Loyola Numbers

- Enrollment: 5,082 (total): 3,255 undergraduates; 901 graduate students; 89 Doctoral students; 766 law students; and 71 continuing education students
- 7th “Best College Library” ranking by Princeton Review
- Ranked for the last 23 years among the Top 10 Southern regional schools by U.S. News & World Report.
- 120 student organizations
- 49 states represented
- 47 countries represented
- 88% of faculty hold highest degree in field
- 12:1 student to faculty ratio

The staff of the Center for International Education (CIE) are here to help you adjust to Loyola, New Orleans and the U.S. We coordinate all university programs for international students and help you understand and abide by the complicated immigration regulations. Whether you are coming to Loyola for a degree or just one semester, we will help you make the most of your experience at Loyola through the following programs and services:

- International orientation;
- Assistance with all immigration matters, including SEVIS;
- Advising on cultural, linguistic, academic, financial, immigration, or personal questions;
- Administration of health insurance for international students;
- International festivals including the Country Fair in the Fall and International Week in the Spring;
- Excursions to tourist sites both in and out of the city;
- Cultural activities and get togethers.
- And much more....

We hope that you will take advantage of the services and activities sponsored by CIE and by the university. We look forward to meeting you and having you join our community.

International Student Orientation
The Center for International Education has special orientation sessions for international students prior to the start of classes. These programs cover information that you as an international student need to know whether this is your first time in the U.S. or you have studied here already. The orientation includes information on immigration and SEVIS, academic and cultural opportunities available at Loyola and in New Orleans, working in the U.S., and much more. The international student orientation also provides a wonderful opportunity for you to meet other international students, and it’s a great way for you to begin your Loyola experience. Remember, the orientation program is mandatory and you must attend. To read more about orientation and view the schedule for the semester you will be arriving, visit www.loyno.edu/cie/international-student-orientation.

Topics covered in Orientation
- Get to know your fellow international students
- SEVIS and immigration: everything you need to know to stay in status
- Introduction to U.S. academic life
- Working on campus and in the U.S.
- Getting involved on campus – the International Student Association and more.
- Adjusting to the U.S.
- New Orleans music
- Student panels

PREPARING FOR YOUR ARRIVAL

Applying for a Visa
If you are coming to Loyola University from outside the U.S., you will need to have an F-1 student visa or J-1 exchange visitor visa to enter the U.S. You cannot study full-time on either a B-2 tourist visa or the visa waiver program. If you have questions about other visa categories, please contact CIE. Listed below are the instructions on getting a visa and paying the SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System) fee.

SEVIS Fee
The SEVIS Fee is a one-time non-refundable fee and is required of those who are applying for a F-1 or J-1 visa based on an I-20 issued for “initial attendance” or a DS-2019 issued to “begin a new program.” F-1 students must pay $200 and J-1 exchange visitors must pay $180. This is an additional fee separate from the visa application fee set by your local U.S. Embassy or Consulate. You must pay the SEVIS fee before your visa interview (if you are applying for a visa) or before applying for admission at a U.S. Port of Entry (for Canadian citizens exempt from the visa requirement). Proof of payment must be presented at the visa interview or port of entry. Please refer to http://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901/faq3.htm for a comprehensive description of who pays – or does not pay - and how to pay the SEVIS fee.
**Keep in mind the following:**

- The SEVIS fee cannot be paid at a U.S. embassy or consulate, or at the U.S. Border. Currently, the options for individuals to pay the fee are by credit or debit card via the Internet, by check or money order mailed to SEVP and by using Western Union Quick Pay. Any organization or individual may use one of these payment methods to pay on behalf of a student or exchange visitor. See [http://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901](http://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901) for more information.
- You can schedule your visa interview prior to paying the SEVIS fee. However, you will not be issued a visa unless the Visa Officer can verify that the SEVIS fee payment has been made.
- If you are paying from overseas and you do not have access to the payment methods described above, you may find it easier to have someone in the United States pay the fee for you. If someone else fills out the form for you, be sure you give them a copy of your Form I-20 or DS-2019 or the information from the form.
- To complete form I-901 (see below), you must enter the Loyola University New Orleans School Code of NOL214F00095000, if you have been sent an I-20, OR the Loyola Program Number of P05040 if you have been sent a DS-2019. You must also enter your SEVIS ID number, which is printed at the top right of the I-20 or DS-2019, above the bar code. It starts with the letter “N.”

