

Fighting Illini Handbook 2017

Your personal guide to getting started at
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Prepared by UIUC Singapore Students Association (SSA)

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Introduction

Dearest Freshies,

Warmest welcomes and congratulations on being admitted to UIUC, and taking that first step into the next phase of your life!

For most of you, this would be the first time you are studying overseas, away from your family and the familiarity of home. It might seem terrifying to be in an unknown foreign place “on your own” but fear not, we hope to be your home away from home - forging closer ties with you and helping you adapt to the new environment. We are sure that in time to come, you will grow to love the U of I as much as we do, and take pride in being part of the Fighting Illini!

To ease your transition into the new culture and community, SSA has compiled general information and useful tips about the university and life in Urbana Champaign (aka “Chambana”) in this little booklet. We also hope that this booklet will facilitate your whole process of settling down in a foreign land – from the preparation back home all the way to the first few weeks of school. Feel free to approach any of the friendly and helpful seniors if you have any further questions or doubts.

We are glad that you have chosen to join our university and we want to help you get adapted and immersed in the Chambana community. Get ready for a wonderful college experience filled with countless memories that you will treasure for years to come!

Once again, welcome to UIUC! :)

Your dearest seniors,
Singapore Students Association
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

My Checklist

- ☐ Admission Letter
- ☐ Passport
- ☐ I-20, Visa
- ☐ Medical Check-Up
- ☐ Medical Health Forms
 - ☐ Health Centre Immunization & Medical History Forms
 - ☐ TB Screening Form
- ☐ Bank Statement
- ☐ Academic Documents

Pre-Departure

College Related Matters

1. Ensure that the “certified true copies” of your academic transcripts have been mailed to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions as soon as possible. Your JC/High School may have already done it on your behalf. The deadline is July 10, 2017¹.
2. Claim your NetID and set the online passwords. Your NetID is a username assigned to you that is unique across all University of Illinois campuses. It serves as your login to many university computing and networking services, and also determines your University email address, which is netid@illinois.edu. You will receive instructions for claiming your NetID and setting your passwords.
 - NetID: <https://netidclaim.illinois.edu>
3. Check your school email at <http://g.illinois.edu> to see if the school has sent you any important information. Your email will be hosted on Gmail.
4. Apply for housing online at <http://www.housing.illinois.edu/apply-now>. You will need your EnterpriseID² to apply for housing.
5. Sign up for Summer Registration. This is the period you talk to an advisor online and register for your classes for Fall 2017. We advise you to choose the earliest day so as to get all your classes before they fill up. A date in early June would be ideal. Check your admitted checklist for instructions!³
6. Ensure you get these documents at least 2 weeks before departure:
 - a. Offer of Admission
 - b. I-20
 - c. Medical Checkup Form (X-rays are NOT required)
 - d. Bank Statement

Note: UIUC Fall 2017 first day of classes is : 28 Aug, 2017⁴

¹ <https://www.admissions.illinois.edu/FAQ/admitted-freshman>

² You will notice that different school sites may ask for things like “Enterprise ID” or “Active Directory (AD)”. These are basically your NetID - the school recently merged all these services together.

³ <http://admissions.illinois.edu/Apply/Admitted/checklist-fall>

⁴ <https://registrar.illinois.edu/fall-academic-calendar-17>

US Student Visa

Kindly check the UIUC SSA website for more information. Under the “prospective students” tab, there is a document called “visa and immunization information” which contains the steps and details of the application process. Try to get this done at least 2 months before your departure (June 2017) in case of complications! Remember that you must arrive on campus by the “no-later-than” report or start date indicated on the I-20 or DS-2019.

Website: <https://publish.illinois.edu/singaporestudentsassociation/>

Medical Check-Up

1. See a doctor to fill in the McKinley Health Center Immunization and Medical History Forms, as well as the TB screening form. This can be done at most clinics. Also, please bring along your health booklet and any other medical records (especially for vaccinations).

Instructions: <http://www.mckinley.illinois.edu/General/admission.htm>

2. Some vaccinations are optional. You can check with your doctor or visit the Traveler’s Clinic at TTSH for advice on vaccinations i.e. seasonal flu. Chicken pox vaccination is advisable if you have not contracted it before.

Transport to UIUC

Buses from Chicago O'Hare Airport (ORD) (~\$30):

- University of Illinois O'Hare to Urbana-Champaign Shuttle Service - service provided by ISSS for new incoming international students. This shuttle service will run from August 18-22, 2017 and the cost is \$35 per person. (Fall semester ONLY)⁵
- Peoria Charter serves many different locations including Bloomington Airport as well as Chicago O'Hare. Recommended for good price and trusted service!
- Greyhound has daily service between downtown Chicago and Champaign.
- EAC Shuttle provides service between Chicago (O'Hare) and Champaign-Urbana.
- Illini Shuttle (aka Suburban Express) provides service between Chicago and Champaign and will pick up and/or drop off students at both Chicago airports (O'Hare and Midway).

Departures from O'Hare are from the International terminal or the shuttle center. Check to ensure you are waiting at the correct location. It may take a while for you to pass through the US immigrations (1-3 hours) so do take that into consideration when you book the bus. Also, some companies require you to book tickets with American debit/credit cards so contact any SSA member if you have any difficulties in doing so.

- Amtrak Train from downtown Chicago to downtown Champaign (<http://www.amtrak.com>)
 - Not advisable as it is highly inconvenient, especially as you are arriving into the U.S. for the very first time with sizable luggage.
 - To take the Amtrak:
 - Take Chicago metro to Union Station as Amtrak station is in downtown Chicago (45-60min)
 - Buy tickets and take Amtrak. Tickets are about 25-30 USD (15% discount available with the International Students Identity Card, ISIC). Amtrak journey is 2-2.5h.
 - Upon arrival at Champaign, take public bus to get to the campus (5 East (Green) or 1 South (Yellow)). Check out the schedule and route-maps: <http://www.cumtd.com/routeschedules/>

⁵ http://iss.illinois.edu/students/incoming/pre_arrival/transportation.html

From Willard Airport (CMI), the airport that serves UIUC:

- Walk North to the Walmart and take 1 North Yellow. Google Maps says it'll take about 1.5 hours.
- Use the Uber/Lyft app to call for a ride down to campus.
- Contact the Seniors to ask for help (Contact List at the end of this booklet)

Important Documents

Please pack these important documents in your hand-carry bag. Do bring along copies of all these documents and keep them separate from your originals.

