



GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT CORNELL, CALS, AND SELECTION CRITERIA

Unlike some exchange programs, which are university-wide, this partnership with your home institution is specifically with one of Cornell's seven undergraduate colleges: the [College of Agriculture of Life Sciences](#).

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) is considered one of the very best of its kind in the United States, if not the world. [Our mission](#) is to discover, integrate, disseminate, and apply knowledge about agriculture and food sciences, applied social sciences, environmental sciences and the life sciences as a basis for sustainable improvement in the lives of people throughout New York, the nation, and the world. We will only consider students who we deem are a good academic fit to the mission of the College. Before applying, it is important that you refer to our areas of study to ensure you are an appropriate candidate for the exchange: <http://cals.cornell.edu/admissions/academics/majors/>

To join the CALS Exchange Program as an Exchange student, you must be currently enrolled at one of our exchange partner universities and be nominated by your home university. Please contact the relevant office at your university to determine your eligibility.

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

You must have completed at least two full-time semesters (one full year) of college/university level studies and must continue to assume this status throughout your intended duration of study at Cornell under the exchange program. Your home university area of study should closely align with CALS.

GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA)

Nominees must have a minimum cumulative GPA equivalent to a U.S. 3.0 on a 4.0 scale (above average grades). Refer to <http://www.foreigncredits.com/Resources/GPA-Calculator/> for help calculating your GPA.

ENGLISH

Since English is the language of instruction at Cornell, you must be proficient in the English language in order to keep up with assignments and benefit from your studies at Cornell.

Unless explicitly waived by the CALS Exchange Coordinator, you are required to submit either the Test of English as a Foreign Language [TOEFL] or the International English Language Testing System [IELTS] results if:

- you are from an institution where English is not the primary language of instruction; and/or
- your first language is not English.

The following requirements must be met:

- a. Test of English as a Foreign Language [TOEFL] score of at least:
 - (i) 600 for the paper-based test; or
 - (ii) 250 for the computer-based test; or
 - (iii) 100 for the Internet-based test; or
- b. International English Language Testing System (IELTS) average result of at least 6.5; and/or
- c. any other qualifications as determined by the exchange program.

Candidates may also be subject to a telephone interview.

OFFICE RESPONSIBLE FOR EXCHANGES

COORDINATOR: Christine Potter (cals-ex-incoming@cornell.edu)

PROGRAM ASSISTANT: Natalie Vaynberg (cals-ex-incoming@cornell.edu)

MAILING ADDRESS: CALS International Exchange Program
140 Roberts Hall
Ithaca, New York 14853 USA

PHONE: +001 607-255-2257

EMERGENCY PHONE: Cornell University Police +001 607-255-1111

WEB: Exchange specific: <http://cals.cornell.edu/academics/international/incoming-exchange-program/>
About CALS: <http://cals.cornell.edu/>
Cornell: www.cornell.edu
Shortcuts to popular Cornell offices, information, and events: <http://cuinfo.cornell.edu/>
Facts about Cornell: <http://admissions.cornell.edu/facts>
Video Tour of Cornell: <http://www.cornell.edu/video/?VideoID=156>
Cornell map: <http://www.cornell.edu/maps/>
About Ithaca: <http://www.visitithaca.com/>
Ithaca Tompkins Country Airport: <http://flyithaca.com/>
About New York State: <http://www.iloveny.com/>

FACEBOOK GROUP: Join us! Search for: *Incoming CALS Exchange Students Fall 2014*

IMPORTANT DATES

Fall 2014

Ideal Arrival Date/Times: Tuesday, August 19
Mandatory Orientation Begins: Morning, August 20
Online Class Registration Begins: August 11
Classes Begin: August 26
Labor Day Holiday: September 1
Fall Break Starts: October 11, 1:10pm
Instruction Resumes: October 15, 7:30am
Thanksgiving Break Starts: November 26
Instruction Resumes: December 1, 7:30am
Last Day of Classes: December 5
Final Exams: December 10-18

App. deadline April 21

Spring 2015

Arrival:
Mandatory Orientation Begins:
Online Class Registration Begins:
Classes Begin:
February Break:
Instruction Resumes:
Spring Break Begins:
Instruction Resumes:
Last Day of Classes:
Final Exams:

App. deadline October 1

To Be Confirmed
To Be Confirmed (~Jan 16)
January 12
January 21
February 14, 1:10pm
February 18, 7:30am
March 28, 1:10am
April 6, 7:30am
May 6
May 11-19

