



# A New Home: Beginning Life in the United States



International Student and Scholar Office

Trinity Evangelical Divinity and Graduate School  
Trinity College  
Trinity International University

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Questions on any additional or information presented above may be emailed to the International Student & Scholar Office: [isso@tiu.edu](mailto:isso@tiu.edu)

## MAINTAINING VISA STATUS

Item	J- Exchange Visa	F-Visa
<b>Have a validated SEVIS record</b>	Report to Trinity's Designated School Official (DSO) within 30 days of your program start date	Report to Trinity's Designated School Official (DSO) within 30 days of your program start date
<b>Maintain required documents</b>	A valid DS-2019 form. A valid passport. A valid I-94 number. To retrieve your I-94 number, please visit <a href="https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/request.html">https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/request.html</a>	A valid I-20 form. A valid passport. A valid I-94 To retrieve your I-94 number, please visit <a href="https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/request.html">https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/request.html</a>
<b>Engage in appropriate activities</b>	Enroll in a full time course load every semester as a student/ teach/conduct research as a professor or a scholar. Full time enrollment for TEDS students is 10 credit hours a semester.	Enroll in a full time course load every semester. Full time enrollment is 12 credits a semester for an undergraduate student, 10 credits for masters level student and 9 for a doctoral level student.
<b>Employment as allowed by J-1 and F-1 regulations</b>	A J-1 student can work on campus but not off campus, with the exception of Academic Training. Engaging in unauthorized employment could result in the termination of J status and difficulty applying for a visa in the future. On campus employment is limited to 20 hours a week when school is in session and full time during breaks and holidays. A J-1 student must obtain permission from the ISSO prior to beginning employment.	A F-1 student can work on campus but not off campus, with the exception of CPT and OPT. Engaging in unauthorized employment could result in the termination of F status and difficulty applying for a visa in the future. On campus employment is limited to 20 hours a week while school is in session and full time employment is possible during breaks and holidays.
<b>Health Insurance</b>	All exchange visitor participants are required to maintain a valid health insurance. <b>** See Note 1 below</b>	All undergraduate students are required to maintain valid health insurance.
<b>Report changes of address within 10 days of address change.</b>	The Department of State treats very seriously the requirement to update the Responsible Officer or Alternate Responsible Officer with any address changes.	The Department of State treats very seriously the requirement to update the Designated School Official with any address changes.
<b>Travel and Re-Entry Documents Needed</b>	A valid passport , A valid visa, A valid DS-2019, signed by a Responsible Officer or Alternate Responsible Officer within 12 months of your return date to the United States.	A valid passport, Proof of finances, A valid visa, A valid I-20, signed by a DSO within 12 months of your return date to the United States.

### **Note 1 - Health Insurance for J-1 students**

- ✚ Health insurance must be underwritten by an insurance corporation with an A.M. Best rating of "A-" or above, an Insurance Solvency International, Ltd. (ISI) rating of "A-I" or above, a Standard and Poor's Claims Paying Ability rating of "A-" or above, or a Weiss Research, Inc. rating of B+ or above.

**The following health insurance requirements as set out by the Department of State must be met:**

- Medical benefits of at least \$100,000 per accident or illness.
- Repatriation of remains in the amount of \$25,000.
- Expenses associated with the medical evacuation of the exchange visitor to his or her home country in the amount of \$50,000.
- A deductible not to exceed \$500 per accident or illness.

## **Traveling to the U.S.:**

**As you prepare to come to Trinity, please plan your flight arrangements at least one month before leaving for the United States.**

- ✚ A number of airlines offer special discount rates and so we encourage you to make inquiries early in order to obtain the lowest possible airfares. Please know, however, that if you buy tickets early they generally cannot be refunded or have the date changed and an additional fee is required.
- ✚ Also, please remember the dates of the New Student Orientation given in your I-20 Welcome Letter. This is very important for you to consider in your flight arrangements. It is best if you arrive two or more days before so that you can begin to recover from jetlag and feel rested.
- ✚ The closest airport to Trinity International University is Chicago-O'Hare Airport (ORD). Please make your travel plans so that you will arrive at the O'Hare airport. The other airport in the Chicago area is the Chicago-Midway airport. This airport is very far from Trinity, and therefore will not be conducive to your arrival at Trinity.
- ✚ Once you have booked your flight, please the International Students and Scholars Office (email: [isso@tiu.edu](mailto:isso@tiu.edu), or call 847-317-4064) as soon as possible about the date and time of your arrival at O'Hare International Airport. If you need us to provide you with transportation from O'Hare International Airport, please give us the following information.