1. I-20
2. Passport + US Visa (printed in passport)
3. Offer of Admission
4. Physical copy of bus ticket (ensure bar-code clearly visible, *Suburban Express* tends to be picky about such things)
5. Medical check-up form
6. Personal medical records
7. Original (NOT certified true copies) official academic transcripts (A-Levels, O-Levels, Diplomas) for transfer of credits
8. Proof of financial support (2 copies at least - you never know how many you need). You can get these from the bank or from your scholarship provider.
9. Fighting Illini Student Handbook 2017 =)

Miscellaneous

- The University will sign you up for a health insurance if you do not have one. Please kindly inform them if you do not wish to take up their health insurance. Getting a health insurance is a UIUC requirement. See <https://www.uhcsr.com/school-page> or <http://si.illinois.edu/> for more details.
 - *Do note that you can choose not to take up the insurance plan offered by the university.*
- **Extend Your Passport.** For the NSmen, do visit www.ns.sg to apply for your Exit Permit. There is no need to apply for deferment/disruption unless you have an upcoming mobilization or ICT. Disruption will be granted upon approval of your application for exit permit. However, to be sure, please enquire with CMPB. Recommended to do so before applying for US visa.

- **Textbooks For Classes.** Once you've confirmed your schedule, check with seniors what books you will need and you can choose to purchase the books in Singapore. The books in Singapore (e.g. from the NUS Co-op) can be much cheaper. You can also check out <http://www.illinibookexchange.com/>, which is a website where you can get used textbooks from other students. Otherwise, there are also two bookstores on campus, namely the Illini Union Bookstore and the TIS Bookstore.

Summer Registration

Summer Registration is a mandatory program for all incoming students. As an international student, you are given the option of meeting an academic advisor and registering for classes online in June/July. You can meet an advisor on campus in August later if you want to.

Remember to complete your college homework and any required placement tests (such as AP credits or A levels) 2 weeks before your registration date.

Placement tests are relatively easy so you don't need to be mugging terribly hard for this. Try to get it done ASAP.

1. Online registration:

- a) In an email sent out by the academic advising office, there is a link to a page where you can sign up for a registration date. If you can't find the link, it is available on this page:
<http://admissions.illinois.edu/summerregistration/index.html>
- b) You will then be prompted to download and install a software called Illuminate, which allows you to communicate with the academic advisor via online calls. This software might differ depending on your college.
- c) Log on at the scheduled time and date and you will be able to meet your academic advisor and register for classes online.
- d) If you do not meet your advisor, you will not be able to register for classes.

2. August registration:

- a) Typically takes place during the week before the start of the fall semester
- b) You will receive a notification of where and when to meet your advisor, so be there as stated.
- c) The on-campus August registration session allows you to meet the academic face to face and have your questions answered. The academic advisor will also guide you through the registration process
- d) However, this leaves you at risk of not getting desired classes, getting classes with terrible timings, or having a limited choice of classes.

Talk to the academic advisor assigned to you during the summer registration (REQUIRED to remove registration holds), and especially to your seniors, then register for classes. However, DO NOT trust everything that the advisor says, some of them may not be aware of your A-level credits and try to make you sign up for classes that you already have credit hours for. Do talk to your seniors, they will be able to help you better with regards to courses you will need to take. A list of seniors who offer to be contacted is attached at the end of the handbook.

- For a step-by-step guide on how to register for classes, go to <http://registrar.illinois.edu/registration-procedures> or just ask any senior
- Take note of any passwords that may be assigned to you during the summer registration, these will be used for online registration.
- Class schedules: <https://courses.illinois.edu/>

Proficiency Tests

Not to be confused with placement tests, these tests are basically “jump start” tests. You get credit hours for the course if you pass the test but no grade recorded on your transcript. It basically doesn't count towards your GPA but helps you to graduate faster.

Check <http://cte.illinois.edu/testing/pnp/proficiency.html> for more information on deadlines to register as well as whether the department offers proficiency tests for the course you're enrolled in. There are also various other proficiency tests offered by the respective departments, such as Mathematics and Physics. Course notes can be found online but you are strongly encouraged to contact the seniors (page 18) for more details.

Post-Arrival

At the US customs (your 1st port-of-call in US), make sure that the CBP officer has stamped clearly as well as signed in the space in the stamp. This will help avoid future immigration/work permit problems. Your arrival information will be recorded on a form called I-94, which is now recorded *electronically*. You can retrieve it from <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/#/home> under the "Get Most Recent I-94" tab.

Note: Confused about first name and last name when you are filling in the immigration forms? Here are some examples:

Consider "Daniel Quek Yiliang"	
Last Name	<i>Quek</i>
First Name	<i>Daniel Yiliang</i>
US Format	<i>Daniel Yiliang Quek</i>
Consider "Lim Yang Kiat, Dennis"	
Last Name	<i>Lim</i>
First Name	<i>Dennis Yang Kiat</i>
US Format	<i>Dennis Yang Kiat Lim</i>

It is important to be consistent.

New visas issued now only include first and last name, so you don't have to worry about middle name if you're asked for it on any form - just leave it blank.

You may need to declare the foodstuffs that you may have. Admissible food are like condiments, honey, coffee, dried fruits, Milo, food mixes etc.

1. You need to declare the amount of cash you are bringing in if you are bringing in more than 10,000 USD. If you are bringing in a bank draft, do not sign bank draft.
2. Obtain a map of the University if you lost the one at the end of this handbook, this is very important in helping you navigate your way around the school.
 - Hard copies can be obtained from front desk of Illini Union (building I3 on the map)
 - Soft copies/Virtual map can be found at <http://illinois.edu/map/view> then click on "Printable Map(PDF)". It is the first link on the right in orange.
 - Google Maps

Early Arrival & Moving In

Move-in days for University Housing:

- **Tuesday, August 22, 2017** starting at 9am for new residents of Living-Learning Communities who have registered for LLC orientation
- **Thursday, August 24, 2017** starting at 9am for the rest of the freshmen and transfer students.
- Returning students move in on Saturday, August 26, 2017.

If you're arriving prior to your designated move-in day, you may move-in as early as Sunday, August 20, 2017 at 12 noon. There are additional fees for moving in early. There is no need to call the university dorm to inform them about moving in early. The fees for moving in early are as shown below.

Check <http://housing.illinois.edu/tools/move-in/international-move-in> & <http://www.housing.illinois.edu/Tools/move-in/early-arrival> for more details.

