Spring 2019 Pre-arrival Webinar – Orientation Expectations

Andrea: Hello everyone! And welcome to our number three webinar in the pre-arrival series for new international students who will be starting their programs in the fall of 2019 at the University of Iowa. Our today’s topic is getting started and making travel arrangements. Let’s talk briefly about the webinar series. The pre-arrival webinar series is an optional series provided to incoming international students before they arrive in Iowa City. The objective is to help international students first of all to arrange plans to for travel to and living in Iowa City, to understand orientation expectations and responsibilities, and finally to help you transition to student life and academics at the University of Iowa. Quick reminder, all webinars are recorded and will be posted after the webinar in about two or three weeks’ time frame on our website https://international.uiowa.edu/prearrival-webinar. During the webinar if you have any technical difficulties, please let us know in the chat function, and then if you have any questions related to today’s topic please use the Q&A function to post your questions. We will answer them live at the end of the webinar as time permits. If you have not received your immigration documents, I-20 or DS-2019, please pay the E-ship global shipping fee as soon as you can so that our office can send you and mail you your immigration document. Only with this document, you will be able to apply for your visa. The same information is also contained in the pre-arrival checklist in iHawk. The web address to iHawk is ihawk.uiowa.edu. If you have any questions regarding any of these documents or your pre-arrival checklist please feel free to contact the ISSS orientation team by the email provided on the slide.

Let’s review quickly some important dates. May 1 is the deadline for undergraduate admission acceptance. Mandatory orientation is taking place in August. International graduate students orientation is scheduled for August 13 through 16, and for international undergraduate students the orientation is scheduled for August 19 through 23. And on August 26 we start the fall 2019 semester.

Let’s do brief introductions.

Michael: Hi. My name is Michael Bortscheller. I’m the assistant director with International Student and Scholar Services. I’m going to talk today about myUI’s admissions profile.

Andrea: Thank you Michael and my name is Andrea Siebenmann, and I am one of the ISSS advisers and I am also your webinar moderator and today, I am also presenting part of the presentation. Today’s goals, first of all, we would like to make an introduction to myUI and specifically the admissions profile which Michael just mentioned. Secondly, we would like to introduce you to the iHawk system for international students. Third goal is to review the pre-arrival checklist and also mentioned some travel arrangements information. And finally, our goal is to answer any questions that you will post to us live at the end of the webinar. And I will give the presentation to Michael.

Michael: Alright. So now we’re going to talk about myUI, specifically your admission profile within myUI. If you haven’t accessed myUI yet, The website is simply myui.uiowa.edu. You probably have already since the deadline to accept admittance for undergraduate Bachelor’s degree seeking students is coming up very quickly. But in case you haven’t we’re going to go over this now. So, when you log into myUI, this is what you see. On the left hand side you see a number of different tiles, and we’ll highlight few of those tiles that will be important to you while you’re a student here, and on the right, you’ve got
information about some upcoming deadlines. Of course, these are from a previous year, and also the ability to login. So let’s look at some of these important tiles shall we. Your address change is going to be very important while you’re here in the United States. during your time here you might change your address several times. Maybe you'll start out in the dormitories, and then move to an off campus apartment. You may move several times. Each time you move you should be sure to update your address by clicking this tile. This will allow the University to send you any important documents that might be related to your program and it also allows ISSS to update your status with the immigration system. The next one we're going to look at is the admissions profile, and we will go into much greater detail about this later. Your admissions profile is where you can accept your offer of admission, or pay and acceptance fee. It allows you to do a lot of things before your program begins. Name pronunciation is actually really kind of a cool thing. My family name is Bortscheller. And that’s a really weird name in the United States. And so what I find great about this is I can click on this tile, and then I can record my name using my cell phone, and anybody who looks up my information in the University system will then be able to click and hear me say my name, so they know how to say it. This is going to be really nice for any of you who have names that aren’t very common in the United States, because it’s sometimes hard for Americans to pronounce some names they are not familiar with. And our preferred name and pronouns is useful. Preferred name especially is going to be great if you have a nickname that you like to go by, or if you want people to call you a shortened version of your name. One thing I’ll mention is that we in ISSS will use passport names. So your name the way it’s configured on your passport. But for other people around the university, if you want to be called by something other than your official name you can put it right here. And your pronouns of preference are so that you can make sure that anybody at the University knows how to address you. Finally, when you’re trying to do these things and you want to update your specific information, you’ll do so by clicking this blue hawk ID login button. Hopefully all of you know what your hawk ID is. But just in case, you don’t going to talk about that now. So after you apply for admission you should have received an email that includes your hawk ID and password. And that allows you to access all university online services. If you haven’t received that you can either send an email to us at ISSS-orientation@uiowa.edu, or you can contact admissions and they’ll be able to re-send you that hawk ID and password. Now once you have this you can log in myUI by clicking that blue button we just saw and then you’ll be able to find your admissions profile under the quick links. I’m going to show you what that looks like now.