- *Please provide this information at least two weeks in advance if possible.*
  - Your Arrival Date and Time.
  - The airline that you will be arriving on and your flight number.
  - How many passengers will be coming with you.
  - How much luggage you will have.
  - If you have arranged for alternative transportation, whether through friends or families. Please let us know this person's contact information so we may coordinate your arrival at Trinity.

## **Entering the U.S.:**

**While aboard your flight, you will fill out a Customs Declaration Form.**

- ✚ If you are bringing only personal belongings with you, you may simply write "personal effects" on the declaration sheet. Articles brought into the U.S. as gifts must be declared, since there is a duty on gift items.
- ✚ After you have been cleared through customs at your port-of-entry you should have the following documents in your possession:
  1. Your passport (valid for at least 6 months past the end of your studies) which contains the F Visa Stamp given by the U.S. Embassy in your home country.
  2. Your I-20 Certificate of Eligibility. The official at the port of entry will return this document to you. **Do not lose it because you will need it to leave and enter the U.S. after your initial entry. It is as important as your passport.** If there are any problems, please notify the International Students and Scholars Office immediately upon arrival at Trinity 847-317-4064.

## **Luggage:**

**If your luggage is lost or damaged in transit, immediately go to the claims desk of the airline on which you flew.**

- ✚ They will locate your luggage for you and you should ask them to deliver the luggage to Trinity between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm when the luggage is found. Have them stop at the Security booth at the entrance. Ask Security to contact the International Students and Scholars Office (x4064); we will let you know when it arrives. If your luggage is

damaged, go to the agent for your airline and show him/her the damage. The agent will inspect your luggage, give you forms to fill out and usually pay you for the damage or replace the damaged piece. Be sure to submit your claims before you leave the airport.

## **Hotels:**

**If you arrive in the Chicagoland area and need to initially stay temporarily at a hotel in the area, the following hotels are in the area. You can also use search engines like kayak.com and expedia.com to search for hotels.**

LaQuinta Inn & Suites (0.2 miles – walking distance across from Trinity) <http://www.lq.com>

2000 Lakeside Dr., Bannockburn

(847)-317-7300

Rates: \$74/day

**Ask for the Trinity rate listed above.**

Homewood Suites (0.6 miles from Trinity) <http://homewoodsuites.com>

10 Westminster Way, Lincolnshire

(847)-945-9300

Rates: 1br, Mon-Wed. \$109; 1br Thurs.-Sun. \$74; 2br \$149

Extended stay prices are also available.

**Ask for the Trinity rate listed above.**

Marriott Courtyard Lincolnshire (2.68 miles from Trinity) <http://www.marriott.com>

505 Milwaukee Ave., Lincolnshire

(847)-634-9555

Rates: \$74/Night

**Ask for the Trinity rate listed above.**

Hampton Inn & Suites Lincolnshire (3.96 miles from Trinity) <http://hamptoninn3.hilton.com>

1400 Milwaukee Ave., Lincolnshire

(847)-478-1400

Rates: \$139-\$159 Sun.-Wed.; \$79-\$99 Thur.-Sat

**10% off to Trinity Guests.**

\*Prices are subject to change

## **Arrival:**

When you arrive, please come by the International Students and Scholars Office (ISSO) located on the lower level of the Waybright Center.

- ✚ Please bring along your documents to have them copied (passport, J-1/F-1 visa and I-94) and to be sure all documents are in order.

## **New Student Orientation:**

All International Students are required to attend the International Students Orientation and the General New Students Orientation.

## **Trinity Central:**

Please contact Trinity Central with any questions about your bill, scholarship, registration, etc. They are located in the McLennan Building and their hours are 8:30-4:30, M-F. You can stop by or email them at [trinitycentral@tiu.edu](mailto:trinitycentral@tiu.edu).

## **Mailbox:**

Stop by the Mailroom in the Waybright building to obtain a Trinity mailbox or submit a mailbox request form through myTIU: [http://www.formstack.com/forms/tiu\\_forms-newmailbox](http://www.formstack.com/forms/tiu_forms-newmailbox).

