

Columbia University

Incoming Exchange Student Handbook

Updated May 2024



2024-2025

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GETTING STARTED

Welcome to Columbia University! Congratulations on your nomination as an Incoming Exchange Student.

You will be joining one of the United States' leading universities and centers of undergraduate and graduate education. From classes with Nobel Laureates to numerous student societies, from the bustling energy of Manhattan to the diverse, local charms of the Morningside campus, Columbia has something to offer everyone. We hope that you are excited about joining the Columbia community in the city of New York, and we look forward to working with you.

COLUMBIA CONTACT

Your primary Columbia contact is:

Allie Rubinowitz

Program Coordinator

Center for Undergraduate Global Engagement

Uris Hall, 8th Floor

uge-exchange@columbia.edu

t. (212) 854-5164

UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

In your Acceptance Letter, you will receive a [University Network ID \(UNI\)](#) that is your key to accessing computer services, electronic resources, the housing portal, class registration, and more at Columbia. To activate your UNI, please visit:

<https://cuit.columbia.edu/cuit/manage-my-uni>

We will send initial email communications to your home institution's address that you provided in the UGE Portal.

Toward the beginning of your stay, we will begin to send email communications to your [LionMail Account](#). LionMail is Columbia's state-of-the-art email, contacts, and calendaring system, powered by Google. To verify your identity for Columbia's centralized applications, you will need to set up [Duo](#) as the Multifactor Authentication service.

COVID-19 UNIVERSITY PLAN

As staff, faculty, and students of Columbia University plan for the upcoming term, please continue to review the following website for the most updated details regarding University policies and procedures:

<https://covid19.columbia.edu>

STUDENT VISAS

You will need a student visa to study at Columbia and reside in the United States. You should plan on applying for an **F-1 student visa immediately**. Instructions and the online application for getting your F-1 student I-20 can be found on the [ISSO home page](#):

<https://isso.columbia.edu/content/applying-your-i-20ds-2019>

You must submit all required paperwork **directly** to the International Students and Scholars Office (ISSO) as early as possible. The process of applying for and receiving an F-1 visa at the U.S. consulate or embassy can take as long as three months. The process is not difficult, but you should pay attention to the details and strictly follow documentation regulations.

For general procedural information, please visit the [ISSO home page](#) or visit:

<https://isso.columbia.edu/content/getting-started>

Please contact the ISSO **directly** with any questions regarding your student visa at newintlstudent@columbia.edu.

FREQUENTLY ASKED VISA QUESTIONS

Q: To which division of Columbia have you been admitted?

A: For undergraduate student engineers: School of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

B: For all other undergraduates: Columbia College.

Q: Which subject will you study?

A: Please answer with your area of study (i.e., Economics, History, Physics, Biomedical Engineering).

Q: For which degree are you a candidate?

A: Non-degree or certificate.

WORKING IN NEW YORK

With an F-1 visa, in general, you cannot work off-campus, but you may be eligible for a campus job (maximum of 20 hours). Check the [ISSO home page](#) for updates and information:

<http://isso.columbia.edu>

ARRIVAL IN NEW YORK

Moving to a new city is very exciting—and can also be confusing and exhausting! In the first few weeks, there are many new things to learn about and a lot to do.

Please review the latest email communications regarding move-in options and dates.

ORIENTATION SCHEDULE

[The New Students Orientation Program \(NSOP\)](#) is a required program for all new students. Special sessions for Visiting, Exchange, and International students will take place from **Tuesday, August 27th, 2024, through Sunday, September 1st, 2024**, for the Fall Term.

During NSOP, you will meet your assigned academic advisor in the [Berick Center for Student Advising \(CSA\)](#), with whom you will discuss your academic program and the course registration process. You will also become acquainted with the Columbia campus, its resources, and its students. Updates will be sent to you over the summer about the dates and times of these mandatory meetings.

HOUSING [FOR ELIGIBLE STUDENTS]

As an Undergraduate Incoming Exchange Student, please note that your move-in date for Columbia Housing will be on **Tuesday, August 27th, 2024**. There is a separate online housing application that you will need to complete once you have been formally admitted to Columbia. This will be emailed separately to you, and you must register using your UNI.