**If you pay by internet (preferred method):**

- Complete Form I-901, called “Fee Remittance for Certain F, J and M Nonimmigrants”, online (www.fmjfee.com) and supply the necessary credit card information. Be sure to write your name exactly as it appears on your I-20 or DS-2019.
- Print a copy of the on-line receipt. Be sure to make copies of your on-line receipt, and keep it with your other important immigration documents.
- Once you have paid the SEVIS fee, you can print a receipt anytime by going to www.fmjfee.com and clicking on the “Check I-901 Status / Print Payment Confirmation” button. After entering your SEVIS ID, Last Name, and Date of Birth you will be able to print your payment confirmation.
- Bring the receipt of fee payment with you to the visa or port of entry interview.
- For additional details on SEVIS and the SEVIS fee, access the SEVIS website at [www.ice.gov/sevis/i901](http://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901). You will find the I-901 Fee Frequently Asked Questions especially helpful.

Visa officers and U.S. port-of-entry inspectors should be able to verify SEVIS fee payment electronically but in case of problems, having a printed receipt is the best evidence of fee payment. You should keep your fee receipt until you complete your exchange visitor program (J-1) or receive your final degree (F-1).

For additional details on SEVIS and the SEVIS fee, go to the SEVIS website at [http://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901](http://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901). You will find the Frequently Asked Questions especially helpful.

**Visa Wait Times**

It is important that you make the visa appointment as soon as possible because the appointment wait time can sometimes be very long. To check the current visa wait times at the embassy or consulate where you will apply, visit [http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/wait/wait_4638.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/wait/wait_4638.html).

**Applying for a visa for students residing outside the U.S.**

Visa procedures vary from one consulate or embassy to another, so it is very important that you check the website of the U.S. consulate or embassy in your country for specific instructions. [http://www.usembassy.gov](http://www.usembassy.gov)

Here are standard items required for the application:

- Current passport valid for at least six months after your proposed date of entry into the U.S.
- Form I-20 for the F-1 visa or a DS-2019 for the J-1 visa
- Evidence of financial support for the period of time and the amount indicated on the I-20 or DS-2019
- Form DS-160. The form is available on the State Department website: [http://travel.state.gov/visa/forms/forms_4230.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/forms/forms_4230.html)
- Visa processing fee receipt (see the website for the U.S. Consulate or Embassy in your country for specific instructions on paying this fee)
- Proof that you have paid the SEVIS fee
- One 2x2 photograph. See the required photo format explained on the State Department website: [http://travel.state.gov/visa/visaphotoreq/visaphotoreq_5334.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/visaphotoreq/visaphotoreq_5334.html)

**Climate**

New Orleans is tropically warm and humid in the summer; however all buildings are air-conditioned. Lightweight summer clothing is appropriate. Fall and spring are often very beautiful with bright, warm days and cool nights. The winter is short; yet, there are times when the temperature drops below freezing, so bring a warm coat. It rains a lot, so be sure to also bring an umbrella.
Immigration Checklist

Make sure that you carry the following documents in your carry-on and have ready to present at the port of entry when you enter the U.S.

- Passport valid for at least six months past the date you enter the U.S.
- Form I-20 for F-1 students or DS-2019 for J-1 exchange visitors.
- Valid visa F1 or J-1 visa stamped in your passport (not required for Canadian citizens).
- Proof of I-901 SEVIS Fee payment.
- Proof of Financial Support in English.
- Letter of acceptance from Loyola - in case officials at the port of entry request this.

