

Cornell CALS

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

AY20/21 FACT SHEET FOR INCOMING EXCHANGE STUDENTS



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

ABOUT CALS

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

CALS EXCHANGE CONTACT INFORMATION

Jess Hawkey

Assistant Director of Academic Exchange & International Engagement

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

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

ELIGIBILITY

Students must currently be enrolled at one of our exchange partner universities and nominated by their home

university. They must have completed at least two full-time semesters (one full year) of college/university level studies and must continue to assume this status throughout their intended duration of study at Cornell under the exchange program. Their home university area of study should closely align with CALS. Before applying, it is important that students refer to our [areas of study](#) to ensure they are an appropriate candidate for the exchange.

GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA)

Nominees must have a minimum cumulative GPA equivalent to a U.S. 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

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

Nominated students are required to submit either the Test of English as a Foreign Language [TOEFL] or the International English Language Testing System [IELTS] results, unless

- from an institution where English is the primary language of instruction; and/or
- the student's first language is English.

The following requirements must be met:

1. Test of English as a Foreign Language [TOEFL] score of at least:
600 for the paper-based test; or
250 for the computer-based test; or
100 for the Internet-based test; or
2. International English Language Testing System (IELTS) average result of at least 7; and/or
3. Any other qualifications as determined by the exchange program. *Candidates may also be subject to a skype interview.*

NOMINATIONS

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

Fall/Academic Year Nomination Deadline: March 1

Spring Nomination Deadline: September 20

APPLICATION INFORMATION

Once nominated, students will receive an email from Jess Hawkey with an application link and instructions. Students will need to prepare and provide the following documents to include in the application:

- Transcripts
- Copy or image of the first page of their passport. Passports must be valid for at least six months past a student's date of departure from the US. If a student needs to renew their passport, they should do this as soon as possible. Students may upload their current passport for purposes of application review if it needs renewed. If students do not have a passport, they may upload proof they have applied for a passport. Passport information will be needed to complete the admissions process.
- Declaration of Finances. Students must show they can support themselves while living in the US for studies. The Declaration of Finances form will be emailed to students once it is finalized. Detailed

instructions are within the application.

- Language proficiency exam results if English is not a student's first language or the medium language of instruction used at the host university (see requirements above).
- Personal statement (500 words telling us why Cornell, why it's a good fit, and how Cornell will fit into curriculum and career goals).
- Course selection (list 10 courses of interest at Cornell)

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

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

Application deadlines:

Fall semester/Academic Year: April 1

Spring semester: October 1

ORIENTATION

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

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

Orientation:

Fall Semester: Typically the Wednesday prior to the first day of instruction

Spring Semester: Typically the Wednesday prior to the first day of instruction

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Fall 2020 Semester:

Pre-enrollment Begins: July 13

Pre-enrollment Ends: July 21

Final Exam Schedule Available: August 14

Mandatory Orientation: TBD

Instruction Begins: August 27

Labor Day-no classes: September 7

Fall Break: October 10-13

Thanksgiving Break: November 25-29

Instruction Ends: December 8

Final Exams: December 12-19

Spring 2021 Semester:

Pre-enrollment Begins: Completed by CALS

Final Exam Schedule Available: TBD

Mandatory Orientation: TBD

Instruction Begins: February 9

February Break: TBD

Spring Break: TBD

Instruction Ends: TBD

Exams: TBD

The spring academic calendar will be updated closer to the semester

Students final exams may end earlier than the dates posted depending on their final exam schedule. Exam schedules can be found at <https://registrar.cornell.edu/exams>. If students are purchasing roundtrip tickets, they should plan to stay until the final examination date.

HOUSING

University Housing: In recent years, Cornell has experienced an increased demand for on-campus housing, and as a result, on-campus housing is not usually available for incoming exchange students. In the fall semester, there are usually no on-campus housing vacancies for exchange students—in rare cases, a few vacancies may become available—and in the spring semester, if any on-campus housing vacancies become available for exchange students, they will be very limited. In either case, exchange students would not be notified of any possible on-campus housing vacancies until very late, and exchange students should not apply for on-campus housing unless they are notified that there are some vacancies available. If on-campus housing becomes available, the Exchange Coordinator will contact students directly.