Fall 2024 + AY 2024-25 housing applications will be open on **Tuesday, April 16th, 2024**, and be made available **until Wednesday, May 15th, 2024**, for incoming students. **We encourage you to complete this step as soon as possible.** Housing assignments will be shared with you toward the beginning of the semester. Please review the information on Columbia Housing's site to prepare for this application:

<https://www.housing.columbia.edu/roomselection>

Undergraduate Incoming Exchange Students are not required to live on-campus; however, you are strongly encouraged to do so due to the limited amount of resources provided for off-campus housing.

Once you commit to living on campus, you are expected to live on campus for the whole term. Like most Columbia students, you will be living in a shared room or suite in student residential housing located near the Morningside campus. Single rooms are limited. You most likely will not know exactly where you will be living until you arrive. As housing is very scarce in both Manhattan and on campus, placement in your first choice cannot be guaranteed. You are responsible for all housing fees. See "Finances" in this handbook for more detailed information.

Check out the [Columbia Housing home page](#), or visit the Housing Portal:

<https://columbia.starrezhousing.com/StarRezPortalX>

More information about arrival and check-in will be sent to you after your housing application is complete and your assignment is made. If you have questions, you can contact Columbia Housing by email at housing@columbia.edu.

Typically, housing check-in starts at 8:00 AM EST on the first day of NSOP (see above) and then is available for 24/7 check-in after that time at the Hospitality Desk, located in the [Hartley Hall](#) lobby. However, please check with Columbia Housing by email to confirm this information should you plan to arrive outside regular business hours.

HOUSING [FOR STUDENTS 25 YEARS OR OLDER]

For students 25 years or older, Columbia Housing shared that on-campus housing in the undergraduate residence halls will not be available. However, as an Incoming Exchange student, you are able to utilize [Columbia Residential Off-Campus Housing Assistance](#) to search for rental housing in the metropolitan area using the [Off-Campus Housing Marketplace](#), which is an apartment-hunting tool created with the Columbia affiliate in mind. Separately, you can also apply for housing with the [International House](#), which is a residency program for graduate students and young professionals from around the world.

Please note that Incoming Exchange students for the Fall 2024 + AY 2024-25, should still plan to move in on **Tuesday, August 27th, 2024 before 1:00 PM EST**. There is a separate online housing application that you will need to complete once you have been formally admitted to Columbia.

EARLY ARRIVALS

If you plan to arrive before the official opening of the housing, you will have to arrange for your own accommodation. Below please find a list of local hostels/hotels that you may want to contact in order to arrange for temporary housing. *This list should not be interpreted as a recommendation by Columbia University of these establishments.* For more comprehensive options, please consult a New York City guidebook.

UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY- THE LANDMARK GUEST ROOMS

3041 Broadway (and 121st Street)

(212) 280-1313

<https://www.utsnyc.edu/life/union-housing>

TEACHERS COLLEGE GUEST HOUSING

517 West 121st Street

(212) 678-3235

<http://www.tc.columbia.edu/housing/guest-and-conference-housing>

HOSTEL INTERNATIONAL NEW YORK

891 Amsterdam Ave. (and 104th Street)

(212) 932-2300

<http://www.hinewyork.org>

TRAVEL

There are many options when traveling around New York City. From walking to using the City's rail and bus system run by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), you can inexpensively see many sights throughout the five boroughs.

AIRPORTS

There are three airports that serve New York City: John F. Kennedy, LaGuardia, and Newark Liberty. There are a variety of public transportation options from each of these airports.

For visitors coming into LaGuardia, Kennedy, or Newark airports, taxi service is available to the campus (about \$35 from LaGuardia; from Kennedy, a flat rate of \$60 plus tolls, about \$60 plus tolls from Newark).

From JFK, there is a bus service to Grand Central Station and the Port Authority Bus Terminal.