So, this is the lovely little admissions profile, you'll see there's a lot of information here and one thing we want to point out are these helpful links. These are things that will take you outside the admissions profile and in many cases outside my UI completely. but there are a lot of services that you may want to have, or may want to use while you’re getting ready to come here. So you can get directly to the admissions website if you need to talk to them, or you can see the Daily Iowan TV Webcast. The daily Iowan is a newspaper on campus that also produces a kind of short television program. So you can see informational stories about the campus. Now we’re going to look at other parts of your admissions profile, especially stuff that is going to be helpful for you. But first, what can you do in your admissions profile? You can use it to accept the offer of admission and pay the acceptance fee. Now I want to emphasize this. This is something that is going to be primarily for undergraduate students. Undergraduate students have to pay an acceptance fee in order to accept their offer of admission. But if you’re an exchange student for example, you don’t have to pay any kind of acceptance fee. you just have to make sure that you have applied by May 1. As long as you've applied by May 1 you're going to
be OK. You can use your admissions profile to submit your housing application. If you attended previous sessions, you'll have heard us say that it's important to apply for housing as quickly as possible. And if you haven't you can do that in your admissions profile. You can set up your free University of Iowa email account. During your time here on campus we are going to use your official University of Iowa email account for all of our communications with you now. Right now before you arrive we will use your private email that you've provided us, but once you get here this is the one we’ll use. So it's important that you set it up and start getting in the habit of checking it regularly, because you don't want to miss important communications. Not just from ISSS but also from the University as a whole. You can connect to the required placement tests. Undergraduate students are required to take a math test or a chemistry test and depending on where you're from you may need to take a world language test. If you come from a country that speaks a language other than English, You don't need to take that language test. Graduate students, you don't have to worry about this. You can download the medical history form. This is something that will help nurses on campus guide you through the immunization clinic and TB screening that you'll do as a part of the orientation. So by downloading your medical history form they can see which immunizations you've already received and which ones you might still need to get. OK. So as you progress through the admissions profile, as you go a little bit further down, you’ll see a section for tests and documents and you can see your TOEFL score is there or things that you've submitted from high school, your high school transcripts. But what I want to point out is this little shaded red area, which those are things that still need to be done. If you are an undergraduate For example, it might say that you need to pay your acceptance fee. And remember Andrea said the undergraduate deadline for paying that acceptance fee is May 1, so you better do it quickly. and you might be required to give your official transcript. Now depending on if you're a transfer student or a high school student, maybe you need to give the transcript from one place or the other. Always check your admissions profile, it will tell you exactly what is needed. And right below it points out that you can send your official transcripts to the office of admissions. if you don’t want to mail them you can also bring them with you when you come for orientation, and you can present them to the office of admissions in-person after that orientation week.

