



Resources & Tips for International Students

Center for International Services



General Information & Resources



Technology Resources

- MySlice
 - Degree Works
 - Blackboard
 - Student Patient Portal
- [Wellness Portal](#)
- SU Events calendar + Syracuse University Mobile app
- [SU Zoom Account](#)
 - Trouble logging in? Look at instructions for SSO
- SU Email
- [Microsoft Office 365](#)
- [Google Account](#)

Offices and Services

- [Center for Disability Resources](#)
- [Center for International Services](#)
- [Department of Public Safety](#)
- [Disability Cultural Center](#)
- [Equal Opportunity, Inclusion, and Resolution Services](#)
- [Faculty Affairs](#)
- [Hendricks Chapel](#)
- [LGBT Resource Center](#)
- [Office of Community Engagement](#)
- [Office of Financial Aid](#)
- [Office of Multicultural Advancement](#)
- [Office of Multicultural Affairs](#)
- [Office of Student Assistance](#)
- [Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities](#)
- [Office of Veterans and Military Affairs](#)
- [Student Support Services](#)
- [Syracuse Abroad](#)

Some Main Resources

- Barnes Center at the Arch
(ese.syr.edu/bewell)
- Information Technology Services
(ITS) (help@syr.edu)
- Career Services
- Graduate School
- Bursar Office (bursar@syr.edu)
- Housing, Meal Plan, and [ID Card Services](#)
- [Meals and Dining](#)
- [Parking and Transit Services](#)
- Library (library.syr.edu)
- Bookstore (bookweb.syr.edu/)

Cell phones & banks

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Why do you need a US phone number?

- Easy to communicate through text and call.
- Link to your email account, Amazon, Uber, MySlice, WhatsApp, etc.
- A lower rate compared to the international carrier rate.
- Driver's license, bank account, etc.

It will be very inconvenient not to have one.



Which carrier should I select?

National: big 4

AT&T att.com/prepaid/

T-Mobile t-mobile.com/

Verizon verizon.com/plans/

Sprint www.sprint.com/

Other carriers

Mint Mobile

US Mobile

Google Fi

Metro

Cricket*

CTExcel*

Which features should I consider while selecting a carrier?

- **Within a month:** How long I can call? How many texts I can send? How many data I can use? (If you decide to use Big 4, you don't need to worry too much for the other features.)
- Signal for all over the country (If you only want to use in Syracuse area, you can consider a small carrier for a lower rate)
- International call and text
- SIM card cost/replacement fee
- Customer service
- New user discount
- Search online for more pros and cons



What plans can I select?

	Prepaid	Contract	Pay-as-you-go
Pros	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Control what you spend each month• Cancel anytime by stop paying• No Credit check	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Obtain a huge discount on cell phones• Offer family plans (usually 4 people) which are the cheapest if you use a lot of data each month• Usually offer international services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Very cheap upfront cost• Can stop any time
Cons	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Usually data cost is expensive	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Credit check required• 2-year commitment for most carriers. Inflexible to pause or cancel while not using• More expensive and hidden fees	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Usually for phones can only texts and calls (no internet)

Is there any chance I can save money?

- Family Plan (T-Mobile Simply Prepaid 4 lines for \$100, and many other choices)
- Cell Phone Plan + Apartment Internet Plan
- Consider data usage (You may stay at home or on campus where have Wi-Fi all around)
- Study your latest bill to determine if you're being billed for any unnecessary features
- Be smart to downgrade some features.
- Compare your carrier's competitor rates

Why you need a US bank account?

- Send money to friends when you need to split the bill
- Deposit / withdraw money easily
- Set up daily payment (rent, utility payment, etc.)

How to open a bank account? Which account should I open?

- Call the bank and make an appointment (call or in person)
- Bring all the documents with you (**passport, F1 visa, I-20, etc.**)
- Choose the account(s) to open
- Set up bank mobile app/online platform and activate your account



Account Type

Checking account

A bank account you can write checks from, or access several other ways, which tends to make it your go-to, daily transaction bank account.

(The money you can withdraw from the debit card)

Saving account

Where you stash funds that you aren't ready to use yet, often with the goal of accumulating more. **(If you lost your debit card, the money in the saving account will be safe.)**

You can transfer money to checking account. But there will be some extra fee or restrictions for the saving account)



Which bank is better (for SU students)?

- **Chase:** large bank, location near main campus, better service.
 - **Bank of America:** large bank, located near South Campus (or downtown), better deal for open a credit card.

 - **M&T Bank**
 - **KeyBank**
 - **NBT Bank**
- (Not so famous than the previous two, but their locations are all around main campus which you can easily get help from them.)

Which bank is better (for SU students)?

- **HSBC Bank**

- **Citi Bank**

(Large banks in the world, but no service in Syracuse area)

You can choose the bank you like or search the pros and cons for each bank then decide. Also you **always need to consider the credit card deals** if you are wanting to save money.

Social Security Number (SSN)

- You can get an SSN once you have an on-campus job.
- You need an SSN to open most credit cards.
- An SSN is important everywhere. (Apply for government relief, rent an apartment, credit cards, etc.)

Why credit card is important? How to save money from credit card?

- Build **Credit Record** for future
- Credit card provides better protection against fraudulent.
- **Save money** from credit card deals.

Bank of America Travel Rewards: Unlimited 1.5 points for \$1 spend

Discover Credit Card: Quarterly 5% cash back in selected field

Chase Freedom Student Credit Card: Unlimited 1% cash back.....

