Fall 2020 Pre-arrival Webinar Series:
Pre-arrival Checklist and Making Travel Arrangements

Andrea: Hello everyone and welcome to our first in the pre-arrival webinar series for new international students who will be attending the University of Iowa in the Fall of 2020. Today's topic is Getting Started and Making Travel Arrangements. Welcome!

Doug Lee: Hello my name is Douglas Lee and I'm the Assistant Provost for International Programs. I look forward to seeing you in Iowa City soon. I'd like to introduce our webinar to you today. The webinar is on our pre-arrival checklist and making travel arrangements.

Andrea: Well that was a nice welcome from our Assistant Provost Doug Lee who we work with here in the International Programs. Now a little bit about the webinar series. The pre-arrival webinar series is an optional webinar series provided to incoming international students before their arrive in Iowa City. The objective of the series is to help new international students to arrange plans for travel to and living in Iowa City, to understand orientation expectations and responsibilities, and to transition to student life and academics at the University of Iowa.

Andrea: Please take a note that all webinars are recorded and will be posted on our website for webinars, which is https://international.uiowa.edu/prearrival-webinar. During the webinar if you encounter any technical difficulties, please let us know in the Chat function. 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.

Andrea: If you have not received your I-20 or DS-2919 document, please note that you must pay eShipGlobal shipping fee in order to receive your document. Only once you have this document, you can apply for your respective visa. This information is also contained in the pre-arrival checklist in iHawk and the website address is iHawk.uiowa.edu. If you have any questions about the documentation for your visa, please contact our orientation team at the email address shown here on the slide, which is isss-orientation@uiowa.edu.

Andrea: Let's review some important dates. May 1st is the deadline for undergraduate admission acceptance, then we jump to July 10th, which is the earliest arrival for graduate students. July 17th is the earliest arrival date for undergraduate students. And then, you will be attending a mandatory orientation for graduate students. The dates are August 10 through 14th. For undergraduate students, the dates are August 17th through 21st. On August 24th starts the Fall 2020 semester.

Andrea: Let's do some introductions.

Michael: Hi my name is Michael Bortscheller and I'm the Associate Director of International Student and Scholar Services.

Andrea: And my name is Andrea Siebenmann, and I'm one of the ISSS advisors and webinar coordinator and a moderator today. Let's quickly review today's goals. First of all, we will review MyUI which is an
academic system of all students at the University of Iowa, and we will specifically review admissions profile. Then we will talk about iHawk system for international students and specifically we will review the pre-arrival checklist in iHawk, and finally we will mention some travel and transportation tips. At the end we will answer any questions that we will receive during the presentation from you. And I will give the word to Michael now.

Michael: All right, well, thank you very much Andrea. So now we're going to talk a little bit about MyUI, which is the student information system at the University of Iowa. You're going to use MyUI for as long as you're a student here, but our focus today is on the admission profile. So, when you go to myui.uiowa.edu, you will find a page that looks something like this and each of these squares we call them tiles are things that you can click on and update information about your record.

Michael: We're going to look at a few of those right now and we're going to start with address change. As an international student at the University of Iowa, you need to update your address anytime you move and so if you need to do that, you can simply click on the tile for address change and update your US address.

Michael: The next thing we're going to talk about is the admissions profile. We'll talk about that quite a bit in detail but if you need to access it, you can do it by clicking on this tile. The one that's circled now.

Michael: If you have a name that you're worried many Americans won't be able to say, you can actually record your pronunciation by clicking on the name pronunciation tile. I LOVE this because my family name is difficult for many Americans to say. And so when I click on this, I actually have the ability to record myself saying Michael Bortscheller, and then everyone on campus knows how to say my name. And finally, if you have a preferred name or a nickname that you would rather people use than whatever is listed on your passport, you can list that here.

Michael: Additionally, if you have pronouns that you want people to use when they refer to you, you can list which ones you prefer here as well. For all of these things, if you would like to update your record, you're going to need to click on the blue button up top that says Hawk ID login.

Michael: It's important for you to check your admissions profile now but it's important for you to update things throughout the time leading up to orientation. Once you've received your application, or once the office of admissions has received your application, they will send you a Hawkeye and password to access the university's student services portal, this MyUI. You'll use that Hawke ID and password for all University of Iowa online services.

