



Cornell University



Office of Global Learning
International Exchange Fact Sheet
Academic Year 2024-2025

CONTACT INFORMATION

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ABOUT CORNELL UNIVERSITY

[Cornell University](#) is the federal land-grant institution of New York State, a private endowed university, a member of the Ivy League, and a partner of the State University of New York. It has been described as the first truly American university because of its founders' revolutionarily egalitarian and practical vision of higher education, and is dedicated to its land-grant mission of outreach and public service. Founded in 1865 by Ezra Cornell and Andrew Dickson White, Cornell was intended to teach and make contributions in all fields of knowledge. These ideals are captured in Cornell's motto, a popular 1865 Ezra Cornell quotation: "I would found an institution where any person can find instruction in any study."

ABOUT ITHACA, NY

[Ithaca, NY](#), home to Cornell University and Ithaca College, is one of the best known and best loved "college towns" in the nation. Students make up a sizable portion of the population and even have a mini commercial district on the edge of campus. Located in the Finger Lakes region in the middle of the state of New York, Ithaca draws tourists to its waterfalls and gorges, its wineries, its restaurants, and hiking trails. A small city in a rural part of the state, Ithaca is known for its engaged citizens, cooperative ventures, and an emerging start-up sector. Put simply, students find plenty of ways to be active beyond the classroom and campus whether in the community or out in nature.

CORNELL'S COLLEGES & SCHOOLS OPEN TO INCOMING EXCHANGE

[College of Agriculture & Life Sciences](#)

[College of Architecture, Art, & Planning](#)

[College of Arts & Sciences](#)

[College of Business-Nolan School of Hotel Administration](#)

[College of Business-Dyson School of Applied Economics & Management](#)

[College of Engineering](#)

[College of Human Ecology](#)

[School of Industrial & Labor Relations](#)

NOTE: Graduate programs and degree/certificate programs outside Ithaca, NY are not available

MORE IMPORTANT WEBSITES

[Cornell University](#)

[Office of Global Learning](#)

[International Services](#)

IMPORTANT DATES AND GENERAL DEADLINES

Nomination Period	Fall Semester & Academic Year	February 1 - March 1
	Spring Semester	August 1 - September 1
Application Deadline	Fall Semester & Academic Year	March 15
	Spring Semester	September 15
Academic Calendar	Outlines semester dates (start of courses, breaks, end of term date)	
Key Academic Dates	Detailed calendar with important academic deadlines/dates	

STUDENT APPLICATIONS

Eligibility	<p>Evidence of solid academic preparation in general and in the proposed field(s) of study; a minimum of two full-time semesters of university study with the equivalent of a 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale.</p> <p><i>Note: Exchange students are typically at the top of their classes.</i></p>
English Language Proficiency	<p>English Language Proficiency IELTS: 7.5. TOEFL iBT: 100. Duolingo: 120. Cornell will take other exam scores. You can find a full list on the Undergraduate Admissions website (scroll down to English Language Proficiency).</p> <p><i>Note: The non ELP information on the admissions webpage is in relation to admissions for degree seeking students and may not apply to exchange students.</i></p>

Application Procedures	<p>Once nominated to Cornell, students will receive an e-mail from the Office of Global Learning with further instructions on accessing the online application.</p> <p>The following materials must be submitted by the nominated student as part of the online application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal information • Statement of purpose • Transcripts of all undergraduate work (and graduate work if applicable) • Current enrollment at home institution • List of Cornell courses of interest
Visa Application	<p>All exchange students who are not US citizens are required to have a student visa for their studies in the United States. The undergraduate admissions office will prepare necessary paperwork (I-20s). Students will receive information on how to access the post-acceptance portal where they will upload the information needed to apply for their I-20. Students will need to provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scanned copy of passport • Declaration of Finances (required Cornell form with bank letter or statement attached – total amount needed will be shared when available)