- Credit cards may have more deals which you need to explore by yourself.



Explore Syracuse!

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Where to eat

- Dosa Grill (Indian)
- Syracuse Halal Gyro (Halal)
- New Century (Vietnamese)
- Gangnam Style Korean Kitchen (Korean)
- Chuan Taste (Chinese)
- Bleu Monkey (Japanese)
- Secret Garden (Korean and Japanese)
- Royal Indian Grill (Indian)
- Dinosaur Bar-B-Que (American BBQ)
- Pastabilities (Italian Pasta)
- Texas de Brazil (Brazilian Steakhouse)
- The Cheesecake Factory (American)
- The Fish Friar (American Seafood)

Where to eat



Marshall St

- Bleu Monkey
- Varsity Pizza
- Other quick meal choices



Near Campus

- XO Taco
- Strong heart cafe
- Phoebe's Restaurant & Coffee Lounge



Downtown area

- Pastabilities
- Dinosaur BBQ
- Funk'n Waffles
- Apizza Regionale

Where to eat



Westcott St

- Gangnam Style
- Rise N Shine Diner
- Syracuse Halal Gyro
- Alto Cinco

- Use application like Grubhub and Uber Eats for delivery service.



Destiny Mall

- Texas de Brazil
- Cheesecake Factory
- PF Changs



Erie Boulevard

- Texas Roadhouse
- Storming crab
- Thai Thai
- Red Chili

Where to go shopping

- Destiny USA: 6th Largest Shopping Mall in the US
- Regional market
- Costco/Walmart/Target/Wegmans: Daily Shopping for food, drinks, etc.
- Trader Joe's
- Asian Food Market
- Han's Oriental Grocery (Korean food)

Where to travel

In Syracuse

- Green Lakes State Park
- Clark Reservation State Park
- Rosamond Gifford Zoo
- Everson Museum of Art
- Onondaga Lake Park

Around Syracuse

- Oswego
- Fair Haven
- Cazenovia
- Sodus Point
- Finger Lakes
- Skaneateles
- Ithaca
- Chittenango Falls

<https://www.iloveny.com/>

(great resource)

Where to travel

Green Lakes State Park



Skaneateles



Hotel Near Campus (For your friends & family in the future)

- Sheraton Syracuse University Hotel & Conference Center
- Hotel Skyler Syracuse, Tapestry Collection by Hilton
- Crowne Plaza Syracuse
- Marriott Syracuse Downtown
- Courtyard by Marriott Syracuse Downtown at Armory Square
- Residence Inn by Marriott Syracuse Downtown at Armory Square
- Quality Inn & Suites Downtown
- Embassy Suites by Hilton Syracuse Destiny USA
- Holiday Inn Express & Suites Dewitt

Transportation in Syracuse

- Uber/Lyft can be great (but not always the cheapest way)
- Centro Bus for free in restricted area
(<https://www.syracuse.edu/about/campus-shuttle/>)
- Regional Transportation Center for Buses (Greyhound) and Trains (Amtrak)
- Syracuse Hancock International Airport (SYR)



Graduate Student Resources

Graduate School



Writing Center / Graduate Editing Center

Writing Center (grad students and undergrads)

- One-on-one consultations, either in person or online (synchronous or asynchronous)
- Can help with interpreting assignments, developing ideas, structure and organization, conventions of academic writing

Graduate Editing Center (grads only)

- free editing and proofreading services
- submit papers in advance; turnaround time varies
- if work is for a course, must inform instructor

Make appointments online: <https://syr.mywconline.com>

Subject Librarians

Library staff can help you ...

- Understand how graduate-level research in your field is conducted
- Identify and use the library resources most relevant to your topic or project
- Offer helpful Research Guides for your discipline
- Save you sooooo much time getting started with your research

Find your Subject Librarian: <https://library.syr.edu/staff/subjects/php>

Graduate Student Organization (GSO)

<https://gradorg.syr.edu>

- Advocates for grad student needs and interests at the University
- Provides travel grants for grad students
- Sponsors Recognized Student Organizations covering a wide range of grad student interests
- Helps fund Student Legal Services, so free legal advice is available to you
- Offers regular social events (e.g., Fall Picnic) and supports the Inn Complete (grad student hangout on South Campus)

Graduate School Professional and Career Development

- One-on-one career and job-search advising by appointment (<https://syr.joinhandshake.com/login>)
- Future Professoriate Program (FPP) for aspiring faculty
- TA Program helps grad students develop as teachers
- one-on-one English Conversation Partner service
- Support for dissertation writers (summer dissertation fellowships, Dissertation Boot Camp, and more)
- Career and professional development programming throughout the year



Center for International Services



Center for International Services

- Immigration & International student requirements
 - Maintaining requirements/status
 - Immigration paperwork/processing (you and dependents)
 - Travel signatures
 - Employment (CPT and OPT)
 - Advisors on Call (11am-3pm, Monday-Friday)
- Events & Support
 - Airport pickup for new student arrival
 - Orientation & Welcome events
 - Program series & traditional events

Some of our programs



Large-scale celebrations



Communications

- [International Services website](#)
- Newsletter (sent to your SYR email biweekly)
- Follow us on social media!

Facebook	internationalSyracuse
Insta	@internationalsyracuseu
WeChat	Syracuse_University