Move-In Date	Cost/Night	Notes
Sunday August 20, 2017	\$40.00	No meals on Sunday
Monday August 21, 2017	\$60.00	Includes 3 meals
Tuesday August 22, 2017	\$60.00	Includes 3 meals
Wednesday August 23, 2017	\$60.00	Includes 3 meals
TOTAL <i>If staying all week</i>	\$220.00	Total 10 meals (Includes 1 additional breakfast on Thursday, August 18)

You can refer to our reviews of Residence Halls under the 'Resources' on the UIUCSSA website (<http://www.uiucssa.com/resources/>)

If you arriving even earlier than the earliest move-in for dorms, there are hotels/motels/inns to stay in first:

CHAMPAIGN	URBANA
Baymont Inn	Hampton Inn
Hawthorn Suites	TraveLodge
Hilton Garden Inn	
Homewood Suites	
i-Hotel	
La Quinta Inn	

Bookings can be made by calling directly or via the following websites:

- www.expedia.com
- www.orbitz.com
- www.hotwire.com
- www.priceline.com
- www.travelocity.com
- www.cheaptickets.com

You may also consider Airbnb (<https://www.airbnb.com/>).

College Admin Business

1. **Fill up the Pre-Arrival E-form** (<https://sunapsis.illinois.edu/>) before heading down to the International Students and Scholars Services to register your student records. Check out the link below for more information:
 - <http://isss.illinois.edu/students/incoming/checkin/>
2. **Report to the International Students and Scholars Services** after filling the online Student Electronic Data Collection (the Turner Student Services' Building, T9 on the map). See the following URL for more information on specific dates, times and venues.
http://isss.illinois.edu/students/incoming/checkin/fall_checkin.html
 - Be sure to bring your passport, I-20 and letter of acceptance with you **(This is the first thing that you must do!)**
3. **Apply for the all-important I-card.** It allows you to take buses for free, since the school fees that you pay have already included the cost of the bus services. To apply for the I-card, go to the ID Center, which is located on the 1st floor of Illini Union bookstore (Corner of Wright and Daniel Streets). The opening hours are 9am – 5pm, Mon – Fri.
You will have your photograph taken and card printed on the spot. Do note the formatting of your name i.e. first/last name. Be consistent when filling out forms to avoid complications on registration day. Temporary booths for I-Card processing may also be at the Illini Union during the international student check-in period. Most importantly, you **MUST** present your admission letter and passport to obtain your I-Card.
4. **Go for Tuberculosis Screening and Immunizations**, or else you would be prevented from registering for classes. To do so, Report to the McKinley Health Center (building M5 on the map), Immunization and Travel Clinic. Hours of screening are 8am to 4.30pm on weekdays excluding Thursdays. Temporary locations and special hours may also be set up during the check-in period. TB screening is free, and immunizations can be covered by the student insurance. Remember to bring along your medical checkup forms, personal medical records and important identification documents.

5. **Update your address.** This is required by federal law and must be done within 10 days of moving-in. This is done via U-I Integrate. Instructions are on the ISSS website (<http://www.ips.uiuc.edu/ISSS/>). Click on "Students", "Current Students: Immigration Issues", then "Updating Your Address".
6. Contact any SSA member (call, message or e-mail) if you need any additional help upon arrival in UIUC. The contact list is at the end of this booklet.

Banking

Open a bank account as soon as possible to avoid long queues. Go to their websites and check them out or ask a few seniors for advice.

- Busey Bank, 614 South Sixth Street, Champaign
- Chase Bank, 201 West University Avenue, Champaign
- PNC, 505 E Green Street, Champaign
 - They have a smaller branch in the Illini Union Bookstore (next to the ID Center)
- University of Illinois Credit Union, Illini Union (for credit card as well. Note that you will need a Social Security Number (SSN) first, which comes when you get a job)

Advice: apply for credit card (only if you have an SSN!) and build up credit history, as it will definitely come in useful come buying cars/applying for phone lines/many other stuff.

Some banks offer points for referrals. Points can be exchanged for gifts. If you know one another, one person can open an account first, and then the rest may choose to open another at a later date based off his recommendation. Or if you prefer, you could say a senior recommended you, all you need is her/his bank account number.

There is usually a bank fair held during the international student orientation period, you can sign up there in the convenience of the Union. Do note that banks usually require a US phone number in order to open an account.

Banks sometimes offer freebies to entice you to open an account, but do read carefully to see if you need to maintain a minimum balance, pay a fee for international transfer of money, pay a fee for using ATMs overseas etc. Also think about where their ATMs are. Ask your seniors!

There are two types of accounts.

- Savings Account = higher interest. Money cannot be withdrawn out from this account. Money can only be transferred out of this account into checking account.
- Checking Account = lower or no interest. Checks and usage of debit card draws money from this account.

If you withdraw too much money from the checking account, the bank will automatically deduct your expenditure from your savings account. But at an extra cost! This is called an overdraft.

Some of us just place all our finances in the checking account to avoid the hassle of managing two accounts. We just live with the lower interest rates (calculate how many tens of dollars you will "lose"). This is totally up to the individual's preference.

Telecommunications

- In the U.S., there are two kinds of mobile networks: GSM and CDMA. Phones in Singapore (and most of the world) are designed to run on the GSM network. As such, do not attempt to purchase a plan from Verizon or Sprint and use it with your phone from Singapore.
- Major GSM companies are AT&T (att.com) and T-Mobile (t-mobile.com). AT&T generally has better coverage than T-Mobile, but it's also more expensive.
- Both offer family plans, where 2-5 people sign on together and share a collective amount of data.
- T-mobile offers an international call plan that's \$10/month that allows one to call international land lines or an additional \$5 to call mobile phones too. http://www.t-mobile.com/optional-services/international-calling.html?icid=WMD_TM_INTRNTNLVR_8TIA7ML6SK2659
- There are deals — such as H2O and Ultra Mobile — that offer pre-paid plans by the month. There is a ~\$35 plan that is wonderful⁶. You can get free calls and messages to Singapore!
- There is also Google Fi, \$20/month, which includes: unlimited domestic talk and text, unlimited international texts from USA. Data use is prorated, at \$10 per GB of data (local & international). Since we are mostly on campus, you could easily limit your usage to only 1GB and only pay \$30 a month. Network is reliable and typically runs on T-mobile or Sprint. Officially supports Nexus and Pixel phones but can be made to work on other phones.
- A 200.00 USD CASH deposit is needed for students without a SSN for AT&T. 100.00 USD CASH deposit per person for T-mobile. They will return it to you one year later with interest (which has better rates than most banks).
- Pre-paid is cheaper than family plan, can be suspended during absence up to a year. Check T-mobile or Virgin. No deposit required.
- The cheapest phone plan you can get is T-Mobile's prepaid plan. \$3 a month for a combination of 30 texts/minutes. no data. You can purchase data plans as-needed for \$5/day or \$10/week. To know more about this, ask Gavin!
- Smiliairy, there is usually a telco fair during the international student orientation period at the Illini Union.