Michael: If you go to MyUI, and you can't find the tile for the admissions profile, you can also find it under quick links. So, this is what the admissions profile looks like. As you see, it has a nice little welcome message, it will have your personal information there, and one section that I'd like to highlight is the helpful links. All of the things listed here are very useful, both for before you arrive on campus and while you're here, so it can be nice to familiarize yourself with the links that are listed here.

Michael: In your admissions profile, you'll be able to accept our offer of admission and pay the acceptance fee. You'll also be able to submit your housing application. We recommend that you submit your housing application as early as possible, because housing can fill up very quickly. You can set up your free University of Iowa email account and I'll mention that the University of Iowa email is the, the
official method of communication at the University of Iowa, so you should get used to checking that every day.

**Michael:** You can connect to your required placement test. There are required placement tests for all undergraduate students in math and chemistry depending on what your major is. Most people will not need to take a world language test. You can download a medical history form. This allows you to tell the nurses here at the University of Iowa what immunizations you've had and what your medical history is so they know how to best treat you. When you scroll down in your admissions profile, you'll come to this section and there's one little part that we're going to highlight here. So, if you see that it shows maybe your TOEFL scores or your ACT or SAT, but there's this red bar here that says, “Hey, you still need to do something.” And below that it shows that in this example, you still need to pay your $250 acceptance fee and you still have to provide your final transcript. It's important that you do whatever is listed here in your admissions profile. When you move on, you'll or when you scroll further down I should say, you'll see your next steps and we're going to highlight two of them.

**Michael:** First you have your, your immigration document. For most of you that's going to be your I-20 or your DS-2019 and you can only get that by completing the pre-arrival checklist in IHAWK. We'll talk about that in just a few minutes. The next thing that you can do in your admissions profile is accept or decline your acceptance your admission, I should say. So, if you go to this section and you click on the link to accept admission, you can pay your $250 credit card acceptance fee. Now, we're going to move on to IHAWK and the pre-arrival checklist.

**Michael:** So, IHAWK is the University of Iowa’s Information System just for international Hawkeyes, like you. And to access IHAWK you'll go to iHawk.uiowa.edu. Once you go there, you're going to log in using your Hawk ID and password. So, when you're on IHAWK, you'll see this page here and you'll click the blue login button. After you click that, you'll type in your Hawkeye (remember that's the username you'll use for all University of Iowa services) and then you'll type in the password. You should be able to find that on your admissions letter if you haven't already changed it. It's a good idea to bookmark the IHAWK website in your internet in your internet browser.

**Michael:** Once you log in with your Hawk ID and password, you'll finally see the pre-arrival checklist. Now this checklist might look different for you depending on if you're a transfer student, a graduate student, an exchange student, basically depending on your specific circumstances, but everyone will have the things here, they just might be ordered differently. And the checklist is set up in tabs. You can think of those as the different steps. The first step is just to welcome you and to prepare to get your immigration document. Then there’s information about your arrival to the US and to campus, some collection of information about you, information about the online exams and courses here at Iowa, and finally, some information about the orientation here. We're going to go through all of these tabs very briefly right now.

**Michael:** When you're at the “Welcome”, there are just three things to do. The first item is just a welcome message saying that we’re happy that you’re coming to Iowa. The second thing is your passport and financial guarantee. Once you’re admitted we need to get a copy of your passport and a copy of your financial guarantee or your evidence of ability to pay for tuition in order to give you your I-20. Sometimes people have problems if they're passport copy is too big, the too much too many megabytes or gigabytes, so if that happens and the box doesn't get checked off, simply email us at iss-
orientation@uiowa.edu. Once you submit this form you are halfway to getting your immigration document. The other part you'll have to do is pay the eShipGlobal mailing fee. You can pay this fee online and what it does is it creates a mailing label so that we can mail your immigration document directly to you, wherever you are in the world. So those are the two things you need to do to get your I-20 or DS-2019.

**Michael:** Next, we have the arrival information. And I'm just going to talk about some of these things. So your pre-arrival contact information helps us find out information about you and you can provide your address in your home country where you may or may not live. If you live with your parent or guardian, you can list that there as well. You can also get information about booking a flight to the Eastern Iowa Airport. Andrea will talk more about this later in the presentation but grads can arrive as early as July 10th undergraduates can arrive as early as July 17th. 30 days before orientation is the earliest you can come here. In addition, you'll have to consider getting transportation to the Iowa City area. And again, Andrea will talk about that in greater detail in just a few minutes.