You should also be prepared to provide:

- Transcripts and diplomas from any previous institutions you have attended
- Scores from standardized tests that were required by Loyola, such as the TOEFL, LSAT, GRE, GMAT, etc.
- Financial evidence that shows you or your sponsor has sufficient funds to cover your tuition and living expenses during the period of your study. (For example, if you or your sponsor is a salaried employee, take income tax documents, paycheck stubs and original bank statements. If you or your sponsor own a business, take business registration licenses and tax documents as well as bank statements.)
- Proof that you have a residence abroad that you have no intention of abandoning and that you have a plan for returning home after your studies.

A short interview will be required.

After you Apply

The consular officer will place a visa in your passport. This is your permission to enter the U.S. If this is your first time attending school in the U.S., your F-1 or J-1 visa must list Loyola University New Orleans as the school that you will be attending and you cannot enter the U.S. more than 30 days before the start date on your I-20 or DS-2019. If you encounter any problems obtaining your visa, contact CIE at cie@loyno.edu or (504) 864-7550.

To read more about the visa application process, visit http://www.loyno.edu/cie/visa-process.

Transferring from a School Within the U.S.

If you are presently in the U.S. studying at another institution on an F-1 visa, you will need to have your SEVIS immigration record transferred to Loyola. You must be maintaining valid immigration status in order to transfer your record. If you are leaving the U.S. prior to enrolling at Loyola and you have a valid F-1 visa, you can simply re-enter with your F-1 visa and Loyola’s I-20. Your visa does not have to say Loyola University New Orleans. To read more about transferring your SEVIS record to Loyola, visit www.loyno.edu/cie/transfer-to-loyola

THINGS TO DO BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

Loyola Requirements Checklist:

- Dates to Remember
- Health Insurance
- Immunization Records
- International Student Orientation
- Residence Hall Application

Important Dates to Remember when Planning your Arrival

As you prepare for your arrival and make travel plans, pay special attention to the following dates:

- The first day of International Student Orientation (you should arrive at Loyola the day before). The Residence Halls will open the day before international orientation and you can move in. If you arrive before this date, you will have to stay in a hotel.
- The last day to register and add a class (the Friday of the first week of classes)
- The last day to drop a class (the Friday of the second week of classes – this is also the health insurance waiver deadline)
- The last day of exams (this is also the last day you are allowed to stay in the residence halls – the residence halls close during the winter break, but you can leave your belongings in your room)

To view the academic calendar for each semester, visit http://academicaffairs.loyno.edu/records/academic-calendars
Health Insurance
Medical care in the U.S. is very expensive and a minor injury or illness can be very expensive. Because of this, as an international student, you are required to have health insurance. This requirement is for your safety, should you become ill or need to seek medical attention. Since health insurance is mandatory, you will be charged for and covered by an insurance policy obtained by Loyola on your behalf, unless you submit proof of comparable personal coverage. The health insurance charge will appear on your first student bill.

If you wish to waive coverage under Loyola’s accident/sickness policy, your insurance company representative will need to complete the International Health Insurance Waiver Form which is included in this packet and is on the CIE website. This form must be submitted to the CIE office by the following deadlines or no later than the second week of classes:

- Fall 2014 – September 5
- Spring 2014 – January 17
- Summer – June 2

After these dates, no waivers will be accepted, and you will have to pay the insurance charge on your student bill. You should contact your insurance company before you arrive at Loyola and well before the deadline, since it may take several days for them to complete the waiver petition. If you are waived from the insurance requirement, you will still have to submit proof of comparable insurance coverage every academic year in August. Our office can answer any questions you have about the Loyola health insurance coverage. To read more about the international student health insurance plan or to download a waiver form, visit http://www.loyno.edu/cie/healthcare-medical-insurance.