Academic Calendar: <http://www.cornell.edu/academics/calendar/2014-15.cfm>

CLASSES AND LEARNING EXPECTATIONS

REGISTRATION

Exchange students register for courses after matriculated (regular, full-time) Cornell students. Students may find that certain courses are closed or already full upon arrival. It's important to be flexible with course selection and schedules as students will not officially register for classes until just before classes begin. While students are asked to provide initial course requests at the time of application, course changes are still possible during the first week of classes, as this is the time when students "shop" around to solidify their schedule. ("Shopping" for classes is the practice of attending a number of classes during the first week of classes before finalizing your schedule.)

COURSE LOAD

Exchange students must take at least 12 credits per semester to maintain their visa status. The maximum number of credits is 18, although most students enroll in 14-16 per semester. Exceeding 16 credits is not recommended for first-semester exchange students.

The majority (minimum of two-thirds) of credits must be taken in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CAL S).

Courses with the following prefixes count as CAL S credits: AGSCI; AIS; AEM; ALS; ANSC; BEE; BIOG; BIOAP; BIOBM; BIOEE; BIOGD; BIOMI; BIONB; BIOPL; BIOSM; BTRY; COMM; CSS; DSOC; EAS; EDUC; ENTOM; FDSC; HORT; IARD; INFO; LA; NS; NTRES; PLBR; PLPA; SES; SNES; and TOX.

PLEASE NOTE

- **We cannot guarantee enrollment in any course. Enrollment permission is often subject to class size limitations, the consent of instructors, and demonstrated academic qualifications in the form of prerequisites.**
- Course descriptions can be accessed through the *Courses of Study* at: www.cornell.edu/academics/courses.cfm. If you apply before the upcoming year's *Courses of Study* is published, use the most current version of the *Courses of Study*. Normally the course descriptions will indicate if they are to run in the following year.
- Actual course availability, locations, and times are NOT listed in the *Courses of Study*. This information is listed in the *Course and Time Roster* at www.cornell.edu/academics/courses.cfm, which may not be available at the time you are completing your application.
- If required by your home university, our office will help you obtain syllabi or other course details prior to your arrival. However, success in obtaining syllabi prior to arrival is not guaranteed. Keep in mind that many faculty members are not prepared to answer questions during the summer and breaks as they are involved in professional or personal activities away from campus.
- Some courses require one or many prerequisites. If you have not already taken the equivalent prerequisites in your home institution, you will not be able to register in these courses.
- Credits obtained during your exchange must be considered toward your degree completion.
- Time clashes are common, so it's important to be flexible in scheduling. It is your responsibility to verify that the courses chosen do not create conflicts in your schedule. You must attend all of your lectures, seminars, and laboratories.
- Foreign language courses (other than English) are not permitted.
- You are not required to take the swim test and are not held to any Cornell graduation requirements.
- You cannot pre-enroll for Physical Education courses; enroll once you arrive on campus.
- Cornell University's School of Continuing Education and Summer Sessions, Cornell in Washington, Cornell in New York City, Urban Semester, or any other special programs are **not** included in the terms of exchange program.
- See "Class Restrictions" at end of this section for areas of study with limited enrollment for Exchange Students.

CLASS RESTRICTIONS

Due to demand and space constraints, the following academic programs have limited or restricted access for exchange students:

APPLIED ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT (AEM)

Enrollment in ALL classes in the Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management (AEM) is very competitive. Full-time, degree-seeking Cornell students are ALWAYS given priority. AEM classes are limited to students who are business majors at their home university. Some exceptions are made, please contact Exchange Office before assuming you're eligible.

The following courses have been very difficult (or impossible) for Exchange Students to enroll in: **AEM 2000** Contemporary Controversies in the Global Economy; **AEM 2200** Business Management and Organization; **AEM 2410** Marketing Plan Development; **AEM 2420** Marketing; **AEM 2600/2601** Managerial Economics (full year sequence); **AEM 3240** Finance; **AEM 3340** Women, Leadership, and Entrepreneurship; **AEM 3360** Intermediate Accounting I; **AEM 3440** Consumer Behavior (or HADM 3347); **AEM 4020/2021** Food and Brand Lab Workshop (full year sequence); **AEM 4130** Business Strategy Research; **AEM 4140** Behavioral Economics and Managerial Decisions; **AEM 4190** Strategic Thinking; and **AEM 4420** Emerging Markets.