**Michael:** The other parts of the arrival information are information about arranging housing. We have a lot of information about this in two webinars that are coming up later this spring. We'll have a webinar for undergraduate students on April 3rd. That will be for undergraduate students looking at the dormitories on campus. And will have a webinar for undergraduates and graduate students on May 8th looking at off-campus housing options. We have information about how you can pay your SEVIS fee and we have a confirmation that you're going to arrive for new student orientation. It also will have the dates of orientation listed there.

**Michael:** In the information collection tab we'll have you give us information or we will give you information rather, about applying for your US visa. You can do it at any US Embassy or Consulate abroad. We'll also collect some biographical information for you. The last thing we'll have is some health and immunization information. When you arrive on campus, you'll undergo a TB screening, a screening for tuberculosis. We'll also give you any immunizations that you might not already have if you up. If you already have all required immunizations, you can submit evidence of that to internationalforms@healthcare.uiowa.edu.

**Michael:** Other information on the information collection screen. If you need to give us your high school transcripts, if you're an undergraduate student we can only accept the originals and this will have information about how you can mail them to the Office of Admissions or bring them in in person. We also collect information about arriving to campus; how you're going to arrive and when, and we give you the ability to upload a copy of your F-1 visa. It's important to remember, if you don't have a F-1 visa or a J-1 visa you cannot come to the University of Iowa. You can't enter the US at all, so you need to do this in order to come into the country.

**Michael:** The next section is the one for online exams and courses. There are just a couple of pieces of information that we like to share with you here. First, if you have to take any placement exams and remember, all undergraduates will take some kind of placement exam, we'll give you information about it here. These exams are very helpful to help your academic advisor tell you what level and what course you need to take. Separate from these exams, there will be an English placement test that happens on campus at the University of Iowa. Not everyone needs to take this test. But if you do need to take this
test, you'll get it along with your, sorry, you will get a letter telling you about it, along with your immigration document.

Michael: We also have information about a required online course called Success at Iowa. The course actually opens as early as July 1st, before you even arrive in the United States. We'll have a webinar giving you more information about this course on June 26th. For now, let me say, this is only for undergraduate students at the University of Iowa. Graduate students do not need to take this course.

Michael: Finally, we have the orientation tab. Now, this tab will not show everything right now. Some things will appear once the schedules are finalized. Once you have a schedule, you'll be able to click a link right here, and see everywhere you need to be during orientation week. It's important that you follow your own schedule because every person's schedule is unique. So when you get here and you make friends, you'll see that you don't go to the same places at the same time. Sometimes they'll need to go 10 minutes earlier than you, as an example.

Michael: We also have a link here to useful links and resources. When you click on that you'll find out about things like the new student resource page. That page is international.uiowa.edu/issss/new-students. You can see it right there. When you go to this page, it looks a little bit different right now, but it gives you wonderful information that is just for new students like you. So you will have information about pre-arrival, you'll have information about orientation, there's also a guide to living in Iowa City, and information for your parents if they want to know how are they going to keep my baby safe? You can find all of that and more at this website. Now, I'm going to pass it back to Andrea so she can talk about making travel arrangements coming to Iowa City.

Andrea: Thank you so much Michael. Well, let's just dive right into this information and I will actually take you back to the pre-arrival checklist. And specifically, the tab on information collection where we are and as Michael mentioned earlier, providing some information about the arrival information for you. I would like to just mention that the airport location that is highly and strongly recommended is the Eastern Iowa Airport in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, with the international airport code CID. There are some other airports that sometimes students do arrive and then they try to make their way to Iowa City from these airports. And these are called other airports such as Chicago, Des Moines, Minneapolis, and so forth. I can mention something about those airports a little bit later, but right now it is important to read this information because it will be helpful for you to make your travel plans and purchases.

