WELCOME INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
2014-2015

The enclosed information will help you choose your courses, enroll online, organize your visa, reserve accommodations and understand campus services at Niagara University.

www.niagara.edu/international-admissions/oir

Starting at NU!

To view NU’s interactive map and get an in-depth look at the different buildings on campus, please visit:

http://map.niagara.edu
Niagara University is a private coeducational liberal arts university founded in 1856 by the Vincentian Fathers and Brothers. A rich Catholic heritage enriches every aspect of Niagara University, benefiting the personal and professional development of all students. There are over 80 majors to choose from, between the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Business Administration, the College of Hospitality and Tourism Management, the College of Education, and the award-winning Academic Exploration Program, as well as over 100 clubs and activities on campus. Located on Monteagle Ridge overlooking the Niagara River and Southern Ontario, Canada is just minutes away from Niagara Falls.
Let me begin by taking this opportunity to welcome you to the Niagara University community. We are very pleased that you have chosen to join Niagara University for your personal and professional development.

We are a university for all faiths, with a focus on academic excellence, nurturing human intellect through scientific inquiries, search for knowledge, and advancing human understanding through a global world-view. To honor our Vincentian heritage, Niagara seeks to inspire students to serve others, especially the most needy.

Your presence at Niagara University greatly adds value to our institution and I look forward to seeing you on campus this fall.

Sincerely,
Dr. Hung P. Le
Vice President for International Relations
Niagara University
Starting at Niagara

Fall 2014

Start Date:
Arrive Tuesday, Aug. 26, 2014 — Arrival on campus and move in residence hall — Dinner with community assistants if you arrive before 6 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 27, 2014
10:30 a.m. — Language Assessment and Academic Support — New, incoming international students must complete Niagara’s ESL assessment in writing, reading, listening and speaking skills

12:30 p.m. — Lunch

1:30-5:30 p.m. — Local tour and Maid of the Mist boat ride

Mandatory International Student Orientation:
Undergraduate and graduate students
Thursday, Aug. 28, 2014
Lower Level Gallagher Center, Multi-Purpose Room
9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
(Graduate students should also attend the Graduate Student Orientation in the afternoon)

New Student Orientation:
Friday, Aug. 29 – Monday, Sept. 1, 2014

End Date:
Fall semester ends Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2014
Spring semester ends Monday, May 11, 2015

Spring 2015

Jan. 16 Friday Advisement and late registration for new students from 1 to 4 p.m.
Jan. 19 Monday Spring semester begins
Martin Luther King celebratory events
Jan. 20 Tuesday Classes begin
March 6 Friday Mid-term ends
March 7 Saturday Spring break begins after the last class
March 16 Monday Classes resume
March 27 Friday Last day for course withdrawal without permission
April 1 Wednesday Easter recess begins after the last class
April 7 Tuesday Classes resume
May 5 Tuesday Examination week begins
May 11 Monday Spring semester ends
May 14 Thursday Graduate commencement
May 16 Saturday Undergraduate commencement
International students entering the United States for the purpose of study must have the following:

- Letter of acceptance from the university
- Form I-20, Certificate of Eligibility
- Passport
- F-1 student visa from a U.S. Embassy or Consulate

If you are entering the U.S. in a different status, and are eligible to study in that status, you are not required to obtain an I-20 document from the school. The individual is responsible to ensure they are in legal status in the U.S. and are abiding by the regulations of that status.

**Letter of Acceptance**

International students need to apply, meet all admissions criteria and be fully accepted into a full course of study at the university. Students will receive a letter of acceptance once all criteria has been met and the admissions decision has been determined.

**Form I-20, Certificate of Eligibility**

All international students are required to get a Certificate of Eligibility Form I-20 from the university in order to attend classes in the United States. The Form I-20 is a certificate of eligibility that is issued by a designated school official (DSO) at the university through the U.S. government's international student tracking system, SEVIS. Niagara University is authorized under federal law to enroll non-immigrant students. By issuing this document, Niagara University is certifying to the U.S. government that the student has met all admissions criteria, has been fully accepted into a full course of study, and has provided documentation of ability to meet all expenses during the course of study. Students must apply to the university for the Form I-20. You can find the I-20 application at [www.niagara.edu/international](http://www.niagara.edu/international).