Immunizations
Loyola University New Orleans and Louisiana law requires all students to submit vaccination documentation. This requirement can be met by providing evidence of prior vaccination, being vaccinated or signing the waiver at the bottom of the immunization compliance form. Registration for any course will be “temporary” until the completed proof of immunization compliance form has been reviewed by Student Health Services. Failure to submit the completed form will result in a “hold” being placed on your LORA account. To read more about the immunization requirement, visit http://studentaffairs.loyno.edu/health/immunizations.

HOUSING
Residence Halls
Living on campus is a very positive experience for new students. Residence hall life is not only a great way to get to know other students, but also allows you to experience living in a community. All freshmen and sophomores are required to live in the residence halls. The rooms are double occupancy, furnished with single beds, closets, study desks, and chairs. Linens, blankets and bed pillows are not provided by the University and you should bring them with you or purchase them after you arrive. You can also choose to pre-order linens online and have them delivered to Loyola: http://studentaffairs.loyno.edu/residential-life/residence-hall-linens.

Housing Application and Placement
You will receive an email from Residential Life containing detailed login and housing application instructions. Housing placements are made in July for the fall semester and in December for the spring semester. Residential Life will email you after placements have been made with information regarding your room assignment and roommate.

Off-Campus Housing
Apartments near the university are limited. Most apartments within walking distance from the university are rented long before the school year begins. There are also many apartments located a greater distance from the university which will require the use of a bicycle, automobile or bus. Some apartments are available with furniture for a higher cost. All require one month’s rent in advance, another month’s rent as a damage deposit and usually a one year lease. For more information about living off-campus, visit http://www.loyno.edu/cie/off-campus-housing.

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12 Ideals of Jesuit Education
- Pursuit of Excellence
- Respect for the World, Its History and Mystery
- Learning from Experience
- Contemplative Vision Formed by Hope
- Development of Personal Potential
- Critical Thinking and Effective Communication
- Appreciation of Things Both Great and Small
- Commitment to Service
- Linking Faith with Justice
- Special Concern for the Poor and Oppressed
- International and Global Perspective
- Discerning Mindset: Finding God in All Things
ARRIVING IN NEW ORLEANS

What to Bring with You:

- Contact Information: Carry the address and phone number of the Center for International Education (CIE): 6363 St Charles Ave, New Orleans, LA 70118, +1-504-864-7550 and of University Police +1-504-865-3434.
- Copies of your immigration documents: Carry copies separate from your passport and original immigration documents (I-20 or DS-2019).
- Letter of acceptance from Loyola: Keep accessible in case the United States Customs and Border Patrol (USCBP) requests to view it at your port of entry into the United States.
- Money: Bring enough accessible money in cash, debit cards or travelers checks (approximately U.S. $900) for initial living expenses such as food, household items and transportation. Please note that while traveler’s checks are a safer way to bring in money, they are hard to cash in shops and need to be done in a bank. Textbooks are quite expensive in the U.S. Budget for US $300 to $600 per semester after initial semester.
- Your driver’s license/international driver’s license: Can be used to drive and as alternative forms of ID.
- Photographs, souvenirs, music, crafts, videos, picture books, recipes and clothing from your home country: you can use these items to share about your culture with your friends. These items can also be used at the Country Fair, which is an annual event in which international students cook and display tables with information for the Loyola community: www.loyno.edu/cie/country-fair.

For more pre-departure information, visit www.loyno.edu/cie/pre-departure-information

Getting to Campus from the airport

The university can be easily reached by taxi or by the Airport Shuttle. Taxis cost $33 and the Airport Shuttle costs $20. Taxis from the airport do not turn on their meters because the prices are fixed. Taxis are located outside the baggage claim area. Tickets for the Airport Shuttle can be purchased by the door exiting the baggage claim. The railroad and bus stations are located downtown, a short distance from the university.