Andrea: How do you prepare for travel to Iowa? So let's start before you depart. So, of course, you will be packing different kinds of luggage pieces. And for the airline and travel purposes we distinguish between the checked-in luggage and carry-on luggage. So for checked-in luggage, which will go to the cargo area of the airplane, please follow the airlines specifications on the weight and size of these luggage pieces because it is important for you to understand that if you go over certain size or weight that you could be fined, or pay any extra fees and if you don't want to do that then, please make sure that you submit a luggage that meets the specifications of the airlines. Next it's a carry-on luggage and there are some restrictions for this luggage as well and if you have not flown internationally before, you may want to check on some of this information on the web pages that we're providing here on this slide. And specifically, it's the three-one-one rule for the carry-ons. So, I'll let you look at that very briefly on your own and then if you have any questions you can ask us but it's pretty self-explanatory. Also, before you or depart I would suggest that you please check your local airport security procedures because they
can vary from country to country or even within the country it may vary from town to town or city to city.

Andrea: So this would help you to prepare and understand how soon you may need to be at the airport in order not to miss your flight. Speaking of flights, I would suggest that you please also prepare accordingly or do some contingency plans for event when there are some longer layovers or flight delays or missed connections. Because you know flights and airplanes are only mechanical machines and they sometimes break down, also there could be an inclement weather either in your home country or when you arrive to United States that could cause a delay and many other instances where this could happen. We hope you will not have to experience any of this, but we're just mentioning that so that you can be adequately prepared for your travel. Also, speaking of misconceptions or flight delays it would be advisable to take a small amount of US currency in cash, so that you can either purchase small items of food or any other contingencies that you may need. For the FYI, or for your information, there is a limit of carrying cash to United States and that's 10,000 US dollars.

Andrea: Continuing on the preparation for your travel to Iowa, let's mention some packing and other tips. First of all, you would want to have all of your immigration documents ready before you land in United States. And even before you depart you will be checked for valid passport, if you have a visa and then when you arrive here, you will be checked for having the I-20 or DS-2019 that was issued by our office. Also, it is advisable that you take your admissions letter and any financial documentation that Michael mentioned earlier was necessary to issue your I-20 or DS-2019.

Andrea: We are here providing also a web link that was created by the Housing Department here at the University, where they have a very practical list of things that they recommend to students to bring. But speaking of those, just some essentials that we would like to mention would be for example medical or other prescriptions from your home doctor and, then of course the admissions related documents such as transcripts or admission records. Also, make sure that you take a good look at the electricity and converters and the different plugs system here in the United States, and take chargers and converters accordingly. And of course, you could bring some small household items or memories from home, and of course your clothing that should be brought in layers both for the summer and especially the winter here in Iowa. When you will be arriving in the fall, you will be coming here in autumn or fall period that is going to become a little bit cooler outside. And then of course we will be heading right into the winter when we would like you to be adequately prepared for that. We do have four seasons here in Iowa, so hopefully you will enjoy it here when you come.

Andrea: Then let's look at the arrival to the first port of entry or airport here in the United States. First of all, either on the airplane or after you arrive, and depending on which airport you will arrive first, you may need to complete a paper customs forms or you can complete this in an electronic kiosk. But this is a requirement to declare anything that you will be bringing with you. After that, you will be most likely queuing or put in line to go through a customs and border protection, or immigration check-in where you will be actually asked to present your immigration documents, and you may be asked a few standard questions such as what is your purpose of coming here, where you will be staying during this time, and so forth. Then you will go through a luggage retrieval and you will then take your luggage through the agricultural customs check, and finally if applicable, you will be then checking in your luggage again for connecting flight, and for that matter, we would recommend that you again read
departure flight boards because the gates, departure gates may change. If and when you're not connecting to another flight, then you will basically take your luggage with you and go to arrange your transportation.

Andrea: So where is Iowa? I’m sure that many of you have familiarized yourself with the location of Iowa in the United States. But basically this is a region that is called the Midwest and then within Iowa, which is a smaller of a state is a location of Cedar Rapids with these arrows. We're basically located in what is referred to as Eastern Iowa, as is implied in the name of the airport: Eastern Iowa Airport in Cedar Rapids. And then here is Iowa City, marked with the big star. So as you can see the cities are relatively close to each other and I would say it's about 20 some miles and about 35-40 kilometers. And then if the traffic is good, then the travel from Cedar Rapids to Iowa City and back could be about half an hour by car, so it's very very close. And that's one of the reasons why we are very strongly recommending to you to book your flights, if at all possible all the way through Eastern Iowa Airport.

