Fall 2020 Pre-arrival Webinar Series:
On-Campus Housing Assignments and Move-in Tips – Undergraduate Students

Andrea: Hello everyone and welcome to our next in the pre-arrival webinar series for international students starting their new semester at the University of Iowa in the Fall 2020 semester. Welcome. Today's topic is On-campus housing Assignments and Move-in Tips. This is primarily for undergraduate students. The next slide will be a greeting from one of our administrators at the University Housing and Dining, and the Assistant Vice President for Student Life and Senior Director, and his name is Von Stange.

Von: Hello, my name is Von Stange. I am the Assistant Vice President for Student Life, and the Senior Director of University Housing and Dining. We look forward to seeing you on campus, but in the meantime, please watch this webinar on Housing and Dining Services.

Andrea: Thank you very much for that welcome and we will now talk a little bit more about the webinar. So during the webinar if you encounter any technical difficulties, please let us know in the Chat Function. And if you have any questions related to today's topic, please use the Q & A function to post your questions. We will do our best to answer them live at the end of the webinar as time permits.

Andrea: So if you have not received your I-20 or DS-2019 immigration document yet, please know that you must pay eShipGlobal shipping fee in order to receive this document. Once you have received either I-20 or DS-2019, only then you can apply for your visa at the local US embassy or consulate. This information is also contained in the pre-arrival checklist in iHawk and the web address for iHawk is ihawk.uiowa.edu. And if you have any other questions regarding your immigration document, please feel free to contact our orientation team at the email address provided on the slide which is isss-orientation@uiowa.edu

Andrea: Let's review some important dates. Today is May 1st and this is a deadline for undergraduate admission acceptance. Next date, important date, would be July 17th, which is the earliest day for your arrival to the University of Iowa. August 16th is the early move-in date to residence halls. And then mandatory orientation will take place during the week of August 17th through 21st, and this is primarily for international undergraduates students. And then on August 24th starts our Fall 2020 semester.

Andrea: Let's do some presenter introductions.

Virginia: Alright, good afternoon everyone. My name is Virginia Ibrahim Olin, I’m the Director of Housing Administration for University Housing and Dining and my pronouns are reference she, her, and hers. Welcome to the University of Iowa.

Kendal: Hello everyone, my name is Kendal Arthur. I'm a residence hall coordinator with University Housing and Dining and my pronouns of reference are he, him, and his. Welcome.
Breann: Hi everyone, my name is Breann Fredrickson and I am a contracts and assignments specialists within the University Housing and Dining. My pronouns are reference she, her, hers. We're happy to have you here.

Andrea: And my name is Andrea Siebenmann, and I'm one of the ISSS advisors and also a webinar coordinator. And my pronouns of reference are she, her, and hers.

Andrea: Let's quickly review today's goals. We will provide an overview of University Housing and Dining as well as remind you of the upcoming housing deadlines. Also, we will help you prepare for our online room selection and we'll introduce you to resources in the residence halls. And finally, we will discuss arrival dates and moving tips, and answer some frequently asked questions. At the end of the webinar, we will answer questions live and we will make sure to set some time to do that. We will go into our presentation now.

Virginia: So welcome to University Housing and Dining. Our residence halls can host more than 6,000 students. We have 158 resident assistants that live and work in our buildings. There are 12 different living learning communities in the 10 halls and 15 dining-retail dining locations. We have 3 marketplaces and 1 very delicious food truck. We are so happy to have you and hope you enjoy exploring all the different opportunities that are available on campus. So, one thing that we want you to think about today is why should you live on campus? And there are a few great reasons.

