INTERNATIONAL STUDENT HANDBOOK



North Park University International Office

Effective Fall 2015 - Spring 2016



The International Student Handbook is a supplementary resource and is not intended as a replacement for the North Park University Student Handbook. The North Park Student Handbook can be accessed online at http://www.northpark.edu/Current-Students.

Thanks to Benedictine University, Macalester College, and North Central College for their contributions to this handbook.

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WELCOME FROM THE NORTH PARK INTERNATIONAL OFFICE





Dear International Student,

We are pleased to have a part in what will probably be one of the most important educational experiences of your life. While you are here, you will learn not only from your academic work, but also from your contacts with people and institutions in the United States. We hope you will take advantage of the opportunity you have to learn about a society and culture different from your own, and to teach others about the society and culture you represent.

North Park University has established the International Office to help you transition to life in the United States and at North Park. Located on the first floor of the brand new Nancy and G. Timothy Johnson Center for Science and Community Life, on the north side of campus, the International Office is your first stop for a variety of information and services. We are always open to meeting with international students, whether you have a specific question or just want to talk!

This handbook is intended to supplement the North Park University Student Handbook. In addition, for current information about what is happening on campus you are encouraged to read the campus bi-weekly announcements, sent out twice each week by email.

The International Office and every member of the university staff are willing to assist you. We hope to make your time at North Park and in Chicago a very rewarding experience!

Sincerely,

Sumie Song, Ph.D.

Director of the International Office
Global Studies Advisor

Ida Eriksson Assistant Director of the International Office

BEFORE YOU LEAVE HOME

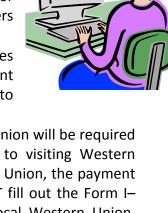


Depending on your current location and visa status, you may have to complete several steps before you arrive at North Park.

1. Pay the SEVIS Fee (Form I-901 Fee)

If your I-20 or DS-2019 was issued on or after September 1, 2004, and is marked for **initial** attendance (see #3 on your I-20 form) or **new program** (see #2 on your DS-2019 form), you will need to pay the SEVIS fee. If you are transferring schools, extending your program, applying for an F-2 or J-2 dependent visa, or have paid this fee and been denied a visa within the last 12 months, you do not need to pay the SEVIS fee.

- o To pay the SEVIS Fee (Form I-901 Fee) online:
 - Go to https://www.fmjfee.com/i901fee/.
 - Complete the form online and supply the necessary Visa, MasterCard, or American Express information. You will also need to include the security code from the back of your card (typically a three digit number).
 - Be sure to enter your name exactly as it appears on your I-20 or DS-2019 form.
 - Include your SEVIS ID number (starts with N) and North Park's SEVIS code (CHI214F01106000 for F-1 programs or P-1-05545 for J-1 programs). You will find these numbers printed on your I-20 or DS-2019 form.
 - Print a copy of the online receipt. Be sure to make copies
 of your receipt, and keep one with your other important
 documents. Bring the receipt of fee payment with you to
 the visa interview.



- Applicants choosing to pay their I–901 Fee by Western Union will be required to fill out the Form I–901 on www.fmjfee.com prior to visiting Western Union. After making the payment at their local Western Union, the payment will be posted to your account immediately. You MUST fill out the Form I–901 online (www.fmjfee.com) prior to visiting your local Western Union. Filling out the form online will generate a unique coupon number, which you will need to validate and process your payment at Western Union. You CANNOT submit a payment via Western Union without the coupon number. You do not have to print the coupon to bring to Western Union; you just need the unique coupon number in order to submit your payment. If a third party is paying your I–901 Fee on your behalf, you will need to provide them with your coupon number to enter in the Account Number field of the Western Union Quick Pay/Quick Collect Form.
- F and M students and J exchange visitors who have paid their required I-901 SEVIS fee can access FMJfee.com on their mobile devices. While users still need the printed receipt for their I-901 SEVIS fee payment, they will have on the go access to FMJfee.com and can conveniently check the status of their I-901 SEVIS fee payment. The mobile friendly site will provide users news and

updates regarding the I-901 SEVIS fee, as well as answers to I-901 SEVIS fee frequently asked questions.

- o To pay the SEVIS Fee (Form I-901 Fee) by mail:
 - Go to <u>www.ice.gov/sevis/i901</u> and print Form I-901.
 - Complete the form and be sure to write your name exactly as it appears on your I-20 or DS-2019 form. Be sure to include your SEVIS ID number (starts with N) and North Park's SEVIS code (CHI214F01106000 for F-1 programs or P-1-05545 for J-1 programs), both included on your I-20 or DS-2019 form.
 - Prepare a check, international money order, or foreign draft (drawn on U.S. banks only) in the amount indicated, made payable to I-901 Student/Exchange Visitor Processing Fee.
 - Mail the completed I-901 form and payment to:

I-901 Student/Exchange Visitor Processing Fee 1005 Convention Plaza St. Louis. MO 63101

or roughly of

United States

Phone Number: 1-314-418-8833 (United States Country Code 011)

2. Apply for an F or J Visa

- Contact your local U.S. Consulate or Embassy to ask about how to get an F or J visa, or check:
 - F-1 information: http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1268.html#4
 - J-1information:http://j1visa.state.gov/participants/how-to-apply/interviewsdocuments/
- After you receive your I-20 form (for F visas) or DS-2019 form (for J visas) from the school that you want to attend, follow the U.S. Embassy/Consulate's instructions to schedule an interview. It is important to apply for your student visa as far in advance as possible. Many consulates require that appointments be made no more than 90 days prior to the intended dates of travel, but some can make earlier arrangements for interviews.
- Complete Visa Application Form DS-160
 (http://travel.state.gov/visa/forms/forms_4230.html), pay the visa application fee, and make an appointment for an in-person interview at your local U.S. Embassy or Consulate.
- Prepare and bring to your visa interview the following:
 - A passport valid for at least 6 months after your intended period of stay
 - Form I-20 or DS-2019 (make sure you have signed your name in blue ink)
 - Acceptance letter from North Park University
 - Completed visa application form DS-160
 - A receipt for the visa application fee
 - One 2" x 2" photograph in the prescribed format
 - A receipt for the SEVIS fee (I-901 fee)

- Evidence that shows you have sufficient funds to cover your expenses. Your financial documentation should match the amounts and types of funding on your I-20 or DS-2019 form.
- Any information that indicates why you have chosen to study at North Park University. You should be prepared to talk about your choice of school, even if you don't have paper documentation.
- Any information that proves that you will return to your home country after finishing your studies in the United States. This may include proof of property, job, family, or other ties to your community. Be prepared to talk about how your studies at North Park will help you make a difference in your home country.
- Remain calm and answer all of the Visa Officer's questions openly and honestly.

3. Pack to Travel

Carry all medication and important documents with you. You will need your passport and I-20/DS-2019 form at the airport; do not pack them in your checked luggage! Make a list of essential addresses and phone numbers and have photocopies of your insurance policy and passport.

Try to pack light because you will have to carry everything that is in your luggage between flights, in the airport, and on campus. Please consult other items you receive from North Park (especially the letter from Residence Life outlining your housing assignment, if you will live on campus) for a list of items to bring. Depending on where you will live on campus, you will need "long twin" or "standard twin" sheets. Sheet sizes often vary by country, so you will probably find it easiest to buy sheets and other bedding (pillows, bedspread, etc.) in the U.S.

You will also have opportunities during orientation to go shopping for things that you need or may have forgotten.

We also recommend that you bring items that represent your culture or country, such as pictures or music, to share with friends and professors you meet in the United States.

Personal items such as photographs of family and friends may help you if you experience homesickness during the cultural adjustment period.

Please check http://www.tsa.gov/311/index.shtm for information on what types of items are allowed to be packed in carry-on or checked luggage.