Andrea: And this is how the airport looks like. It's a small regional airport and so, they're not that many flights but the traffic has increased in the last few years quite substantially so they do have a couple million people going through the airport annually. There are seasonal, you know trends at the airport just like in any other airport around the world. But basically, this is a picture of the remodeled arrival hall, and specifically the hall where you would be picking up your luggage if you arrived through here. So anyway, it's easier airport to go through and things take much shorter time than at any other larger airports. So it's very convenient and now we can talk about briefly the airport transportation.

Andrea: So we’re providing here for you quick link to the airport’s web page that is providing information about the Ground Transportation. Most often people use either taxi or limo or any kind of shuttle that might be at the airport. And then also there are services of Uber and Lyft available from the airport to Iowa City. Several of these need to be arranged ahead of time, and we would strongly recommend doing that because like I mentioned it's a small regional airport, so there are no bus services from this airport to Iowa City. There are no train services, unfortunately. So, you have to basically rely on some type of a car, smaller size car transportation to Iowa City. First thing that I would like you to pay attention to is when you hail or when you would like to use a taxi service, make sure that the taxi originated in Iowa City. Otherwise, if you take a taxi from Cedar Rapids, you may be paying a very very high fee for your travel to Iowa City. So make sure to pay attention to that. Also, I would like to remind you the university does not provide airport transportation to Iowa City. The exception would be the University Student Government Transportation, but we will be announcing this information later on if and when it is going to be actually available. This is something fairly new and we would not be covering this information today, but you will be notified duly by our orientation team when it's available. And then finally, I would like to just say that ISSS staff cannot pick you up at the airport. So please do not email us with those kinds of requests. We would like to help you out but it would have to be really other public means of transportation for you to use to get to Iowa City.

Andrea: And that will be all for the presentation for today. And we are moving to our Q&A portion of the webinar. And we will have some time to answer your questions and you are welcome to still send us the questions that you may have on the topic that we presented today. And I will let Michael to follow up on those questions then.
Michael: All right, thank you so much. We've had a lot of good questions, but we do have time for more, so if you have a question that you really would like to get answered, please submit it using the Q&A function and we'll go through those and answer as many as we have time for.

Michael: So, our first question is from somebody who currently has an F-2 visa and plans to change to F-1. They want to know how early they can come to the US and whether their current visa would be voided. So I can answer this. The answer is your current visa would not be voided. It's still going to stay in your passport. But the earliest that you can enter the US using your F-1 visa is 30 days before your program at Iowa starts. So if you are an undergraduate, I don't remember exactly what day the undergraduate orientation starts to you. Andrea remembers, thank you. The 17th of August, thirty days before that. That is the earliest that you can come to the US using your F-1 visa.

Andrea: July 16th.

Michael: July 16th, perfect. Thank you.

Michael: The next question is a travel-related question. They want to know if the Cedar Rapids airport is very confusing for how they can find transportation and luggage things like that.

Andrea: Thank you, that's a very good question. And I did touch up on this very quickly towards the end of my presentation saying that Cedar Rapids or Eastern Iowa Airport is a very, a rather small regional airport, and so all flight arrivals happen on the upper level of the airport from where you would make your way to the lower level or ground level, street level to where you will be picking up your luggage. And in fact one of the pictures there was from the hall and I am showing it right now. This is on the right, where is carousel where you would be picking up your luggage. On the left there are counters for car rentals and then also there are counters now that where you could also contact any transportation services. Some services do not have counter that's why you will have to go through the website. That's the one that I provided here and that would be your best bet to arrange your transportation ahead of time. But otherwise I would just say that the airport is very very easy to navigate and the reconstruction that has been done at the airport very recently has done a very good job in you know, putting things together for the flights and for the passengers.

Michael: All right, wonderful. We just got a question in, which is a very good question that I realized. I didn't address: Do graduate students have to pay the acceptance fee. The answer is no. I'm sorry that is a fee for undergraduate students. I should have specified that. So graduate students do not have to pay the acceptance fee. Thank you.

Michael: We have another travel related question, how can somebody who's flying to Chicago get to Iowa.