COURSE INFORMATION	
Cornell Colleges	<p>Undergraduate students may apply to any undergraduate college covered by the exchange agreement. Colleges house the Cornell majors. Students will be placed in a specific college based on the major they are nominated to at Cornell University.</p> <p>Each college will have their own course enrollment policies. It is important students are aware of these policies as they prepare for course enrollment.</p>
Cornell Major	<p>Students should have significant academic preparation in the discipline of their chosen major at Cornell. Students should be prepared to express their interest in the admitting college and major in their statement of purpose.</p>
Restricted majors/degree programs/courses	<p>Only students in Business degree programs can apply to the Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management or the Nolan School of Hotel Administration as their Home College. Students accepted into other colleges may take business courses on a space-available basis. More details will be provided in the nomination information sheet to assist partners in determining best college fit for their students.</p> <p>Studio classes (architecture, art, design, and fashion) are only available through specific partner exchange agreements.</p>

	<p>Important: Exchange students are unable to take courses in Computer Science (CS) or Information Science (INFO) unless otherwise stated in the exchange agreement.</p> <p>Courses that are only open to degree-seeking majors (i.e. Dyson students only), including core or senior capstone courses, as well as first year writing seminars are not available to non-degree students.</p> <p>Exchange students may enroll in 5000-6000 level classes only if they have met the prerequisites. These are traditionally graduate level classes. Often instructor and college permission may be needed, and it is solely the student's responsibility to inquire with the professor and college if they can join the course.</p> <p>Graduate degree programs and professional colleges and schools (Law, Veterinary Medicine, SC Johnson College of Business, Cornell Tech, Weill Cornell Medical School) are not included in university-wide or undergraduate college-specific exchange agreements.</p> <p>Cornell in Washington is not available to incoming exchange students.</p> <p>Please review the college specific policies as the above information is general campus wide policy. Colleges may have further restrictions/exceptions to restrictions.</p>
<p>Registration / Course Enrollment</p>	<p>Accepted students will receive information about course enrollment once admitted to Cornell. Exchange students register for courses with matriculated (regular, full-time) Cornell students. Students may find that certain courses are closed or already full upon arrival. It is important to be flexible with course selection and schedules. While students are asked to provide initial course requests at the time of application, this does not constitute enrollment. Any deviation in timeline of course enrollment due to varying factors will be communicated to students.</p> <p>Course changes are possible during the first two weeks of classes in advance of the "Add" deadline.</p> <p>We cannot guarantee enrollment in any course including independent research/study.</p> <p>Enrollment permission is often subject to class size limitations, the consent of instructors, and demonstrated academic qualifications in the form of prerequisites.</p>
<p>Course Load</p>	<p>Exchange students on F-1 visas are required to maintain full-time status while studying in the United States. Students must enroll in a minimum of 12 credits per semester during the academic year and six credits during the summer. Most exchange students enroll in 14-16 per semester. Exceeding 16 credits is not recommended.</p>

Course Roster	Course descriptions can be accessed through the class roster . The roster for the appropriate semester may not be available at the time you are completing your application, so consult the most recent roster for the semester you plan to study at Cornell. The class roster for the term you will be attending Cornell will be available before your pre-enrollment time slot. Syllabi, if available, will appear in the roster from the previous term (many may be missing). Students receive syllabi on the first day of class.
Advising	Exchange students continue to be supported by an advisor in the Office of Global Learning. Exchange students will also be assigned an advisor in their home college for academic matters. Depending on the college they may have a faculty advisor as well.
Grading Scale	The official university grading system is composed of letter grades with pluses and minuses. Passing grades range from A+ to D-; F is failing.
Transcript	Students must order their own official transcript after the completion of studies to be sent to their home institution.

POST-ACCEPTANCE INFORMATION	
Housing	<p>On-campus housing is limited and not guaranteed for visiting students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall semester: Finding housing can be very challenging as single-semester leases are typically not available (students seek “sublets” using Off-Campus Living database and other sources) • Spring semester: Housing may be available on-campus and is generally easy to find off-campus • Full-year: Housing is available off-campus <p>Note: Students should consider the risk of committing to housing before they have received admission notification from Cornell.</p> <p>For more information, visit the on-campus housing webpage and the off campus living webpage.</p>
Meals	Cornell University offers many dining plan options for students who want to have a full or partial meal plan. Restaurants and groceries are available in the Collegetown neighborhood next to campus and by bus.
Orientation and Events	All incoming students are expected to attend new student orientation programs. More information on the orientation schedule will be shared during the on-boarding communications. Typically, orientation occurs the week before the start of classes.
Health Insurance & Immunizations	All students are enrolled in Cornell’s Student Health Insurance . This is mandatory and cannot be waived by international students unless they are covered by an acceptable U.S. employer-based health insurance plan.