4. Arrive at the Airport

 Most North Park students arrive at O'Hare International Airport, which is approximately 10.5 miles/17 kilometers, from



the North Park campus. At the International Terminal, you will pass through the "visitors" section of United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, where your papers will be processed. A USCIS official will interview you and:

- Check the visa stamp in your passport
- Inspect your I-20 or DS-2019 form
- Stamp your CBP admission number (I-94) onto your travel document. The admission number (I-94) is a record of your date of entry into the United States and the date of your departure. You may obtain a copy of your I-94 (for employment or immigration purposes) online at: www.cbp.gov/I94.
- Be sure to declare any food, plant, or seed items that you have with you. Import controls limit the types of items that may be brought into the country.
- o <u>If there are any questions about your visa status or your ability to enter the United States, you may be sent to "Secondary Inspection."</u>
 - Don't panic! The most common reason that visitors are sent to Secondary Inspection is because it's taking longer than normal to verify their information. It doesn't necessarily mean that something is wrong; it may just be easier for Citizenship and Border Protection (CBP) officials to verify your information in a less crowded place.
 - Answer all questions truthfully. Explain why you have chosen to study at North Park and how studying in the United States will help you when you return to your home country.
 - If you are attempting to enter the United States without a valid I-20 or DS-2019 form, CBP officers are not required to let you in. They may permit you to enter, but they will probably give you a form I-515A. Bring this form to the International Office as soon as possible; if you don't act on it in a timely fashion, your F-1 or J-1 status may be automatically cancelled!
- The next step in the process is to collect your luggage. Carts are available for a fee if you have a large amount of luggage to carry. If you experience difficulty locating your baggage, you can receive assistance from the Customs Office in the baggage claims area or at the airline counter of the airline with which you traveled. The airline counter is located in the airport terminal just outside the customs area.
- After you have your bags, you will exit the International Terminal. At the final exit, there will be a customs official that may stop you and ask a limited number of questions. Usually, they do not say anything to you as you exit. Since security is currently "enhanced" they may ask travelers to open some of their suitcases for random inspection.
- o If you are a new student at North Park and have submitted an arrival form, someone from the North Park admissions office will be at the airport to pick you up. Please look for a sign saying "North Park University." The sign may be yellow and blue, North Park's school colors!
- o If you are a returning student, or if you are a new student who didn't request an airport pick up from North Park, you should take a taxi or public transportation to North Park.

- To travel from O'Hare Airport to North Park University, take the Blue Line El Train. The train station is located in the lower level of the airport (look for signs for the CTA: Chicago Transit Authority). O'Hare airport is the very last stop on the Blue Line, so you don't have to worry about heading in the wrong direction. Take the Blue Line to the Jefferson Park stop. When you exit, you'll go up a set of stairs to street level and will see a large bus terminal, serving several bus lines. Look for the #92 Foster bus, heading east. Take it to Foster and Spaulding, which is near the center of the North Park campus.
- To travel from Midway Airport to North Park University, take the Orange Line El Train. The train station is located just outside of the airport (look for signs for the CTA: Chicago Transit Authority). Take the Orange Line toward the Loop. Exit at the Clark and Lake stop and transfer to a Brown Line train toward Kimball. Take the Brown Line train to the end of the line (Kimball stop), which is three blocks south of the North Park campus.
- To take a taxi from either airport to North Park University, ask the taxi driver to take you to the intersection of Foster and Spaulding Avenues (Spaulding is half way between Kedzie Avenue and Kimball Avenue). A cab ride from O'Hare Airport will cost you about \$35; a ride from Midway Airport is approximately \$50. Taxi drivers expect a 15% tip in addition to your fare.

5. Hotels and Hostels

If you plan on flying into Chicago before residence halls open for international students, there are a number of hotels and hostels that are easily accessible by either shuttle or public transportation. It is recommended that you reserve a room ahead of time.

- Best Western at O'Hare Chicago (~\$110/night)
 - o 10300 West Higgins Road, Rosemont, IL 60018
 - Complimentary shuttle from the airport runs continuously
- Holiday Inn Express (~\$110/night)
 - o 6600 North Mannheim Road, Rosemont, IL 60018
 - o and 10233 West Higgins Road, Rosemont, IL 60018
 - Complimentary shuttle from the airport runs continuously
- IHSP Chicago (~\$35/night for dorm)
 - o 1616 North Damen Avenue 2nd Floor Chicago, IL 60647
 - o Take the Blue Line from O'Hare to Damen
- Urban Holiday Lofts (~\$35/night for dorm)
 - o 2014 W. Wabansia Chicago, IL 60647
 - Take the Blue Line from O'Hare to Damen
- Getaway Hostel (~\$32/night for dorm)
 - o 616 W Arlington Pl, Chicago, IL 60614
 - Take the Blue line from O'Hare to Clark/Lake, transfer to either the Brown or Red line. Take the Brown or Red line to Fullerton
- Hostelling International (~\$40/night for dorm)
 - 24 East Congress Parkway
 - o Take the Blue line from O'Hare to Jackson

YOUR TIME AT NORTH PARK UNIVERSITY



Who We Are

North Park University has a student population of approximately 3,200 students, about 2,000 undergraduate students and 1,200 graduate students. Each year North Park has approximately 200 international students on campus, representing over 40 countries. Some come for one semester of exchange studies, others come to improve their English in our English as a Second Language Program, and others graduate with bachelors or masters degrees. However long you stay with us, we are glad to have you as a part of the North Park family!

The mission of North Park University is to prepare students for lives of significance and service through liberal arts, professional, and theological education. North Park is a Christian university founded in 1891 by first-generation Swedish immigrants. It is associated with the Evangelical Covenant Church, and about one sixth of the undergraduate students are affiliated with this protestant denomination. The rest of the students represent other protestant denominations, Catholic and Orthodox Christian traditions, and other religions of the world.

North Park seeks to educate students as whole persons, not just as students in the classroom. This vision is supported by the curriculum as well as by voluntary worship, fellowship, and service activities that help students develop their values and prepare for lives of service to society. International students are encouraged to get involved in some type of extra-curricular activity. Whether you participate in a music ensemble, play on a sports team, volunteer for a community service project, act in a play, take part in worship, participate in student government, or join a student club, getting involved is a great way to meet people and for people to get to know you!

Community Expectations

North Park is a family of diverse individuals who care for and learn from each other. As a member of this community, you will be held accountable for the following standards:

- Practicing personal and academic integrity
- Demonstrating concern for the growth, learning, and development of yourself and others
- Respecting the rights, property, and dignity of all persons

For complete information on North Park policies and expectations, please read the Student Handbook at www.northpark.edu/studenthandbook.

The International Office

The International Office is located on the first floor of the Nancy and G. Timothy Johnson Center for Science and Community Life. We are here to help you with any visa questions or cultural adjustment issues that you may have. You may request an individualized appointment in advance via email.

On the following page, we've listed some important campus offices. If you can't find the answers you need, please contact the International Office; we might be able to help!

Important Contact Information

Admissions and Enrollment	Career Development and Internships Office
for information on changing academic programs at	for career planning advice, help writing a resume,
North Park and financial aid.	and information on internship opportunities.
Old Main, first floor	Johnson Center, first floor
773-244-5501	773-244-5575
molson@northpark.edu	careers@northpark.edu
Center for Counseling and Health Services	Computer Services
for basic medical care, referrals to other medical	for help with your email account or personal
care providers, and mental health counseling.	computer.
Foster Avenue between Spaulding and Christiana	Caroline Hall, garden level
773-244-4897	773-244-5540
hjazevedo@northpark.edu	IT@northpark.edu
English as a Second Language Program	Human Resources Office
for additional help with the English language.	to learn about available campus jobs and fill out
Magnuson Campus Center, first floor	paperwork for campus employment.
773-244-4942	Old Main, third floor
dbricault@northpark.edu or	773-244-5599
mpavlik@northpark.edu	gherrera@northpark.edu
Records Office	Residence Life Office
to order transcripts, verification of enrollment forms,	for help with campus housing or meal plans.
transcript evaluations, and graduation audits.	Johnson Center, first floor
Student Services Building, first floor	773-244-5555
773-244-5560	housing@northpark.edu
records@northpark.edu	Trouble to the transport to the transpor
Security Office	Student Accounts Office
to request a campus escort, report a crime, or get	to ask questions about or pay your North Park bill.
general information about campus and city safety.	Student Services Building, first floor
Magnuson Campus Center, lobby	773-244-5607
773-244-5780	studentaccounts@northpark.edu
In an emergency, first contact the Chicago Police	<u>stademaccounts@northpark.cdd</u>
Department by dialing "911."	
Student Activities Office	Student Enrichment Services
to learn about getting involved on campus and	for assistance with class registration and tutoring.
enjoying activities around the city of Chicago.	Johnson Center, first floor
Johnson Center, first floor	773-244-5741
773-244-4994	studentenrichment@northpark.edu
lkonecky@northpark.edu	
University Ministries	Writing Center
for information about spiritual life activities and	for help with writing skills and understanding class
volunteer opportunities.	writing assignments.
Johnson Center, first floor	Brandel Library, second floor
773-244-4980	773-244-4975
//3-Z44-430U	

VISA STATUS AND U.S. GOVERNMENTAL POLICIES



Important Documents and Terms

Passport—Issued by your own government, the passport permits you to leave and reenter your own country. U.S. law requires that your passport be valid at all times.