The following upper-level courses are not available to Exchange Students: **AEM 4000** Practitioner's Overview of Securities Markets and Investment Banking; **AEM 4010** Commercial Bank Management; **AEM 4060** Risk Simulation and Optimization; **AEM 4200** Investment Management in the Global Economy; **AEM 4210** Derivatives and Risk Management; **AEM 4230** Contemporary Topics in Applied Finance; **AEM 4260** Fixed Income Securities; **AEM 4280** Valuation of Capital Investment; **AEM 4290** International Finance; **AEM 4570** Advanced Corporate Finance; and **AEM 4620** Technology and Financial Markets.

As an alternative, we encourage students to explore business-related courses offered by departments in other colleges/schools at Cornell. Some other departments at Cornell to explore: Department of Economics (ECON), Policy Analysis & Management (PAM), Hotel Administration (HADM), and Johnson School of Management undergraduate courses (NBA). We waive the requirement of taking two-thirds of coursework in CALS for AEM majors.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Prior approval and portfolio is required. Please email portfolio in PDF format to Exchange Coordinator.

DEVELOPMENT SOCIOLOGY

Many classes are only open to major, degree-seeking students only. Please check with Exchange Coordinator before applying.

ESTIMATED LIVING EXPENSES

The following is a list of approximate living costs, listed in US Dollars. Please note that fees may increase. They do not include the cost of international travel, or travel within the United States as those amounts vary considerably for each student. You will be responsible for any and all expenses (excluding Cornell tuition) that are incurred during your stay at Cornell.

U.S. Visa Stamp (required)	\$200 SEVIS Registration Fee for F-1 Students http://www.isso.cornell.edu/immigration/f1/sevis_fee_f-1.pdf ~\$105-\$140 Visa Issuance Fee (unless your country has a reciprocity agreement with the US, see http://travel.state.gov/visa/fees/fees_3272.html)		
Cornell Student Activity Fee (Required)	\$118/per semester http://assembly.cornell.edu/SA/ActivityFee		
Housing and Food		Rent	Food
	Off-campus (costs vary greatly, depending on proximity to campus, age of building, access to amenities, and more)	\$2,250-\$4,500/semester (\$500-\$1000/month)	\$200-\$400/month, depending on individual eating habits
	University-owned Cooperative Residential Houses (space is very limited)	\$2,600-\$3,500/semester	~\$500 for general kitchen supplies/semester; plus personal food expenses of \$200-\$400/month, depending on individual eating habits
	University-owned on-campus housing (based on double-room, West Campus)	\$4,056/semester	\$2,783/semester
Books and Supplies	\$435/per semester		
Cornell University Student Health Insurance (required)	\$1,106/per semester (estimated) In 2014-15, all international students enrolled at Cornell will be required to purchase the Cornell University Health Insurance Plan (SHIP). Cornell's SHIP is considered a high-value, comprehensive health plan that meets or exceeds all state, federal and college health standards. The university is implementing this new requirement to assure that the health and education of every international student at Cornell is protected by appropriate insurance coverage. Exceptions to the new requirement will be granted only in very few circumstances. International students who are covered by a U.S.-based, employer-sponsored, group health plan may contact the Office of Student Health Insurance for additional information. Review Cornell's policy and health insurance requirements.		
Local transportation	Free. With Cornell Student ID card, all CALS Exchange Students ride Cornell and Ithaca buses at no cost.		
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$885/per semester		

HOUSING

AUGUST 2014 ARRIVAL (FALL SEMESTER)

Unfortunately, due to the high demand and shortage of accommodation in Ithaca and Cornell during the FALL SEMESTER, we regret that we cannot offer on-campus housing (with the exception of some on-campus cooperative houses, of which you will be notified). Exchange students arriving in fall should begin looking for housing arrangements early...in fact, as soon as possible.

Benefits of off-campus housing:

- Usually cheaper than living on-campus.
- Potentially more privacy, personal space, and independence; potentially less noisy.
- Proper kitchens; ability to prepare own meals.
- Potentially one's own bathroom or one shared with fewer residents than what one would have in on-campus housing.
- It is an ideal way to make local friends.
- Students have better ability to control their own expenses, e.g. with utilities and food.
- It is easier to have guests visit.
- There may be fewer rules that students will need to observe, although neighbors can call the police if there is excessive noise or disruptive behavior.