⁶ <https://www.h2owirelessnow.com/mainControl.php?page=planMonth>

Getting Around

1. Vehicles in the United States are left-handed drives, and are driven on the right.
2. Buses should stop at every stop where there are people. Flagging a bus is usually unnecessary and you may risk looking 'sua-ku'.

- Use Google maps to check on the bus timing and route to your destination

- Bring along your i-Card and show it to the bus driver to get free rides on any MTD bus service you take. The 1 Yellow, 10 Gold⁷, 12 Teal, 13 Silver and 22 Illini are the main buses you will be taking around campus. You don't have to show your I-Card for only these 4 services at bus stops within campus. You generally have to show your i-Card when you board a bus beyond the borders of campus.

- You can take a copy of the MTD Bus Guide the first time you board a bus, and keep this guide with you. There is a stack of them near the front door (they're free!)

- The bus guide has a map that shows all the bus routes and important locations around UIUC, such as Wal-Mart, Marketplace Mall etc.

- It also shows the timings of when the buses arrive at various places. The buses are fairly punctual.

- Alternatively, search for bus routes and times on

www.cumtd.com

- Bus stops are marked by a sign that says "MTD BOARD HERE". These are not necessarily sheltered, and are usually just signage on lampposts.

- NOTE: When you are out of campus (i.e. taking the bus to Wal-mart/Marketplace Mall, you may not always find these signs.

- The buses often stop along any intersection whenever the bell cord is pulled. If you want to find out where to wait for the bus, best thing to do is to ask a local or refer to the app.



⁷ 10 Gold only runs during the daytime.

- To “press the bell” in the bus, you have to tug at the yellow cord above the windows (pictured below), or press the red button on the vertical pole. Most, but not all junctions are bus stops.



- To get out of the back door, push against any of the vertical bars in the middle of the doors when the green light above it lights up. If it fails to open, holler politely to the bus driver that you need to alight. Alternatively, you can alight from the front door.

- There are plenty of free apps for both iOS and Android that allows you to check the timings for the buses and plan routes. Just search “CUMTD” on your app store and you will find many.

We recommend the apps ‘CU Buses’ or ‘Illini Bus’⁸ for iOS, and ‘Transit’ or ‘CU Bus Guide’ for Android.



- In general, bus numbers, along with their routes and schedules, differ slightly between day and evening services. Example, 1N/S operates in the day and 100N/S operates at night. 22N/S operates in the day while 220N/S operates at night.

Note: There are different operating schedules during weekdays and weekends, day times and night times, semester and breaks.

- Most buses that go through campus would route through Transit Plaza. Transit Plaza can be thought of as the “terminal” on campus.

Directions to Meijers, Target, Walmart or Marketplace Mall:

Meijers, Target, Walmart and Marketplace Mall are the larger shopping places. Meijers is good for groceries, Target and Walmart are megamalls with everything from clothes to household appliances. Marketplace Mall is what we usually think of as a “shopping mall”. To get there:

1. Public Transport (45min one-way)
 - a. During the daytime on weekdays, go to the bus stop opposite Illini Union and take bus 2N Red. You can also take bus 1N Yellow from Transit Plaza (bus stop next to the bookstore)
 - b. In the evenings and on weekends, you can only take the 100N Yellow. 2N Red does not run.
 - c. To get back, just take 2S Red and/or 100S Yellow respectively.

⁸ <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/illini-bus/id537752264?mt=8>

2. ZipCar (15min one-way)
 - a. Zipcar is a pay-per-hour car rental service, ideal for quick trips. Cars are located on/around campus and it is more convenient than traditional car rental. Rental rates start at \$8.50/hr.
 - b. You can sign up for membership at zipcar.com (be sure to indicate that you are a student at UIUC). They accept Singapore driving license. Annual membership fee is \$15. Do note that it takes some time for the application to process. You should also consider mailing it to a US address (Refer to Contact List if you need assistance)
 - c. It is not recommended to rent a Zipcar if you intend to use it for more than 3 hours.

Directions to Far East, County Market and Walgreen:

These are on-campus supermarkets. Far East is an asian mart and County Market is a supermarket selling all sorts of fresh and processed foods. To get to these two, you can take the 12W Teal to Wright and Springfield and walk.

Walgreen is more like a convenience store, selling beauty products, stationery and food. It's located right on Green Street, and is a matter of a simple four-block walk.

Printing & Photocopying Services

- Housing Printers
 - University Housing Residents - USD0.07 cents/page for Grey Scale, USD0.30 cents/page for Color.
 - Others - USD0.10 cents/page for Grey Scale, USD0.40 cents/page for Color.
- Library Printers - USD0.10 cents/page for Grey Scale, USD0.40 cents/page for Color.
- All libraries have coin operated photocopying machines.
- If you need to print or photocopy documents, head to FedEx Kinko on Wright Street. They provide very good quality paper, which might be useful for printing resumes and the like. There are binding services at Notes and Quilts, along East John Street, slightly east of 5th Street as well as Altgeld Hall.

Mailing Services

- The Post Office is located on the ground floor of Altgeld Hall (building A16 on the map). Enter Altgeld Hall through the west entrance, on the side facing Wright Street. It is particularly easy to get lost in this building.
- Just bring your mail or parcel to the post office and tell them where you want to send it. The kind people there will advise you on what to do. They encounter many oblivious and lost (aka blur) students like us.

Free Health Packages

- You may pick up the following items at McKinley or Union basement Oasis health center (with your I-card) twice a semester:
 - Cold Care Products (decongestant, cough syrup, ibuprofen, lozenges)
 - Wound Care Package (bandages, gauze, etc.)

Off-Campus Housing

You should decide and look for a place to stay in the next academic year by **October**. One option that most Singaporeans opt for is to find each other and live in apartments. There are also those who continue staying in dorms as well. There are many Property Management Agencies on campus to look for when you are finding apartments. You can ask any SSA members for help! (Contact Lost at the back of this booklet)

Dining on Campus

Here's a non-exhaustive list of nice, common eateries. Feel free to approach the seniors and ask about other nice eateries. Chambana has quite a number of nice specialty restaurants. Meals can cost from 5 to 12 USD, with an average of 8 USD.