Virginia: One is the location. You can't get any closer to your classes, the convenience of being able to walk or hop on a bus depending on where you live across campus and where your classes or your internships may be is fantastic. The second great reason to live in the residence halls is that there's the opportunity to find your niche. You could connect with students like yourself from all over the globe, the US, and Iowa by living in the residence halls. Many people that live with us will have a roommate, and so there's the opportunity to develop relationships with people. As you are exploring Iowa and getting used to campus, we have some great support networks that are available for you through our staff in the residence halls and Kendall's going to talk to you about that in a minute. But then lastly, the safety features that we offer by living on campus are really some of the more cutting-edge that are available here. I want to remind you although in general, Iowa is a very safe place for people to live, but our residence halls option - pardon me. Our residence halls offer some additional security that you may not be able to find if you are living in a private apartment such as key card access and emergency staffing 24 hours a day in the event of a crisis. We also have maintenance staff that are on call all of the time. So, let's tell you a little bit more about the housing and dining resources.

Kendal: Hello everyone, as Virginia said, we have tons of resources here within Housing and Dining to assist you as well as many staff members who are here to support you. I'll give you some details right now of who some of those individuals are. First off, we have resident assistants, and these are the student-staff members you probably meet the first when you get here. A resident assistant is a member of each residence hall floor. RAs are student staff members who are carefully selected and trained. Their job is to assist their residents in adjusting to the halls and to the University of Iowa. They also throw many events for residents and so they are very good resource to have in helping you make friends and helping you get connected. We also have hall coordinators, like myself, who are professionals who live in the building to support students success and engagement. We have support staff for example office administrators, desk staff, custodians and maintenance staff who are also available for questions and to
provide directions. Lastly, one thing that's very unique to Iowa, our embedded counselors, these are very confidential resources to all of our resident hall students.

Kendal: Now let's take a look at our housing timeline, just so that you could know what's happening and what next you need to do. And today's May 1st, and so as always on the deadline to participate in roommate matching and to request LLC is today and so its preferred that you are putting that request on right away. Also today is the is the LLC deadline in case you're interested in a living learning community. In the next two weeks that's the 15th, are ADA accommodations. That's the request priority deadline for those as well as for mutual roommate requests. In a bit, we would be providing you a little more information on what those are and what those processes look like. In June, that's next month, once you've completed the application, you will be allowed to select your rooms online. And after June come August 16th, that's where we have early move-in and regular move-in, that's August 18th to August 20th would be during that period as well as the start of On-Iowa.

Virginia: So there are a few steps that you would need to take in order to live with University Housing and I'll provide you with a broad overview of that in this next series of slides. First and foremost, you'll need to apply online and then you have the opportunity to both explore and personalize your housing options. Over the summer we give you the chance to select your room and meal plan, connect with the community, and then before you know it, it's time to move in and check in for On-Iowa. So first and foremost, we would like you to apply today. As it was mentioned, it is May 1st and so the ways in which you can submit your application. If we move to the next slide, please.

Virginia: You can access the application through MyUI. We will ask you to verify and your personal and emergency contact information, agree to the contract terms and conditions, if you happen to be under 18 you will need a parent's permission, you will pay the $75 non-refundable application fee, and then hit submit to reserve your place in line for online room selection. In order to participate in room selection, you need to apply by today, but if you happen to apply after May 1st, please know that we will still have housing available, you just will not have the opportunity to request a roommate or select a room online.

Virginia: So I'd like to share a little bit more about roommate requests. As I mentioned, you have to apply by today and then you have two weeks to continue to search online for roommates. You must submit your roommate request by May 15th. And if you are considering joining a living learning community, which we'll talk about in a bit, then each roommate must apply for that living learning community. When it's time for room selection, the first in your roommate pair will select on behalf of the two of you, and if you're an individual who maybe interested in gender inclusive housing, that is an option available to everyone in all of our buildings.