More things on your admissions profile, the next steps section has a couple of things that I want to highlight real quickly. The first one is your immigration documents. Remember if you're coming here as an F-1 student or a J-1 student, you're going to need either an I-20 or a DS-2019. So this is just to remind you to complete the pre-arrival checklist in iHawk and pay the e-ship global mailing fee. Andrea will talk more about that in a few minutes. And this is where you can either accept or decline admission to the University of Iowa. Of course, we hope that you accept. And if you accept, you can pay your acceptance fee by credit card that way your place at the University of Iowa will be reserved. Once again, this is something that undergraduates are going to have to do, but not exchange students or graduate students. And that is the end of my section on myUI's admissions profile. Now I'm going to hand off the presentation to Andrea so that she can talk about iHawk and the pre-arrival checklist.

Andrea: Alright. Thank you. Michael. Well, let's dive in into the pre-arrival checklist and iHawk. We’ll start with iHawk first. So in order to log into iHawk You will need to enter specific website. And the address for that website is provided here, it’s https://ihawk.uiowa.edu/. When you enter the website it will show you the iHawk home page and here you will see a blue little login button. When you click on that button, it will bring you to this next page where you are going to be asked about login credentials.
First one is the username, which is actually your hawk ID, and typically hawk ID is an abbreviation of your first and last name, and then password has been provided to you from the admissions letter. If you have not received the admissions letter, you will receive it hopefully soon, but I’m assuming that since you’re here on the webinar that you may have received this information already. So, one thing that I would like to mention here is that if and when you do arrive to the University and especially if you’re going to be working through the pre-arrival checklist, it may be helpful for you to bookmark the iHawk link in your browser and it will make things a lot easier for you and more efficient. So once you have gone through the login process it should bring you to the pre-arrival checklist. This is the checklist that we ask all new students to complete for us in order to be able first of all, to send you your immigration documents, and then also it is very helpful for you to submit certain documents provide other information and also serve as a source of preparation for your arrival. So we will go through five tabs that are contained in this pre arrival checklist. The first tab is the welcome tab. Next is the arrival information tab, information collection tab, online exams and courses, and then finally the orientation tab. let’s go in. The first tab is welcome tab. Maybe some of you may have gone through the tab already but we cannot assume. So let’s go through the information that’s going to be required here. First of all, you’re going to e-form. Then you click on the link passport and financial guarantee, and the e-form will be asking you about your passport. You will be asked to attach a passport file, which is the scanned copy of your passport photo page. The form also provides you with the size and format accepted. If you are having problems uploading this file it’s most likely that you are trying to upload a file that is too big. And if you have any other issues with this uploading you are welcome to contact us at isss-orientation@uiowa.edu email address. Also the form will ask you for certain passport data if you can please provide that that will be wonderful because it will be very helpful, especially while you’re at the university and if and when your passport may expire, for example, or reaching the expired period our system actually can send you a very nice reminder about that. The other thing I would like to mention here is that make sure that your passport has a validity period of at least 6 months and more after your arrival date to Iowa. Alright, moving on. The next item that Michael mentioned previously is the e-ship global mailing fees. This fee can be paid online, and e-ship global is basically a system that will allow you to choose from about three world shipping companies that you can choose based on the country where you are located. So that you are sure that the immigration documents and basically your admissions packet can be delivered to you to your location. So once you are completing this e-ship global form and then after you pay the mailing fee, what the system does is it generates a mailing label for us and they will allow us to ship the immigration documents with other information to you to your current location. Obviously your immigration document is needed in order for you to apply for a Visa and I’ll mention that in the next slide. All right.

Once you completed the welcome tab, the system will allow you to go into the arrival information tab. The first item on this tab is to activate your University of Iowa email. Michael had mentioned this before in his presentation. So this is really critical for you to do because we are requiring that you would activate this email address. So that you can receive any and all communication and correspondence from our office about anything of importance to you as an international student. Next item is the pre arrival contact information. This is mostly information for either your parent or guardian. Please do not include information about agents or agency that may be helping you with your admission to the university. That is not information that we would accept. Next item, our next form is to set up myUI. Michael has nicely covered all of that. So we can skip it in this part. So let’s move on to booking your
flight to the Eastern Iowa airport. This eform is basically reminding you about the fact that we would strongly recommend that you book your flights to eastern Iowa airport, which is located in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Cedar Rapids is about 40 minutes, 30 minutes’ drive from Iowa City, and it's the closest airport to Iowa City. It's in very convenient distance. So we would strongly recommend to please look at this airport when you are booking your travel to United States. International code for this airport is CID. Also at this point, we would like to remind you that international students who are brand new to the United States into the university need to make sure not to arrive more than 30 days before the program start date. So all students, new students can arrive only 30 days or less before the program starts. The date on your immigration document. So the earliest arrival for graduate students would be July 13, for undergraduate students July 19. The latest arrival date for graduate students, August 12. For undergraduate students, August 18. Also on this eform you can find brief information about the transportation to Iowa City area.