Honestly, this list is just a good-to-know list.

Illini Union Basement:

This is a typical food court. It is convenient with only-average fast food, but it's cheap. Not open on weekends though.

- KO Fusion (like Panda Express but Jap-American)
- Sbarro (Italian)
- Wendy's (Burgers)
- Einstein Bros Bagels
- Qdoba (Mexican)

West University Ave (3 minutes walk North of Green Street):

- Dairy Queen
- Taco bell
- Hot Wok Express
- Niro's Gyros
- English Hedgerow
- Perkins Restaurant and Bakery
- Golden Wok (Singaporean-ish food)

Goodwin and Oregon:

- Food carts: Pandamonium (Tue-Thu 7:30 till 9ish)
- Food carts: Cracked
- Espresso Royale (coffee chain, similar to Starbucks, opens till 12mn)
- Manolo's Pizza
- The Bread Company
- 710 (Korean Mart)

Neil street (~10mins walk from Ikenberry Common dorms):

- McDonald's
- Jarlings (Ice Cream Parlor)

Green Street:

- Cravings Restaurant (South-East Asian Cuisine, nice Malaysian uncle)
- A-Ri-Rang (Korean)
- Coco Mero Frozen Yoghurt (Pay by weight. Beware of taking too much and hence paying a lot your first time)
- Subway
- Murphy's Irish Pub (Check out some of their daily (food) promotions)
- Joe's (Half-price burgers on Saturdays)
- Cracked (Tater tots)
- Evo Café (Good Chinese/Mala Food)
- Woori Jib (Korean, closed on Sundays)
- Cold Stone Creamery
- Potbelly's (nice sandwiches!)
- Mandarin Wok (Chinese and Dim Sum Lunch)
- Noodles & Co.
- Chopstix (Chinese food, mostly, for take-out)
- Chipotle (Mexican Fast Food)
- Lai-Lai Wok
- Burrito King (cheap Mexican)
- Sakanaya (Japanese, slightly more expensive)
- Dunkin Donuts (*99c (before tax) any sized iced coffee/tea*)
- Thai Kitchen Pho Cafe
- Latea (bubble tea)

South Gregory Street (South of ISR, East of Krannert Center for the Performing Arts) aka Nevada (to us Singaporeans):

- Basil Thai
- Mary-Anne's 24h Diner (awesome milkshakes, all-day breakfast)
- J.Gumbo
- Caffè-Bene
- Bab plus (Korean food)
- Subway
- Pizza by the slice
- Premium BBQ Chicken
- Kofusion

Downtown Urbana and Champaign:

- Silver Creek (American food, Urbana)
- Courier Cafe (American food, nice burgers, Urbana)
- Sitara (Indian food, Urbana)
- Black dog (Ribs, locations in Urbana and Champaign)
- Radio Maria (Spanish/Mediterranean, Champaign)
- Jupiter's (American food, half price pizza on Tuesdays, Champaign)

Emergency Situations

Missing Luggage

- Important: Keep the check-in luggage identification tag with you
- Report to the airline counter with the identification number/tag and your luggage will be tracked accordingly

Missed Flights

- Talk to the airline about rescheduling your flight (they will almost always do this for you. Just think of a good reason)
- Inform the party who will be picking you up and taking you to UIUC (be it seniors, OISA, etc.)

Missed Amtrak

- Call the company involved (Amtrak: 1800-872-7245) and explain to them the situation. In most situations, you will be placed in the next train


Here by Yourself and Lost

- Make your way to the Illini Union (ask around for directions, everybody knows where the Union is) and ask the front counter for help.
- Alternatively, contact a fellow Singaporean. (Contact List at the back of this booklet).

Late at Night, Not at Home and Scared of the Dark/Ghosts

- Call SafeRides, a night ride service serving students and staff of the school. It is a free service and is in operation from 5.30pm to 6.30am 24/7. A van will pick you up and take you to the destination when you call 217-265-7433. See <http://www.dps.uiuc.edu/> for more information about other safety programs.
- There's also SafeWalks. Sometimes SafeRides closes during breaks, but SafeWalks should still be running.
- Alternatively, and the best solution for just about anything, contact a senior for help! (Contact List at the back of this booklet).