If you know the residence hall in which you are staying, you can tell the driver to take you directly there. If you do not know your residence hall and you arrive between the hours of 8:30 and 4:45 p.m. Monday through Friday, you can call CIE at +1-504-864-7550 or Residential Life at +1-504-865-2445 for your residence hall and room number. After hours or on the weekend, call the Loyola Department of Public Safety at +1-504-865-3434.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT WHEN YOU ARRIVE ON CAMPUS

Your first few days in New Orleans and at Loyola will be filled with a variety of new experiences, from meeting your advisor and getting to know your roommate or finding an apartment to learning all about what the university and the city has to offer. In addition to these exciting activities, we want you to be aware of just a few more items that will aid in your adjustment to life on campus. You will receive more information during the orientation but the information below will get you started.

CELL PHONES

While most cell phone companies require a social security number before they will open a new contract account, it is possible to get a prepaid phone. The new Social Security Administration’s restrictions (effective October 13, 2004) on not issuing a social security number to F-1 or J-1 students without proof of a job or an explicit job offer have made it much more difficult for international students to open an account with a cell phone company. There are, however, a number of cell phone companies in the New Orleans area who are willing to open new accounts for those individuals without a social security number, but be prepared for them to request a ($100-250) deposit in lieu of not having social security number. There is also the option of prepaid wireless service where you pay for a pre-determined amount of airtime per month in advance. Almost all cell phone companies offer this option, but these plans are usually more expensive.
BANK ACCOUNTS
You first need to determine whether or not you need to open a bank account while you are studying here at Loyola. If you will primarily use an ATM card from a bank in your home country to access cash or if you will only be in the U.S. for a short time, then opening a new account in New Orleans may not be practical. But, if you will study at Loyola for a year or more, plan to eventually get a job on campus, or will receive money via international wire transfers, then opening an account may be necessary. While there are many choices, you should consider the following factors when deciding where to go: proximity to Loyola (especially if you do not have transportation), fees charged (monthly or per transaction), # and location of Automated Teller Machines (ATMs), and minimum deposits required, if any. Loyola has four ATMs on campus: Chase Bank, Capital One, Whitney National Bank and Loyola/Tulane Federal Credit Union. Whitney has a full-service banking office on Tulane University’s campus (across the street from Loyola). Many banking institutions have begun requiring that international students obtain a letter from our office before an account can be opened. Please let us know and CIE will prepare that letter.

ON-CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT
F-1 students are allowed to work on-campus a maximum of 20 hours per week during the Fall and Spring semesters. During the summers and on official school breaks, students can work over 20 hours per week. Students can complete an employment application once they arrive on campus in the Human Resources office. Most students, however, find jobs by inquiring at offices and departments around campus. F-1 students are not eligible for the College Work-Study program because it is funded by the U.S. government, but you can apply for all student assistant positions which are funded by the various campus departments. If you are hired you will need to apply for a social security number (see paragraph below). You will also be required to file federal and state income taxes each year. CIE will help you with the tax-filing process.

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER
Social Security Administration (SSA) regulations now require that all F-1 student and J-1 exchange visitor applicants for a social security card show proof of employment or an explicit job offer in order to be eligible for a social security number. A Social Security Number is a 9 digit number assigned by the SSA and is intended to primarily track a worker’s wages, but is often used by companies and other government agencies to identify many things like an individual’s credit history, driving record, etc. It is entirely different from the Campus Wide ID assigned to you by Loyola. There is no charge to apply for a Social Security card. It will take between 10 days and 6 weeks to receive your Social Security Number. You will need to request a letter from CIE as well as a letter from your on-campus employer before you go to the SSA office to apply for the number.

TUITION, FEES, BILLING & PAYMENT PLANS
You must pay the balance on your student account (residence hall, meal plan, health insurance, etc.) within 30 days of the start of classes. Payments may be made using cash, personal check, money order, e-check, Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover. Online payments can be made through our secured online payment gateway; however, our e-Commerce provider charges a 2.75% convenience fee on all credit card payment. E-checks are still offered and processed as a free service.