Moving on let’s talk about arranging housing. So we had a webinar on April 12 about on campus housing which is mostly designated for undergraduate students at the University of Iowa. And then we will have also a webinar scheduled on May 17 that will cover information about off campus housing. Off-campus housing is usually of interest to graduate students, but sometimes also for undergraduate students. So if you’d like to learn more about this, please make sure that you do and register for the webinar on May 17. Next item in the arrival information tab is about paying the SEVIS fee. SEVIS fee is something that all new students that are receiving brand new immigration documents have to pay. So there is no exception. The fee can be paid online on the website that is highlighted in red here on the slide. And we would recommend that you do this payment on the computer where you can also print a receipt from this payment. The receipt is many times and is required for your visa interview by the consular officer that is going to be working with you on your visa application. Next item, and final item I should say, on the arrival information tab is student orientation confirmation. Again, I would to mention that orientation attendance is mandatory. And for graduate students the orientation is during August 13 through 16 and for undergraduate students in August 19 through 23. So we hope that you will be making every effort to make all of the air travel arrangements to attend your respective orientations. All right.

When you completed all of these items, iHawk will let you go to the next step which is the information collection tab. First item in this tab is a reminder about applying for a visa. Again, in order to apply for your respective either F-1 or J-1 visa you have to have received your immigration document either I-20 for F-1 visa or DS-2019 for J-1 Visa. Application you are applying for visa at the U S embassy or consulate in your location in your country. Next item is the biographical information. It’s a very brief form that you can provide your date of birth, citizenship, and so forth. And then there is a health an immunization information tab and form that will have a lot of text and explanation about what is required in this specific form. The documents that are going to be requested need to be submitted to the email address that we are providing here for your convenience. The email address is internationalforms@healthcare.uiowa.edu. So make sure that you please complete all of the required medical forms. And then receive or obtain all of the immunization and other documentation of what is being asked of you. A reminder please do not get a tuberculosis skin or blood test or BCG vaccine before you travel to United States. That needs to be done after you have arrived to Iowa City. and then also if you happen to be a student of 18 years and younger, you will be asked to please fill out the minor consent form.
Alright. So the next items in this specific tab are related to high school transcript documents. So this is mostly relevant for undergraduate students who have completed their secondary education in their home country. And so what we are asking or the university is asking for are the original documents of your transcript that need to be either mailed to the university in advance of your arrival, or you can bring them in person to the orientation. If you do not provide your transcripts all the way through the first semester at University of Iowa, unfortunately, you may not be permitted to register for the next semester. So make sure that you do everything that you can to submit this information as required. The next item in this tab is arrival information. Again, this has a little bit more information about the transportation to Iowa City. Also reminder at about where you should fly to or travel to when you’re booking your airfare. And finally on this specific tab at the end you can upload your visa stamp when you hopefully received your visa from the US consulate in your specific location. Again, visa is really important for your entry to United States. If you have not received your visa on time to arrive, unfortunately, you will not be able to enter United States without it.