	All students must show proof of immunizations prior as part of the new student on-boarding process. See also information on COVID .
Costs	<p>Exchange students do not pay Cornell tuition, but are responsible for charges that will be billed through the Cornell Bursar system:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Health Insurance • Student Health Fee • Student Activity Fee <p>If a student has secured on campus housing and/or opts into a meal plan will see these charges on their Bursar bill.</p> <p>For a breakdown of expenses, see: Cost to Attend. This includes an estimate of additional costs payable by the student, including housing, meals, books and personal expenses. Spending varies greatly according to personal habits and choices.</p>

STUDENT SERVICES & CAMPUS LIFE	
Cultural and Social Enrichment	Exchange students are eligible to participate in a wide range of general campus activities. The Office of Global Learning offers special orientation for exchange and visiting students and additional programming throughout the year.
Student and Campus Life	Cornell offers many ways to get involved through student groups, club sports, community service, and more. Cornell is famous for its student clubs. With 1,000 student clubs across the university, there is something for everyone.
Cornell Health <i>Physical and Mental Health Care</i>	Cornell Health provides a wide range of health care services (see page for international students and new students). Services include physical and mental health care, lab testing and x-rays, pharmacy, physical and occupational therapy, alcohol and other drug services, nutrition counseling, sexual health care and gender services, immunization, travel medicine, and allergy shots. Cornell Health partners closely with our local hospital, Cayuga Medical Center .
Disability Services	Cornell Health is the home to the Student Disability Services Office (SDS) . In order for students to get the most out of their exchange at Cornell, it is best for students to inform their home university's exchange officials as well as relevant Cornell colleagues as early as possible regarding any academic or physical accommodations that may be needed.
Cornell Library	Cornell University has a world-class research library with extensive print and digital resources in support of teaching, learning, and research along with popular study areas for individuals and groups.
IT Services	Cornell offers a wide array of IT services to students, including collaboration software, network printing, and computer labs.

Learning Strategies Center (LSC)	The LSC provides academic support, including supplemental instruction for specific courses and peer tutoring.
Identity Resources	Cornell's emphasis on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is a focus of the Dean of Student's Office and multiple resource centers including the Asian & Asian American Resource Center , the LGBT Resource Center , the Center for Student Equity, Empowerment, and Belonging , the Gender Equity Resource Center , and the Office of Spirituality and Meaning Making . Many affinity groups and clubs exist.
Community Engagement	Cornell is a leader in public engagement with a focus on community-based initiatives. Find out ways to get involved.
Cornell Recreational Services	Recreational Services encompasses the Cornell Fitness Centers , Helen Newman Bowling Center , and Intramural Sports . Visit Hours & Facilities page for more information. Cornell Outdoor Education is the largest collegiate outdoor ed program in the country. From the Lindseth Climbing Center , to outdoor physical education classes, a team-building and leadership center, and courses in Wilderness First Aid, COE offers a perfect complement to your studies in Ithaca.
Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies	Cornell's "hub for global thinking and action." The eight regional and thematic programs of the Mario Einaudi Center are sources of intellectual discovery and collaboration for Cornell faculty, staff, and students.
Office of Global Learning – Education Abroad	Education Abroad supports incoming exchange and visiting students on behalf of the university and its colleges and works with undergraduates seeking to study abroad as part of their Cornell degree.
Office of Global Learning – International Services	The International Services Team in the Office of Global Learning provides immigration services to Cornell faculty, staff, and students.
Emergency Contact	The Cornell Police (607-255-1111) provide 24/7 emergency services information for students on campus. Cornell maintains a robust Emergency Management website with information and contact information to address many types of emergencies.