Virginia: So let's talk a little bit more about what is a living learning community. That's where students live on the same floor and happen to take a course in common. There is a connection to an academic department because they all have a faculty member or a staff member that is supporting that living learning community through mentorship, through that course in common, and through events just for living learning community members. The timeline to participate in a living learning community is that you must submit your application by May 1st. We will turn around and let you know, what's going on on May 8th. And then May 15th, the roommate requests will be due. If you are interested in learning more about all of our different living learning communities, we encourage you to check out this great video that's on our website and available via YouTube.
Virginia: So if you happen to be a student with a disability or who may have a medical - long-term medical situation, we encourage you to let us know if you have a need for a housing related accommodation. We will work one-on-one with you to provide that housing accommodation or a dietary accommodation to support a unique diet, a food allergy, or a medical condition. To apply for one of our accommodations, you can make your initial request as you're applying for housing, and then we email all the paperwork to you. Our priority deadline for fall disability accommodations is May 15th, 2020. If you happen to have a diagnosis later on in the summer, we will work to support you as best that we are able, it's just easiest if we know as early as possible. We also want you to be aware that if you're a student who may have a disability and is requesting accommodations for the classroom, you'll work with Student Disability Services. University Housing and Dining and Student Disability Services have separate accommodation request processes. So just a note for you to know that.

Virginia: After you have submitted your application, then in June we will have you select your own room. Your room selection time will be based on the order in which you're housing application was received and you'll receive information from our office in the late May about how to pick your room. If you choose to join a living learning community, you will pick a room within that living learning community. And if you happen to be an honor student, you will automatically have the option to select into Daum Hall as space allows. It's important to be aware that only about half of all honors students actually live in Daum Hall. They live - honor students live and participate in the honors program in every single residence hall across campus. Again, as I mentioned, if you're requesting a roommate, the first roommate will pick the room on behalf of the peer review.

Virginia: After you have selected your room, we will ask you about renters insurance. And it is important for you to explore now if you have coverage. The University of Iowa does not provide insurance for student belongings. In the event of a flood, or a fire, if your - if the university building is damaged or our furniture is damaged, we are able to replace that through our insurance. However, if your student belongings, such as your clothing or your computer are damaged, we do not offer coverage for that. We have a partnership with a company called GradGuard, and they offer college student insurance for belongings at a rate of approximately $14 per month. We encourage you to explore what insurance coverage you may have when you come to the University of Iowa, and just make sure that you have that available to you. It is not required that you have insurance, but we again want to make sure that you have explored the opportunity. Then after you have picked your room and learned a little bit more about renter's insurance, you'll have the option to select a meal plan.

Virginia: Next slide please. The meal plan options available to our students in the residence halls are the Gold, the Black, and the Hawkeye plan. All students that live in the residence halls must have a Black or a Gold meal plan, unless they happen to have a room with a university supplied kitchen. Students that have a room with a university supplied kitchen are able to also select the Hawkeye plan. The way that our Meal plans work is that you are offered a number of meals swipes, either unlimited swipes or 145 swipes depending on which one you select, and then everyone has flex swipes, and those can be used in either a marketplace or one of the retail dining locations. The Gold and the Black plans also come with eight guest meals, so you could have a family member or a friend come and join you for a meal. You do
have the opportunity to change your meal plan in the summer and once school has started, if you arrive on campus and discover that the meal plan that you initially selected does not work quite well for you.

**Virginia:** Now if you’re a student who may have a food allergy or a special dietary condition, we do offer dining accommodations. You can work with Laura Croteau, she’s our nutrition specialist. She’s a registered dietitian and she has individual appointments with students to review their dietary needs and can walk through how you can navigate your medical situation within the dining hall. If you have a need for it, we do offer individual meal preparation available for students to help limit cross-contamination. We find that our students with food allergies use this service quite... quite a lot. We also have labeling throughout all of our marketplaces and you see all the diagrams below in the different colors that will tell you what ingredients are contained in each of the meals that have been prepared. Thank you.

**Virginia:** So in something for you to think about related to the estimated costs are if you were in a double occupancy room, so that would be you and a roommate living together in one of our traditional residence halls with the Black meal plan and then with Hawkeye dollars, which each student is allocated $100 per semester into an account that they can use in order to pay for laundry or for incidentals in one of the convenient stores, they could also buy something from the vending machine if they needed to. The total cost for you would be $10,669. If you lived in Mayflower Hall in a double room, your cost would be $11,521 and that's because Mayflower Hall has kitchens and bathrooms that are for each student, or group of students, sorry roommates, and then in Peterson and Catlett Hall, which is our newest buildings the rate for those is $11,724 dollars.