Visa—This stamp in your passport, given by a U.S. consulate abroad, allows you to enter the U.S. It indicates the type of visa you have (e.g., F-1, J-1, B-2). The visa shows the latest date on which you can enter the United States. It does not indicate how long you may stay in the U.S. It is possible to stay in



the U.S. on an expired visa as long as you have a valid form I-20 (F-1 students) or DS-2019 (J-1 students). You must renew your visa <u>only</u> if you plan to leave and re-enter the U.S. after your visa has expired.

I-94—This is a record of your entry to and departure from the United States. (In the past Customs and Border Protection would issue a white paper card each time you entered the U.S. It had an eleven-digit "admission" or "I-94" number that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) would use to keep track of your entries and departures. Stamped with your date of arrival, the I-94 card indicated how long you could stay in the country and what status you entered in.) DHS has eliminated the paper I-94 card and automated the entire process. Each student entering on an F or J visa automatically receives an I-94 number, but you will not see it. Should you need ever need a copy of your I-94 record, you may obtain it online: www.cbp.gov/I94.

I-20—This document is given by a university to allow a student to apply for an **F-1 student visa**. If you leave the U.S. for a period of time and plan to return, you will need a signature on page 3 of your I-20.

DS-2019—This document is given by a university or program sponsor to allow an exchange visitor or scholar to apply for a **J-1 exchange visitor visa**. If you leave the U.S. for a period of time and plan to return, you will need a signature on page 1 of your DS-2019.

Duration of Status or D/S—This notation should be made on your I-94 card and I-20/DS-2019 when you enter the US in F-1 or J-1 status. F-1 and J-1 students have permission to remain in the U.S. for the "duration of status," the period during which the student is pursuing a full course of study and any period of authorized practical training (F-1) or academic training (J-1), plus a grace period within which to leave the country (60 days for F-1 visa holders; 30 days for J-1 visa holders).

SEVP/SEVIS—The Student and Exchange Visitor Program (a division of the US Citizenship and Immigration Service) keeps track of international students and scholars in the United States through its computer database, called SEVIS (Student & Exchange Visitor Information System).

Employment Authorization Document (EAD)—This laminated card is issued by the DHS as proof of valid employment authorization for certain F-1 students and J-2 dependents. The EAD indicates the beginning and ending dates of employment and the type of work permission authorized.

USCIS—The United States Citizenship and Immigration Service makes decisions on the benefits of visa status, such as work authorization, change of status, and reinstatement.

**PLEASE NOTE: The information provided below is a <u>brief</u> explanation of your rights and responsibilities as an international student. We have not reprinted all applicable laws in this section. Please consult the International Office with any questions.

Maintaining Visa Status

- Undergraduate, Exchange, and ESL students must take 12 credits each semester. Graduate students must take at least 8 credit hours each semester. Do not drop classes without first checking with the International Office.
- All international students must show full course registration at the start of each <u>semester</u>. Even if you are taking some classes in Quad A and some classes in Quad B, you must be registered for the full amount of credits at the start of Quad A.
- There are only a few cases in which an international student may legally enroll less than full-time. Please contact the International Office if you believe you qualify for an exemption. Please note: if you are authorized for a reduced course load, your financial aid may be reduced due to less than full-time enrollment.
- International students may take only one on-line course each semester to count toward their full course requirement.
- A student who is enrolled in both spring semester and the following fall semester does not need to register for summer courses. If a student begins at North Park during the summer term, she or he must show full-time enrollment for the summer.

Semester Registration

- At the start of each semester, every international student must be registered in the SEVIS database. In order to be registered, a student must submit a complete SEVIS Checklist to the International Office, which includes:
 - o Proof of full time enrollment for the term.
 - Proof of health insurance. Any student who does not have adequate health insurance from the home country will be enrolled in and billed for a plan offered through North Park. Please see page 22 of this handbook for information on North Park's health insurance requirements.
 - Understanding of F-1 or J-1 visa responsibilities and rights.

A SEVIS Checklist will be sent to each student's North Park email address at the start of each term.

During semester registration, the International Office must indicate if a student is in her or
his last session prior to graduation. If a degree-seeking or ESL student needs to postpone
her or his program completion date past that on the I-20 or DS-2019 form, the International
Office must receive a letter from the student's academic advisor indicating the classes the
student has left to complete and a new anticipated program end date.

Travel and Reentry

- Any international student traveling outside of the US must have her or his form I-20 or DS-2019 endorsed for travel prior to departure. Only DSOs/PDSOs can sign I-20 forms and only ROs/AROs can sign DS-2019 forms. Travel signatures are valid for one year.
- Some exchange students will have a DS-2019 processed by ISEP: International Student Exchange Programs. These students will need the signature of an ISEP staff member, rather than a North Park RO/ARO, in order to travel outside of the United States.
- A student may remain in the US, as long as she or he is lawfully enrolled in school, even if the visa in the passport expires. However, if a student with an expired visa leaves the US, she or he will need to apply for a new visa in the home country prior to returning. The student should obtain an updated form I-20 or DS-2019 from the International Office to use for visa renewal.
- Regulations governing application for a new visa in a country other than the home country (e.g., Canada or Mexico) are complicated. If a student attempts to renew a visa in a country other than the home country and the visa renewal is denied, she or he will not be permitted back into the United States, even if the student's academic program is ongoing. Please see the International Office if you plan to travel to Canada or Mexico on an expired visa.
- A student who has an application pending for OPT should talk with the International Office before departing the US. Additional documentation may be suggested depending on the student's particular situation. A student who has completed a program but has not yet applied for OPT should not travel outside of the U.S. for any reason.

Employment

- On-Campus Employment
 - International students are permitted to work on-campus a maximum of 20 hours per week while school is in session. During the summer or on other school breaks (fall break, winter break, spring break, but not regular weekends) an international student may work on-campus 40 hours per week.
 - J-1 Exchange students are required to receive permission from the International Office or alternative Program Sponsor (e.g. ISEP) before beginning on-campus work.
- Off-Campus Employment
 - International students are not permitted to work off-campus without permission from the International Office and, in some cases, the U.S. Government. Even an unpaid, volunteer position, if not properly documented, may be considered illegal employment.
 - o In some cases, international students may engage in an off-campus internship (paid or unpaid) as part of their program of study. The internship must be taken for credit and must be recorded in the SEVIS database as Curricular Practical Training (F-1 only) or Academic Training (J-1 only).
 - North Park policy requires that all undergraduate students complete one year of studies and have junior-level standing at North Park before being eligible for an internship. Students who meet all guidelines set forth by the

- Career Development and Internships Office may count the for-credit internship toward their full-time enrollment.
- Graduate students may be eligible for CPT sooner than one year if an internship is <u>required</u> by their program or if they have completed one year in F-1 status at a different school. Not all North Park graduate programs allow for CPT. MBA students must register for one credit of internship for each quad of CPT; the credits do not count toward full-time semester enrollment or degree requirements.
- o ISEP Students must comply with all ISEP guidelines for Academic Training. Please see the International Office for more information.
- Please see the International Office if you believe you qualify for Curricular Practical Training (F-1 only), Academic Training (J-1 only), Severe Economic Hardship Work Permission, or Pre-completion OPT (F-1 only).

Communication with the International Office

- The International Office is open to international students whenever they have questions about visa regulations, life in the United States, North Park policies, or just to talk!
- At minimum, international students must be in contact with the International Office once each semester via the SEVIS Checklist.
- In addition, U.S. law requires that students contact the International Office:
 - Upon arrival, to present copies of passport, visa and stamped I-20 or DS-2019.
 - Anytime there is a change to address, academic program, or funding.
 - Prior to taking a leave of absence, traveling outside the US, or extending program.

Post-Program Options

- After completing a program of study (ESL, undergraduate, or graduate), an F-1 student has several options, all of which must happen within 60 days of the program end date:
 - The student may take the 60 days to travel within the US and prepare to depart the country. Students may not work during this grace period, and cannot depart and reenter the U.S.
 - The student may apply for another program at North Park.
 - The student may apply for an academic program at another university.
 - A student who has completed an undergraduate or graduate degree (but not one
 who has completed only the ESL program) may be eligible to apply with the USCIS
 for one year of employment in the U.S. in her or his field of study, referred to as
 Optional Practical Training (OPT). Students who are interested in applying for OPT
 should speak to an International Office staff member as soon as possible.
- After completing her or his exchange program, a J-1 student has 30 days to travel within the U.S. and prepare to depart the country. Students may not work during this grace period, and cannot depart and reenter the U.S.



LIFE IN THE UNITED STATES



Academic Life

Liberal Arts

North Park University, like many colleges in the United States, is a "liberal arts" institution. Students take courses from a range of different subject areas to form a broad educational foundation. A liberal arts curriculum gives students an understanding of a variety of basic subjects while still allowing them to concentrate primarily on their major field of study.