And we’re moving on to the next tab. the number four is about online exams and courses. So, first item, first eform is asking you to complete placement exams. If you have this in your checklist that means that you are required to complete exams. This is mostly the case for undergraduate students where they are asked to complete either exam for math or chemistry and other. Completion of these exams is important especially for when you meet with your academic advisor because that will help them to give you the most appropriate advice for your academic needs. The other exam or test that you will be asked to complete would be the English placement test. This is most of the time indicated if you receive a blue letter along with your I-20 in your admissions package from us, from our office. So if you have received the blue letter with the English placement test information on it that means that you will be asked to complete this test after you arrive. And this would be during the orientation week. And the other item on this tab is regarding the success at Iowa Online course. This is a course that all undergraduate students, new undergraduate students coming to the university are asked to complete. The course opens on August 1 and you will be given access to this course at that time. We will discuss this course in greater detail at the webinar that will be discussing orientation for undergraduate students on July 26. So if you’re an undergraduate student we invite you to register for this webinar so you can get more information about the specific course. And also we will discuss some ESL and English Requirements information during this webinar.

We are at the last tab the orientation tab. This orientation tab basically will ask you to download your orientation schedule. If the contents of the tab is not appearing for you, that means that your schedule has not been created and finalized. So if you have completed all of the previous requirements in the pre arrival checklist and you don’t see this, please be patient, we will be contacting you about this and you’ll be notified when you can find your schedule and download it from here. Please be mindful that each schedule is very unique for each student. It takes a little bit of time to coordinate all of the meetings that we try to schedule for you during the orientation week. And even if you are tempted to go along with your friend to one of the meetings where that friend is scheduled, and you are scheduled somewhere else, please make sure to follow your own schedule primarily. Alright, you can bring the schedule to orientation schedule session either in hard copy or digital version. If you forget it we can print it at the orientation session. You just need to let us know. So no problem. And finally at this tab we can cover the information about some useful links and resources that we would strongly advise that you go and check.
So let’s take a look, this is the website where new student information resides. So you go through international programs, international students and scholars, and then you click on the new students and scholars link, and they will bring you to this web page which has different sections. For example, pre arrival information and so forth, and it has all kinds of useful links and resources. So please make sure that you take good advantage of this wonderful resource for you as a new international student.

Alright. Let’s move on to making travel arrangements. And we will just go through this very swiftly. As I mentioned during the information collection tab in the pre arrival checklist, there is a form about arrival information. What this is is basically telling you where to fly to if you are traveling by air to Iowa, and again, we strongly recommend to look up in Eastern Iowa airport in Cedar Rapids with the code CID. There is ground transportation available for you at this airport. There is a shuttle that would take you to Iowa City to the location that you will specify. Since this is a small capacity airport there is a smaller capacity of transportation and so we strongly advise to book the airport shuttle in advance of your travel and be in contact with them about your plans. And they’re doing a pretty good job. They are used to a lot of students coming in during the summer for their orientation. So they will take care of you. We will cover some other forms of transportation on the slide a little bit later. But if you happen to book your ticket to different airport than the eastern Iowa airport, Please be aware that you have to take care of your own transportation from there to Iowa City. The other airports typically around us would be Des Moines, which is the capital of Iowa, two hours away from Iowa City and then Chicago is about four hours east of Iowa City. Preparing for your travel to Iowa, let’s talk briefly about the luggage, what to expect in terms of your preparation and packing. So, generally the checked in luggage specifications do vary by airlines. And so we would strongly recommend that you please look at the airline website for any details for checked-in luggage fees, limitations, sizes, and weight. OK then the carry-on luggage that you can take on the plane has certain restrictions not just in the size and weight, but also when you are traveling to United States. There is usually a 3-1-1 rule about the liquids, and you can read about this on the website information provided here on the slide and learn about what you can bring on the plane. So both of those websites can be really helpful in that regard and to know what you can bring in your carry on. Also there is a mention of other objects that can or cannot be brought in as well as medications, and so forth. Airports across the globe do vary in terms of their airport security check, and so please make sure you’re aware of this and familiarize yourself with what is expected and how long it may take, so plan accordingly. As well as we would suggest a plan for any type of layovers, flight delays or missed connections so that you have a little bit of a contingency plan as to who to call who to notify, if you have booked transportation especially, to let somebody know that you may be a little bit delayed. We also recommend to bring a little bit of US currency in cash if you can, the limit absolute limit is $10,000 which is quite a bit of amount but who knows. A small amount of US currency can be helpful, especially if you may experience any flight delays or missed connection.