Using the E-Commerce System
The e-Commerce system is available everyday, except during daily scheduled maintenance, which occurs from 3:45 a.m. (CST) until 8 a.m. (CST). You can access the e-Commerce system through LORA under the Tuition and Billing section. While on this Account Summary page, click on Pay Tuition Online/View e-Bills/Add Authorized Users/Create e-Refund Profile. Parents can also access the e-Commerce system through LORA for Parents. http://finance.loyno.edu/bursar/student-services.

For more detailed information on e-Commerce and how to authorize access for parents and authorized users, check out the Instructional Video Series at http://finance.loyno.edu/student-finance/e-commerce-instructional-videos.

Wire Transfers
If you would like to pay via bank wire transfer, you will need the following information:
Whitney National Bank
228 St. Charles Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70130
Phone: (504) 838-6565
Account #: 10012015084
Routing #: 065000171
SWIFT#: WHITUS44

New Orleans Neighborhoods
New Orleans is a city of neighborhoods, each with its own character and architectural style. In fact, there are an astounding 20 historic districts on the National Register in New Orleans, more than any other city in the United States. The main neighborhoods for students are:

- French Quarter: New Orleans main tourist attraction
- Garden District: built by “Les Americains” after the Louisiana Purchase.
- Uptown: Loyola and Tulane Universities are located here along with Audubon Park
- Warehouse District: Art district with museums, galleries and converted warehouses
- Fauborg Marigny: This is the neighborhood where locals go to hear music.
New Orleans Food

New Orleans is world famous for its food and has some of the best restaurants in the country. Even though the population of New Orleans is less than before Hurricane Katrina, there are 70% more restaurants! (We do love our food.) When you are here, don’t be afraid to try new foods like crawfish or gumbo. You will be surprised with all the wonderful flavors.

To help you get started, we have listed a few terms which you will need to understand the local menu along with a list of a few restaurants. Happy eating!

- Beignet (BAH-NEET): Sweet doughnut with lots of powdered sugar on top.
- Crawfish: Look like tiny lobsters, known locally as “mudbugs” and served a lot of ways.
- Gumbo: A thick, soup with many variations.
- King Cake: A large, ring-shaped coffee cake decorated with eaten only during Mardi Gras season.
- Po-Boy: a sandwich on French bread - oyster, shrimp, roast beef...

The student’s name and Campus Wide Identification Number must be included with the wire transfer information in order for Loyola to properly credit the student’s account.

Monthly Budget Plans
Loyola accepts monthly payments through Sallie Mae and Tuition Management Systems, Inc. Both agencies offer monthly plans with no interest for a low enrollment fee. Monthly payments are not accepted without enrollment in one of these plans. For more information about setting up a payment plan, visit http://finance.loyno.edu/student-finance/monthly-budget-plans

Questions about paying your bill?
The following offices can assist with your questions related to tuition, payments, financial aid, and more.

STUDENT FINANCE: http://finance.loyno.edu/student-finance
For help with tuition and fees, billing, payment plans, refunds

BURSAR'S OFFICE: http://finance.loyno.edu/bursar
For help with tuition payments, e-commerce

FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS
http://www.loyno.edu/financialaid/international-students
http://www.loyno.edu/cie/financial-aid-scholarships
For help with financial aid, loans, grants, scholarships

WolfMail: your Loyola e-mail
WolfMail is the official electronic communication by the University. Students are expected to check their e-mail regularly, even during the summer. In addition to personal communication, you will also receive important information via WolfMail including financial aid, housing, meal plan, and academic information.

How to Log-In
1. Click the WolfMail link located in the top gray bar of all Loyola webpages.
2. Enter your user name in the Wolfpack ID field. Your user name is the portion of your Loyola e-mail address before @loyno.edu. If you do not know your Loyola e-mail address, you can find it by logging into LORA.
3. Enter your Password. Your default password has been preset to the first two letters of your first name and the last 4 digits of your 999 number (your 999 number is noted in the letter attached to your immigration document).
4. If you have forgotten your PIN or need help with WolfMail, email sturec@loyno.edu.