**Kendal:** Now, I'm going to give some more information on move-in as well as On-Iowa all right. So please keep on checking your email throughout the summer as more details will be shared with you. If you have no updates in your inbox, check your junk folder or your spam folder as sometimes important emails go there. If not, you are free to reach out to us, at the very end of the presentation we will give you our information. What I need you to remember, early arrival, that's certainly August 16th, is that the days the earliest you can get here, please make sure if you’re interested in coming on that day that you complete the application online, and that always an early moving fee will apply. At check in there's no need for you to pay that fee, that still will be added directly to your university bill. You will also able to move in on Tuesdays August 18th, Wednesday August 19th, or Thursday August 20th. Alright. Students as always, will be assigned a move-in date and time during the 18th to the 20th. Once you get here, it is very important that you participate in On-Iowa because you’ll be able to make many friends, you get to see the campus and participate in many great Hawkeye traditions.

**Kendal:** Now for some frequently asked in questions.

**Kendal:** Each room comes furnished with a extra long bed, dresser, desk, chair, mirror, window coverage, and all utilities paid. Alright, and so on that being said, there's no need to bring any of these. As always any other things you think is helpful for you to bring, please check out that packing list at this link, that way you can know what exactly will be the most helpful to buy. There's no need to bring these items from your country simply because we have many stores in the area where you could buy those items to bring back to your residence hall.

**Virginia:** So many students will often ask: Do I have to pick a roommate? And the answer is no. Only about 30% of Hawkeyes request a roommate. If you do not select a roommate, you will have the option
to explore potential roommates during online room selection. The answers to a particular student's lifestyle questionnaire will show up when you are going to select a room. As a reminder to request a roommate, you must apply for housing by May 1st (today), and all roommate requests are due May 15th, 2020. When you and your roommate go to pick a room, pardon me, if you do not have a roommate and you are the first person who picks a room, your new potential roommate would be the one to select you. So, if you have more questions about roommates, we're happy to answer those just pop them into the Q&A function.

**Virginia:** The other question that I wanted to help you all understand though is, “How do I search for a roommate in a living learning community?” And the first thing you have to do is log into your application, and then select the new Hawkeye roommate finder. You can search for a roommate by both living learning community and lifestyle preferences, and so what you'll do is you'll choose the LLC from the drop-down menu and then you'll look through suggested roommates. You do not have to wait until May 8th to search for roommates who are also interested in joining a living learning community, you can start to search now and connect for others, and then hopefully the two of you will have the opportunity to join that particular living learning community, and then request each other as roommates.

**Virginia:** So one of the other questions that we frequently receive is, “How do I live in a single occupancy, triple occupancy, or quad occupancy room?” I'm here to share with you that most of our Hawkeyes live in a double room, so it's you and one other student. And that is because our availability of single and triple rooms is quite limited. We encourage you to make plans to live in a double room, and approach room selection that if you happen to find a single room or happen to find a triple room, then it's a total bonus. But please again plan for a double room. Building and room type preferences are not collected when you apply for housing, and we do that because most students will select their own room in real time. The availability of a particular building or a particular room type will be based on the people who pick a room before you, and what they select. And it just as much as you will impact the people who select a room after you. As a result, we recommend great flexibility and encourage you to have seven to ten buildings in mind during your online room selection period.

**Kendal:** We know sometimes that before Iowa, it’s possible that you never lived with a roommate and so here are some tips for living with one. All right. Get to know your roommate; their name, where they’re from, the interest etc., just so that you could get - you could really understand where they’re coming from. Take the roommate agreement seriously. That's something that you already will approach a you and your roommate or roommates to do, and so be on the lookout for that. Always assume goodwill. Have open direct communication because that’s very important. Remember that all relationships take time, and roommate.. room changes should be considered as the last resort and are always based on availability. As always, utilize your resident assistant for support and mediation. When you get here, your RA will introduce themselves to you and they will give you information on how to contact them if you need anything from them.