- ✚ Office hours are Monday through Friday, 9 am - 4 pm. If you had packages sent to Trinity prior to your arrival, check with the Mailroom to see if they have arrived.

## **Housing:**

Please contact the Housing Office with at [housing@tiu.edu](mailto:housing@tiu.edu) and visit <https://divinity.tiu.edu/student-life/housing-dining/> if you are TEDS student or <https://undergrad.tiu.edu/student-life/housing-and-dining/>

- ✚ ***Off Campus Housing:*** TEDS students, if on campus housing is not available, you may consider looking for housing elsewhere. You can do this by requesting the off campus housing list (<https://divinity.tiu.edu/student-life/housing-dining/living-off-campus/off-campus-housing-information-request/>). In addition, websites such as Craigslist Chicago (<https://chicago.craigslist.org/search/apa>) can be helpful in looking for apartments. On rare occasions, these websites can contain “scams” so use your best judgment and contact us

if you have any questions. You can set search parameters in Craigslist so that it searches for apartments within 5 miles, 10 miles, etc. You can also set search parameters according to price/location.

- ✚ **Rental Issues:** Please be aware that some people might be hesitant to rent an apartment to you because you won't have a credit history and they won't be able to run a background check prior to renting you an apartment. This is a standard procedure for most landlords to ensure that their tenants have a history of paying their bills on time. In addition, some may be confused by the fact that you don't yet have a social security number. In these instances, you can consider offering to show proof of funding to pay to rent your apartment (through a bank statement). You can also give them the ISSO's phone number ((847-317-4064)) if they wish to verify that you are a student here at Trinity or understand your F-1 status better. The ISSO can either simply verify that you are a student or also give general information about the F-1 visa but won't comment on any specifics of your situation. Some landlords will be more flexible than others about this matter.
- ✚ **Furniture for apartment:** Please keep in mind that apartments are unfurnished (both those on and off campus) so you will need to obtain furniture. There are a couple of different ways to go about this. The International Student & Scholar Office oversees the Furniture Room which consists of gently used items that have been donated. Please contact the office to sign out the key and obtain access. However the amount of furniture available there can be limited. You can also consider area thrift stores such as Goodwill, Salvation Army and Sparrow's Nest. In our experience, Sparrow's Nest has a particularly wide selection. You can do a Google search to locate the nearest locations. You can also look on Craigslist for furniture as well. If you obtain furniture from Craigslist or Goodwill/Salvation Army/Sparrow's Nest, you will need to rent a truck to pick up the furniture. If you will be needing a truck for the day, UHual is going to be the best place to contact. If you need a smaller truck for just an hour or two, Home Depot (<http://www.homedepot.com/tool-truck-rental/load-n-go-truck-rental/>) or Menards (<https://www.menards.com/main/rental-equipment/pickup-go-truck-rental/c-19171.html>) are good places to contact.
- ✚ Also be sure to subscribe to the Facebook Group "Free and Open Handed." This is a group for Trinity students specifically and often people post furniture or other items that they would like to give away on this group's page. Please also subscribe to the group "Trinity" for other possible items.
- ✚ In addition, the Clothes Horse is a great place to look for gently used linens, dishes, etc. The Clothes Horse is located in the Aldeen Building and is open from 9:30-1:30 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30-11:30 and 7:00-9:00pm. In addition to having household items, the Clothes Horse has a limited number of canned/dry goods in their Food Pantry and has a diaper distribution ministry. For more information, you can email the Clothes Horse at [clotheshorse@tiu.edu](mailto:clotheshorse@tiu.edu).
- ✚ Food Donations: Trinity is blessed to receive several food donations throughout the week from local grocery stores. The donations contain items that are slightly past their "sell by

date” but otherwise often in good condition. To receive notifications about food donations, please join the Trinity Facebook group “Food Drops”

- ✚ Temporary Housing: Please contact Conference Services for more information about Trinity’s short term housing for individuals at 847-317-6406. You can also visit the [short term housing information page](#) and fill out an application: [http://www.formstack.com/forms/tiu\\_forms-shortterm\\_housing\\_application](http://www.formstack.com/forms/tiu_forms-shortterm_housing_application). Area hotels may also be something to consider if you need short term housing. Unless you have housing in Owens or the TC Residence Halls, we would highly recommend staying at a hotel your 1-3 days here because it will take time to set up your apartment. Several area hotels are listed below.