**Passports**

International students must obtain a passport from their government for permission to travel abroad and re-enter their country. Your passport, which also serves as proof of identification, must be kept valid at all times. If your passport will expire while you are in the U.S., you must renew it at your embassy or consulate before you leave your home country. If you lose your passport, you must apply for a replacement at your embassy or consulate. Information for U.S. embassies and consulates is available at: [www.embassy.org/embassies/index.html](http://www.embassy.org/embassies/index.html).

**Visas**

All international students, except Canadian citizens (see “Canadian Students” section below), need to apply for an F-1 student visa at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate once they have applied for and received their I-20 from the university. An interview with the consulate or embassy is a required component to the visa application process. Wait times for visa appointments vary from country to country.

Please check the website of the consulate or embassy nearest you for information specific to your location.

The following links will provide you with detailed information regarding the process of applying for a F-1 student nonimmigrant visa.

- [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov)
- [www.StudyInTheStates.dhs.gov](http://www.StudyInTheStates.dhs.gov)
- [www.usembassy.gov](http://www.usembassy.gov)
- [www.educationusa.state.gov](http://www.educationusa.state.gov)

If your visa application is not approved, or is delayed, please contact the DSO who issued your I-20 immediately. Your I-20 may be either canceled or possibly deferred to the following semester, should you choose to re-apply for your visa.

**SEVIS Fee**

After receiving your I-20 document from the university, but prior to scheduling your appointment at a U.S. Consulate or Embassy, students applying for an F-1 visa are required to pay a $200 SEVIS fee directly to the U.S. government. In order to pay the fee, you will need the school code and your personal SEVIS ID, which is generated when your I-20 is issued. Information on how to pay this fee will be included with your I-20 document.
Timing is Important
Visas cannot be issued earlier than 120 days (four months) before your program start date which is listed on the Form I-20. Niagara University will not issue the Form I-20 more than six months prior to your program start date. Waiting until the last minute to apply for your I-20 and/or student visa could require you to defer to a future semester. Once the university has all of the appropriate documentation for your I-20, please allow two weeks for processing (this does not include mailing times).

Entering the United States
Students entering the U.S. on F-1 visa status cannot enter the U.S. more than 30 days before the program start date listed on the Form I-20.

After you have entered the U.S., during the first week of classes, you will need to complete the international student check-in process. Bring your I-20, passport, I-94 card and the completed International Student Check-In form (included with your I-20 document) to the Student Records and Financial Services Office in the Butler Building. At that time (and not before the official start of the semester) the DSO will sign the third page of your I-20 and register you in SEVIS (the system linked with the U.S. government for international student tracking). This indicates to the government that you have arrived at the campus and have begun classes for the semester (you must be registered for classes before the check-in process can be completed). This check-in process must be completed during the first week of every semester.

Before you leave your home country, visit www.educationusa.info/pages/students/planning.php for a pre-departure checklist.

Be sure to make SEVERAL copies of your important documents:
- I-20 Document
- Passport information page (with picture, birth date, passport number, expiration date)
- Visa

Keep one set of copies in your carry-on luggage, one set in your checked baggage and leave a set at home, preferably with someone who can send them to you if needed. Make sure to carry your original passport and I-20 with you at all times. If you are stopped by any government official (police, border patrols, immigration officers, etc.) you will be required to show them your original documents.

Registration
Full-time requirement — All international students must be registered full-time each semester. Undergraduate students must be registered for at least 12 credit hours per semester and graduate students must be registered for nine credit hours each semester. Students in their final semester are not required to be full-time if additional courses are not required by their program of study.

(Canadian nationals: See “Canadian Student” section for Canadian part-time exception)

Online course restriction — International students are only able to take three credits (one course) of online coursework towards their full-time requirement. You cannot take an online course if it is your only course in your final semester.
Employment for international students coming to the U.S. on an F-1 visa is restricted by federal regulations. F-1 visa holders are only eligible for the following types of employment:

**On-Campus Employment**
Students with F-1 visas may work on campus without special work permission. You may work up to a maximum of 20 hours while school is in session, but may work full-time during holiday breaks and summer vacation periods.