**Kendal:** Are all buildings co-ed? Yes, all of our residence halls are open to students of any gender. However, we do have some buildings that are have single gender floors or wings and these are Burge, Currier, Hillcrest, Rienow. Some of our buildings have mixed gender floors and these are Catlett, Daum, Mayflower, Petersen, Stanley, and Slater.
**Kendal:** Now you might be wondering what our bathrooms look like. We have a variety of bathroom types that also depends on the hall you live in. All right, the first type is the community style bathroom. In that bathroom setup, we have a lock access single gender bathroom that's shared by 12 to 15 people. In there, when you walk in, you'll find a row of toilets, a row of sinks, a row of showers, and that style is very a popular or common in Burge, Currier, Hillcrest, and Rienow. Next, we have a single user or pod-style bathrooms. Indoors, we have lock access, which can be used by anyone of any gender. They are typically shared by 12 to 15 people, where one person uses each at a time. In there, you have one sink, one shower, and one toilet and that pod-style bathroom setup is..., it's available in Catlett, Daum, Petersen, Stanley, and Slater. Next, we have the suite-style of bathroom setup, which only found in Mayflower Hall. That bathroom is typically shared between two and four residents or students. In there you have two things: one shower and one toilet.

**Virginia:** So sometimes you'll wonder: Are meal plan to required? And yes, they are. Meal plans are required of all new students living on campus. If you are supplied - assigned to a room with the university supplied kitchen, you may select the Hawkeye, Black, or Gold meal plan.

**Virginia:** Know that sometimes you'll wonder: Can I change my meal plan? And the answer is absolutely. We allow meal plan changes during the first two weeks of the semester, and a little tip to decide between should I have the Gold plan or the Black plan? is that if you typically eat breakfast, three, four, five meals a day, then the Gold or unlimited plan may be the best value for you. If you were a person who eats fewer meals then the Black plan would be best for you.

**Kendal:** Now for our flex swipe meal. That’s a very popular option, but it's also something not many students know about. So in general, a flex meal is a meal on the go. All right? We understand that sometimes of you might not have the time to sit in the dining hall to have a meal, and so a flex meal will allow you to take food back to your room or back to your classroom, for example, all right? If you do decide to use a flex swipe, that would allow you to choose one entry, two sides, and one drink at any of our convenience stores on campus. Alright. It also allows for one meal from Burge, Catlett, or the Hillcrest marketplaces. Typically, a different thing will also apply in there, however each of our convenience stores have signs on what counts as a flex meal and what doesn’t. And so make sure you use those signs so you know that you're getting the most for your money. Selections vary by location, but generally you will find that a flex swipes include sandwiches, chips, fresh fruit, and a beverage. Generally, students are limited to five flex swipes per day.

**Virginia:** So can students stay over break? Yes, absolutely. You are welcome to stay over the break periods. All students must register to remain in the halls. Thanksgiving and Spring Break, there is no additional charge for remaining in your room. However winter break, there is a $300 charge that covers the entire month between December and January. The winter break application will open in November.

**Virginia:** And many students often want to know how long is my housing contract? And so when you sign a contract with University Housing and Dining, it is for the full academic year. Two semesters, both Fall and Spring. You do have the option to leave your belongings in your room over the break periods, but contract releases are not granted if you wanted to go move off campus into an apartment.
**Virginia:** Now one thing people will often ask is can I spoke in my room? And the answer is: no. The University of Iowa is a tobacco-free environment. Smoking, vaping, and the use of tobacco products is not permitted in the residence halls or on campus.

**Virginia:** Students will often ask us you know where can I pick up my mail? And I’m gonna let Kendall tell you a little bit about what our desk operations are in the dining hall - in the residence halls.