Academic Expectations

Professors will use a variety of criteria to evaluate course work. The course syllabus is a very helpful resource for understanding specific expectations of the professor. Some courses may require two examinations: a "midterm" about halfway through the semester, and a "final" at the end of the semester. Others may use shorter tests or quizzes throughout the semester. Many professors will require written papers. Your professor or a tutor at the Writing Center will be happy to discuss the different types of writing assignments with you. Class attendance also usually counts toward your grade, so you should check with your professors about specific attendance policies.

Academic Honesty

All cultures know that dishonesty is wrong, but not all cultures define dishonesty in the same way, and not all academic systems enforce consequences to the same degree. Two main types of academic dishonesty are especially serious in the United States.

- **Plagiarism** is the practice of copying from a publication, a lecture, or website without proper acknowledgment of the source of that information. Your professor or the Writing Center can help you use other texts appropriately in your writing.
- Cheating is the practice of giving or receiving unauthorized aid while completing
 course requirements. Giving answers to or accepting from another student during an
 exam, writing a paper for another student, or copying another student's work are all
 forms of cheating. Getting assistance from the Writing Center, talking with a
 professor or fellow student, or forming a study group before an exam are all
 acceptable forms of aid.

Advice from Former Students

Some former international students at North Park have shared the following advice about academic expectations at North Park:

- In general, the relationship between professor and student is fairly relaxed and informal. Professors are usually willing and eager to converse with their students, as well as to offer help.
- Some professors allow international students extra time for test taking and/or the use of a dictionary during a test. Ask your professor what she or he allows.
- Tutors may be available for your course at no cost to you. Contact studentenrichment@northpark.edu for more information.
- Professors at North Park appreciate interaction with their students. Speak up in class and take advantage of professors' office hours.

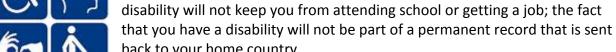
The most important thing you can do to improve your level of success in the classroom is to improve your English skills. Your English will not improve if the only people you talk to outside of the classroom speak your native language.

Disability Resources

In the United States, a disability is defined as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a person from participating in one or more major life activities. Common disabilities include:

- Blindness
- Deafness
- Physical limitations
- Learning difficulties
- Long-term illnesses
- Mental health conditions

The Americans with Disabilities Act protects people with disabilities from discrimination on the job, at school, or in the community; it also requires organizations to provide assistance to people with disabilities who need special services. Having a



back to your home country.



Students who have a disability or are experiencing academic difficulties at North Park should contact the Student Support Specialist at studentenrichment@northpark.edu. The Student Support Specialist is in charge of getting additional resources for students who need them.

Additionally, students with disabilities who need services in the City of Chicago may contact the following organizations:

Access Living

http://www.accessliving.org

Access Living helps people with disabilities get the special services they need. They have information on legal services, housing, transportation, and peer support groups.

Chicago Paratransit Services

http://www.pacebus.com/sub/paratransit/sd ada chicago.asp

This organization provides special transportation for people who cannot use the regular public transportation options in Chicago. You may need to provide some information to the city in order to qualify for these services; please see the International Office for help.

Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities

http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/mopd.html

This unit of the Mayor's office provides information to people and businesses about disability resources in Chicago. It also helps determine city policies concerning people with disabilities.

Safety and Security

International students have many impressions of life in the United States. One of those impressions concerns crime and violence. American movies, television, and news reports may convey the impression that serious crime is wide spread. This impression is not well-founded. The crime situation in Chicago, for instance, is not what you might expect it to be if you believed the media!

This is not to say that Chicago is a perfectly safe place. Serious crimes—murder, armed robbery, and grand theft—are rare in the North Park neighborhood. However, vandalism and petty theft are fairly common. It is therefore wise to take certain precautions to protect yourself and your property. Here are some specific suggestions:

Personal Safety

- Keep your doors locked even when you are at home.
- If someone knocks at your door or rings your doorbell, do not open the door until you have asked who is there. You are not required to open the door simply because someone knocks.
- Leave both an outside and an inside light on if you will be away from your room or apartment after dark.
- Use caution if you choose to disregard the traffic signals when walking on streets around campus (as most U.S. pedestrians do).
 Be particularly careful when crossing Foster Avenue. Remember, in the United States cars drive on the right side of the street, so look left before stepping off a curb.
- Avoid walking alone at night, especially in areas of town or campus that are not well-lit.
 Contact the North Park security office for a free escort service if you must be out alone after dark.

Protecting Valuables

- Lock the doors to rooms, apartments, and cars.
- Do not leave valuables unattended, even briefly, while in the North Park library. Take your backpack, coat, laptop computer, or other possessions with you, or remove valuable items from your backpack if you are going to be away from your study space.
- Some stores ask patrons not to take a backpack or other bag into the store in order to reduce shoplifting. These stores provide a place for you to leave your bag while you shop. Do not leave valuables in your bag; taken them out and carry them with you.
- If you park a bike outside, be sure to secure it to a bike rack with a sturdy lock.
- Wallets are easily snatched from back pants pockets. Be sure to keep your hand on the shoulder-straps of all purses and bags you carry.

Health Care and Health Insurance

Health care in the United States is very expensive! The U.S. government does not pay any part of the medical expenses for international students or their families, so if you don't have insurance and you need medical care, you will end up paying huge bills all by yourself. The average costs of some basic medical expenses are listed below:

Visit to a doctor's office: \$100-\$200 Visiting an emergency room: \$600-\$5000

Hospital stay (not including surgery, tests, or medications): \$2500 per day

Mental health counseling: \$100-\$150 per visit

The routine delivery of a baby: \$10,000

It is generally impossible to buy insurance after you get sick because an illness or injury that you already have, called "pre-existing," is usually not covered by insurance. For this reason, North Park requires all international students, and their dependents who are on North Park issued I-20 or DS-2019 forms, to have health insurance coverage.

Health Coverage Requirements for F-1 Students

- If you brought health insurance with you from your home country or if you already purchased a policy in the United States, please check whether your plan meets North Park's requirements. If so, you will not need to purchase additional coverage.
 - Coverage must be in effect the entire semester or year you are here, and it must be renewable at the end of the year.
 - o Coverage must have a minimum of \$250,000 per illness or injury.
 - Coverage must include mental health care.
 - Coverage must include outpatient care (doctor visit, outpatient surgery).
 - Coverage must include hospital stay and maternity benefits.
 - o Coverage must include both medical evacuation and repatriation.
 - o Insurance company must have an English-speaking contact for use by local doctors' offices or hospitals.
 - Insurance company must provide the student and her or his dependents with a wallet-sized card, which includes all policy numbers and company contact information.
- If you do not have your own health insurance, or if your current policy does not meet North Park's requirements, you must enroll in First Agency insurance, which is offered through North Park. This is an "accident and illness policy," which means that you will only be covered in case of an emergency or new illness. It will cover some, but not all preventative care. You will have 2 weeks after your arrival in the United States to purchase insurance coverage or demonstrate that your current policy meets North Park's requirements.

Health Coverage Requirements for J-1 Students

 If you are on a J Visa, the United States Department of State requires that your insurance meets the following requirements:

Type of Coverage	Insurance Rate
Medical Benefits	\$100,000

Repatriation of Remains	\$25,000
Medical Evacuation	\$50,000
Deductible per accident or illness	\$500

• Please be aware that you, your spouse, and/or any dependent(s) may be subject to the requirements of the Afforable Care Act [22 CFR 62.14(a)]

On-Campus Services

Undergraduate and ESL students have access to basic medical care at North Park's Center for Health Services and Counseling. The Director of Health Services, a registered nurse, is available weekdays during business hours for walk-in services and referrals to Swedish Covenant Hospital Family Practice Center, which is four blocks east of campus on Foster and California Avenues. Mental health consultations, group counseling, crisis intervention, and referrals to outside mental health services are provided by the Director of Counseling, also during business hours.

In the event of a medical emergency, call 911 immediately!

Banking

Many banks in the United States require individuals to have a U.S. Social Security Number before opening an account. Chase Bank, a large U.S. bank with a branch office near North Park, does not have this requirement. The nearest Chase Bank is located at 4843 N. Kedzie, two blocks south of Helwig Recreation Center.

There are two main types of bank accounts—checking accounts and savings accounts. Most students are interested in a Checking Account. A checking account will come with a checkbook (a book of paper checks) or a debit card so you can pay for purchases. These accounts do not usually earn interest, but they require only a small deposit to start. Most accounts will also come with an ATM card, which enables you to get US currency from cash machines on campus and around the city.

To open an account, take your passport, I-20 or DS-2019 form, a letter from the International Office, and a deposit to the bank.