You can forward your WolfMail directly to your preferred e-mail address by following the steps below.
2. Click the link to Forward E-mail.
3. Enter your Loyola e-mail address.
4. Enter your password.
5. Enter the new e-mail address you want your e-mail to be forwarded to.
New Orleans Festivals

New Orleans is a city of festivals and events. Many of them are free. Below is a list of just a few of the festivals. Find out more information at: http://www.nola.com/festivals/

- Art for Art’s Sake: Coordinated gallery openings with food, drink, music and a street party on Julia and Magazine streets – 1st Saturday in October
- New Orleans Film Festival: October
- New Orleans Fringe Festival: November
- Magazine Street Blues Festival: November
- Oak Street Po-Boy Festival: November
- Mardi Gras or Carnival: February or March Parades for the event begin about two weeks before Mardi Gras Day. You will hear lots more about Mardi Gras.
- French Quarter Festival: April
- Jazz and Heritage Festival: Last weekend in April and the first weekend in May
Loyola Country Fair

Every October, Loyola hosts the Country Fair. This free event showcases Loyola’s diverse international community and gives students, faculty, and staff the opportunity to spend the afternoon “traveling” the world.

At the Fair, Loyola’s international students as well as U.S. American students, set up tables where they showcase a variety of items (flags, pictures, native clothing, artifacts, etc.) and food from their home countries or from countries where they studied abroad. This is one of the most popular events at Loyola. Live music, displays, and cuisine from a variety of countries are featured.

your I-20 or DS-2019.

- Obtain a new I-20 prior to changing degree levels or programs of study.
- F-1 & J-1 students CANNOT work off-campus unless they have first received authorization from CIE or USCIS. This includes internships off-campus whether paid or unpaid.
- F-1 students can work part-time on-campus during the school year (on-campus employment may be full-time - more than 20 hours per week - during the summer and official school breaks). J-1 students must obtain permission in advance from CIE to work on-campus.
- Request a travel endorsement on your I-20 or DS-2019 from CIE before traveling outside the U.S. Have your documents checked by CIE before leaving the United States for any travel outside the country.
- Carry copies of your passport, I-20 or DS-2019 with you at all times in New Orleans. Carry the originals when traveling outside of New Orleans even within the U.S.
- Report a change of address directly to CIE or to the university through LORA within ten days of your move.
- Submit required tax forms and pay any taxes due.
- Important Note: This information is not exhaustive and is subject to change without notice. If you would like to read further about immigration requirements for international students, you can visit http://www.loyno.edu/cie/international-students.

ADJUSTING TO A NEW CULTURE

Most new international students go through adjustment, often called “culture shock”. It is neither as shocking nor as sudden as most people expect, but rather simply part of the process of adjusting to a new culture. You have probably already started along this process even if you are still in your home country.

Right now, you are preparing for this new adventure. You are busy saying goodbye to friends and family, anticipating what studying at Loyola and living in the U.S. will be like. Surprises await you when you arrive. People may walk and talk more quickly (or more slowly), traffic patterns may be confusing, and buildings may look different than expected. The housing arrangements, the manner in which classes are taught, registration for courses, and other procedures may seem strange. Such differences are easy to see and generally are quickly learned.

At first, although the new situation is a bit confusing, most students also find it to be exciting. With so much to learn and absorb in the new culture, the initial period of settling in often seems like an adventure. During this time, you will tend to look for and identify similarities between your home culture and the U.S. You will find that people really are friendly and helpful. The procedures are different, but there are patterns, things that you can learn and depend on. You may classify other aspects of the culture that seem unusual or even unattractive as curious, interesting, or “quaint.”