**Kendal:** Yes, absolutely. Yes, as student you can pick up your mail. Every desk has hall - every building has a hall desk, I’m sorry, that both offers mail and package pickup. You can have item shipped to you one week prior to your arrival on campus. Mail addresses will be provided with your future housing contract in June. If you – while here you get mail, normally our front desk will send you an email telling you that the package is here for you. Then you head down to the desk if your ID and you will be able to pick up your your package, so it's as simple as that.

**Virginia:** So sometimes folks will ask, “Do I have to move in on the 16th of August?” As an international student, you may move in on Saturday August 15th or on Sunday August 16th for an additional fee of $35 per night that is charged to anyone who moves in early. You do have the option if you wanted, to to stay with family at a hotel, but we also want to remind you that you should be in Iowa City for orientation starting on August 17th. You certainly don’t want to miss that good time.

**Q&A**

**Virginia:** We want to move you all along and remind you that we have the Q&A function down below and I'm going to answer some questions and then have my colleagues also step in to provide their perspective. It may be helpful for you to know that individual concerns can be emailed to housing@uiowa.edu. Please remember to include your name and your 8-digit university ID number.

**Virginia:** It looks like you all have been asking some great questions that we have some way which we've already answered, but we’re happy to review and then others that are new ones. So, I would like to first address the big questions related to COVID-19. We know that that is on everyone's mind across the world and the University of Iowa is taking the response very seriously. We are thoughtfully considering how we will offer classes, we are still optimistically planning for opening in the Fall, and we will have housing available for students to live on campus. We are utilizing the latest research from our very own University of Iowa Hospitals and from our College of Public Health in determining what are going to be the best practices for students that live in the residence halls. I want you to have be assured that every action that we are taking is to keep you and our student - other students and our staff as safe as possible as we house and feed everyone on campus.

**Virginia:** There was a question about how we will be managing that, and so we are updating our cleaning protocols, we are looking at the different ways in which we assign people to rooms, and one of the questions was you know, “should I live in a suite style housing or just with one roommate?” And we are continuing to evolve our practices as knowledge of COVID-19 becomes more readily available. So, please know that if we, that if you choose to live in the residence halls on campus, we will do everything
that we can to keep you as safe as possible as long as everyone follows the expectations, we should all have a great Fall semester. What I'd like to do now is to invite my colleague Breann to answer some of the other questions that you all have asked online.

Breann: Hi everybody, so it looks like we have some questions about moving in. Our residence halls will open for international students on August 15th at 12 o'clock noon. So anybody who is coming on that date or after, can move in. If you have family and you're deciding to stay in a hotel for a couple of days before checking in that's totally fine. Our residence halls, like I said will open at 12 o'clock on noon on August 15th, and you can move in any time after that. As you mentioned previously, if you do arrive on the 15th or 16th, there is that $35 a day excuse me, $35 a day early arrival fee that will be billed to your U-Bill the following month, so you won’t have to pay for that when you arrive.

Breann: Lets' see here. So meal plans, when you select your room during your online room selection time slot after you select your room, you will also select your meal plan, you know, we talked a little bit earlier about which meal plan will be best for you. We recommend that if you are typically someone that eats three meals a day or maybe you're really snacky and like to get lots of small meals a day, we would recommend doing the Gold plan as that is unlimited. If you're maybe don't eat as much and you are usually just a two meal a person eater, I would recommend doing the Black plan as most of our students on campus do have that Black - Black meal plan.

Breann: Let's see here. We have roughly - depending on how many, depending on how big your hall is, will depend on how many residents you have on the floor with you. It can range from roughly probably like 30 to 50 students and again that is to depends on how big your hall is. Kendal, do you want to talk a little bit about the resident assistant and living in Daum for honors?

Kendal: Yes definitely. Typically to live in Daum, it's required that you are accepted to the university honors program and so generally your roommate will have to be an honors student as well, all right? And so on that will be the, that's like the main and situation here, however we do it we do also share with students that even if it's your unable to live in Daum as a honors student, that's fine of we have honors students living in all of our residence halls.