Alright. Talk about a little bit of packing and other tips. So we have mentioned something about the documents that you will be required to have on you when you’re traveling. Mostly valid passport, valid Visa, University of Iowa issued I-20 or DS-2019, and then also we would suggest admissions letter and any financial documentation that you submitted to ISSS earlier before we could issue your immigration document. Sometimes students are being asked about that. There is a web link that was created that would lead you to a website that was created by our University Housing Department with suggestions of
what to bring as a new student to the University. But for a quick review we have provided here a list of early essentials that we think might be helpful. One thing to mention would be, be aware of the different electricity. If you were coming from a country where the electric current is 220V you would need to make sure if you are bringing any electronics that are running on their current to bring converters, and also correct plugs because the plugs in United States are very specific. So you can also find all of this information on the Internet as well. And finally, in the preparation for your travel to Iowa, we would like to mention after you arrive to the airport what to expect. So first of all, usually on the airplane or shortly after you land you will be asked to complete a customs form. It’s either paper form or electronically in a kiosk at some of the airports, then you will go through the immigration check in where you will present your immigration documents and perhaps answer some questions from the officers who will be checking you in. Then you will be expected to retrieve your luggage, all of your luggage that you checked in and take it through an agricultural and customs check. And then when everything is OK you will take that luggage back to the airline which you will take to catch your connecting flight. You do not have to check or re-check the luggage, you just need to basically deposit the luggage there and the airline will take care of it for you. Alright. This is where Iowa is in United States. So you will be in the heartland of United States, that’s what it’s called the area, and it’s also called, there are several states that are included, and it’s referred to as the Midwest. This is Iowa in a close up, and if we click here you can see the Cedar Rapids, which is the city where the eastern Iowa airport is located and then this is Iowa City, where you will be living for a few years when you become a student here. Both cities are located in the eastern part of the state of Iowa. And let’s take a look quickly at the Eastern Iowa airport. This is the image of the airport after it has been recently renovated. So this is the front of the airport. Again, it’s a fairly small and compact airport. So you should not have any issues navigating from after you land and a come to the airport. So everything should be pretty very easy and accessible. We are here at the airport transportation slide where I would like to remind you that the airport itself has a pretty good website and instructions on the ground transportation, and the website is https://flycid.com/ground-transportation/. Here you can, besides the airport shuttle, here you can also catch any taxi, limo if you wish to, and you can also contact Uber or Lyft for ride to Iowa City. Again be careful about taxis and make sure that the taxi has originated from Iowa City. If you would catch a taxi that is by accident a taxi from Cedar Rapids and you will ask them to take you to Iowa City, you may be paying very hefty fee or rate for your travel. So ensure that you are aware of where the taxi originated from. Other than that we just can remind you that please do not expect that University Iowa would be providing any special transportation for you, either from the airport in Cedar Rapids or elsewhere. You will be responsible for your own transportation arrangements. And also ISSS staff cannot pick you up at the airport. We regret any inconvenience, but we hope that you will be able to make arrangements based on all of this information that were providing you two day.

Q&A

Andrea: We have come to the end of our presentation part and now it’s time for questions and answers.

Michael: OK so we've got a number of great questions here. We might have time for some more. So if there is any other things that pop in your head please don't hesitate to send in another question using
the Q&A function. Our first question is somebody who wants to know when they can move into campus housing.

**Andrea:** We have had webinar on campus housing over about two weeks ago. And we are processing the recording for this webinar and the information that you’re asking was addressed in this webinar in great detail, so we will let you know as soon as we can when the webinar is posted on our website. And you will be able to listen to the recording and also access the written format of the webinar and that’s where the information is.

**Michael:** I can also add just as a general thing, it will be the day before the starting date on your I-20 or DS-2019. That should be the very earliest day. So if you arrive to the US on the first day of your DS-2019 or I-20 you should be fine being able to move in, but the webinar Andrea mentioned we’ll have all of that laid out in explicit detail. Now we have a question about transportation options. Can you please describe what the options are between the eastern Iowa airport and downtown Iowa City? I think this question came in before you talked about it, but if you could just quickly list those options.