Andrea: Very good question, thank you for asking that. Basically, Chicago is about four hours by car, private car, small car of travel between Iowa and Chicago are specifically from if you travel from Chicago to Iowa City, it's about four hours. There is no train service between Chicago and Iowa City. The only other way to get from Chicago Airport O'Hare Airport specifically, is to take a long-distance bus service. So there are some services, some buses that would travel through Iowa City, so the only way to arrange transportation from Chicago would be to go to their website and find the long distance bus services, that would be available from O'Hare Airport. And make sure that you would be looking for the service that
would be going westward, or through Iowa City. That's very important. Also you should look at the services that would be connecting closer to your flights, to the dates that you will arrive. Again, if and when you it is at all possible, we would really strongly recommend that instead of just arriving to Chicago that you would make a connecting flight to Cedar Rapids or to Eastern Iowa airport, especially if you may have a very heavy luggage, because the buses may be limited in accepting very heavy or multiple pieces of luggage.

**Michael:** Okay the next question is: If I bring my original high school transcripts with me, will I ever get them back?

**Michael:** That's a great question when you bring your original transcripts if you need to maintain a copy you can take those transcripts to the office that requires them and they can take a copy from you as long as you have the originals so you would not need to give away your only copy of them.

**Michael:** Our next question is another travel related question: Do I have to have a car to get around in Iowa City?

**Andrea:** Thank you that's a very good question and it really depends on a few things. First of all, I would say that as a university town, which the Iowa City is considered to be, they have a very good, we have a very good bus system here. There are buses that are being sponsored by the university and they're called Cambuses, Cambus; campus bus. And they run actually for free for all students who have university ID and they take you around the campus in regular intervals. And then there are buses that are being administered by the City of Iowa City and then also City of Coralville, which is a neighboring city to Iowa City. So those bus services are fairly reliable and used by a lot of employees and folks who live in Iowa City and in the area. And so also, it all depends on where you live. If you live on campus, then you certainly don't need to have a car because Iowa City is really a walkable city too. Things are pretty close here and if you don't mind walking and if you are not restricted in your movement, then you certainly would not require a car if you live in close to the university campus. But if you live off campus and we will cover that again, like Michael mentioned later on in one of the webinars, then you probably would want to have a car but then again some of the housing could be on the bus stop or closer to the bus stop. So again, it really depends where you would be living and whether you would be dependent on this bus system or whether you want to be more independent and take your own car.

**Michael:** All right wonderful. Okay our next question, our next questioner is currently living in a country where they are not a citizen, they’re just a resident and they want to know if they can apply for a visa in the country where they're a resident but not a citizen. The answer is yes, you are allowed to do this, but there can be some small risks. When you apply for a visa in a country where you’re not a citizen, the official has the right to say that you’re not a citizen and they’re just not going to help you. It’s very rare that that happens but it is possible. The safest thing is to apply in your home country, but sometimes it's just easier to apply in another country even though you’re not a citizen there.

**Michael:** Okay, our next question is kind of travel related, so I’m going to give this to Andrea: What happens if I lose one of my documents right when I get to the airport? should I not get on the plane?

**Andrea:** hmm. Thank you that's a very good question. And it really depends on which document you're losing too because if you, if it's a passport then I am not sure you know, whether airlines will be
accepting you or letting you to board the plane. If it's your I-20 or DS-2019, international students can go through and you know travel without those documents except that at the first airport in the United States, that may create a little bit of different situation meaning that the immigration officers may be taking you aside to cross-check your documentation. It's called a secondary inspection because they would want to make sure that without the document, you're still allowed to be admitted to United States temporarily. It requires a little bit of paperwork, but it is possible for you to get to United States. Other than that, I am not sure what other documentation, except for maybe visa. There is no way that you would be accepted or admitted to United States without a valid visa, so if that is something that is missing in your passport when you, and if you lose your passport then unfortunately that may not work that you would be able to travel. You would have to postpone your travel entirely. So what I was saying earlier about the passport that you know, you might be accepted to board, but then it depends... if you have a backup there's passport, or if you have a copy. I don't know, but if you don't have a visa then there's no way you can... you can be admitted to your United States.

Michael: All right, so now we've got a question about Coronavirus.

And let me just take a minute to say that the University of Iowa is closely monitoring the situation with COVID-19 in the United States. As the situation changes the University of Iowa will send an email with updates to all admitted students. So if there is anything that changes with the situation; if it is not safe for any reason, we will email you and let you know. Additionally, we will let all students know about any kind of travel restrictions that they may or may not encounter when they're coming to the United States. If you are friends with anybody who's a student on campus, they have been getting many email updates both from the broad University of Iowa and from international student and scholar services. We're following the situation very closely and we're keeping everyone informed of what's going on.

