activities through various student organizations. Recognition for athletic excellence is included in the Annual awards ceremonies for varsity and intramural athletics. These ceremonies are held near the end of the spring term.

The following is a list of our current active sports/organizations on campus:

Intramural Activities

- Flag Football
- Indoor Volleyball
- Dodgeball
- 5 v 5 Pro-League Basketball
- 3 v 3 Amateur Basketball
- Bowling
- Billiards
- Indoor Soccer
- Ping Pong and much more

Student Professional/Honors Organizations

- Alpha Chi Honor Society
- American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME)
- Association for Computing Machinery (ACM)

- Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES)
- Chi Alpha Sigma (Athletic Honors Society)
- Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)
- National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE)
- Society of Manufacturing Engineering (SME)

Student Organizations

- Art of Expression (AoE)
- Black Excellence Association (BEA)
- Black Student Alliance (BSA)
- Chi Alpha Student Ministry
- Criminal Justice Society
- Gaming Society
- Math Club
- Multicultural Club
- Psychology Club
- Society of Future Accountants (SoFA)
- Student Ambassadors
- Warriors for Kids

Greek Life

- Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity

What it's like in Fort Wayne?

- Indiana Tech's campus occupies approximately 42 acres near the center of Fort Wayne, Indiana. Fort Wayne is Indiana's second-largest city and is home to over 250,000 residents. We are a major industrial and commercial center with approximately 400 manufacturing plants in the area. Fort Wayne is also ranked as a three-time All American City. Fort Wayne offers a variety of recreational and cultural activities. Indiana Tech enjoys a relationship of mutual pride and cooperation with the city of Fort Wayne. This relationship extends to the many industrial and commercial firms in Fort Wayne that employ Indiana Tech graduates.

Transportation

- Citilink buses offer transportation in and around Fort Wayne. More information will be provided at orientation. If you need information sooner you can contact IA or visit the Citilink website at: www.fwcitilink.com.
- Greyhound Bus lines offers schedules including stops in Fort Wayne for students arriving in the United States who wish to take the scenic route. This form of transportation is slow

and tiresome, however, and is not suggested for long distances. Buses do not run from the airport.

Bank Accounts

- It is advisable to set up a bank account and deposit the extra cash you have. We have several banks near campus like Fifth-Third, Chase, PNC, and Star Financial. An ATM is available on the first floor of Andorfer Commons. It is important to note that Bank of America does not have branch locations in Fort Wayne or surrounding cities.

Methods of Payment

- In order to ensure ease and convenience, please familiarize yourself with your government's regulations about the forwarding of money to the United States and make arrangements to have the necessary funds on hand at the beginning of each term. Upon arrival, you will need money for tuition, fees, room and board, and personal expenses. Sometimes these transfers take time, therefore, it is advisable to send your money for both personal and university expenses* before you arrive. Please note, the IA will assist with opening a U.S. bank account upon arrival to Fort Wayne.

* Please Note: You should separate the university fees from personal money since the university will not refund a balance in cash until after the check or draft has "cleared" the bank. This normally takes up to three (3) weeks.

- Checks or drafts for tuition and fees should be payable to Indiana Tech, while funds for personal expenses should be made payable to you. It is also advised that you establish a bank account (either checking or savings) after arrival to permit cashing or depositing checks in the future.

Payment by FlyWire Transfer

- This method of payment is the preferred method of payment for all fees, deposits and tuition charges paid by international students. This service is free of charge to students. To transfer money using peer transfer please visit <https://www.peertransfer.com/school/indianatech>.

Payment by Wire Transfer

- This method of payment is preferred over a payment with a draft for international students. This method of payment can be used for initial payments before their arrival and for payments for subsequent semesters.
- To wire funds directly to the account of Indiana Tech, the student/parent will give their bank the following information (the bank will assess a fee to the student/parent for this service):

Name of Bank: Star Financial Bank Fort Wayne, Indiana USA
Swift Code: SFIBUS44
ABA: 074901672

For further credit to:

Account Name: Indiana Institute of Technology
Account Number: 51042060

- The student's name and identification number (ID#) should be included in the instructions to be sure the funds can be properly credited. You may find your student ID# by re-visiting your Acceptance letter or on My.IndianaTech.edu An annual textbook rental fee is included in your tuition rate. That is correct, free textbook rental! Students who want to keep their books for future reference will be billed at the end of the semester.

Appendix A- Glossary of Immigration Terms

1. **Form I-20:** Certificate of Eligibility for the F-1 Visa
2. **Form DS-2019:** Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor Status (J-1 Visa) Uses:
 - a) To obtain an F-1 or J-1 visa from the American Embassy/Consulate in your home country.
 - b) To enter the country for the first time.
 - c) To re-enter after a short visit outside the U.S.
 - d) To transfer to another school.
 - e) For entry of family (spouse, children).
 - f) To extend expected program end/activity date.

Note: The I-20 or DS-2019 you have been issued is only good for the semester indicated. If you do not arrive by the date indicated, you must return the form to IA.

3. **Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS):**
 - The Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) is a national tracking/monitoring system that allows the U.S. government to monitor and track various events of all F-1 and J-1 students during their program of study.
 - In addition to biographical information, Indiana Tech will be required to provide information regarding a student's academic program, enrollment status, and immigration activities. You will learn more about SEVIS upon arrival at Indiana Tech. However, before you enter the U.S., you need to understand that once you have arrived, you must be committed to following all the rules related to your status.
 - **Any violations of status will be reported to the U.S. government.**
4. **Visa:**
 - A visa is a stamp placed in your passport by an official of the United States (or the country you are entering) permitting you entry. You must have a valid visa to enter the United States (unless you are visa exempt). However, unlike a passport, once you are in the U.S., your visa is allowed to expire.
5. **Passport:**
 - A passport is your country's identification of you as a citizen. Your passport must remain valid at all times. **It is not allowed to expire.** You may renew it by contacting your Embassy/Consulate within the U.S.

6. Arrival/Departure Record:

- Customs and Border Patrol has begun an electronic processing of the I-94 Arrival/Departure Records. Consequently, the immigration officer will now stamp your foreign identification document (i.e. passport) and write your visa classification including the expiration date of your authorized stay in the U.S. All international students should have F-1 (exchange students have J-1) written as the visa classification.
 - You may obtain a printable version of your electronic I-94 number anytime at: www.cbp.gov/i94.
 - You will receive a new I-94 number each time you re-enter the U.S. **You must provide the International Student Admissions & Orientation Office with all new I-94 numbers you receive during your stay in the U.S.**