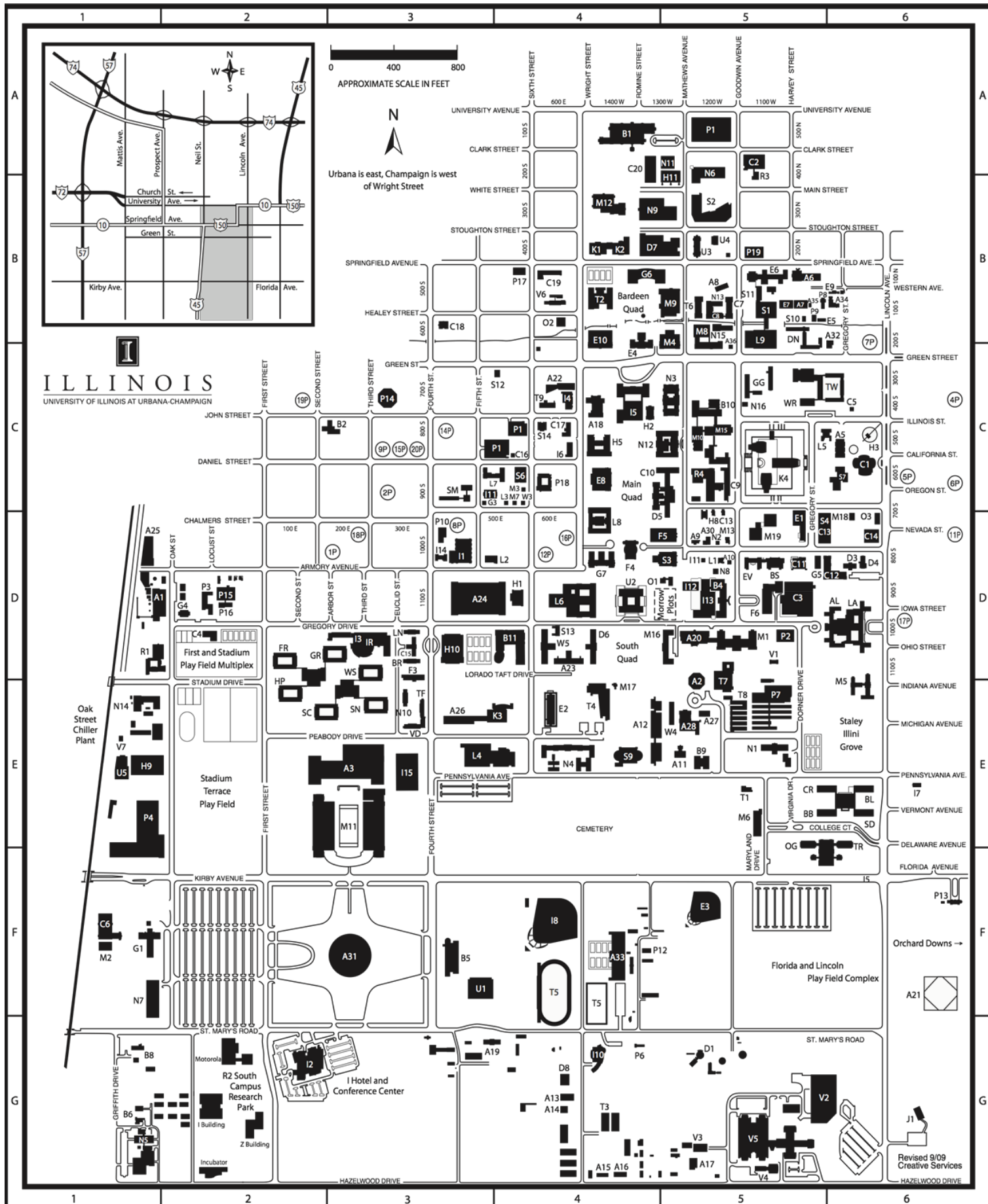
Packing List

Things to Consider Bringing	
Formal Wear (Suit with Court/Dress Shoes)	For career fairs and formal occasions. The first career fair is in September (consider checking it out)
Stationery	Assignments are usually done in pencil. It is difficult to find <u>Pilot & Pentel mechanical pencils</u> here. Variety of brands may differ from Singapore, and your favourite brands might be more expensive.
Bed Linen/Pillow	You may consider Walmart (opens 24/7). However, till stocks last, especially on the first day. NOTE: Bed size in Halls is "XL Twin" (Check again just to be sure).
Panadol	Painkillers in the US (i.e. Tylenol) do not seem to be as effective. Consider bringing other medication like Po Chai pills, Charcoal pills, etc.
Stapler	Staplers sold here are either tiny or huge, not the common finger-length ones found in Singapore. Note that staple sizes might differ slightly.
US Electric Plug Adaptors	Plugs here have two flat vertical pins and use 110-120 Volts, 60Hz AC. Make sure your devices accepts the above power rating (most do), or bring a transformer. It is recommended to get an international adaptor with multiple plugs (so that you can use it in other countries as well). 
Extension Power Strips	Useful if you have a few appliances with the 3-pin plug.
Jacket/Hoodie/Cardigan	It starts to get chilly and windy at night in August. Imagine being in an air-conditioned room with the fan on.
Set of Old Clothes	Bring along a set of long sleeve shirt and pants you don't mind getting dirty. Paintball and hiking events are sometimes organized.

Ethernet Cable	Most Halls have Wi-Fi, but signal can sometimes be weak. Do consider/checking if you hall needs one.
Winter Wear (Down Jacket, Boots, etc.)	Bring those you have from Singapore. Not recommended to buy in Singapore beforehand.

Things Advised Not to Bring	
A4 Paper/Files/ Hole Punchers	US uses 'Letter'-sized paper. The dimensions vary slightly from A4. US also uses triple-ring files, so hole punchers are useless unless you bring your own files.
Bed Linen/Pillow	Not advisable to buy beforehand in Singapore since bed sizes might differ. Consider bringing a loose sheet instead. Alternatively, you can consider asking seniors if they have extra. You might be able to purchase on off them for a low price.
Winter Wear	Try to purchase these in US, reasons: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Waste of luggage space. 2. Might not be warm enough for weather in Illinois. 3. Cheaper in the US. There are premium outlets here, and SSA intends to go to one as part of our annual Chicago Trip at the start of the academic year.

Campus Map





CAMPUS MAP

The designation in parentheses (D1) indicates the map coordinates. An asterisk (*) indicates that a building is not included on this map.

Building Name (Coordinates)

A	
A1	Abbott Power Plant (D1)
A2	ACES Library & Info Center (E5)
A3	Activities and Recreation Center (ARC), formerly IMPE (E2)
A4	Admin Info Tech Serv Bldg (H2)*
A5	Admissions and Records (C6)
A6	Advanced Computation Bldg (B5)
A7	Aerodynamics Research Lab (B5)
A8	Aeronautical Lab A (B5)
A9	African-American Cultural Prog (D5)
A10	Afro-Amer Studies & Rsch Prog (D5)
A11	Agricultural Bioprocess Lab (E5)
A12	Ag Engineering Sci Bldg (E4)
A13	Agriculture Services Bldg (G4)
A14	Ag Services Warehouse (G4)
A15	Agronomy/Plant Path Farm (G4)
A16	Agronomy Seed House (G4)
A17	Agronomy Soybean Rsch Farm (G5)
A18	Altgeld Hall (C4)
A19	Animal Science Barns (G3)
A20	Animal Sciences Lab (D5)
A21	Arboretum—Hartley Gardens (F6) ARC—see A3
A22	Arcade Bldg (C4)
A23	Architecture Bldg (D4)
A24	Armory (D3)
A25	Armory Avenue Warehouse (D1)
A26	Art & Design Bldg (E3)
A27	Art E Annex, Studio 1 (E5)
A28	Art E Annex, Studio 2 (E5)
A29	Art Studios (H1)*
A30	Asian American Studies Bldg (D5)
A31	Assembly Hall (F3)
A32	Astronomy Bldg (B5)
A33	Atkins Tennis Ctr (F4)
A34	Atmospheric Sciences Bldg (B6)
A35	Atmospheric Sciences Annex 1 (B5)
A36	Atmospheric Sciences Annex 2 (B5)
B	
B1	Beckman Institute (A4)
B2	Beckwith Hall (C2)
B4	Bevier Hall (D5)
B5	Biefeldt Athletic Admin Bldg (F3)
B6	Biological Control Lab (G1)
B7	Biomedical Mag Res Facility (H5)* Buell Hall—see T4
B8	Building Rsch Council (G1)
B9	Burnsides Rsch Lab (E5)
B10	Burrill Hall (C5)
B11	Business Instructional Facility (D4)
C	
C1	Campbell Alumni Center (C6)
C2	Campbell Hall for Public Telecommunications (A5)
C3	Campus Recreation Ctr East (D5)
C4	Campus Rec Outdoor Ctr (D2) Career Center—see A22
C5	Center for Advanced Study (C6)
C6	Central Receiving Bldg (F1)
C7	Ceramics Bldg (B5)
C8	Ceramics Kiln House (C5)
C9	Chemical & Life Sci Lab (C5)
C10	Chemistry Annex (C5)
C11	Child Development Lab (D5)
C12	Child Development Lab Expanded (D5)
C13	Children's Rsch Ctr (I2)*
C14	Christopher Hall (D6)
C15	Clark Hall Housing Admin (D3)
C16	CNI/Prairienet (C4)
C17	Coble Hall (C4)
C18	Colonel Wolfe School (B3) Commerce West Bldg—see W5
C19	Computing Applications Bldg (B4)
C20	Coordinated Science Lab (A4)
C21	Credit Union Bldg (H2)*
D	
D1	Dairy Exper Rnd Barns (G5)
D2	Dairy Science Rsch Farm (H6)*