**Off-Campus Employment**
Off-campus employment is strictly prohibited, unless it is required of your degree program and special criteria must be met for curricular and/or optional practical training (CPT & OPT) — see below.

**Curricular Particular Training (CPT)**
CPT is work experience that is required of your program of study, an integral part of an established program, and is done before the completion of your studies. Typically, the work must be internship, cooperative education, or other required practicum offered by sponsoring employers through cooperative agreements with NU and the student must be registered for a credit-bearing internship course during the time of employment. This type of employment must be authorized on your I-20 document prior to starting the placement. Students who have received 365 days of full-time CPT are not eligible for optional practical training. For more information, go to www.ice.gov/sevis/students/cpt.htm.

**Optional Practical Training (OPT)**
Optional practical training allows an F-1 student visa holder who has been in the U.S. as a full-time student for one academic year or more to apply to the U.S. government for work authorization for employment that is in the student’s field of study. Pre-completion OPT (while still in school) is limited to 20 hours per week while school is in session, or full-time during breaks and summer vacation periods. Post-completion OPT (after all coursework is completed) can be part- or full-time. Students are only eligible for a total of 12 months of OPT (pre-completion and post-completion combined, not each). Typically, students utilize CPT while in school and OPT after they graduate.

Students who participate in unauthorized employment are considered out of status according to the F-1 visa regulations and subject to termination of their I-20. If the document is terminated for this reason, a student must leave the U.S. immediately.
The SEVIS program is an Internet-based system that provides schools and the U.S. government with access to accurate and current information on non-immigrant foreign students, exchange visitors and their dependents. It requires schools and exchange programs to transmit electronic information and even notifications via the Internet to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration throughout a student’s stay in the U.S. This program was authorized by the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (IIRIRA), and subsequently authorized on Oct. 25, 2001, through the Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism (USA PATRIOT) Act, and the Enhanced Border Security Act on May 14, 2002. It calls for 100 percent compliance by institutions certified to accept nonimmigrant students. For detailed information, visit the Homeland Security website.

What can students do to assure they are in compliance with SEVIS?

- Check the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration website frequently for updates.
- Check the Niagara University website. Changes in immigration or visa procedures sometimes happen quickly. Any changes will be posted at www.niagara.edu/international. Information is posted as soon as we have reliable facts. You also may be notified by email to your Niagara University email account.
- Be certain you understand the immigration regulations and how to maintain lawful status in the U.S. Refer any questions or problems immediately to the Records Office.
- Be proactive. Students should plan their course schedules carefully so they maintain full-time enrollment.
- Make travel arrangements early and anticipate delays at consulates and border crossings.
- Keep all documents up-to-date.
- Changes in degree level, extensions, and travel validations must be done in a timely manner and on SEVIS documents through the Records Office.
- Allow time for processing new forms.
- Be sure that your finances are in order. You will not be able to register for classes if you have an outstanding tuition balance.
- Be sure you have your Health Services matters in order; if you are withdrawn due to failure to comply with the Health Services requirements, your I-20 would be terminated for failing to maintain status.
- Register for classes in a timely manner. If you are not registered for fall or spring semester (summer registration is optional), you are required by regulations to depart the U.S.
- Make certain you comply with your immigration responsibilities as outlined by the SEVIS system, or you may lose your student’s status and thus not be eligible for benefits normally granted to F-1 students. In some situations, you may be subject to deportation.
- Feel free to come to us for assistance. Niagara University is a better place because you are here and we are committed to your success!
- For more information, please visit www.niagara.edu/sevis/.
All international students entering the U.S. on F-1 visa status are required to get a Certificate of Eligibility Form I-20 from the university in order to attend classes in the United States. As a Canadian citizen, you will not need to apply for an F-1 student visa at a U.S. Consulate or Embassy, but will simply apply for F-1 student visa status by presenting your I-20 at the port of entry to the U.S.

However, permanent residents of Canada, not yet citizens, will need to apply for an F-1 student visa at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate once they have applied for and received their I-20 from the university.