Gradually, as you become more involved in activities and get to know the people around you, differences rather than similarities will become increasingly apparent to you. Those differences may begin to seem irritating rather than interesting or quaint. Small incidents and difficulties may make you anxious and concerned. This anxiety and irritation, that grows little by little as you interact with other students, faculty, and people in the community is “culture shock.”

The common symptoms of culture shock are:

- Homesickness
- Desire to avoid social settings with host nationals
- Physical complaints and sleep disturbances
- Depression and feelings of helplessness
- Difficulty with coursework and concentration
- Loss of your sense of humor
- Boredom or fatigue
- Hostility towards the host culture
Students are sometimes unaware of the fact that they are experiencing culture shock when these symptoms occur. It is important to remember that this is a very normal process that nearly everyone goes through.

The most effective way to combat culture shock is to step back from a given event that has bothered you, assess it, and search for an appropriate explanation and response. Try the following:

- Observe how others are acting in the same situation.
- Describe the situation, what it means to you, and your response.
- Ask a local resident or someone with extensive experience how they would have handled the situation and what it means in the host culture.
- Plan how you might act in this or similar situations in the future.
- Test the new behavior and evaluate how well it works.
- Decide how you can apply what you have learned the next time you find yourself in a similar situation.

Throughout the period of cultural adaptation, take good care of yourself. Read a book or watch a movie in your home language, take a short trip if possible, exercise and get plenty rest, write an e-mail or skype home, eat good food, and do things you enjoy with friends. Take special notice of things you enjoy about living in the U.S.

Although it can be disconcerting and a little scary, the “shock” gradually eases as you begin to understand the new culture. It is useful to realize that often the reactions and perceptions of others toward you — and you toward them — are not personal evaluations but are based on a clash of cultural values. The more skilled you become in recognizing how and when cultural values and behaviors are likely to come in conflict, the easier it will be to make adjustments that can help you avoid difficulties. For more cultural information, visit http://www.loyno.edu/cie/adjusting-new-culture.

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS**

Adjusting to a new environment can be exciting and challenging. New international students at Loyola often have a lot of questions and concerns before and after arrival to Loyola. Getting involved in ISA or inBUS can help with your transition.

**International Student Association (ISA)**
ISA works to foster cultural understanding on Loyola’s campus. ISA is a great way to meet new people from different country and background and to help educate the Loyola community about your own culture. ISA sponsors both on-campus and off-campus activities that promote cultural diversity and expose students to different people and cultures. They educate students, faculty, and staff on international student issues through open forums, speakers, and film series. ISA hosts two signature events—the Country Fair and the International Student Scholarship Banquet, but they also have a range of smaller activities such as volunteer work, student panels, movie nights and other fun activities that involve interacting with different cultures. To read more about ISA, visit www.loyno.edu/cie/isa

**inBUS (International Buddies Program)**
inBUS is a group that aims to better integrate exchange and international students into the Loyola community. By grouping U.S. American students with incoming internationals, we hope to create long lasting friendships and support systems that are of mutual benefit to the students. Events are planned to give international students an opportunity to experience Loyola University, the city of New Orleans, the region, and the culture. Past events have included swamp tours, camping trips, movie nights, potluck dinners, Mardi Gras parties and meet-ups, concerts, and crawfish boils. All new international students are automatically members of inBUS. To read more, visit www.loyno.edu/cie/inbus

**New Orleans Directions**

“Lake,” “River,” “Uptown,” and “Downtown” are the four cardinal points of the New Orleans compass. Here, we determine our location on the basis of where we are in relation to Lake Pontchartrain and the Mississippi River and upriver or downriver from Canal Street. Loyola is on the lakeside of St. Charles Ave. Audubon Park, across the street from Loyola, is on the riverside of St. Charles Ave. Loyola is uptown or upriver and the French Quarter is downtown. It can get confusing, because the river curves and streets follow the river, the sun rises over the west bank of the Mississippi! Don’t worry, you will learn how to navigate here in no time.
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CIE is located in Mercy Hall Room 301.