## **Electricity:**

**All apartments’ on-campus and off-campus require that you turn on your electricity service with Com Ed [www.comed.com](http://www.comed.com) . As an international student you will be required to follow the guidelines listed below to turn on service.**

- ✚ **First, contact ComEd and the complete the following:**
  - Visit the Illinois Currency Exchange, 857 W Dundee Rd, Wheeling, IL (847) 537-1990 with 2 forms of identification (Passport and Lease form or debit/credit card) along with your Trinity Student ID to establish identity.
  - It will take **3 business days** for the verification process to be complete. After that you can call Com Ed 1-(800)-334-7661 to set up your electricity service.

## **North Shore Gas:**

**You may also need to set up gas for your stove or heating depending on the type of apartment you rent. You can visit North Shore’s website at <http://www.northshoregasdelivery.com/>**

## **Internet:**

**For international students living off campus and need internet service in their residence, there are options with AT&T, Century Link and Comcast Xfinity.**

- ✚ Depending on the type of connection you obtain, you may purchase a wireless router from Best Buy, Staples, and Walmart or online at Amazon.

## **Transportation:**

**Unfortunately, there isn't public transportation in the Deerfield area. If you are a single student, and you will be living on campus in Owens, you may be able to ask friends and suitemates for rides to church, the grocery store, etc. Some students have found it possible to get by without a car during their time here by relying on others.**

- ✚ However, if you are coming with a family, it will be necessary to have a car. Furthermore, if you are accustomed to using public transport in your home country, it will help with your transition if you can learn to drive before you come to Trinity.
- ✚ During your first week or so here, you may consider renting a car so that you can more easily get settled. If you need to rent a car when you arrive on campus, there are multiple car rental companies available that offer this service. However, one of the most convenient is Enterprise Car Rental because they offer a service to pick you up from campus/your home and their office is very close to Trinity. They are located at 1750 Lake Cook Rd, Deerfield, IL 60015 and their phone number is (847) 374-1527. Check their website <http://www.enterprise.com/> for more details.

## **Buying a Car:**

**You may be able to purchase a reasonable automobile from a fellow-student who may be finishing his/her studies or has recently acquired another car.**

- ✚ If you will be driving a car, you will need to apply for a driver's license at the Department of Motor Vehicles. Information about how to do this is available from the International Students and Scholars Office. Please keep this in mind for your financial planning.

Here are some tips for buying a used car:

- Go online and check CARFAX ([www.carfax.com](http://www.carfax.com)) which will help you check a car's history and assist you in finding a quality used car. Also check Kelley Blue Book ([www.kbb.com](http://www.kbb.com)) to find the best deals on both new and used vehicles.
- Ensure you are able to pay for the proper Auto Insurance for your vehicle - there are several insurance agencies to choose from.
- Should you choose to finance or buy on credit, it is best to do this through a credit union, bank, or savings and loan association.
- Drive the car before buying and check for any leaks, wear, or other problems/damages.

- Also, take it to a mechanic for a diagnostic check to be sure that the car is in good working order.
  - Mechanics close by include JJ's Auto in Highwood ((847) 681-1228) and Moberg's Automotive Repair in Libertyville ((847) 362-8905).

## **Driver's License:**

The [Illinois Secretary of State website](#) contains information about obtaining a Driver's License.

- ✚ If you have or will have a social security number, you can obtain a standard IL license. If you are a F-1 or J-1 student, you can apply for a social security number after obtaining on campus employment. If you are F-2 you cannot be employed and therefore cannot obtain a social security number. If you are J-2, you need to obtain employment authorization in order to apply for a social security number. If you aren't able to obtain a social security number, you can apply for a temporary visitor's driver's license.
  
- ✚ While it is legal to drive on your home country's license (please see [IL Rules of the Road](#)), we do not recommend it because many students have faced complications when using their home country's license. Furthermore, have an IL license will also make your day to day life in IL easier.
  
- ✚ You will need to take both a written and a driving test. The [IL Rules of the Road](#) provides much useful information to help you prepare for both of these.
  