From JFK and Newark, Airtran connects the airport to the Long Island Railway (LIRR) and NJ Rail, respectively. Both the LIRR and NJ Rail travel to Penn Station, New York. From LaGuardia Airport, the M60 city bus travels directly to the Columbia campus.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Five bus lines (M4, M5, M11, M60, M104) and one subway line (the 1 local) serve the Columbia neighborhood. The Columbia stop is 116th Street & Broadway. Do not use express trains 2 and 3, which follow a different route, and do not stop at Columbia University; if you do, be certain to transfer at 96th Street to the 1 local.

For transportation information within New York City, please refer to: <http://new.mta.info>. For directions to the Columbia campus, please refer to: <https://visit.columbia.edu/content/maps-and-directions>

ON-CAMPUS TRANSPORTATION

INTERCAMPUS SHUTTLE BUS

Students at the University may travel, free of charge, between the Morningside, Manhattanville, Medical Center, and Harlem Hospital campuses by presenting their CU or CUIMC ID on the Intercampus Shuttle Bus.
(212) 854-3382

<https://transportation.columbia.edu/content/intercampus-shuttle>

ON-DEMAND EVENING SHUTTLE

A safe and free alternative to walking alone at night in partnership with VIA Ride Share App. The Evening Shuttle operates seven days a week, every evening until 3:00 AM the following morning, including University holidays.

[Get a Promo Code](#) and [Download the App](#)

<https://transportation.columbia.edu/content/via-evening-shuttle>

SAFETY ESCORT PROGRAM

This service is comprised of trained students wearing Public Safety vests and equipped with a Public Safety radio who will be available to walk affiliates to their doors anytime from 7:00 PM. to 3:00 AM, seven nights a week. They are available from West 113th Street to West 122nd Street between Morningside Drive and Riverside Drive.

(212) 854-SAFE (7233)

<https://publicsafety.columbia.edu/safetyesorts>

Escorts will arrive between 5 to 15 minutes after a request and will present University IDs upon arrival.

IMPORTANT DATES

Use the [Office of the Registrar](#) to find important dates and resources.

For a more extensive calendar overview, please see here:

<https://www.registrar.columbia.edu/event/academic-calendar>

For the Fall 2024 term, even though classes start on **Tuesday, September 3rd, 2024**, NSOP will take place from **Tuesday, August 27th, 2024, through Sunday, September 1st, 2024**.

Fall 2024

Monday, September 2nd, 2024

Labor Day - University Holiday (No Classes Held)

Tuesday, September 3rd, 2024

First Day of Classes

Thursday, October 17th, 2024

Midterm Date

Monday, November 4th, 2024

Academic Holiday (No Classes Held)

Tuesday, November 5th, 2024

Election Day - University Holiday (No Classes Held)

Wednesday, November 27th, 2024

Academic Holiday (No Classes Held)

Thursday, November 28th, 2024

Thanksgiving Day - University Holiday (No Classes Held)

Friday, November 29th, 2024

University Holiday (No Classes Held)

Monday, December 9th, 2024

Last Day of Classes

Tuesday, December 10th, 2024, to

Thursday, December 12th, 2024

Study Days

Friday, December 13th, 2024, to

Friday, December 20th, 2024

Final Examinations

Spring 2025

Monday, January 20th, 2025

Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Observed -
University Holiday (No Classes Held)

Tuesday, January 21st, 2025

First Day of Classes

Monday, March 10th, 2025

Midterm Date

Monday, March 17th, 2025, to

Friday, March 21st, 2025

Spring Recess (No Classes Held)

Monday, May 5th, 2025

Last Day of Classes

Tuesday, May 6th, 2025, to

Thursday, May 9th, 2025

Study Days

Friday, May 9th, 2025 to

Friday, May 16th, 2025

Final Examinations

FINANCES

As an Incoming Exchange Student, you will pay tuition and academic fees to your home University. Here at Columbia, you are responsible for the cost of room and board, student activity fees, medical insurance, travel to and from the United States, books, and personal expenses. Upon arrival, you should be prepared to pay for one semester of housing and fees.