**Andrea:** Sure, sure I can just review them again. So at the Eastern Iowa airport you will be able to book transportation with the airport shuttle, and they have very good detailed information and contact information where you can contact the shuttle for the booking. We would strongly recommend to do this in advance of your travel because as I mentioned earlier, the capacity for transportation is not as big as could be expected at the larger airports. So doing this well in advance, it's recommended. The next type of transportation, ground transportation from the airport, would be the limo or taxis. I have just mentioned information about the taxis. So again, please be careful that if and when you have to take a taxi, the shuttle for example is all booked and they cannot take you, and there is a long wait time and you don't have any other ways to get to Iowa City. Make sure that the taxi is originated in Iowa city if you're going to take it. And then finally there are always uber and lyft rides that you can use your application on your phone, or otherwise look for it again, this can be done in advance but I believe that this is pretty much covering it. Again, the website that was referenced in one of the slides will give you more details what other options there are.

**Michael:** OK. Now we have somebody who wants to know how they can set up their University of Iowa email. And I suppose I can answer this. The best way to do this, we can’t show you everything right now because we’re limited to our PowerPoint presentation. But if you go to your pre arrival checklist in iHawk, and you click on the item for setting up your University of Iowa email account, it will walk you through the steps there of how you can go into myUI and request that access. So that's what I would do I would go to the pre-arrival checklist in iHawk and follow the instructions there to get it set up in my UI.

**Andrea:** I believe it was in the arrival information tab. And that was the very first item in it.

**Michael:** OK. Now we have some more questions about housing. Is campus housing furnished, or do we need to buy sheets pillows and all that when we arrive? I think I'll just kind of add and tack on to what Andrea said, you know we've got that housing presentation that will be going up soon. It will have comprehensive information. In short, campus housing is furnished but there will still be some things you may need to bring yourself. If I remember correctly. There are going to be some bed linens that you'll need to obtain one way or another. But there are many things provided for you, check out that presentation as soon as it goes online.
Andrea: Maybe I will tack on to what Michael was just saying, is that in one of the slides here where we were suggesting the packing items, one of those were household items. And in Iowa City area, and Iowa City itself, there are plenty of different stores, there are discount stores where you can find very nice, very gently used or not even used, brand new household items that you may find useful for your life, or in your housing. And so you don’t have to bring everything because you would be able to obtain these stores, or you will be able to share and borrow from your fellow students. So we would recommend not to carry too much unless they're very special items for you that you absolutely need with you. But like bed linens and everything else, they can be easily obtained for a very reasonable price here in some of the discount stores.

Michael: Alright fantastic. Relatedly can I apply for housing before receiving my documents or applying for my visa?

Andrea: Yes. Yes, you can do that. And again, these items were addressed in our housing webinar on campus housing, I should say, that we will be posting most likely this coming week. So we apologize for a little bit of a delay but you will be able to listen to all of that information.

Michael: I’ll add that you are encouraged to apply for housing as soon as possible, even if you haven't been able to apply for your immigration documents yet.

Andrea: correct. And from what I understand the staff from the University housing and dining always stress that especially for international students it’s important that they apply for the housing sooner rather than later and do not wait until the last moment, because the housing on campus housing can fill out very quickly.

Michael: One thing I’ll add to that though is that if any of you listening out there are exchange students, if you’re coming over on an official exchange program, you should contact the person at the university who coordinates those exchanges, her name is Lee Seedorff. And hopefully you recognize that name and have her email. if you have any questions at all about what you need to do, she’s the one to talk to because exchange students, as we’ve said a few times during this presentation, their setup is just a little bit different than everyone else. We have another question about information about the immunization form, when it has to be completed and how it should be completed. and I'll go ahead and take this one. So when you bring your medical history form, you'll just want to take that to a medical professional so that they can help list what immunizations you've had, and things like that. And you'll bring that with you during your new student orientation. You'll take it with you to the immunization clinic, the TB screening and immunization clinic, and the nurses here will examine that information and that will just let them know what you have had already and what you might still need on campus. It's not some highly technical thing that you're going to spend hours filling out. It's not like that, we just need a record of immunizations you've had, so that we know what you'll still need in order to be a student on campus at the University of Iowa. We have a few more questions. Here's a good one, will I get the immigration documents with my admission letter, or do I have to do a separate mailing to get the admission materials?

