

# LIFE AT ISU

## Living in Bloomington-Normal:

### On-campus

International students who hold F1 Visa status, graduated from high school less than two years ago, and who are considered "Freshman" or "Sophomore" level students by the University may choose to live in any of the University's Residence Halls.

Information about the different residence halls can be found on the [University Housing Services website](#).

International students coming in through exchange programs, the English Language Institute, or who have "Junior," "Senior," or "Graduate" student standing are able to live on the International House TLLC Floors in the Manchester Residence Hall.

University Housing Services at Illinois State University operates several apartment complexes for students' use.

Because these apartments do not have spaces specifically set aside for international students, students must contact University Housing Services to make arrangements to live in one of these facilities.

For more information about these apartments or to apply, please visit the [University Housing Services website](#).

### Off-campus

Because privately owned apartments are managed by private companies or individuals, students must make all of these arrangements themselves. Networking with current students prior to your arrival on campus can be one way to find out about possible housing options. Networking with other newly admitted ISU international students can be one way to find a potential roommate or hear from other new students about the apartments they have found. Try searching apartments through some of the [leasing companies](#) in Bloomington/Normal area.

### Temporary accommodation

Temporary accommodation can be requested through the online request form. ISA's volunteers and friends host the new students at their home until they find their own housing. Some of the important points about the temporary accommodation service are:

The new student should keep the place clean and leave it in the initial condition.

The guests should be proactive in their hunt for apartments and roommates (if staying together), and are not expected to stay more than 5 days at their temporary housing.

Though ISA's volunteers host new students for no cost at their place, it is advised that the new student should contribute or at least offer to contribute in the expendables (buying grocery and food items, and other daily use articles such as soap, shampoo, and more).

## **Weather**

Bloomington-Normal experiences four seasons: fall, winter, spring and summer.

Weather can be quite extreme; average summer temperatures can reach 95 degrees Fahrenheit/35 degrees.

Celsius and average winter temperatures can be as low as -20 degrees Fahrenheit/-29 degrees Celsius.

Be sure to pack a variety of clothes, including clothing for snow and rain, so you are prepared for any situation.

## **Transportation**

Central Illinois Regional Airport, 3201 CIRA Drive, Bloomington, serves as a hub for connecting flights on Delta, American Airlines, and Allegiant Air. Parking is free and the airport is also accessible by Connect Transit.

Amtrak (station located in Uptown Normal) provides rail service to Chicago and St. Louis on the Illinois and Texas Eagle services.

Connect Transit is the public transit system in Bloomington-Normal. Use one of the 11 different routes to access shopping, entertainment and dining in Bloomington-Normal. By using your Redbird ID card, you can ride Connect Transit for free.

## **Places to eat**

There are plenty of options available for eating on-campus as well as off-campus at Illinois State University. Visit the [dining webpage](#) to see more details.