Estimated Breakdown of Fees from 2023-24 (to be updated soon):

Fee	Required?	Cost
Student Life Fee	Mandatory	\$1,696 per Academic Year \$848 per Term
International Services Fee	Mandatory	\$300 per Academic Year \$150 per Term
Room & Board	Depends on Placement & Dining Options	~\$16,800 (average cost) per Academic Year
Health & Related Services Fee	Mandatory	\$1,364 per Academic Year \$682 per Term
Columbia Medical Insurance	Mandatory	~\$4,541 Academic Year ~\$1,725 Fall Term ~\$2,816 Spring Term
Document Fee	Mandatory	\$105 (One-Time Fee)

COLUMBIA COLLEGE FEES, EXPENSES, AND FINANCIAL AID

<https://bulletin.columbia.edu/columbia-college/fees-expenses-financial-aid/>

SEAS UNDERGRADUATE TUITION, FEES AND PAYMENT

<https://bulletin.engineering.columbia.edu/undergraduate-tuition-fees-and-payment>

COLUMBIA HEALTH*

<https://health.columbia.edu/content/about-columbia-university-student-health-insurance-plan> (find detailed information under About the Plan > Plan Benefits > hyperlinked The Columbia Plan - Benefit Details)

COLUMBIA HOUSING

<https://housing.columbia.edu/content/rates>

COLUMBIA DINING

<https://dining.columbia.edu/content/upperclass-dining-plans>

*As of Fall 2016, international students are no longer allowed to submit a waiver for Health Insurance. It is required to have U.S. Medical Insurance throughout the duration of your stay, even if you have home country health insurance.

BANKING

If you intend to open a bank account here in New York City, there are several banks in the Columbia neighborhood, including Chase, Citibank, Bank of America, Santander Bank, and TD Bank.

ATMs

Santander Bank operates an ATM machine on campus. The ATM can be found in Lerner Hall.

ACADEMICS

As an Incoming Exchange Student, you will be registered for a full-time non-degree program and will be able to register for a variety of courses at Columbia College or at the Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS). A full-time course load is 15-18 points per semester, which usually means five classes. At a minimum, you must register for at least 12 points each semester. Classes meet for two to four hours per week and can consist of lectures, seminars, labs, and discussion sessions.

We do not guarantee that Exchange students will be able to enroll in any specific class until the time of registration, and we encourage students to have a wide selection of courses ready at the time of registration.

At Columbia, you are allowed to take courses in a variety of academic departments as long as you meet the specific course prerequisites. Some courses are restricted to students majoring in the area, others by permission of the instructor or the department. Students can choose classes that are listed as open to students from Columbia College or SEAS.

Students may **NOT** take courses from any of the professional schools at Columbia: Graduate School of Architecture, School of the Arts, Continuing Education, Dental Medicine, School of International and Public Affairs, Jewish Theological Seminary, Columbia Journalism School, Columbia Law School, College of Physicians and Surgeons, School of Nursing, Mailman School of Public Health, Teachers College, Union Theological Seminary. Access to courses at the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and Columbia Business School is limited. More information on this can be found on the [Taking Courses in Other Divisions of the University](#) page.

Over the summer, you should begin looking at the course listings online to aid in your course planning. During orientation, you will connect with your academic advisor to plan a class schedule for the term. Course descriptions and class details can be found at the following websites:

- *Columbia College Bulletin*: <http://www.college.columbia.edu/bulletin>
- *SEAS Bulletin*: <http://www.engineering.columbia.edu/bulletin>

The Bulletins include information about all departments, course offerings, and course descriptions. These are your definitive compilation of College or SEAS course offerings and policies. Each department of the College and SEAS is listed there, along with their contact information, website, course lists for the term, and the structure of the major, along with special notes and instructions.

The [Directory of Classes](#) lists the most up-to-date course offerings and indicates the time and day of class meetings, points (credits), instructors, and current student enrollments. This is a useful tool for setting up your day-to-day schedule and preparing for registration: <https://doc.sis.columbia.edu/>

Please note that the [Directory of Classes](#) is a collection of all of the classes across the variety of undergraduate and professional schools at Columbia University. Incoming Exchange Students are limited to College or SEAS courses, except where specific courses in other schools are listed as open to Columbia College and/or SEAS undergraduates with special permission.