- ✚ Auto Insurance: You must have auto insurance in order to drive in the state of IL. It is illegal to drive without auto insurance. Some insurance companies you might consider include Geico, American Family, All State, Progressive. In order to decide which insurance company to select, you will want to get quotes from each of these companies and see which provides the best coverage. Please reference the power point presentation on Auto Insurance (listed on myTIU/Groups/ISSO) for more information about auto insurance. Some insurance companies won't provide a policy until after you have a social security number. In recent experience, Geico and American Family have been willing to issue insurance policies prior to a person obtaining a social security number.

- ✚ In addition, you'll want to keep in mind that your insurance premium will be higher than average because you have not yet established a driving history/record in the U.S. It is possible that your rates may drop a bit after you've been driving for a while.

## **Social Security Number:**

**You will need to obtain a Social Security Number (SSN) to conduct business in the United States.**

- ✚ However, if you are a F-1 student, you will first need to obtain an on campus job. If you are an F-2, you cannot be employed on campus and therefore cannot obtain a social security number. If you are J-1, you can apply without an on campus job. If you are a J-2 you can apply once you've obtained employment authorization. The ISSO will help you to navigate this process.

## **Employment:**

**The F-1 and J-1 are student visas and therefore will have employment restrictions.**

- ✚ A F-1 or J-1 student can be employed on campus but not off campus. A F-1 or J-1 student can work a maximum of 20 hours a week while school is in session and full time during breaks and holidays. To view job openings, please go to Trinity's Human Resources page to view listings.
- ✚ Once you arrive, you can also visit different departments such as Creative Dining, Mail Services and the Library to inquire if they are hiring. Please note that on campus jobs are limited. Some require **work study** which is a form of federal aid which is only available to U.S. citizens. Therefore, please know that employment options are limited. Please know that the average hourly wage is around \$8 per hour and plan accordingly as you think about finances. A F-1 or J-1 cannot work off campus with the exception of CPT, OPT, and Academic Training. Please see the F-1 and J-1 employment information pages for more information about this. A F-2 cannot work on or off campus in any situation and a J-2 can only work on and off campus with prior authorization obtained from the USCIS.



## STATUS & EMPLOYMENT

Please note that the J-1 visa carries with it certain employment restrictions per US law.

### EMPLOYMENT ON CAMPUS

- o A J-1 student can be employed on campus up to 20 hours a week while school is in session and full time during breaks and holidays. However, the J-1 must notify the ISSO to obtain authorization prior to beginning work. If a student is working for several departments, the combined total of the student's hours cannot exceed 20 hours a week while school is in session.
- o Regular on campus employment, graduate assistantships, residence life positions, GSGA and FIS positions are all considered employment.
- o Work study is a form of federal aid from the U.S. government and is available only to U.S. citizens, therefore, J-1 students are not eligible for work study.
- o Students can view job opportunities on campus by accessing the Human Resources listing or by contacting various departments (Mail Services, the Library, Information Technology, Creative Dining, and Facilities *etc*) to see if they are hiring.
  - Please note that on campus employment is limited and it may be difficult to find employment.

### EMPLOYMENT OFF CAMPUS

A student in J-1 status is not permitted to engage in employment off campus. Off campus employment is considered a violation of status and will result in the termination of your J-1 status.

There is an exception to this:

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**ACADEMIC TRAINING:** Per visa regulations, a J-1 student is able to participate in academic training if the student is in good academic standing. The opportunity is directly related to their field of study, and they must obtain authorization in advance from the International Student & Scholar Office. The academic training can take place either on campus or off campus. A master's level student is eligible for up to 18 months of academic training and a doctoral student is eligible for up to 36 months of academic training (a maximum of 18 months can be completed prior to the end of the student's program of study).

\*Please contact the ISSO to request the Academic Training application packet.



# STATUS & EMPLOYMENT

Please note that the F-1 visa carries with it certain employment restrictions per US law.

## EMPLOYMENT ON CAMPUS

- A F-1 student can be employed on campus up to 20 hours a week while school is in session and full time during breaks and holidays. If a student is working for several departments, the combined total of the student's hours cannot exceed the 20 hours a week while school in session.
- Regular on campus employment, graduate assistantships, residence life positions, GSGA and FIS positions are all considered employment.
- Work study is a form of federal aid from the U.S. government and is available only to U.S. citizens, therefore, F-1 students are not eligible for work study.
- Students can view job opportunities on campus by accessing the Human Resources listing or by contacting various departments (Mail Services, the Library, Information Technology, Creative Dining, Facilities, etc) to see if they are hiring.
  - Please note that on campus employment is limited and it may be difficult to find employment.

