Cornell CALS
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

AY22/23 FACT SHEET FOR INCOMING EXCHANGE STUDENTS

As a premier institution of scientific learning, we connect the life, agricultural, environmental and social sciences to provide world-class education, spark unexpected discoveries and inspire pioneering solutions.

ABOUT CALS

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) at Cornell University is considered one of the very best of its kind in the United States, if not the world. Our mission is to discover, integrate, disseminate, and apply knowledge about agriculture and food sciences, applied social sciences, environmental sciences, and the life sciences as a basis for sustainable improvement in the lives of people throughout New York, the nation, and the world. We will only consider students who we deem are a good academic fit to the mission of the CALS.

CALS EXCHANGE CONTACT INFORMATION

Jess Hawkey
Assistant Director of Academic Exchange & International Engagement

Address: CALS Student Services
140 Roberts Hall
Ithaca, New York 14853
US

Email: cals-exchange@cornell.edu
Phone: +001 607-255-2257

ELIGIBILITY

Students must be currently enrolled at one of our exchange partner universities and nominated by their home university. They must have completed at least two full-time semesters (one full year) of college/university

level studies and must continue to assume this status throughout their intended duration of study at Cornell under the exchange program. Their home university area of study should closely align with CALS. Before applying, it is important that students refer to our areas of study to ensure they are an appropriate candidate for the exchange. It is important to note that although Applied Economics is listed, it is extremely difficult to get into Business courses and we do not recommend students solely focused on business apply to Cornell through CALS for exchange.

GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA)
Nominees must have a minimum cumulative GPA equivalent to a U.S. 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT
Since English is the language of instruction at Cornell, incoming students must be proficient in the English language to keep up with assignments and benefit from studies at Cornell.

Nominated students are required provide proof of English language proficiency by submitting one of the following:

- Indicate within the application that the student's first language is English;
- Letter from home institution stating from English is the primary language of instruction OR a transcript which indicates the language of instruction is in English. A majority of coursework must have been taken in English;
- Submit documentations indicating required scores from ONE of the following English language proficiency exams:
    - TOEFL iBT (test of English as a Foreign Language, internet-based test): Score of 100 and above;
    - iTEP (International Test of English Proficiency): Score of 5.5 and above;
    - TOEFL iBT Special Home Edition: Score of 100 and above;
    - IELTS Academic (International English Language Testing System): Score of 7.5 and above
    - Duolingo English Test: Score of 120 and above;
    - PTE Academic (Pearsons Test of English Academic): Score of 70 and above;
    - C1 Advanced or C2 Proficiency (Cambridge English: Advanced or Proficiency): Score of 191 and above

Nominations should be made via e-mail to Jess Hawkey (jh2652@cornell.edu). The nomination form will be sent to partner institutions in January for fall nominations and in August for spring nominations. If you cannot meet the nomination deadline, e-mail Jess Hawkey to arrange an alternate date.

Fall/Academic Year Nomination Deadline: March 1
Spring Nomination Deadline: October 1

APPLICATION INFORMATION

Once nominated, students will receive an email from Jess Hawkey with an application link and instructions. Students will need to prepare and provide the following documents to include in the application:
- Official Transcripts
- Copy or image of the first page of their passport. Passports must be valid for at least six months past the student's date of departure from the US. If a student needs to renew their passport, they should do this as soon as possible. Students may upload their current passport for purposes of application review if it needs renewed. If students do not have a passport, they may upload proof they have applied for a passport. Passport information will be needed to complete the admissions process.

- Declaration of Finances. Students must show they can support themselves while living in the US for studies. The Declaration of Finances form will be emailed to students once it is finalized. Detailed instructions are within the application.
- Language proficiency exam results if English is not a student's first language or the medium language of instruction used at the host university (see requirements above).
- Personal statement (500 words telling us why Cornell, why it's a good fit, and how Cornell will fit into curriculum and career goals).
- Course selection (list 10 courses of interest at Cornell). This will not be a student's final registration. Instructions for course enrollment will be distributed after acceptance to the program.

