UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SPRINGFIELD

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES
JULY 2021

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Where has the summer gone? We are half-way through the season and the summer term and just a few weeks from the start of the fall term. I hope that everyone is accomplishing everything that you had planned to get done before graduating at the end of this month or beginning your studies in the middle of August.

Speaking of fall term, whether you are a new student or a returning student, please pay close attention to the information posted on our United in Safety site. You will find there the latest information regarding our joint efforts to stay safe as we continue to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. Make your travel and housing plans accordingly.

For the new students, we are looking forward to seeing all of you in International Student Orientation on August 18. We are optimistic concerning the vaccination rates that we are seeing locally and plan to conduct our orientation live and in person. Don't worry however, if the local infection rates should go up, we will have a back-up plan in place to provide you with a full orientation on the same day and at the same time via Zoom. Watch for an announcement via email closer to the date should we have to do that.

In either case, you will need to be in the US no later than August 17. If you are unable to get your visa and plane ticket in order to arrive by then, please contact the Office of Admissions to request a deferral to the January 2022 term. You may also wish to inquire with your academic program as to whether or not you might be able to begin your studies online from your home country and then continue in the US in January. It is certainly worth asking.

We want to express our appreciation to all our international students for the extraordinary work that you have done over the past 16 months as we have worked with you to help you to complete your studies or begin them during a very difficult time globally. You have demonstrated, once again, the determination that you have to complete your education regardless of the circumstances. We are very proud of you.