## EMPLOYMENT OFF CAMPUS

A student in F-1 status is not permitted to engage in employment off campus. Off campus employment is considered a violation of status and will result in the termination of your F-1 status.

### There are a few exceptions to this:

**CPT:** If you are required to participate in service learning, field education, internship, practicum, or have other required elements of your curriculum that require off campus work, you may be eligible for Curricular Practical Training (CPT). Off campus work may be possible if it is meeting a requirement of your degree program. However, authorization must be obtained from the ISSO for more information on the required documentation to obtain authorization.

**OPT:** If you have completed at least one year in F-1 status, you are eligible for Optional Practical Training (OPT). The most common form of OPT, post completion OPT, allows a student to gain experience in their field of study, for one year following the completion of their studies. In addition, pre-completion OPT may be an option for some students as well, allowing a student to engage in OPT while completing studies. A student must obtain authorization from the USCIS (a process that typically take 3 months) before beginning work. Please contact the ISSO for the OPT application packet.

**Other exceptions** include applying for off campus work authorization due to Severe Economic Hardship. Severe Economic Hardship relates to situations in which a student's home country has undergone significant economic decline due to natural disasters or other reasons, and therefore the student's financial situation has changed drastically. This authorization is obtained through the USCIS but is extremely rare.

## **Health Insurance:**

**It is vital to have health insurance while studying in the U.S. because of the high cost of healthcare.**

- ✚ Please see both the International Student Health Insurance power point and the International Student Insurance manual (myTIU/ISSO Groups) for more information about this. In summary, if you are F-1 or F-2, you may consider an insurance plan through your home country, an international student insurance plan, or insurance through Marketplace.
- ✚ Additionally, there is a program available through the state of IL called [All Kids](#) that offers health insurance to children and pregnant women. Eligibility is based on income level and in the past students have qualified. If you are J-1 or J-2, in selecting the J visa you also agree to purchase a certain level of insurance coverage and any insurance plan you select must meet that criteria. Please see the “maintaining your status” page in this booklet as well as the final page of the COF for more information on this.

## **Banking:**

**There are many banks in and around the Trinity area.**

**Some of them include:**

- ✚ PNC Bank-2595 Waukegan Rd, Bannockburn, IL 60015 (847) 317-2352
- ✚ Chase Bank - 770 Waukegan Rd, Deerfield, IL, (847) 374-4901
- ✚ First American Bank - 701 N Milwaukee Ave, Vernon Hills, IL 847-816-9100
  - In order to open the bank account, you will need the following documents:
    - Passport
    - I-20
    - Copy of your lease/proof that you reside in IL (some banks require this)
    - Trinity Student ID Card
- ✚ As you select a bank, please be sure to inquire about monthly fees and minimum balance requirements. You will want to select something that doesn't have monthly fees. For example, at the time this is being written, Chase requires a minimum balance that you need to maintain to avoid fees. Some people still choose Chase and just ensure that their balance doesn't drop below the minimum. Chase is convenient because there are so many

locations. Other people prefer PNC bank because at the time this is being written, they do not require a minimum balance. However, they are also a smaller bank and therefore don't have as many locations. Still other people prefer First American Bank because they have an ATM machine on campus. If you are a college student or under the age of 22, you may have even more options because many banks offer special plans for college students.

**\*Most persons do not carry large amounts of cash in their wallets as most things are paid for by credit or debit card.**

## **Address Change:**

**Complete a Change of Address form to receive Trinity information at your new address at Trinity or nearby Trinity-otherwise information will continue to be sent to your home country! Please contact Trinity Central to obtain this form.**

## **Phones:**

- ✚ **Prepaid or “Pay-As-You-Go” Plans/No Contract:** Having a Prepaid cell phone plan is typically easier for international students, because they do not require a Social Security number and/or a credit history check in order to obtain. Advantages of these plans include no long-term contracts, security deposits, or penalties for cancellation.
- ✚ **Contract:** A contract plan will typically offer the best prices to customers who sign two-year contracts for cellular service. While the rates are lower with this option, ending your contract early will require you to pay a penalty. Also, qualifying for a contract plan generally involves a review of your credit history. Because new international students may not have Social Security numbers or a credit history in the US, you will likely have to pay a security deposit for a contract plan.
- ✚ **SIM Card Option:** It may be possible to use a cell phone from your home country if it uses a SIM card and has been unlocked. However, make sure to contact one of the companies below and ask a technician to confirm if your phone is compatible with that company's network.
- ✚ **Major Cell Phone Carriers:**