If you are looking for ways to pay your bill at North Park, please note that credit cards (VISA, Master Card, Discover, and American Express) will be subject to a 2.5% fee in addition to your original charge. If you are opening a new bank account that includes a debit card, ask for a MasterCard brand so you can use it to pay any bills at North Park.



You may also wire money from your bank account to North Park's bank account. You should provide the following information to your bank:

Bank Name: JP Morgan/Chase, Chicago

SWIFT Code: CHASUS33

Account Name: North Park University

Account Number: 20035683

**Be sure to include your name and North Park student ID number on any wire transfer so we can credit the payment to the right account!

Mail

The North Park Postal Center is located on Foster, just west of Spaulding, on the ground level of the Ohlson House residence hall. When you arrive on campus you will be assigned a post office box and will receive a combination to unlock it.

Mail sent to you should have the following address: [your name]

North Park University 3225 W. Foster Avenue # [your post office box] Chicago, IL 60625 USA

The current postage rate for U.S. mail is \$.46 for the first ounce. The airmail rate for international mail is \$1.10. Important documents such as passports or USCIS applications should always be sent certified or registered mail so that they can be traced if lost. You may request to be notified when your item is delivered.



Cell Phones

Most students who come to North Park find it helpful to purchase a cell phone. The closest cell phone store to campus is T-Mobile, located across the street from the Brown Line El station at 3358 W. Lawrence Avenue (walk south on Kimball Avenue). T-Mobile offers several types

of phones and calling plans, including:

- Prepaid plans that require no long-term contract
- Long-term plans for students who will be in the U.S. for two or more years
- International calling options
- Text-only plans

Many other stores in Chicago will sell phones and calling plans; check with a fellow student for advice before buying a plan from one of these small stores, as not all companies are reputable!

A good website for determining what numbers are required to call internationally is http://www.countrycallingcodes.com/index.php.

E-Mail/Skype

North Park's campus has several computer labs; public computers are also available in each residence hall. All students at North Park will be assigned a North Park email address. If you need assistance setting up your email account, stop by computer services in the basement of Caroline Hall. It is very important that you check your North Park email account regularly, as professors and the International Office will use this

address to contact you! Many students also find Skype a convenient way to stay in touch using campus or personal computers.

Social Security Number

Every U.S. citizen has a social security number (SSN) that is used for identification by many institutions. If you work on campus or have off-campus work permission, you will need to apply for a social security number in order to get paid. If you do not have a job offer, you will not be permitted to get a SSN.



To apply for a Social Security Number you will need the following documents:

- 1. Completed Application form (http://www.ssa.gov/online/ss-5.pdf)
- 2. Original I-20 form or DS-2019 form
- 3. Passport
- 4. I-94 Admission Number
- 5. 2 letters (one from the North Park International Office and one from the supervisor at your on-campus job, both on institutional letterhead)
- 6. ISEP Students will also need an employment authorization letter from ISEP.

The Social Security Administration office that serves North Park University is located at 2127 W. Lawrence Ave., Chicago IL 60625. The telephone number is 800-772-1213. Take the #81 Lawrence Ave. bus east from Kimball/Lawrence to 2127 W. Lawrence. Or, take the Brown Line train from Kimball and Lawrence to the Western Avenue stop. Get off, go downstairs and walk north to Lawrence Ave. and east to 2127 (south side of the street).

Driver's License

Illinois law permits students at Illinois universities to drive on a valid license from their home state or country. However, if you'd like to get an Illinois driver's license, you have two options:

If you have a Social Security Number (see SSN section above), you are permitted to apply for an Illinois Driver's License. You will need the following documents in order to apply for an Illinois Driver's License:

- 1. Valid Passport and I-94 Admission Number
- 2. I-20 or DS-2019 form
- 3. Social Security Card
- 4. Two documents proving Illinois residency (see the International Office for assistance)

If you do not have a Social Security Number (see SSN section above), you should be eligible for a Temporary Visitor's Driver's License. You will need the following documents in order to apply for a TVDL:

- 1. Valid Passport and I-94 Admission Number
- 2. I-20 or DS-2019 form issued for at least one year of study, with at least 6 months remaining

- 3. Letter from the Social Security Administration indicating that you are ineligible for a Social Security Number. This will require you to go to the Social Security office, apply for a SSN, and be denied.
- 4. Two documents proving Illinois residency (see the International Office for assistance)
- 5. A letter indicating that you are eligible for on-campus employment but can't find a job.

The nearest driver's license facility (called DMV—Department of Motor Vehicles) to campus is located at 5401 N. Elston Ave, Chicago, IL 60630. You will need to have a car to take the driving test, so have a friend drive you to the DMV. For more information on obtaining a driver's license, please check www.cyberdriveillinois.com.

Please note:

- There is no such thing as an International Driver's License, but there is an International Driving Permit, which is issued by your home country. The International Driving Permit translates your license to make it easier for U.S. officials to read, but by itself it doesn't give you permission to drive.
- O In the United States, citizens are able to register to vote when they apply for their driver's license. This is called the "Motor-Voter Act." You may be asked about registering to vote while you are at the DMV; it is very important that you do not register to vote. When you register to vote you are stating that you are a U.S. citizen; if you are not a U.S. citizen, you will be committing voter fraud and will be deportable from the United States!

Illinois State ID Card

As an international student you may not need to drive in the United States, but you may want a form of identification that is easier to carry than your passport. You may apply for an Illinois State ID Card by following the application instructions listed above for obtaining a driver's

license. Refer to the eligibility requirements and application process here: http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf publications/dsd x173.pdf

Holidays and Celebrations

September, 1st Monday—Labor Day

A holiday honoring the contributions and efforts of the country's workers. NO CLASS.

October, 2nd Monday—Columbus Day

A holiday honoring the landing of Christopher Columbus in the West Indies in 1492.

October 31—Halloween

On the eve of All Saints' Day children dress up in costumes and go around the neighborhood asking for candy ("trick or treating"). Adults often celebrate with costume parties.

November, 1st Sunday—Daylight Savings Time Ends

Before you go to bed on Saturday night, remember to turn your clock back one hour.

November 11—Veterans' Day

A day commemorating the end of World War I and honoring all veterans of the armed forces.

November, fourth Thursday—Thanksgiving

A day of feasting and giving thanks, this holiday was initiated by the Pilgrims—the first European settlers in North America—and the Native Americans who helped them survive the first winter. Try to experience Thanksgiving Dinner at the home of a North Park classmate! **NO CLASS ON THURSDAY OR FRIDAY.**

December 25—Christmas

This holiday marks the day Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus. Celebrations usually begin on Christmas Eve and include worship services, eating, and gift-giving. Secular traditions also include decorated windows in department stores and images of Santa Claus. **CHRISTMAS OCCURS DURING WINTER BREAK, WHEN NORTH PARK UNIVERSITY IS CLOSED.**



January 1—New Year's Day

Starting the night before (New Year's Eve, December 31), this holiday welcomes the new year. **NEW YEAR'S DAY OCCURS DURING WINTER BREAK, WHEN NORTH**

PARK UNIVERSITY IS CLOSED.

January, 3rd Monday—Martin Luther King Day

A holiday commemorating the birthday of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968), an African-American civil rights leader who received the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize. **NO CLASS.**

February 14—Valentine's Day

Cards, candy, or other tokens of love are exchanged on this day to celebrate love and romance.



February, 3rd Monday—Presidents Day

This day honors past U.S. presidents, remembering the February birthdays of George Washington (first president and commander of the armies that won U.S. independence) and Abraham Lincoln (16th president who held office during the U.S. Civil War and is known for abolishing slavery).

March, 2nd Sunday—Daylight Savings Time Begins

Before you go to bed on Saturday night, remember to turn your clock ahead one hour.



March/April, varies—Easter

This holiday marks the day Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Holiday traditions include church services and family meals. Secular celebrations also include Easter-egg hunts and candy. NO CLASS ON THE FRIDAY BEFORE (GOOD-FRIDAY) AND THE MONDAY AFTER EASTER.

April 1—April Fool's Day

Jokes or tricks are traditionally played on this silly holiday.



May, 2nd Sunday—Mother's Day

A day to honor mothers and other important women in our lives with cards and gifts.

May, last Monday—Memorial Day

A holiday in remembrance of members of the armed forces who were killed in wars.

June, 3rd Sunday—Father's Day

A day to honor fathers and other important men in our lives with cards and gifts.