D3	Dance Admin Bldg (D6)
D4	Dance Studio (D6)
D5	Davenport Hall (C5)
D6	David Kinley Hall (D4)
D7	Digital Computer Lab (B4)
D8	Duplicating/Quick Copy Bldg (G4)

E

E. Asian Lang & Cultures—see F5	
E1	East Campus Commercialization Center (C5)
E2	Education Bldg (E4)
E3	Eichelberger Field (F5) Electrical & Computer Engr Lab—see E10
E4	Engineering Hall (B4)
E5	Engineering Sr Design Studio (B6)
E6	Engineering Sciences Bldg (B5)
E7	Engineering Student Project Lab (B5)
E8	English Bldg (C4) Enviro & Ag Sci Bldg—see N1
E9	Environmental Health & Safety (B6)
E10	Everitt Lab (B4)

F

Financial Aid—see A22	
F1	Fire Service Inst Bldg (I1)*
F3	Flagg Hall (E3)
F4	Foellinger Auditorium (D4)
F5	Foreign Languages Bldg (D4)
F6	Freer Hall (D5)

G

G1	Garage/Car Pool (F1)
G3	General Curriculum Bldg (C3)
G4	Geological Survey Lab (D1)
G5	Govt & Public Affairs, Inst of (D5)
G6	Grainger Engr Library Info Ctr (B4)
G7	Gregory Hall (D4)

H

H1	Harding Band Bldg (D4)
H2	Harker Hall (C4) Hartley Gardens—see A21
H3	Hallene Gateway (C6)
H5	Henry Admin Bldg (C4)
H8	Honors Program (D5)
H9	Housing Food Stores (E1)
H10	Huff Hall (D3)
H11	Hydrosystems Lab (A5)

I

I1	Ice Arena (D3)
I2	I Hotel and Conference Center (G2-3)
I3	Ikenberry Commons (D3)
I4	Illini Hall (C4)
I5	Illini Union (C4)
I6	Illini Union Bookstore (C4)
I7	Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities (E6)
I8	Illinois Field (F4) IL Library Computer Sys Ofc—see L7
I9	Imported Swine Rsch Ctr (H2)*
I10	Indoor Golf Facility (G4) International Student Affairs—see T9
I11	Intensive English Institute (D5)
I12	International Studies Bldg (C3) Intramural and Physical Recreation (IMPE)—see A3
I13	Institute for Genomic Biology (D5)
I14	Irwin Academic Services Ctr (D3)
I15	Irwin Indoor Football Pract Fclty (E3)

J-K

J1	Japan House (G6)
K1	Kenney Gym (B4)
K2	Kenney Gym Annex (B4)
K3	Krannert Art Museum & Kinkead Pavillion (E3)
K4	Krannert Ctr for Performing Arts (C5)

L

L1	La Casa Cultural Latina (D5)
L2	Labor & Indust Relations, Inst of (D3) Large Animal Clinic—see V5
L3	Latina/o Studies (C4)
L4	Law Bldg (E3)
L5	Levis Faculty Ctr/Visitor Ctr (C5)
L6	Library (D4)
L7	Library & Information Science (C3)
L8	Lincoln Hall (D4)
L9	Loomis Lab (B5)

M

M1	Madigan Lab (D5)
M2	Mailing Ctr (F1)

M3	Management Information Div (C4)
M4	Materials Sci & Engr Bldg (B5)
M5	McKinley Health Ctr (E6)
M6	Meat Science Lab (E5)
M7	Merriam Lab (C4)
M8	Mechanical Engineering Bldg (B5)
M9	Mechanical Engineering Lab (B5)
M10	Medical Sciences Bldg (C5)
M11	Memorial Stadium (E3)
M12	Micro & Nanotechnology Lab (B4)
M13	Minority Student Affairs Academic Services Ctr (D5)
M14	Moorman Swine Rsch Farm (H3)*
M15	Morrill Hall (C5)
M16	Mumford Hall (D4)
M17	Mumford House (E4)
M18	Music Annex (D6)
M19	Music Bldg (D5)

N

N1	National Soybean Rsch Ctr (E5)
N2	Native American House (D5)
N3	Natural History Bldg (C5)
N4	Natural Resources Bldg (E4)
N5	Natural Res Studies Annex (G1)
N6	NCSA (A5)
N7	NCSA Petascale Computing Fclty (F1)
N8	Nevada St Computing Serv (D5)
N9	Newmark Lab (B4)
N10	Noble Hall (E3)
N11	North Campus Chiller Plant (A5)
N12	Noyes Lab (C5)
N13	Nuclear Engineering Lab (B5)
N14	Nuclear Physics Lab (E1)
N15	Nuclear Radiations Lab (B5)
N16	Nursing, School of (C5)

O

O1	Observatory (D5)
O2	Optical Physics & Engr Lab (B4)
O3	Oregon St Computing Serv (D6)

P

P1	Parking Structures (C3, A5)
P2	Parking Structure/Fire Substation (D5)
P3	Personnel Services Bldg (D2)
P4	Physical Plant Service Bldg (E1)
P5	Physiology Rsch Lab (H2)* Plant & Animal Biotech Lab—see M1
P6	Plant Clinic (G4)
P7	Plant Sciences Lab (E5)
P8	Plant Services Bldg NE (B5)
P9	Plant Services Storage Bldg (B5)
P10	Police Training Institute (D3)
P12	Poultry Farm (F4)
P13	President's House (F6)
P14	Presidential Towers/University Inn (C3)
P15	Printing Services Bldg (D2)
P16	Printing Services Imaging Bldg (D2)
P17	Professional Arts Bldg (B4)
P18	Psychology Bldg (C4)
P19	Public Safety (B5)