Breann: Looks like we have a question about which furniture is included in the residence hall rooms. So every student is provided a bed with the includes the mattress, we also have a desk, and a set of drawers that are available to all students, along with a chair for their desk. If you are asking if you’re wanting to get lemons and other items for your room, you would be able to order those online. You'd be able to shop for them once you arrive on campus as well. You can have items sent to the hall approximately one week before arrival, which will help your transition getting into the hall easier. Be a little easier for you.

Breann: I'm not sure what residents... how to select what should I consider when selecting my residence hall? All of our halls have great opportunities for our students, and I think when you're considering your halls, if you are someone that cooks a lot, I would really try to get a space in Mayflower where you're more comfortable in the kitchen, there are students who really like being out there. Otherwise if you're wanting a smaller hall or bigger hall that always depends on your personal preferences as they all do offer great things. I would recommend to taking a look at our housing website housing.uiowa.edu and just looking through those pages to get a feel of the buildings and see what you would like. As we
mentioned earlier in the presentation, when you select your rooms online, it is a good idea to have a plan of roughly at least seven buildings in line to pick from. So if when you log in, if your first one isn't available, you can move to your second one and so on and so forth, just so you have those options available and you're kind of avail – you're familiar with what is available in the halls and what you're looking for.

Breann: I've already submitted my housing application can I still edit my options? I'm including a roommate and LLC, absolutely. Our housing application is due today, however, you are able to still be in that application and adjust things as you need to through May 15th, are the roommate deadline is the is May 15th, so you'll need to have that set up if you choose to have a roommate set. It's certainly not something that you have to have. A lot of students go into roommates or room selection without a confirmed roommate and that's totally okay. If that is what you do, you would be able to view your roommate information in your housing portal after they have selected a room as well and you're paired together. In our housing portal you would also be able to message each other to get to know each other before you arrive on campus.

Kendal: Yes, so we have a question here. When would I find out who my resident assistant is? So there are many ways in which you can find out. Generally, a resident assistance helps check the residents in, and so at check-in, they will introduce themselves to you. If they don't introduce themselves at that point, throughout the semester, they'll be coming from room to room or apartment to apartment letting you know, who they are, a little about themselves, and where they can be found. Lastly, RAs, they have events all the time and meetings for their residents and so, once you go to one of those on your floor or in your wing, that will be another good way to meet your RA and to find out more about them.

Breann: In terms of moving out during academic breaks, you can move some of your items if you want to take those home with you, but you are not required to move all of your belongings out. While our contract is for the whole year, the room is yours for the whole year. So we have many students that will just take a few belongings home with them over Fall Break or Spring Break, and maybe take more home with them over Winter Break and that's fine. But you would never need to completely vacate the room of your belongings until you check out at the end of the year.

Breann: If your relationship with your roommate isn't going as great as you would like it to, we have the in-house staff which Kendal talked about a little bit earlier, where the RAs - so your resident assistant would be able to help mediate some conversations and talk about roommate preferences and maybe do a roommate agreement. If things continue to go downhill, you would be able to meet with the hall coordinator to talk about some other options, and as a last resort we would be able to potentially offer a room change and that varies on the spaces available in the halls at the time.

Breann: We mentioned a little earlier that when arriving on campus, you can order sheets and other items to send to the residence halls. You will be provided your hall address within your housing contract and that will provide the shipping address, so you can begin having items shipped again, a week before your arrival on campus. When you arrive on campus to check into your hall, you will go to your front desk of your building and let them know that you're here to check-in. If you have your student ID, which many of you won't, you can present either your student ID or a passport - something that has your name on it, so they know that it is you. They'll issue you your room key, have you fill out the confidential card
which just has information on how we can get a hold of you if we need to, and then you’ll be able to continue your move-in.

**Breann:** If I move into a hall in August but then friend comes in late in September to live off campus, what options do I have with the contract I signed? It’s a really good question, our contract is for the entire year - for the entire academic year, so it’d be August through May. While your contract is legally binding at that point, we would be able to talk through some options in terms of buying out of your contract. There is a significant financial fee that goes along with this, but that is something that we would be able to work with you on in our office. We have some forms available online as well, but we would… we would like to start the conversation in the office and go forward with that.