**T-Mobile:** \$50 a month for unlimited talk & text, 1GB of data, and free international texting.  
<http://prepaid-phones.t-mobile.com/>

**T-Mobile Authorized Retailer: Walmart**  
1455 E Lake Cook Rd  
Wheeling, IL 60090  
(847) 537-5090

**T-Mobile Store**  
275 Parkway Drive Suite 613  
Lincolnshire, IL 60069  
(847) 465-1131

**AT&T:** \$60 a month for unlimited talk & text (includes 100 international countries) and 2.5GB of data (for smartphone). Basic phone package is \$45 a month (with 2GB of data).

<http://www.att.com/shop/wireless/plans/prepaidplans.html>

**AT&T Authorized Retailer: Cingular**  
910 Milwaukee Ave, Suite B  
Lincolnshire, IL 60069  
(847) 478-1700

**AT&T Company Store**  
59 Skokie Valley Road  
Highland Park, IL 60035  
(847) 579-9023

**Verizon Wireless:** \$45 a month for unlimited talk & text and 500MB of data.

<http://www.verizonwireless.com/wcms/consumer/shop/prepaid.html?t=2>

**Verizon Wireless at Northbrook**  
235 Skokie Boulevard  
Northbrook, IL 60062  
(847) 272-7770

**Virgin Mobile:** \$40 a month for unlimited talk & text plus 50MB of web access ( There are cheaper plans available for about \$25 a month –check with the store for details)

<http://www.virginmobileusa.com/>

\*Please note these prices are subject to change

## **Schools in the Area:**

**In the United States, there are four levels of schooling for children:**

- Kindergarten (Ages 5/6)
- Elementary (Grade 1- 5 / Ages 6-11)
- Middle School (Grade 6-8 /Ages 12-14)
- High School (Grade 9-12/Ages 15-18)

 Where your child attends school will depend on where you live. For example, if you live on campus, your child will attend either Bannockburn Schools (grades K-8) or Deerfield Schools (grades 9-12). So, if you live in Deerfield, your children will attend Deerfield

schools, if you live in Vernon Hills, your child will attend Vernon Hills schools, in Mundelein, Mundelein schools, etc.

- ✚ Please visit the School District websites to obtain details about the schools in the area that can meet your child’s educational needs. You will need to schedule an appointment with the Registration Office at the appropriate school to have your child/children enrolled.
- ✚ We highly recommend viewing several registration webpages of local schools for information about what will be needed to enroll your child in school. Of particular relevance would be immunization requirements.

Please bring your children’s health records with you (and make sure they are recent and up to date) but please also be aware that they will probably need additional immunizations and a school physical to enroll. Please see the Healthcare Resources sheet for more information on medical services and locations.

- ✚ Pre-school: In the U.S. preschool is optional and has a tuition cost (unlike grades K-12). You can do a Google search to locate area preschools and tuition costs. Two that are close to Trinity include Christian Beginning (<http://firstpresdf.org/preschool>) and Deerfield Park District Preschool ([www.deerfieldparks.org](http://www.deerfieldparks.org))

## **Grocery Stores in the Area**

- ✚ Here is a list of grocery stores near from Trinity.

Mariano’s	2999 Waukegan Rd, Bannockburn, IL 60015	pharmacy, Starbucks, salad bar, ready-to-go meals for \$7
Heinen’s	2503 Waukegan Rd, Bannockburn, IL 60015	premade foods, cheese section
Fresh market	475 Milwaukee Ave, Lincolnshire, IL 60069	local produce, premade foods, wine & more
Jewel-Osco	1600 Deerfield Rd, Highland Park, IL 60035	pharmacy, salad bar
Whole Foods	760 Waukegan Rd, Deerfield, IL 60015	organic foods/ delicious cakes
Costco	25901 N Riverwoods Rd, Mettawa, IL 60045	bulk groceries, electronics & more in warehouse price/ cheap gas/ needs membership
Sam’s club	335 N Milwaukee Ave, Vernon Hills, IL 60061	
Garden Fresh	400 Townline Rd, Mundelein, IL 60060	fresh and cheap vegetables and fruits/ ethnic food section
Walmart	555 E Townline Rd, Vernon Hills, IL 60061	discount department stores with grocery sections