Some students have been able to find housing in an alternative form of on-campus housing run by students called cooperative housing, but if any vacancies are available, they will also be very limited:

<http://living.cornell.edu/live/wheretolive/co-ops/index.cfm>.

Exchange Housing Program: We know finding a place to live in an unfamiliar city can be stressful, especially when trying to do so from another country. Therefore, for convenience, we have established an exchange housing program to help our incoming exchange students with their search for housing. Collegetown Terrace (vetted and viewed by Cornell staff) has an agreement with the Office of Global Learning to assist in placing incoming exchange students in apartments located just down the hill from the main campus area. Students can reach campus by bus (free) or within 15 minutes by walking. The apartments are fully furnished, include free wi-fi, on-site fitness, and in-apartment laundry. Rent for these apartments is billed to students Cornell account and there is no 12 month lease required.

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

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

ACADEMICS

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

CALS Exchange students must take the majority (minimum of two-thirds) of credits at the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS). For the CALS exchange, this does not include courses with the prefix AEM.

Please look for courses with the following prefixes: AGSCI; AIS; ALS; ANSC; BEE; BIOG; BIOAP; BIOBM; BIOEE; BIOGD; BIOMI; BIONB; BIOPL; BIOSM; BTRY; COMM; CSS; DSOC; EAS; EDUC; ENTOM; FDSC; HORT; IARD; INFO; LA; NS; NTRES; PLBR; PLPA; SES; SNES; and TOX.

We cannot guarantee enrollment in any course. Enrollment permission is often subject to class size limitations, the consent of instructors, and demonstrated academic qualifications in the form of prerequisites.

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

We generally recommend students enroll in classes up to the 4000 level. Some 5000-6000 level classes might also be available for you depending on your academic profile. You can access the **Cornell class roster** here: <https://classes.cornell.edu/>. Make sure the appropriate term is selected on the right side of the screen.

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



GRADING SYSTEM

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

Grade Explanation:

Grades and symbols used in calculation of grade point averages. For further explanation of how grades are calculated and grading guidelines visit: <http://courses.cornell.edu/content.php?catoid=33&navoid=8463>

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

INC = Incomplete

NG = Not graded course

NGR = No grade reported

R = grade in-progress multi-semester course

ITHACA, NEW YORK



Ithaca is located in New York, a state in the northeast portion of the United States. New York has an estimated population of 19.45 million residents (in 2019), making it the fourth most populous state in the U.S.

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

A city of 30,000 permanent residents, Ithaca is located in the traditional homelands of the Guyohkohnyoh also known as the Cayuga Nation (one of the 6 Native American Nations in the Haudenosaunee, which is an alliance/confederation more commonly known as the Iroquois Confederacy). It is the county seat of Tompkins County, which has mostly rural, agricultural-based farmland. Ithaca is positioned on the shores of Cayuga Lake, one of the Finger Lakes in the central upstate region of New York.



APPROXIMATE COSTS (PER SEMESTER)

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

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

<i>Estimated fees are not assessed until August, they are subject to change</i>		
U.S. Visa Fees	\$500	Estimated – includes the SEVIS fee and the visa issuance fee
Health insurance (estimated)	\$1,500	
Housing	\$5000	Based on Exchange Housing Program. Housing prices may be lower or higher depending on housing placement (independent/campus housing)
Meal plan	\$3,561	This price is the most expensive meal plan. Depending on what a student chooses, cost could be lower
Books and class materials	\$485	Variable amount
Mandatory Student Activity Fee	\$117.00	
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$925.00	This will vary depending on lifestyle choices

USEFUL WEB LINKS

Cornell: www.cornell.edu

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

International Students and Scholars Office Cornell (visa inquiries): <http://isso.cornell.edu/>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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