Andrea: No actually that's a good question. All of these documents are going to arrive in one package to you. So the admissions letter, the immigration document, and there will be also more information about the university in general, about ISSS, also as I mentioned earlier some students will be receiving an
English placement test document and so forth. So each admission package is individually prepared so that each student receives what they need to receive before coming to United States.

**Michael:** We have two questions about transcripts. And so I’m going to kind of bundle them together. Somebody wants to know if they bring their original transcripts with them, will they ever get them back since it’s the only copy. And we have a related question about are high school transcripts required for transfer students. And since I did the admissions profile I’ll cover this real quick. So if you bring your transcripts with you and you take them to the office of admissions in person, Yes, they can make copies and you can retain your original transfer, you know they may need to take them for a little while but you should be able to get those back. As far as what kinds of transcripts are required, always look at your admissions profile in myUI. Everybody’s circumstances may be different. And so if you look in myUI, you’ll see exactly, what is required for you. We only have a few more questions. Is on campus housing available for graduate students?

**Andrea:** Unfortunately, the on-campus housing is not available to graduate students. They are usually encouraged to seek what we call off-campus housing. Off campus housing also can be quite convenient. And there is quite a bit of variety of off campus housing and we will be actually covering this topic in great detail on May 17 during the webinar on off-campus housing. We will have someone from our, one of our offices at the university will actually explain more about the rental arrangements that students need to be aware of before they rent their off campus housing, but that’s in a nutshell. Hopefully we answered the question.

**Michael:** Fantastic. And our last question, is there any transportation from the Eastern Iowa airport to Iowa City that is provided by the University?

**Andrea:** I’m afraid again, I have to answer that we are unable to provide. The University of Iowa does not provide any transportation for students from the airport to Iowa city. this transportation needs to be arranged by the students individually, on their own.

**Michael:** We just did get one more question. And I do think we have some time. Since I’m not from the United States my transcripts are not in English. Do I have to translate them?

**Andrea:** And I suppose I’ll take this one. If your transcripts are not in English, you should contact the office of admissions. They’ll let, you know where you can submit your transcripts so that they are able to validate them. Depending on what language you speak, depending on what language your transcripts are in, they might not be able to take it as is. And so contact them, and they will let you know where you can send your transcripts in order for them to validate them as authentic and then being adequate for admission. It’s a great question, I actually haven't heard that one before.

**Andrea:** OK. So it looks like we have approached the end of our presentation, and I would like to just pull up a couple of reminders here about the contact information and follow up. And also, I don't know if Michael had a chance to send the survey, please help us evaluate the webinar so that we know if we need to add any additional information that you are interested in, or how it was helpful to you.

**Michael:** you should be able to find that link in the chat function. I just sent it a moment ago.
Andrea: so if you have any questions remaining about the pre arrival checklist, or other issues for that matter, before your arrival please feel free to contact our orientation team at the email address Isss-orientation@uiowa.edu. And then also I would like to again refer to our great resource for New International students that is our website for new students on the Web links showing on the slide. And a reminder, an invitation for you to feel free to register for the future webinars, any of the webinars. Some of them are still specific for undergraduate and graduate students. So you can take a look, but the next webinar is actually taking place next Friday May 3, and this is for undergraduate students where we will discuss specifically topics on how to achieve success while you’re at the University of Iowa by being an involved student, and cultural you adjusting to your environment here at the university and in the United States in general. So that should be a wonderful topic. We will have students who will be participating in the Webinar, so please register for May 3 if you’re an undergraduate student interested in this topic, and then you can see the other topics listed here. Thank you. Again, for your participation today, for joining us at this webinar number three, and we look forward to having you join us during and for the next webinars in our series.

Michael: Thanks for attending Everybody.