Note that courses listed as 1000 – 3000 are undergraduate courses. Courses listed as 4000 – 9000 are graduate-level. For more information, please visit [Taking Courses in Other Divisions of the University](#).

Columbia has instituted an online system called [Vergil](#), where you can plan your schedule before registration to ensure that you do not have any course conflicts, view the syllabus, and read professor evaluations. This portal can be accessed here: <https://vergil.registrar.columbia.edu> This website is primarily for course planning, as it is easier to search and navigate than the bulletin website referenced above.

RESTRICTED COLUMBIA COLLEGE COURSES

As an Incoming Exchange Student, a full range of Columbia College and SEAS courses is available to you, with some exceptions. Core Curriculum courses are required courses for all degree students. Given severe space limitations, Incoming Exchange Students are not permitted to register for these Core courses. There are no exceptions to this regulation. These courses are:

Masterpieces of Western Literature and Philosophy (Lit Hum)	HUMA 1001 and 1002 CC
Introduction to Contemporary Civilization in the West (CC)	HUMA 1101 and 1102 CC
Masterpieces of Western Art	HUMA UN1121
Masterpieces of Western Music	HUMA UN1123
University Writing	ENGL CC1010
Frontiers of Science	SCNC CC1101
African Civilization	AFCV 1020 CC
The Art of Engineering	ENGI E1102

COURSE REGISTRATION

Incoming Exchange Student registration for Fall classes will take place in August and registration for Spring classes will take place in January. You will be assigned an academic adviser in the [Center for Student Advising \(CSA\)](#) who will guide you through the registration process over the summer and throughout the NSOP Orientation week. During the first two weeks of the semester, it is expected that you will change your registration as you explore all of the course options available to you. Columbia uses an online registration system called [Student Services On-Line \(SSOL\)](#), whose registration services are available during specific periods of time.

The first step to accessing the SSOL system is to activate your Columbia UNI. The UNI is your personalized key for accessing computer services, electronic resources, the housing portal, class registration, and more at Columbia. During your time at Columbia, all email correspondence will be sent to your Columbia email.

To activate your UNI, you will need to go to <https://cuit.columbia.edu/cuit/manage-my-uni>.

Please refer to this guide that walks you through [step-by-step registration instructions](#).

COLUMBIA CAMPUS

We are a diverse academic community of more than 40,000 students, faculty, and staff from across the nation and the world, living and learning on dynamic campuses in a great, global city. For more than 250 years, Columbia has been a leader in higher education in the nation and around the world.

CAMPUS MAP

An interactive Campus Map is available here:

<https://visit.columbia.edu/content/maps-and-directions-update>

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY IDENTIFICATION CARD

You are considered an Incoming Exchange Student and will receive a student ID card which will allow you access to various buildings on campus. Before you arrive at Columbia, you can upload a photo into the ID system to expedite the process:

<https://ssc.columbia.edu>

You will have to activate your UNI. Please visit and select "Activate My UNI or LionMail Account":

<https://cuit.columbia.edu/cuit/manage-my-uni>

LIBRARIES

You will have reading and borrowing privileges at all Columbia University Library divisions during the period of your stay.

For more information on collections:

<https://library.columbia.edu>

DINING

There are both on-campus and off-campus dining options for you while you are a Columbia student. Should you wish to purchase a meal plan, you will be eligible to pre-pay for a certain number of meals per term that you can eat at any of the 12 dining halls on campus.

For more information, including a map of all on-campus cafés and cafeterias, go to:

<http://dining.columbia.edu>

In addition to on-campus dining facilities, the surrounding neighborhood has many moderately priced restaurants, coffee shops, and fast food places, as well as supermarkets, vegetable and fruit stands, and delicatessens. Manhattan offers a range of restaurants from which to choose. You should plan to budget a minimum of \$20 a day if you do not have access to cooking facilities.

RECREATION

The Dodge Physical Fitness Center is open to all students and includes a swimming pool, saunas, a running track, weight and exercise rooms, a gymnasium, and squash/handball courts.