Disadvantages of off-campus housing:

- Apartment might not be furnished (sublets usually are, however).
- Students will need to buy groceries, cook their own meals, and then wash their own dishes.
- Students may need to arrange their own utilities and pay for these amenities, including electricity, heat, trash removal, internet, and TV.
- Unless the student is subleasing an apartment from another individual, almost all off-campus apartment contracts run for 12 months (typically August to August) and it will be very difficult for a student to get out of the lease without a substantial penalty.
- Students will need to pay for at least one month's security deposit and the first month's rent upon signing the lease. Some landlords will ask for the first and last month's rents as well as a security deposit.
- Apartments may not be close to campus, so students will need to use public transportation to get to and from campus. Students can ride the "TCAT" public buses with their Cornell student ID card. The buses run seven days a week and have late-night routes when classes are in session.
- No guarantee of laundry facilities on-site or in the building.

Off-campus areas which are easily accessible to campus:

- Collegetown
- Downtown Ithaca & The Commons
- Fall Creek
- Gun Hill

Endorsements or recommendations of any particular property owner, landlord or housing units are not made by Cornell. We take no responsibility for the condition or location of the advertised housing. While most Internet property listings are posted legitimately, be aware that some are posted by individuals with motives other than renting an apartment. Take precautions when responding to a listing as to the information you share, or wiring money to individuals not known to you.

Housing Websites:

Cornell Off-Campus Living Website: <http://dos.cornell.edu/ochol/>

Cornell Off-Campus Housing Search: http://melian3.campuslife.cornell.edu:7790/och/faces/adf.task-flow?adf.tfld=task-flow-definition6&adf.tfDoc=/WEB-INF/task-flow-definition6.xml&_afWindowId=null

Ithaca Craigslist: <http://ithaca.craigslist.org/> (Look at apts/housing; rooms/shared; and sublets/temporary) Ithaca Rents: <http://ithacarents.com/>

ON-CAMPUS HOUSING

As mentioned, demand for on-campus rooms for the **fall semester** is very high. If you plan on studying at Cornell for a single semester and are determined to live on campus, we **strongly** recommend that you arrive in the spring (January) semester. There are many benefits to studying at Cornell in spring, including an exciting orientation program comprised of mostly exchange and transfer students; the Chili Cook-Off in Downtown Ithaca, Spring Break, and Slope Day!

After Exchange Applications have been processed (4-6 weeks after the exchange application deadline), students are emailed an "applicant number." Students may submit their housing application online only AFTER they receive their applicant number. Applying before the housing deadline is critical, but applying early does not affect your chances of getting a room since housing assignments are made after the deadline.

Singles, doubles, triples, and quads are available in most residence halls (since few single rooms are available, often times students are required to share a room). Each hall has shared bathrooms, laundry facilities, kitchenettes, and common areas, plus Internet access, basic campus phone service, and optional cable television (with an additional charge). Whether you arrive in fall or spring, we cannot guarantee you will be assigned your requested room type or building preference.

For information about housing options for exchange students, visit the "Transfer Housing" page at:

<http://living.sas.cornell.edu/live/wheretolive/housingoptions/transfer.cfm>.

Full-year rates for housing can be found at <http://living.sas.cornell.edu/live/contracts/>. All housing contracts are issued for the full academic year; but if you are here for the fall semester only, your contract will be cancelled at the end of your stay. Housing fees are prorated for single semester students.

DINING ON CAMPUS

You'll find plenty of variety and convenience with over 30 dining locations across campus. You don't have to be on a meal plan to dine on campus since cash or credit cards are also accepted!

TRADITIONAL MEAL PLANS

As a member of a Cornell Dining meal plan or debit plan, you can use your Cornell ID card instead of money in Cornell Dining facilities, to obtain food for less than the cash price. There are also unlimited servings in each of the 10 All-You-Care-to-Eat Facilities. For Meal Plan options, visit: <http://living.sas.cornell.edu/dine/>.

PROOF OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT – DECLARATION OF FINANCES FORM

The U.S. government requires that all international students prove that they will be financially supported while studying in the U.S. The law requires that students provide documentation of financial support. You will **not** be charged this amount of money; you need only show that you have access to it. Please complete the “Exchange Student Declaration of Finances Form” (or DCF) provided in the online application.