Acceptance letters will be sent after application reviews. Applications will be reviewed within one week of the application deadline. Within the application there is a section titled "Learning Content". This section contains helpful pre-departure information to prepare students for their time at Cornell.

Students may return to their application at any time. Visit Experience Cornell. In the upper right corner, choose "dashboard" and login as a non-Cornell user. Use the email and password used to start the application. On the left of the screen go to "my applications". The application should be listed. If it is not, contact Jess Hawkey as soon as possible.

Application deadlines:
Fall semester/Academic Year: April 15
Spring semester: October 15

ORIENTATION

Students are required to attend the Incoming Exchange Orientation. This orientation will review various campus policies and go over pertinent information needed for their time at Cornell. There will be a welcome breakfast/lunch prior to the orientation session to socialize, get to know one another and their exchange coordinators. There are also a few campus-wide sessions students must attend (required for all students). A detailed schedule will be sent prior to the start of the semester.

We recommend students arrive the night before orientation. Students should check with their housing provider to ask about the earliest move-in date. It may be necessary to secure temporary housing for orientation purposes.

Orientation:
Fall Semester: Typically, the week prior to the first day of classes
Spring Semester: Typically, the week prior to the first day of classes

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Fall 2022 Semester:
Pre-enrollment: TBD, typically July
Mandatory Orientation: TBD
Instructions Begin: August 25
Thanksgiving Break: November 23-27
Instruction Ends: December 6
Final Exams: December 10-17

Spring 2023 Semester:
Pre-enrollment: TBD, typically November
Mandatory Orientation: TBD
Instruction Begins: January 24
February Break: Feb. 25 – March 1
Spring Break: April 1-9
Instruction Ends: May 9
Final Exams: May 13-20

Student's final exams may end earlier than the dates posted depending on their final exam schedule. Exam schedules can be found on the [Cornell Registrar website](). If students are purchasing roundtrip tickets, they should plan to stay until the latest final examination date.

HOUSING

University Housing: On campus housing is not guaranteed. Students may apply for on-campus housing after receiving their netID. In the fall semester, on-campus housing is limited and harder to secure. It is recommended students look for off campus housing. In the spring semester, on-campus housing still limited but may be easier to secure. Students should search for off-campus housing regardless of the semester they plan to attend Cornell.

Some students have been able to securehousing in an alternative form of on-campus housing run by students called cooperative housing, but if any vacancies are available, they will also be very limited. Learn more about the process for applying to cooperative housing on the [Cornell Co-op website]().

Off-Campus Housing: Students may choose to find their own housing off-campus. Incoming exchange students who wish to search for their own off-campus accommodation should refer to the resources listed in the learning content pages of their application. Exchange students should begin their search right away, and they should be aware that it is difficult to find one-semester leases near campus in the fall in comparison to the spring when there are usually quite a few sublets available.

As a part of the application, students will receive more detailed information regarding the Exchange Housing program (application process, costs, etc.) and resources and tips to finding off-campus housing if preferred.

ACADEMICS

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

CALS Exchange students must take the majority (minimum of two-thirds) of credits at the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS). Courses with the prefix AEM do not count toward CALS credits.

Please look for courses with the following prefixes: AGSCI; AIIS; ALS; ANSC; BEE; BIOAP; BIOEE; BIOG; BIOMG; BIOMI; BIOMS; BIONB; BSOC; BTRY; CEE; COMM; DSOC; EAS; EDUC; ENTOM; ENVS; FDSC; HORT; IARD; INFO; LA; LEAD; NS; NTRES; PLBIO; PLBRG; PLHRT; PLPPM; PLSCI; PLSCS; TOX; VIEN.

We cannot guarantee enrollment in any course even if it is for a student's major requirements. Student should choose a back-up course or two to be approved for degree requirements. Enrollment permission is often subject to class size limitations, the consent of instructors, and demonstrated academic qualifications in the form of prerequisites.