	1455 E Lake Cook Rd, Wheeling, IL 60090	
Target	313 E Townline Rd, Vernon Hills, IL 60061 1400 W Lake Cook Rd, Wheeling, IL 60090	groceries, home goods, electronics, cosmetics, and clothing
ALDI	1202 W Dundee Rd, Buffalo Grove, IL 60089	Low price/ bring your own bags for delivery

## Weather:

- ✚ In Illinois, Fall is cool and damp with temperatures averaging 50-60° F while the Winter months (early November to mid- March/April are very cold and snowy (0-30°F). In the Spring, the weather is wet and mild while Summer is often hot and humid with temperatures averaging 75-80°F (it is not unusual to have weeks where the temperature reaches 90-95° F with humidity levels of 60-70%). Chicago is known as the “windy city” with very strong winds blowing in the winter and therefore it is important that you keep exposed skin covered because your skin can freeze quickly - wear a hat over your forehead and a scarf or mask on the lower part of your face. You may check local weather conditions at <http://www.accuweather.com> using the area zip code 60015 to obtain accurate temperatures.

## Clothing:

**The climate in Illinois will require having appropriate clothing for the various seasons. The *Clothes Horse*, the clothing “store” on Trinity’s campus has clothing. Some tips for winter clothing include:**

- ✚ **Coats:** Are they washable? Washable coats will save money on dry cleaning bills. Many ski-type jackets made with nylon are washable. Look for labels inside the jacket that tell you how to keep it clean. The label will usually say - MW or machine wash (wash at the Laundromat or in your own washing machine). If the label says, "dry clean," then you will have to pay as much as \$3.75 for shirts (\$7.45 for pants, \$15.15 for suits, \$18 for coats, etc.) to have them cleaned each time. Nylon jackets with a Dacron lining may be very light but will be warm. Some ski jackets are lined with goose down which is also is light and warm but usually much more expensive than Dacron lining or fill. A hooded jacket is convenient but you will usually need a cap under the hood.
- ✚ **A Scarf:** usually wool, acrylic or Dacron, helps to keep your face and neck protected from the wind on cold days.

- ✚ **Gloves:** Mittens and gloves come in many styles and prices vary. Knitted gloves are less expensive than lined leather gloves but make sure they are heavy enough and warm. You might also consider a pair that is waterproof. This would be important for children when they play in the snow.
- ✚ **Hats:** Many styles are available but probably the warmest are knitted hats (for both men and women). Purchase something that can cover your ears on cold days.
- ✚ **Sweaters:** A sweater worn under a heavy coat increases the insulation and warmth and many styles are available. Both wools and acrylics are warm.
- ✚ **Boots:** A good fit, warmth and waterproofing are important points to look for. Most students choose boots that they can wear indoors and outdoors on campus

## **Campus Safety and Security Service**

**Campus Safety and Security Services (847.945.6400) provides security 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year to the University community in an official uniformed capacity.**

- ✚ **Vehicles:** All vehicles must check in with security or have a current TIU parking permit. Temporary or visitor passes can be obtained at the Gate House located by the Route 22 entrance. Permits can be applied for online (<https://www.tiu.edu/about/campus-safety/student-vehicle-registration/>) and picked up at Trinity Central weekdays between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:30 pm. By operating a vehicle on University property you fall subject to all State and TIU motor vehicle regulations. ([https://www.tiu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/TRINITY\\_MOTOR\\_VEHICLE\\_REGULATIONS\\_Feb-2014-15.pdf](https://www.tiu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/TRINITY_MOTOR_VEHICLE_REGULATIONS_Feb-2014-15.pdf)) to access the full version of the TIU motor vehicle regulations; these regulations are also provided in the student handbook.
- ✚ **Services:** The following services are provided by Safety and Security Services:
  - 24 hour a day safety escorts
  - Vehicle jump starts
  - Vehicle lock out assistance
  - Missing items / theft reports
  - Room lock/ out assistance
  - Emergency Alert System