Evidence of financial support, in the minimum amount of \$9,383 for one semester or \$18,766 for an academic year, must be provided.

If you are receiving a scholarship, a separate letter must accompany the form. The letter must be written in English and must include:

- Your full name as it appears on your passport, and application.
- The amount of the scholarship in U.S. dollars.
- The dates the scholarship will be provided.
- Certification that the scholarship funds are guaranteed; a preliminary notice will not be accepted.

If you are showing proof of money in a bank account in the “Your savings or your family’s savings” section, a bank official must certify (sign) that, to the best of their knowledge, the funds are available for the required minimum amount. They may also state that the letter has been issued for educational purposes and implies no responsibility on the part of the bank. See sample letter below.

- The bank official must sign the Form 2R where indicated, or write and sign a separate letter.
- If a letter is written, it must be in English.
- The letter must specify the amount in US dollars.
- Only submitting a bank statement showing balance will not be accepted.

You must sign where indicated on the 2R form. If the funds are in your parents or guardian’s name(s), you must also have them sign the form.

You need to scan and upload the DCF to your online application (along with any supporting documents such as a bank letter, if bank will not sign your DCF).

SAMPLE BANK LETTER

to certify that incoming exchange student

has sufficient funds to support her/himself while studying at Cornell University

[The letter must be IN ENGLISH on OFFICIAL BANK STATIONARY (official letterhead) with dollar amounts in US dollars.]

DATE

This is to certify that [_____] (name of the PERSON WITH THE BANK ACCOUNT) has the total amount of \$_____ USD (amount should meet or exceed total amount listed on the appropriate “Declaration of Finances” form) in his/her account at this bank to cover expenses for [NAME OF STUDENT] while s/he is studying at Cornell University.

Sincerely,

[Signature] , Name and Title

FOR STUDENTS SELECTED TO COME TO CALS ON EXCHANGE

YOUR ACCEPTANCE PACKET & IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTS

An information packet will be mailed to the address you indicated on your application once your I-20 has been processed (takes 4-6 weeks after application deadline). The packet will include a letter of acceptance to the exchange program and a "certificate of eligibility" called an "I-20." You will need the acceptance letter and the I-20 to apply for an "F-1" visa stamp at a U.S. Consulate (unless you are a Canadian citizen, as Canadians are not required to obtain visa stamps to enter the U.S.). Please read <http://www.isso.cornell.edu/immigration/visas/newstudentvisa.php> for complete details about the visa process.

ARRIVING TO ITHACA

Students **must attend the Mandatory International Student Orientation** and should make their travel plans accordingly. The orientation session is scheduled prior to the first day of classes to assist students with their acclimation process. All students are expected to be present for the first day of classes.

READ, READ, READ!

Cornell University is a large institution, with many departments in which you will interact. Please carefully read information sent to you by email, mail, and on our website as they all contain important information.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

All exchange students are responsible for the Cornell Student Activity Fee (approximately \$118/semester), SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System) fee (approximately \$200), Cornell Student Health Insurance, meals, books, housing, printing fees, physical education (PE) course fees (if you choose to take a PE course), travel costs, and all personal expenses. You will be billed for university-related expenses online through Cornell's Office of the Bursar. Throughout the semester, you will receive a monthly bursar bill by email for any other expenses you may incur. You are responsible for all fees billed by the Bursar.

YOUR NETID

Your Cornell network identity (NetID) is your key to secure online services at Cornell. Your NetID and activation code will be mailed to you about two weeks **AFTER** you receive your acceptance packet (if you provide a valid mobile phone number we will also text you your NetID). You are expected to activate your NetID immediately.

YOUR CALS BUDDY

If you wish, you will be matched with a CALS Buddy to assist you with your transition to Cornell. Before you arrive, you will be contacted by your Cornell Buddy so you may learn more about Cornell and each other. Buddies have already studied abroad and have an idea of what you're going through!

YOUR ORIENTATION LEADER

At the beginning of the university-wide orientation you will be assigned an Orientation Leader or "OL." This upper-level Cornell student will organize fun group meetings and activities to help you learn about Cornell and meet other new students. This is a great opportunity to meet American students and get out and about!

YOUR EXCHANGE ADVISOR

In order to provide accurate answers to your questions (answers perhaps only applicable to our exchange students), please contact the CALS Exchange Office directly for inquiries of any sort. We may refer you to another department, if appropriate, but our office should be your first line of contact.