Some courses require one or many prerequisites. If students have not already taken the equivalent prerequisites in their home institution, they will not be able to register in these courses.

We generally recommend students enroll in classes up to the 4000 level. Some 5000-6000 level classes might also be available for you depending on your academic profile. Students should review the **[Cornell class roster]()**. Make sure the appropriate term is selected on the right side of the screen.

Incoming exchange students **can participate in independent research** during their time at Cornell. Cornell is not only a world-class academic institution but also a world-class research institute. There are tremendous opportunities here to get hands-on research experience. The easiest way to participate in research while at Cornell is to reach out to a faculty member directly and see if they are looking for support in their labs/etc.

GRADING SYSTEM

Cornell University operates on an academic calendar of two fourteen-week semesters.

Grade Explanation:
Grades and symbols used in calculation of grade point averages. For further explanation of how grades are calculated and grading guidelines vist the courses of study resource page.

A+ =4.3	B+ =3.3	C+ =2.3	D+ =1.3
A =4.0	B =3.0	C =2.0	D =1.0
A– =3.7	B– =2.7	C– =1.7	D– =0.7
			F =0.0

INC = Incomplete
NG = Not graded course
NGR = No grade reported
R = grade in-progress multi-semester course

ITHACA, NEW YORK

Ithaca is located in New York, a state in the northeast portion of the United States. New York has an estimated population of 20 million residents (in 2020), making it the fourth most populous state in the U.S.

Cornell University is located in Ithaca, NY, about a four-hour drive from New York City. It is also a five-and-a-half-hour drive from Boston, Massachusetts, to the east, and a closer drive to smaller cities such as Syracuse, Buffalo and Rochester.

A city of 30,000 permanent residents, Ithaca is located in the traditional homelands of the

Guyohkohnyoh also known as the Cayuga Nation (one of the 6 Native American Nations in the Haudenosaunee, which is an alliance/confederation more commonly known as the Iroquois Confederacy). It is the county seat of Tompkins County, which has mostly rural, agricultural-based farmland. Ithaca is positioned on the shores of Cayuga Lake, one of the Finger Lakes in the central upstate region of New York.

APPROXIMATE COSTS (PER SEMESTER)

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

Please know that your F1 student visa allows you to work <u>on campus</u> for up to 20 hours per week. Some of our previous exchange students have worked at the Cornell gym or in other jobs on campus. However, please make sure that your student job will not interfere with your studies at Cornell.

Estimated fees are not assessed until August, they are subject to change, fees below are for one semester		
U.S. Visa Fees	$510	Estimated – includes the SEVIS fee and the visa issuance fee
Health insurance and health fee (estimated)	$1,800	
Housing	$5000-$8000	Based on Exchange Housing Program. Housing prices may be lower or higher depending on housing placement (independent/campus housing)
Meal plan	$3,500	This price is the most expensive meal plan. Depending on what a student chooses, cost could be lower
Books and class materials	$500	Variable amount
Mandatory Student Activity Fee	$155.00	
Miscellaneous Expenses	$1000.00	This will vary depending on lifestyle choices

USEFUL WEB LINKS

Cornell: www.cornell.edu

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS): http://cals.cornell.edu/

International Students and Scholars Office Cornell (visa inquiries): https://international.globallearning.cornell.edu/

Cornell Health: https://health.cornell.edu/

Cornell events: https://events.cornell.edu/

Student Organizations at Cornell: http://orgsync.rso.cornell.edu/

Where and when to eat on campus: https://living.cornell.edu/dine/whentoeat/

Cornell map: http://www.cornell.edu/maps/

About Ithaca: http://www.visitithaca.com/

Housing in Ithaca: video of students telling you more: https://vod.video.cornell.edu/media/20180502_Off-Campus_Housing_Webinar_Spring/1_i0ztj291