July 4—Independence Day

This celebration or the U.S. declaration of independence from England in 1776 features parades, picnics, and fireworks. **NO CLASS.**

Measurements

Length	Mass (Weight)	Volume/Capacity
1 mm = 0.0397 inch	1 gram = 0.0353 ounces	1 liter = 0.2642 US gallon
1 cm = 0.3937 inch	1 kilogram = 2.2046 pounds	1 US dry pint = 0.5506 l
1 meter = 1.0936 yard	1 ounce = 28.350 g	1 US liquid pint = 0.4732 l
1 km = 0.6214 mile	1 pound (lb) = 16 oz = 0.454 kg	1 US gallon = 3.7854 l
1 inch = 25.4 mm		
1 foot = 12 in = 0.3048 m		
1 yard = 3 ft = 0.9144 m		
Temperature Conversions:	Temperature Conversions:	Temperature Equivalencies
Farenheit → Celsius	Celsius→Farenheit	212º F = 100º C
Subtract 32	Multiply by 1.8	32º F = 0º C
Divide by 1.8	• Add 32	

A helpful website to calculate currency conversions is http://www.xe.com/ucc/

American Culture

The following description of US customs and behaviors is only a generalization. This information, though helpful, should be used as a guide only. One of the best ways for anyone to learn about another culture is by observing others and asking questions.

Clothing

At North Park, as on most college campuses in the United States, students dress very informally. The most common attire for both men and women is a pair of blue jeans and a shirt

or sweater, depending on the weather. Students also dress informally off-campus, even when they attend social events, but many students will enjoy dressing up for a special occasion.

Conversation

Casual conversation between U.S. Americans can sometimes be confusing. For example, "How are you?" does not necessarily mean that the person asking wants to know how you are feeling. Most likely, the person means "Good morning" or "Hello." In response, you may say "Fine, thank you. How are you?" Phrases said when departing can also be confusing. For instance, "See you later" or "Let's get together sometime" are often meant as a friendly goodbye, not as an actual invitation.

Invitations

An invitation is probably official if it specifies a time and place. If a friend asks you to come over on Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock and you say yes, for instance, it is important that you keep the appointment. If you receive a written or emailed invitation that says RSVP, you should respond to let your host know whether or not you plan to attend.

Social Space

When people in the U.S. are not acquainted with each other, or when they are in public settings, they tend to stand or sit apart. For example, on a bus people will sit one per seat until additional passengers force them to double up. The same is true in personal conversations; Americans will stand farther apart from one another while talking than people from other cultures might do.

Concept of Time

People in the U.S. are usually time-conscious, and being on time is very important. When an appointment is made, you are expected to arrive within five minutes of the appointed time. If you have an appointment with your advisor at 2:30 pm, for example, you should arrive at 2:30 pm or a little before. If a bus is scheduled to stop at 11:25 am, be at the bus stop five minutes early because the bus may arrive a few minutes early or late.

Informality

First names are more readily used in the U.S. than in other countries. It is all right to use the first name of someone approximately your age and status, or someone younger. A woman or man older than yourself, including a professor, is often addressed as Dr., Ms., or Mr., until the individual asks that you use her or his first name.

Tipping

It is customary to add 10%-20% to your bill at a restaurant to thank the server for good service. Tipping is not required, but you will look out of place if you do not leave a tip while eating out.

Taking Initiative

There's a saying in the United States—"Pull yourself up by your own bootstraps." This means that people in the U.S. are expected to solve their own problems. This does not mean that you can't get help, but it does mean that you often have to take the first step to get what you need.

You should not feel ashamed to ask for advice, or to admit when you are struggling with something.

If you are confused in one of your classes, it is your job to speak with your professor. All professors have "office hours" during which they'll meet with students and many will also make an appointment with you if you aren't free during the office hours. If you are having a difficult time adjusting to life in the United States or the North Park community, or if you are feeling sick, sad, or depressed, we encourage you to speak to someone at the Center for Counseling and Health Services. It is not shameful to get help from a counselor.

Race Relations

The United States is racially and ethnically diverse, and the neighborhood immediately surrounding North Park University is one of the most diverse areas in the entire country! While North Park prides itself on being an intentionally multicultural community, racial differences still make some people uncomfortable, especially if they are not used to being in a diverse group of people. If you are talking to or about someone who is a non-white American, it is usually most appropriate to use a hyphenated term such as African-American or Asian-American. People with Hispanic backgrounds often prefer the term Latino or Latina. Of course, if the people you are talking to are not from the United States, these titles may not apply; they may prefer to be referred to by their specific country of origin (for example, "she's a Swede" or "he's Palestinian"), and even people from the United States may prefer more informal language (for example, "he's black"). If you are unsure of how to address a person, be honest and ask. It is never appropriate to make jokes or negative comments about another person because of her or his race or skin color.

U.S. Alcohol and Drug Laws

Drugs, except those sold in pharmacies or prescribed by a doctor, are illegal in the United States. In Illinois, alcohol may not be consumed by people under 21 years of age. By law, stores, restaurants, and bars require legal proof of age in order to serve or sell alcoholic beverages. Proof of age can be your passport, a U.S. Driver's License, or an Illinois State ID. Both drugs and alcohol are prohibited on the North Park University campus, including in private residence halls or apartments. Students who don't comply with these campus rules will be charged a fine or face other disciplinary action. For a complete discussion of North Park's drug and alcohol policy, please see the NPU Student Handbook.

It is illegal for persons under the age of 18 to purchase or smoke cigarettes. In addition, there are strict guidelines as to where a person may smoke on the North Park campus and in the city of Chicago. In Chicago, you may not smoke inside any public building, including bars and restaurants. You must exit a building and move 15 feet away from the entrance before lighting a cigarette. At North Park, smoking is prohibited in all buildings, including residence halls, apartments, and campus houses.

CHICAGO RESOURCES



Climate

There are four seasons in the Midwest region of the United States—winter, spring, summer, and fall. In the winter, Chicago's low temperatures can seem even colder due to winds blowing off Lake Michigan, and in the summer the high temperatures can seem even hotter due to humidity. The average maximum and minimum temperatures for the Chicago area are as follows:

<u>Month</u>	Minimum Temperature	Maximum Temperature
September-October	6°C / 42°F	24°C / 75°F
November	-1°C / 31°F	10°C / 50°F
December-February	-18°C / 0 °F	1°C / 34°F
March	-3°C / 27°	7°C / 44°F
April-May	9°C / 48°F	21°C / 70°F
June-August	15.5°C / 60°F	32°C / 90°F

Transportation

Chicago Transit Authority (Bus and El)

If you learn how to use public transportation in Chicago, you will be able to go anywhere in the city at low costs. Some CTA (Chicago Transit Authority) services run 24 hours a day. The buses, subways, and elevated trains (often called the "El") of the CTA and RTA (Regional Transit Authority) run less often on the weekends and late at night than they do during week days. To check CTA/RTA time schedules, check the website: www.transitchicago.com. Paper maps are also available at all CTA train stations and in the International Office.

The current CTA fare is \$2.25 per ride. Transfers between busses and train lines are valid for two hours; the first transfer costs \$.25 and the second transfer is free. There is a \$5.00 fare traveling from O'Hare Airport. Farecards are the most convenient way to pay for CTA rides. You may purchase a Ventra transit card at a local station or online: https://www.ventrachicago.com/ Cards can be pre-loaded with money at train stations. You may also pay cash, but you will need to have exact change.

Closest bus lines to campus:

#92 Foster (east/west)
#81 Lawrence (east/west)

#82 Kimball (north/south)

Closest train line to campus: Brown Line, Kimball station

Divvy Bicycle Sharing Program

The City of Chicago has just launched a public bicycle sharing program that provides people access to bicycles at a reasonable cost. It promotes environmental sustainability and public health by encouraging residents to ride bicycles as an alternative to driving. To find out more about this new program visit: http://divvybikes.com/

Taxi

Taxi cabs are another mode of transportation, but an expensive one. In addition to the cost per mile, taxi drivers expect a 15% tip. A cab ride from North Park to O'Hare Airport will cost you about \$35. A ride to Midway Airport is approximately \$50.

Chicago Geography

The city of Chicago is built on a grid system; this means that most streets run perpendicular to one another and form square blocks. In addition, all blocks are numbered, so it is common to hear people in Chicago identify a location by its North/South and East/West coordinates. The center of the grid is downtown at the corner of State Street (0 N/S) and Madison Avenue (0 E/W). North Park is located on Foster Avenue (5200 North) and Kedzie Avenue (3200 West), so someone might

identify our location as "fifty-two hundred north and thirty-two hundred west." It's even easier to identify your location on Chicago's south side, because most of the streets have numbers for names For example, President Obama's Chicago home is located on 51st street, which is 5100 south.

Chicago is also known for being a city of neighborhoods. Many of the neighborhoods started when particular groups of immigrants moved to the same area, and some of them still have a name that reflects this cultural history (like Ukrainian Village or Chinatown). Many other neighborhoods are named for a recreational park in the area (like Lincoln Park, Humboldt Park, or Jefferson Park).

On the map on page 32, North Park University is located near the top (north side) of the map, on the border between Albany Park and North Park.