**Breann:** It's like we have one final question about picking up mail in the residence halls. Mail is delivered five days a week to the - to the residence halls and our staff sorts your mails, will sort your mail and put it in your mailbox. Your room key will give you access to your mailbox that you will share with your roommate.

**Breann:** You can get your mail at any time, once it is there. If you are if you are receiving packages, again, that is Monday through Friday that they are received in the hall, you will receive an email, letting you know that you have a package at the desk. And it will provide a time that you can pick up your package. So once, once you receive that email and and you'll want to go down to the desk with your ID to claim your package after that given time.

**Virginia:** Well now what we'll do is, I just want to give you a couple of kind of gentle closing reminders. If you have additional questions, feel free to continue to post those in the Q&A and we'll answer those. As a reminder about our new student housing timeline, today May 1st is the application deadline for the ability to participate in online room selection, roommate matching, and to join a living learning community.

**Virginia:** May 15th is then the deadline by which you should put/submit your roommate requests and the the priority deadline for you to submit a request for a disability or medical accommodation related to your housing. In June, we will have you select a room online, and then August 16th is our early arrival day, so we look forward to seeing you at that time.

**Virginia:** As we move into the online room selection period, there are a few gentle tips to consider. When it’s - again is that rooms are selected on a first come, first serve basis and you may be impacted by those who submitted applications before you, just as you will impact those who applied for housing after you. We encourage you to be as flexible as possible and open to multiple options. As a reminder, all roommate relationships take time and communication to develop throughout the year. Students should be the primary person who are submitting applications and in all communication to University Housing and Dining. And then, lastly, we encourage you to live on campus for multiple years. It is not required and many students know about living on campus their first year, but they might not be aware of how to live on campus their second, third, or fourth year, and we have that process that happens first in February for students that want to live with us. Each year, more students, do choose to live in the residence halls for an additional year.
Virginia: We thank you so much for taking the time to meet with us this afternoon. If you have more or very personal questions, we ask that you pardon me, we ask that you submit them to us via email again, don't forget your name and your university ID number. And I see that we have one final question and that was: “Is there - what's the latest time for students to return to the dormitory?” And so in August, you can move in August - starting August 15th the primary day, most people will arrive early is August 16th on that Sunday. You will have to be on campus by August 17th for your international student arrival. You could move in at any point until August 22, which is that Saturday or the 23rd that Sunday. We do have classes that will begin on Monday August 24th, so we recommend that you move-in by the time that classes start. We hope that that helps answer some of your questions as we have met with you today, and again if you've got any more, feel free to let us know.

Andrea: And we have some final reminders and thank you so much to our presenters for providing so many wonderful details about the on-campus housing and dining. And before we close today’s webinar, just a quick reminder to please help us with improving our webinars by providing a short feedback through the webinar survey. I just posted that survey link in the chat function so we appreciate your feedback on how you like the webinar or if you have any comments and suggestions.

Andrea: Next, I have a couple of reminders about the contact and resources that are available to you as a new international students. If you have any questions whatsoever about pre-arrival, about the checklist, about your immigration documents, or anything else, please feel free to contact our orientation team at the iss-orientation@uiowa.edu email address. And then also, feel free to visit ISSS website for new international students where you can find lots of good additional resources. And the website is provided on the slide as international.uiowa.edu/new-students.

Andrea: And before a closing in today, just a few reminders about our remaining webinars, some of them may be more appropriate for you as undergraduate students, that would be June 12th and June 26th webinars that are specifically for your degree level. But then the other remaining webinars are also of importance because they will be discussing student employment, university billing, and health insurance, as well as off-campus housing if that would be of interest. But again, I would like to thank you for joining us today, and especially thanking our presenters, and feel free to contact them with any questions related to today's topic. And we appreciate you joining us today. Have a great day.