Sincerely,

Rick Lane
Director ISS

July 2021
My pronouns are he/him. I speak Hindi, English, and Bengali. I am from Kolkata, India. India is a diverse country with respect to religion, culture, geography, people, languages, and financial status. India is the land of the most ancient civilizations in the world with the origins of religions such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism. We believe in unity in diversity. The best thing I like the most about India is the cultural diversity, people from every religion respect each other’s culture and enjoy their unique festivities. My favorite food in India is street foods such as pani puri and papri chaat. My favorite food in the United States is Mac and Cheese. When visiting Boston, I also liked hot chocolate and red velvet cakes. I love cooking and I am a big foodie. Cooking is like therapy to me whenever I am down and feel low. I love to work out and practice yoga and meditation for my wellness. I like traveling and have been to many places in the United States to date. Still, I have many places yet to visit on my bucket list. Other countries that I would like to travel to are Eastern Europe: Prague, Budapest, Vienna, Croatia. A hashtag that most describes me is #freespirit. My Master’s is in Management Information Systems (MIS). To be honest I don’t have any dream job like that. I just want to be happy and satisfied at my workplace. I am a very minimalist person, for me, job satisfaction is highly important, I want to enjoy what I am doing in life. I think if you always run after money, you can’t enjoy this beautiful life and explore the hidden happiness. I choose UIS for the assistantships and scholarships for graduate programs. The tuition fee is comparatively low and the MIS coursework is quite demanding and as per current market standards. I really had a good time in UIS and learned so much in my coursework along with the GPSI internship with a state agency. Being an international student I always felt welcomed and delighted. The UIS International festival is one of the main attractions in the school which will always be memorable to me. Springfield is a place where you don’t have many things to do. However, I loved going to Springfield lake and getting some fresh air. I went kayaking last year and had fun. Lincoln memorial garden is another place where one can see the fall colors and get together. I was the treasurer for the Indian student organization and I had fun working with other students. We celebrated Sanskriti, Dussehra, Holi and had an online game night for Diwali. It was a great experience working with ISS and student life for event sponsorships and funding. During my first semester, I worked at the school cafeteria where I met new people and interacted with them. From the second semester, I started working for my GPSI internships at the Illinois department of innovation and technology as a cybersecurity intern. After UIS, I got a full-time job offer from PricewaterhouseCoopers in New Jersey as Cybersecurity Consultant. I will be starting my employment from July onward. I am really excited to get the chance to work with one of the big four consulting firms. I thank my parents, friends, and my school UIS who supported and guided me to get through this job and completing my master’s program. I am thankful to my GPSI supervisor from the Department of Innovation and Technology for providing me the chance to get hands-on experience and dig more into the cybersecurity field which benefited in my interview process and finally land up getting the job offer. Some tips I can offer new students is UIS is diverse in culture. UIS organizes many cultural events, outings, and game events where you can make new friends across the globe and understand the worldwide cultures and heritages. UIS has the best professors and resources where you can experience a high quality of education and people in the school are always there to help you out, there are different organizations and clubs where you can get in touch for additional assistance.
Tour de France, the world’s most prestigious and most difficult bicycle race. Of the three foremost races (the others being the Giro d’Italia and the Vuelta an España), the Tour de France attracts the world’s best riders. Staged for three weeks each July—usually in some 20 daylong stages—the Tour typically comprises 20 professional teams of 9 riders each and covers some 3,600 km (2,235 miles), mainly in France, with occasional and brief visits to such countries as Belgium, Italy, Germany, and Spain. Although the race may start outside France—as was the case in 2007, when England hosted the opening stage for the first time—it always heads there quickly; the Tour is France’s premier annual sporting event and has deep cultural roots. It is watched by huge crowds from the roadside and is televised around the world as one of the supreme tests of athletic endurance. Part of the difficulty cyclists faces in the Tour is that it is divided among time-trial racing and racing stages covering both flat land and great stretches of mountainous inclines. It is a rare cyclist who can perform well at both time trials and climbing, and those who can usually wear the yellow jersey (maillot jaune) of victory at the end of the race in Paris. Established in 1903 by Henri Desgrange (1865-1940), a French cyclist and journalist, the race has been run every year except during the World Wars. Desgrange’s newspaper, L’Auto (now L’Equipe), sponsored the Tour to boost circulation. Two events sparked spectator interest in the race: in 1910 the riders were sent, for the first time, over the treacherous “circle of death” in mountain passes in the Pyrenees; and 1919 marked the introduction of the yellow jersey—yellow being the color of paper on which L’Auto was printed. The yellow jersey is an honor accorded to the cyclist who has the lowest cumulative time for the race at the end of each day. (A racer might well win a stage of a race on any given day but will not necessarily be given a yellow jersey, as that depends on the lowest overall time.) Three other types of jerseys are awarded during the Tour. Bonus sprints, awarding both points and a deduction of overall elapsed time, are held at several sites along the route each day during the race, and points are also awarded and time deducted for the first three finishers of each stage; the winner of the most points receives a green jersey. A polka-dotted jersey is given to the “king of the mountains,” the rider who has the most points in the climbing stages, racing over small hills as well as steep mountains. The white jersey is awarded to the rider age 25 and under who has the lowest cumulative time. Riders usually have three types of bicycles: one for time trials, one for flat road stages, and a very light bicycle for the mountain-climbing stages of the race. All bicycles must meet the standards of the International Cycling Union (Union Cycliste Internationale, UCI). They may be specially engineered for speed for the time trials, but those used for the road stages of the race must be “standard design.”
Canada Day (French: Fête du Canada) is the national day of Canada. A federal statutory holiday, it celebrates the anniversary of July 1, 1867, the effective date of the Constitution Act, 1867 (then called the British North America Act, 1867), which united the three separate colonies of the Province of Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick into a single Dominion within the British Empire called Canada. Originally called Dominion Day (French: Le Jour de la Confédération), the holiday was renamed in 1982, the year the Canada Act was passed Canada Day celebrations take place throughout the country, as well as in various locations around the world, attended by Canadians living abroad. Most communities across the country will host organized celebrations for Canada Day, typically outdoor public events, such as parades, carnivals, festivals, barbecues, air, and maritime shows, fireworks, and free musical concerts, as well as citizenship ceremonies. There is no standard mode of celebration for Canada Day.
The United States celebrate American Independence Day on the Fourth of July every year. We think of July 4, 1776, as a day that represents the Declaration of Independence and the birth of the United States of America as an independent nation. Following its adoption, the Declaration was read to the public in various American cities. Whenever they heard it, patriots erupted in cheers and celebrations. In 1777, Philadelphians remembered the 4th of July. Bells were rung, guns fired, candles lighted, and firecrackers set off. However, while the War of Independence dragged on, July 4 celebrations were modest at best. When the war ended in 1783, July 4 became a holiday in some places. In Boston, it replaced the date of the Boston Massacre, March 5, as the major patriotic holiday. Speeches, military events, parades, and fireworks marked the day. In 1941, Congress declared July 4 a federal holiday. Today, Americans celebrate with fireworks, parades and barbecues. People all around America will attend or watch a firework display that included patriotic music during the show with friends and family to celebrate freedom. Fireworks are enjoyed by almost everyone. You should have your choice of several locations in your area on the Fourth, or even the day before to find a firework display. The American Pyrotechnics Association (APA) estimates that more than 14,000 fireworks displays light up the nation’s sky each Independence Day. Stay safe, fireworks are beautiful to watch but very dangerous to play a
On July 1, the Chancellor of UIS sent this message out to all faculty, staff and students. Please read it carefully and take note of the vaccination requirements for anyone planning to be on campus for any reason this fall. Read the entire page and all of the linked information, especially the point toward the bottom specifically for international students.

You will also want to review the full policy on this page. Pay close attention to the deadlines. Make sure that you plan well and allow yourself enough time to get the vaccine or request an extension. If you have any questions, please use the email address at the bottom to contact our COVID-19 group.
International Student Services

SUMMER HOURS

PICK-UP & WALK-IN
MONDAY: 9:00 AM- 1:00 PM
WEDNESDAY: 9:00 AM- 11:30 AM
FRIDAY: 9:00 AM- 1:00 PM

OFFICE OPERATING HOURS:
MONDAY- FRIDAY: 9:00 AM- 5:00 PM

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