The popular downtown area is called "the Loop" because Chicago's El makes a circle or loop around the central business district.



Cost of Living

As is true in most large U.S. cities, the cost of living in Chicago can be high. Luckily, North Park provides many free services for its students, and there are many options for free entertainment in the city itself (see "Other Entertainment Resources," page 33).

So that you can plan for your time in Chicago, here are the estimated costs of common items:

Movie ticket: \$10-12

Meal at a fast food restaurant: \$6-8 Latte at an upscale coffee house: \$4-7

One-way trip on public transportation: \$2.25

Laundry in a campus machine: \$0.75 to wash; \$0.50 to dry

Textbooks from the North Park bookstore: \$200-300 per semester Rent in an off-campus apartment (1 bedroom): \$700-800 per month

Places of Worship

The following houses of worship are within walking distance or a short CTA ride from campus:

All Saints Episcopal Church: 4550 N. Hermitage (take #81 Lawrence bus east)

Berry United Methodist Church: 4754 W. Leavitt (take Brown Line El to Western stop) **Bethany United Church of Christ:** 4250 N. Paulina (take Brown Line El to Montrose stop)

Buddhist Temple of Chicago: 1151 W. Leland (take #81 Lawrence bus east) **Chicago Tabernacle (Christian):** 4201 N. Troy (take #82 Kimball bus south)

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church: 3253 W. Wilson (west of Kedzie)

Congregation Bais Tefilla (Orthodox Jewish): 3555 W. Peterson (west of Kimball)

Congregation Shaare Tikvah (Conservative Jewish): 5800 N. Kimball (north of Bryn Mawr)

First Evangelical Free Church: 5255 N. Ashland (take #92 Foster bus east)
Forest Glen Community Church: 4920 W. Foster (take #92 Foster bus west)
Holy Nation Korean Presbyterian Church: 3434 W. Foster (west of Kimball)
Iglesia Evangelica Del Pacto Albany Park: 4516 N. Kedzie (south of Lawrence)

Immanuel Covenant Church: 5210 N. Washtenaw (at Foster Avenue)

Jesus House Chicago: 4332 N. Kedzie (south of Montrose)

Korean Presbyterian Church of Chicago: 2626 W. Foster (east of California) Korean Full Gospel Church of Chicago: 5224 N. Kedzie (north of Foster)

Muslim Community Center: 4380 N. Elston (#92 Foster bus west to #53 Pulaski bus south)

North Park Covenant Church: 5250 N. Christiana (one block north of Foster)

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church: 4432 N. Troy (at Montrose, near Kimball)

Ravenswood Baptist Church: 4455 N. Seeley (take Brown Line El to Damen station)

Urban Village Church (Methodist): 1502 W. Ainslie (take #92 Foster bus east to Ashland)

Vietnamese United Methodist Church: 3100 W. Wilson (east of Kedzie)

Restaurants

The following restaurants are within walking distance or a short bus ride from campus:

2 Asian Brothers (Vietnamese): 3222 W. Foster Beijo de Chocolat (coffee/bakery): 3334 W. Foster Café Orient 33 (Korean fusion): 4829 N. Kedzie

Charcoal Delights/The Pit (American): 3139 W. Foster

Da Rae Jung (Korean): 5220 N. Lincoln Pita Puff (Middle Eastern): 4911 N. Kedzie Dunkin Donuts (bakery): 4821 N. Kedzie Golden Crust (Pizzeria): 4620 N. Kedzie

Great Sea Chinese Restaurant (Chinese-Korean): 3254 W. Lawrence Hot Dog Station (hot dogs/hamburgers/shakes): 4742 N. Kedzie

Java & Mug Café (coffee/bubble tea): 3247 W. Bryn Mawr

Jimmy Johns (sandwiches): 3234 W. Foster

La Brasa Roja (Columbian rotisserie): 3125 W. Montrose

Lindo Michoacan (Mexican): 3148 W. Lawrence

Local Pizzeria (pizza/panini/salad): 3352 W. Foster Ave

McDonald's (American): 3154 W. Foster Mee Na Ri (Korean): 3311 W. Bryn Mawr Merla's Kitchen (Filipino): 5207 N. Kimball

Midori Japanese Restaurant: 3310 W. Bryn Mawr

Nhu Lan Bakery (Vietnamese sandwiches): 2612 W. Lawrence

Noon O Kebab (Persian): 4661 N. Kedzie

Peking Mandarin (Chinese-Korean): 3459 W. Lawrence **Salaam Restaurant (Middle Eastern):** 4636 N. Kedzie

Semiramis (Lebanese) 4639 N. Kedzie

Sokongdong Restaurant (Korean soon tofu): 3307 W. Bryn Mawr

Starbucks (coffee/bakery): 3232 W. Foster Subway (sandwiches): 3346 W. Foster

Restaurante el Mogote (Mexican): 4959 N. Kedzie

Tre Kronor (Scandinavian): 3258 W. Foster Gogi (Korean BBQ): 6240 N. California

Chicago is also home to many restaurants serving food from around the world. Check http://www.timeoutchicago.com/ for more information. Or, if you fancy yourself a foodie, check out: http://www.lthforum.com/bb/index.php.

Stores

North Park Bookstore: The University Bookstore is located in the basement of Carlson Tower, beneath the gym. In addition to textbooks for your classes, the bookstore has basic school supplies and North Park merchandise.

Food Stores: The nearest full grocery store is Jewel/Osco, located at 4042 N. Foster. Osco is also a full service pharmacy. Take the #92 Foster bus west to Pulaski. Andy's Fruit Market has good produce and other select items. Andy's is located at 4733 N. Kedzie, just south of Lawrence.

Drug Stores: CVS and Walgreens are both good general purpose stores which also contain pharmacies. Many drug stores also sell passport photos. The nearest CVS is located at 3343 W. Montrose, at the intersection of Montrose and Kimball. Take the #82 Kimball bus south. The nearest Walgreens is located at 5158 N. Lincoln, at the intersection of Lincoln and Foster. Take the #92 Foster bus east.

Office Supply Stores: You may be able to purchase small office supplies at the North Park bookstore or a drug store. For larger purchases, try the Office Depot at 6165 N. Lincoln, at the intersection of Lincoln and Kimball. Take the #82 Kimball bus north.

Department Stores: Department stores feature a wide variety of household items including clothing, furniture, linens, electronics, and sometimes food. You can find many expensive department stores in Downtown Chicago (Macy's, Bloomingdales, and Nordstrom are some popular names) but there are three inexpensive department stores near North Park. Target is located at 2939 W. Addison; take the #82 Kimball bus south to Addison and walk .5 miles (.8 km) east to Sacramento. Kmart is located at 3443 W. Addison; take the #82 Kimball bus south to Addison. Sears is located at 1900 W. Lawrence; take the #81 Lawrence bus east.

Shopping Malls: Malls feature many stores in one location, a combination of large department stores (usually more expensive than Target or Kmart) and smaller specialty stores. The nearest mall is Lincolnwood Town Center, located at 3333 W. Touhy Avenue in the town of Skokie. Lincolnwood Town Center is easily accessible by the northbound #82 Kimball bus.

Resale Shops: Many people, especially college students, find it fun and helpful to buy inexpensive used clothes. Village Discount is located at 3301 W. Lawrence, walking distance from campus. Or, if you feel like venturing out into other neighborhoods you might want to try Crossroads Trading Co., located at 1519 N. Milwaukee.

Museums

Chicago is home to many wonderful museums. Here are a few of the most famous:

Adler Planetarium: 1300 S. Lake Shore Drive, <u>www.adlerplanetarium.org</u>

The Art Institute of Chicago: 111 S. Michigan Avenue http://www.artic.edu/

Chicago History Museum: 1601 N. Clark Street, www.chicagohs.org

DuSable Museum of African American History: 740 E. 56th Pl., www.dusablemuseum.org

Lincoln Park Zoo: 2001 N. Clark Street, www.lpzoo.org

Museum of Contemporary Art: 220 E. Chicago Avenue, www.mcachicago.org Museum of Science and Industry: 5700 S. Lake Shore Drive, www.msichicago.org

National Museum of Mexican Art: 1852 W. 19th St., www.nationalmuseumofmexicanart.org

Oriental Institute: 1155 E. 58th Street, www.oi.uchicago.edu

Field Museum of Natural History: 1400 S. Lake Shore Drive, www.fieldmuseum.org

Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum: 2430 N. Cannon Drive, www.chias.org

For more museums, check http://www.chicagotraveler.com/chicago museums.htm

Other Entertainment Resources

The Chicago Architecture Foundation offers exhibits and lectures on Chicago's famous and varied architecture. They also offer tours of many Chicago neighborhoods, but these can be expensive. For more information, check http://caf.architecture.org.

The Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs offers diverse arts and culture events throughout the year. Check the website at www.cityofchicago.org/CulturalAffairs/ and click on the "Chicago Cultural Center" link. The Cultural Center is home to many free public events and art galleries and houses the world's largest stained glass Tiffany dome.

The Chicago Public Library consists of 79 branch libraries throughout the city of Chicago. In addition to offering books, music, and periodicals, Chicago's libraries often host special lectures or events. If you have a Chicago Public Library card, you can also check out free passes to many of Chicago's museums. Check http://www.chipublib.org/howto/library_card.php for information on applying for a library card.

The Chicago Reader is a free newspaper that lists events around Chicago. You can usually find a free copy in the North Park library or in newspaper machines on street corners. You can also access The Reader online at www.chicagoreader.com.

The League of Chicago Theaters provides information on all stage plays taking place in Chicago. You can search their listings at www.chicagoplays.com.

The Mayor's Office of Special Events hosts many activities throughout the year. Chicago is especially known for its neighborhood festivals and music events. You can find a list of events at http://www.explorechicago.org (type "MOSE" into the search box).



Metromix is a helpful online resource for finding movies in Chicago; you can access it at www.metromix.com. The website lets you search for movies by title or by theater. The nearest theater to North Park is the Davis Theater. It is in the Lincoln Square neighborhood, about 10 minutes from campus via public transportation.

Millennium Park is considered Chicago's front lawn. During the summer the park hosts concerts, art festivals, outdoor dining, numerous gardens, and the Crown Fountain, which features the faces of 1,000 Chicago residents (including North Park math professor, Dr. Leona Mirza!). In the winter, part of the park is turned into an ice skating rink. Throughout the year, you can also visit Cloudgate, a famous Chicago sculpture that many call "the Bean." More information on events at Millennium Park can be found at www.millenniumpark.org.

Time Out Magazine is a good general resource for events in Chicago, though it is especially helpful for finding information on independent music venues. The online version of the magazine is available at http://chicago.timeout.com/

Foreign Consulates in Chicago

As a prominent center of business and culture, Chicago is home to many consular offices.

Argontino	Australia	Austria
Argentina 205 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 4209	Australia	Austria Wrigley Building
=	123 N. Wacker Drive, Suite 1330	
Chicago, IL 60601	Chicago, IL 60606	400 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 707
312-819-2610	312-419-1480	Chicago, IL 60611
http://www.embassyofargentina.us	www.usa.embassy.gov.au	312-222-1515
		www.aussenministerium.at/chicago
Barbados	Belgium	Belize
6033 N. Sheridan Road, Unit 26D	1713 W. Beach Ave.	1200 Howard Drive
Chicago, IL 60660	Chicago, IL 60722	West Chicago, IL 60185
773-769-1926	847-214-4670	630-293-0010
Brazil	Bulgaria	Canada
401 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 1850	737 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 2105	2 Prudential Plaza
Chicago, IL 60611	Chicago, IL 60611	180 N. Stetson Ave., Suite 2400
312-464-0244	312-867-1901	Chicago, IL 60601
http://chicago.itamaraty.gov.br/en-us/		312-616-1860
		www.chicago.gc.ca
Chile	China	Costa Rica
1415 N. Dayton St., Floor 2	100 W. Erie Street	203 N. Wabash Ave., Suite 702
Chicago, IL 60642	Chicago, IL 60654	Chicago, IL 60601
312-654-8780	312-803-0095	312-263-2772
http://chileabroad.gov.cl/chicago	www.chinaconsulatechicago.org/eng	312 203 2772
Cyprus	Czech Republic	Denmark
= -	-	John Hancock Center
1875 Dempster St., Suite 555	Michigan Plaza Building	
Park Ridge, IL 60068	205 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 1680	875 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 3950
847-698-5500	Chicago, IL 60601	Chicago, IL 60611
	312-861-1037	312-787-8780
	www.mzv.cz/chicago	www.gkchicago.um.dk
Dominican Republic	Ecuador	Egypt
8700 W. Bryn Mawr Ave.	30 S. Michigan Ave., Suite 204	500 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 1900
Suite 1300	Chicago, IL 60603	Chicago, IL 60611
Chicago, IL 60631	312-338-1002	312-828-9164
773-714-4924		
Estonia	Finland	France
500 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 1900	362 E. Burlington Street	Michigan Plaza Building
Chicago, IL 60611	Riverside, IL 60546	205 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 3700
312-828-9164	708-442-0635	Chicago, IL 60601
		312-327-5200
		www.consulfrance-chicago.org
Germany	Greece	Grenada
676 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 3200	650 N. St. Clair St.	438 W. St. James
Chicago, IL 60611	Chicago, IL 60611	Chicago, IL 60614
312-202-0480	312-335-3915	773-472-2810
www.chicago.diplo.de	312 333 3313	.,5 ,,2 2020
Guatemala	Haiti	Honduras
205 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 2350	202 S. State St., Suite 302	4506 W. Fullerton Ave.
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Chicago, IL 60601	Chicago, IL 60604	Chicago, IL 60639
312-332-1587	312-922-4004	773-342-8281
http://www.consulguatechicago.org/	http://www.haitianconsulate.org/	
India	Indonesia	Ireland
455 N. Cityfront Plaza Drive,	211 W. Wacker Drive, 8th Floor	400 N. Michigan Ave.
Suite 850	Chicago, IL 60606	Chicago, IL 60611

Chianna II COC11	212 020 1000	242 227 4000
Chicago, IL 60611	312-920-1880	312-337-1868
312-595-0405	www.indonesiachicago.org	http://www.irishconsulate.org/home/ind
http://www.indianconsulate.com/		<u>ex.aspx?id=48549</u>
Israel	Italy	Jamaica
111 E. Wacker Dr., Suite 1308	500 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 1850	4655 S. Dr. Martin Luther King Drive
Chicago, IL 60601	Chicago, IL 60611	Suite 201
312-297-4800	312-467-1550	Chicago, IL 60653
http://Chicago.mfa.gov.il	www.conschicago.esteri.it/Consolato_Chicago	773-373-8988
Japan	Macedonia	Mexico
Olympia Center	121 W. Wacker Drive, Suite 2036	204 S. Ashland Ave.
737 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 1100	Chicago, IL 60601	Chicago, IL 60607
Chicago, IL 60611	312-419-8020	312-738-2383
312-280-0400		www.consulmexchicago.com
http://www.chicago.us.emb-japan.go.jp/		
Monaco	Netherlands	New Zealand
606 W. Arlington Place	303 E. Wacker Drive, Suite 2600	8600 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Suite 500N
Chicago, IL 60614	Chicago, IL 60601	Chicago, IL 60631
773-871-9059	312-856-0110	773-714-8669
<u>www.monaco-consulate.com</u>	http://chicago.the-netherlands.org/	
Pakistan	Philippines	Poland
333 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 728	30 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 2100	1530 N. Lake Shore Drive
Chicago, IL 60601	Chicago, IL 60602	Chicago, IL 60610
312-781-1831	312-332-6458	312-337-8166
http://www.cgpkchicago.org/	www.chicagopcg.com	www.polishconsulatechicago.org
Serbia	Singapore	South Korea
201 E. Ohio St., Suite 200	10 S. Dearborn, Suite 4800	500 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 900
Chicago, IL 60611	Chicago, IL 60603	Chicago, IL 60611
312-670-6707	312-853-7555	312-822-9485
www.scgchicago.org	http://www.mfa.gov.sg/content/mfa/overs	http://usa-chicago.mofat.go.kr
	easmission/chicago.html	
Spain	Thailand	Turkey
180 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 1500	700 N. Rush Street	360 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 1405
Chicago, IL 60601	Chicago, IL 60611	Chicago, IL 60601
312-782-4588	312-667-3129	312-263-0644
www.consulate-spain-chicago.com	http://www.thaiconsulatechicago.org/clate	http://www.chicago.cg.mfa.gov.tr/
	L	
Uganda	Ukraine	Uruguay
7822 S. Dobson Ave.	10 E. Huron St.	875 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 1422
Chicago, IL 60619	Chicago, IL 60611	Chicago, IL 60611
773-651-0700	www.ukrchicago.com	312-642-3430
		http://www.uruguaychicago.org/
Venezuela		
20 N. Wacker Drive, Suite 1925		
Chicago, IL 60606		
312-324-0907		
www.embavenez-us.org/ chicago		
Chicago, IL 60619 773-651-0700 Venezuela 20 N. Wacker Drive, Suite 1925 Chicago, IL 60606 312-324-0907	Chicago, IL 60611	Chicago, IL 60611 312-642-3430