Use of Dodge Fitness Center is included in the mandatory Student Life Fee:

<https://perec.columbia.edu>

There are also outdoor tennis courts on campus, and on either side of the campus are two large parks— Riverside Park and Central Park.

STUDENT CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Undergraduate Student Life advises more than 350 recognized student groups. By joining a student group, students have access to engage, serve, and lead at Columbia, in New York City and beyond.

Interested in joining a student group? View the recognized groups here:

<https://www.cc-seas.columbia.edu/student-groups/all>

CENTER FOR CAREER EDUCATION

The [Center for Career Education \(CCE\)](#) provides visiting undergraduate students enrolled with Columbia College or Columbia Engineering with limited access to their services and resources as follows:

- Access to events at CCE, including employer information sessions, career fairs, workshops, panels, and networking nights.
- Access to general internship and job postings in LionSHARE, our recruiting database. Access will begin on the first day of classes in the semester of arrival at Columbia.
- No access to on-campus recruitment-related internships and job postings in LionSHARE or on-campus interviews.
- No access to CCE's domestic and international internship programs.
- No access to individual career counseling (quick questions, counseling appointments, mock interviews, mock case interviews, etc).

CCE does not provide services to any other visiting students.

CCE serves students working towards degrees or post-bac certificates at:

- [Columbia College](#)
- [Columbia Engineering](#)
- [School of General Studies](#)

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

To properly prepare for your exchange experience, we recommend that you develop a plan on how you will maintain your physical/mental health and well-being while traveling.

MEDICAL INSURANCE

Each student **must** have U.S. Medical Insurance coverage as a requirement for both your visa and for Columbia University. For more information regarding this policy, see here:

<https://health.columbia.edu/content/international-students>

For more information about the Columbia Student Health Insurance Plan, please see:

<https://health.columbia.edu/content/about-columbia-university-student-health-insurance-plan>

Even if you have insurance from your home country, it is still required to have U.S. Medical Insurance throughout the duration of your stay at Columbia University.

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING SERVICES

By enrolling in the Columbia Student Health Insurance Plan, you are automatically enrolled in the [Health Service Program](#). At Columbia, we offer a wide variety of services to support your health and well-being during your stay. Please review the resources below (this is not an exhaustive list):

- [Primary Care](#) (John Jay Hall, 4th Floor) provides a full range of health care services on-campus.
- [Counseling and Psychological Services](#) (Alfred Lerner Hall, 8th Floor) support the psychological and emotional well-being of the Columbia community.
- [Disability Services](#) (Wien Hall, Main Flr., Ste. 108A) facilitates equal access for students with disabilities by coordinating accommodations and support services.
- [Sexual Violence Response](#) (700 Lerner Hall) provides trauma-informed, confidential support and prevention programs focused on ending gender and power-based violence.

The Health Service Program also provides access to off-campus services for medical emergencies, accidental injuries, elective termination of pregnancy, mental health services, and outpatient treatment. The closest hospital to Columbia University is [Mount Sinai Morningside](#) on Amsterdam Ave between 113th Street and 114th Street.

The full coverage description and procedures for utilizing these benefits may be found on:

<https://www.health.columbia.edu/content/about-columbia-university-student-health-insurance-plan>

Questions about enrolling in either the Health Service Program or the Student Health Insurance Plan may be directed to the [Insurance Office](#) located at John Jay Hall, 3rd Floor or call 212-854-3286.

DISCLOSURES

You are encouraged to let our staff know if you have any conditions (health, psychological, disabilities) that might require additional support while you are in the United States.

Please contact the Center for Undergraduate Global Engagement (uge-exchange@columbia.edu) as early as possible to discuss any conditions so that we will have ample time to provide you with more information and/or prepare the appropriate accommodations.

IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

There are immunization requirements that students must meet **at least 30 days prior** to their scheduled registration date.

Please keep in mind that immunization requirements may be updated throughout the summer or winter, so please review the updates received from the Columbia Health Immunization Compliance Office. For this reason, all incoming students are placed on hold prior to their first registration.

Please visit the following [Columbia Health](#) page to upload, fax, or email your MMR verification forms to Columbia Health without delay and **at least 30 days before class registration**.