R

R1	Rehabilitation Education Ctr (D1)
R2	Research Park (G2)
R3	Richmond Studio (A5)
R4	Roger Adams Lab (C5)

S

S1	Seitz Materials Rsch Lab (B5)
S2	Siebel Ctr for Computer Sci (B5) Small Animal Clinic—see V5
S3	Smith Hall (D4)
S4	Social Work, School of (D5)
S5	Special Materials Storage Fclty (H1)*
S6	Speech & Hearing Clinic (C4)
S7	Spurlock Museum (C6)
S8	State Regional Ofc Bldg (H2)*
S9	Stock Pavillion (E4) Student Services—see A22 or T9
S10	Structural Warehouse (B5)
S11	Superconductivity Ctr (B5)
S12	Survey Rsch Lab (C4)
S13	Surveying Bldg (D4)
S14	Swanlund Admin Bldg (C4)

T

T1	Taft House (E5)
T2	Talbot Lab (B4)
T3	Technology Commercialization

Bldg (G4)	
T4	Temple Hoyne Buell Hall (E4)
T5	Track & Soccer Stadium (F4)
T6	Transportation Bldg (B5)
T7	Turner Hall (E5)
T8	Turner Hall Greenhouses (E5)
T9	Turner Student Services Bldg (C4)

U

U1	Ubben Basketball Facility (F3)
U2	Undergraduate Library (D4)
U3	University High School (B5)
U4	University High School Gym (B5)
U5	University Press Bldg (E1) Urban & Regional Planning—see T4
	University Inn—see P14

V

V1	Vegetable Crops Bldg (D5)
V2	Vet Med Basic Sciences Bldg (G5)
V3	Vet Med Feed Storage Bldg (G5)
V4	Vet Med Surgery & Obstetrics Lab (G5)
V5	Vet Teaching Hospital (G5) Visitor's Center—see L5
V6	Vivarium, Sheldford (B4)
V7	Volatile Storage Bldg (E1)

W

W1	Waste Mgt Rsch Ctr (H1)*
W2	Water Survey Rsch Ctr (I2)*
W3	Women's Studies (C4)
W4	Wood Engineering Lab (E5)
W5	Wohlers Hall (D4)

UNIVERSITY RESIDENCE HALLS

Undergraduate Halls

Champaign Residence Halls

BR	Barton (D3)
FR	Forbes (D2)
GR	Garner (D3)
HP	Hopkins (E2)
IR	Ikenberry (D3)
LN	Lundgren (D3)
SC	Scott (E2)
SN	Snyder (E3)
TF	Taft (E3)
VD	Van Doren (E3)
WS	Weston (D3)

Urbana North Residence Halls

AL	Allen (D6)
BS	Busey (D5)
EV	Evans (D5)
LA	Lincoln Ave (Shelden-Leonard) (D6) Illinois Street
TW	Townsend (C6)
WR	Wardall (C5)

Urbana South Residence Halls

Pennsylvania Avenue	
BB	Babcock (E6)
BL	Blaisdell (E6)
CR	Carr (E6)
SD	Saunders (E6)
Florida Avenue	
OG	Oglesby (E6)
TR	Trelease (E6)

Graduate Halls

DN	Daniels (B5)
SM	Sherman (C3)

Family Housing

GG	Goodwin/Green Apts (C5)
OD	Orchard Downs Apts (East of F6)

Private Certified Housing

1P	Armory House (D3)
2P	Bromley Hall (C3)
4P	Brown House on Coler (C6)
5P	Christian Campus House (C6)
6P	Europa House (C6)
7P	Hendrick House (B6)
8P	Illini Tower (D3)
9P	Koinonia (C3)
11P	Nevada House (D6)
12P	Newman Hall (D4)
14P	Presby House (C3)
15P	Stratford House (C3)
16P	University YMCA (D4)
17P	Nabor House (D6)
18P	Evans Scholars (D3)
19P	Orthodox Christian Center (C2)
20P	312 House (C4)

Contact List

Just contact us, we're here to help! You can ask us anything, including advice for academics, emergency situations, what to do/bored on campus, just wanna hang out, etc. If we can't help, we'll be sure to refer you to the right person!

Remember that SSA is the family that you have away from home. :)

Name	Geographical Location/Duration	Text/Call	Whatsapp/(Telegram)	Remarks
Aspen Tng	TBC	(323) 690-7314	(323) 690-7314 (Preferred)	Contact Anytime!
Chan Ruo Wei	Campus (August 8 - Start of School)	(217) 305-1872	(65) 9228 5900	2017 Resident Advisor
Lim Jing Rong	Singapore (Entire Summer)	(65) 9382 8530	(65) 9382 8530	
Bernard Lim	Boston (May 30 - August 19) Campus (August 19 - Start of School)	(217) 904-0024	(217) 904-0024	
Loh Kang Yong	Campus (May 26 - July 29)	(217) 904-0106	(217) 904-0106	Number deactivated after July 30
Leong Xuan Li	Campus (June 8 - Start of School)	(217) 979-0935	(217) 979-0935	
Aw Jia En	Campus (Entire Summer)	(217) 200-6418	(217) 200-6418	
Nicky Lim	Singapore (Entire Summer) Exchange (2017 Fall)	(217) 200-6312	(65) 9839 6569	

Elaine Li	Campus (August 21 - Start of School)	(217) 419-7396	(217) 419-7396	
Gavin Ng	Campus (End of School - July 19, August 21 - Start of School)	(217) 904-6329	(217) 904-6329 (Preferred)	Contact for Cheap Stuff
Sherwyn Koa	Chicago (July 17 - Start of School)	(217) 200-6498	(217) 200-6498	
Ignatius Ho	Campus (May 30 - June 4) Chicago (June 5 - August 12) Campus (August 12 - Start of School)	(217) 904-0107	(217) 904-0107	

You can also find any of us on Facebook (via messenger) or through <https://www.facebook.com/groups/uiucssa/> (request to join the group!)

SSA Executive Committee

Name	Position	E-mail	Major
Aspen Tng	President	atng2@illinois.edu	Industrial Design
Chan Ruo Wei	External Vice President/ Treasurer	ruoweichan@gmail.com	Political Science
Lim Jing Rong	Internal Vice President/ Secretary	limjingrong@gmail.com	Computer Science