Michael: All right, so we've got another question here. Or sorry we've got a question here about housing options: Are first year undergraduate students required to stay in the dorms?

And the answer is No. They are not. Undergraduate students can either live on campus in the dormitories, or off campus. And we'll have two separate webinars about that topic. I don't quite remember the dates but do you remember them Andrea?

Andrea: On the on campus housing?

Michael: Yes.

Andrea: I believe that that is scheduled for April 3rd.

Michael: So April 3rd will be the webinar for on-campus housing. And I remember May 8th is the date for off-campus housing. So check in on those webinars for more information.

Michael: Okay, here's a travel one for Andrea. Does Uber work to get from the Cedar Rapids airport to campus.

Andrea: Yes, it should. As long as you have the app, uber app and you're able to access the app and plug in the travel request from Eastern Iowa Airport to Iowa City, you should be able to do that. And they will give you you know, the information how much it costs and when you need to be picked up. Yes, Uber Uber, I believe is functional here in the area.
Michael: Fantastic. The next question is: What is the deadline to transfer a SEVIS record for graduate students?

There's no official deadline to transfer a SEVIS record, but you want your record to be transferred before orientation begins. Normally, you can transfer your record as soon as your current school finishes classes.

Michael: All right. I think we have time for one more travel question here, maybe a couple so I've got this one for Andrea: How many days before orientation should we be in Iowa?

Andrea: Okay. As Michael mentioned earlier and I will repeat it again. The federal regulations allow students, new students with the initial I-20 or DS-2019 documents to arrive to the United States within 30 days of the program start date. The program start date is going to be showing on your I-20 and typically it's the first day of orientation. So like we were saying, and it's on the one of the slides earlier, there are the earliest days of arrival for graduate students would be July 10th and for undergraduate students would be July 16th.

Michael: All right so we have a follow up question to the earlier question about coronavirus situations and travel restrictions. The question is: If the US bans admission from a particular country, would I lose, from my country, would I lose my admission?

The answer is no. Everything that's happened so far; every restriction that's been in place, still will allow people to enter the US if they take the right precautions. So if you were coming to the United States, as an example, from a country that can't fly directly to the US, you are still able to travel to a different country first, spend 14 days there, and then you can fly to the US. So if you're concerned, if you're not sure what the situation is, make sure you email us at isss-uiowa.edu. Sorry. I'm sorry I said that wrong, it's isss-orientation@uiowa.edu. That is the address that we use for all orientation related questions. And if you email us there and I'm putting that email in the chat right now. If you email us there, we will be able to answer any specific questions about your country and what preparations you might need to make.

Michael: All right it looks like that is the last of the questions we have, and so I am going to send a link to a survey that we would love for you to fill out to give us information about whether this webinar was helpful, what other things we could include in the future, and I'll let Andrea take it over from here as I get that typed up.

Andrea: Thank you Michael. Yes, and that was our next reminder is when we send you the link through the chat function. Please take a moment to send us some feedback from today's webinar. We really appreciate that because it helps us to understand whether this is helpful to you and to what extent. We also have a link on our website, on the webinar website and it's called the feedback on under item 8 on the website. So please use that if you do not have a chance to respond to the survey right now, we will again appreciate your feedback.

Andrea: Another reminder would be about the contact information and the way you can follow up with us, even after the webinar. If you have any questions about the pre-arrival checklist or any other issues before arrival, again, we are repeating the email address for our orientation team, which is isss-orientation@uiowa.edu. And as Michael mentioned earlier, we do have a very good resource for new international students and that is our ISSS website for new students. And the link is showing again on
the slide. It's international.uiowa.edu/new-students. Again, it's a very, very good resource that could help you get some additional information, that was not even mentioned today or between the webinars.

**Andrea:** And then finally this is the Fall webinar schedule. And we would like to invite you to review the schedule and make sure that you register for any future webinars that are coming up in the next few weeks or months. And so we would like you to make sure that you take advantage of the information that we will be providing you before your arrival. That's the purpose of these webinars to get you prepared and provide some expectations for you as new students at the University.

**Andrea:** Thank you for attending today. Thank you for your feedback through the survey and we look forward to having you join us at the next webinar. Have a good day, bye-bye.

**Michael:** Bye.