1. MENINGITIS ONLINE DECISION

New York State public health law and Columbia University policy requires that college and University students receive information from their institutions about meningococcal meningitis and the vaccine that protects against most strains of the disease that can occur on University campuses.

Columbia students must make an informed decision about being vaccinated and must certify their decision online. Visit <https://health.columbia.edu/content/meningococcal-disease-frequently-asked-questions> to make an informed decision regarding the meningococcal meningitis vaccine.

2. MEASLES, MUMPS AND RUBELLA DOCUMENTATION

New York State Public Health Law and Columbia University policy requires proof of two (2) measles vaccines (administered at least 28 days apart), one (1) mumps vaccine, and one (1) rubella vaccine. All vaccines must be administered after the student's first birthday.

3. FLU VACCINE

The flu vaccine is **strongly recommended** for students coming onto campus this academic year. For more information:

<https://health.columbia.edu/flu>

4. COVID-19 VACCINE

Starting in the Spring of 2023, the COVID-19 vaccine is **strongly recommended** for students coming onto campus this academic year. For more information:

<https://covid19.columbia.edu>

Please note that this requirement was [updated](#) on February 23, 2023, so plan to receive additional updates from the university as COVID-19 continues to evolve and be monitored.

Please check the [Patient Portal](#) below for any additional vaccination requirements prior to your arrival.

SUBMITTING DOCUMENTATION

Please submit your documentation to the [Columbia Health Immunization Compliance Office](#):

- **Online:** Secure digital upload via the [Patient Portal](#)
- **Fax:** 212-854-5078
- **Email:** immunizationcompliance@columbia.edu with the subject line Immunization Compliance Records - [Your UNI and Academic School/College]

Please note that communications sent via email over the Internet are not necessarily secure. Columbia University cannot guarantee that the information and records submitted via unencrypted email will not be intercepted and read by other parties besides the University.

Alternate Methods

- **Mail:** Immunization Compliance Office, John Jay Hall 3rd Floor, MC 3601, 519 W. 114th St., New York, NY 10027
Note: Due to continued remote work, we cannot guarantee any timeline for the processing of records mailed to their office.

Be sure to keep a copy of your fax or delivery confirmation as we cannot verify receipt of individual documents. For questions or concerns regarding your immunization documentation, please email immunizationcompliance@columbia.edu.

Immunization records are processed in order of receipt. At the start of the academic semester, it may take a few days for your documentation to be processed and for the hold to be removed.

Please allow **up to 15 business days** for processing.

You can check your hold status by logging into your [SSOL account](#) (under Academic Records and Holds).

SAFETY IN NEW YORK CITY

As in all large cities, there is crime in New York City. But, it is not as prevalent as is commonly represented in the media. Nevertheless, certain precautions are in order, and it is always wise to be alert, especially at night.

New York City is known as the city that never sleeps, and you will find that the major streets of New York are rarely deserted and usually well-lit at night. It is not wise to walk in any of the city's parks after dark--unless you are going to the free Shakespeare productions or concerts in Central Park, where you will be surrounded by thousands. The 1, 2, and 3 subway lines usually have passengers even late into the evening. However, depending on your comfort level, you may want to consider taking a cab after a certain hour, particularly after midnight.

Halfway down every subway platform, you should be on the lookout for a "zebra board," a black and white-striped wood panel that's meant to line up perfectly with the conductor's window. The middle train car with the conductor is typically the most occupied. Avoid spaces on the platform and train cars where you are isolated or alone.

If you are in an **emergency off-campus, dial 911**. It is free to dial at public telephone booths.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY PUBLIC SAFETY

Columbia Public Safety is committed to making our campus and its surrounding environs as safe and secure as they can be. They do so by maintaining a secure and open environment where the safety of all is balanced with the individual's rights. Columbia Public Safety offers a wide variety of [services](#).

On the Morningside Campus, their office is located at 101 Low Library, 24 hours a day.
If you need general information, contact 212-854-2797.

If you are in an **emergency on- or around campus, call 212-854-5555**.