Special Regulations for Canadian Nationals
Citizens and permanent residents of Canada are allowed to attend classes on a part-time basis; however, they must reside in Canada and commute from Canada for classes. However, part-time status needs prior approval by the DSO. Please note that while the regulations may allow you to attend on a part-time basis, not all programs at the university are appropriate for part-time students and students should ensure that is acceptable by their program. Part-time students will need to submit new financial documents to the DSO every semester in order to receive a new I-20 for that semester. Part-time students may not be eligible for all benefits available to full-time F-1 students. Please consult the DSO before dropping to part-time status to determine eligibility and how it will affect benefits you may otherwise be eligible for.

Canadian Students and Student Visas

Citizens and permanent residents of Canada are not required to live in the U.S. while attending school. If you are maintaining a residence in Canada and do not wish to maintain a residence in the U.S., you are considered a border commuter student. If you choose to occasionally spend the night in the U.S. between classes but do not maintain an apartment or other residence in the U.S., you would still be considered a commuter student. You will be asked to indicate your residency preference on your I-20 application. Please note that Canadian commuter students are not eligible to work in the U.S., with the exception of CPT and post-completion OPT benefits.

NEXUS Card
As a Canadian commuter, you may want to consider getting a NEXUS card. This card allows you to cross the border quickly and easily each day as a “trusted traveler.” Niagara University has no involvement in the issuance of NEXUS cards, but many of our student utilize this program to assist with their daily crossings. NEXUS cards are available to U.S. and Canadian students only! You can find information about applying for the Nexus cards at www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/prog/nexus/menu-eng.html.

Bridge Crossing and Possible Delays
U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) predicts slower processing at ports of entry during sequestration. A document on their website titled “Frequently Asked Questions: Impacts to Travel and Trade during Sequestration,” states that, “CBP will operate in a way that is least disruptive to border security and the facilitation of lawful travel and trade, but CBP will face budget cuts and employee furloughs that will result in increased wait times and reduced hours of service,” particularly at major airports.
Health Services

Location: Butler Building
Open: Monday – Friday (8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.)
Extended hours until 6 p.m. on Wednesdays
Closed: During all Niagara official holidays and breaks. Only open during the summer for clerical use.
Health Services Website: www.niagara.edu/healthcenter/

Appointments may be scheduled online through the student’s myNU account. Routine appointments may be scheduled up to two weeks in advance and allergy shots up to four weeks in advance. Emergency walk-ins will be triaged by the nurse on staff and clinic protocol followed.

International students must submit either the medical online undergraduate or graduate forms one month prior to the first day of the semester.

International students are required to submit proof of health insurance effective for one year, as well as the required medical history and immunization forms. In addition to basic coverage, the student’s insurance must provide repatriation and medical evacuation expenses. No international student shall be permitted to check into the residence halls or to register for classes until all of the specified information is part of the student’s permanent record. If the insurance policy lapses, the student will be subject to suspension from NU until health coverage is renewed.

For more information on required health forms, please visit www.niagara.edu/required-student-health-forms/.

International Health Insurance
University attendance policy mandates that all international students must purchase the school sponsored U.S.-based health insurance plan. However, students may request a waiver if they carry a U.S.-based health insurance plan or OHIP (Ontario Health Insurance Plan) insurance coverage.

Please visit www.niagara.edu/international-health-insurance/ for more information on international health insurance at Niagara.

Emergency Care and After Hours
For emergencies and pharmacies that fill prescriptions, please visit www.niagara.edu/emergency-and-after-hour-care/.

Arranging Housing

Please arrive on Tuesday, Aug. 26, 2014, to move into your accommodations so you are ready to attend the language assessment on Wednesday, Aug. 27, and the mandatory International Student Orientation on Thursday, Aug. 28. If you arrive on campus before 5:30 p.m., you can join the community assistants for dinner that evening. Check with your residence director for details.

Residence Life
We have several residence halls available for students to reside on campus. For descriptions of where you can live on campus, go to www.niagara.edu/hall-descriptions/.

Summer housing is available only if you are registered for summer classes. All Niagara University students living on-campus are required to leave the campus for extended breaks such as Thanksgiving, and winter and spring breaks. If you feel you will be unable to find a suitable off-campus location in which to stay during this time, you need to send a petition to the director of residence life to stay in the residence halls during the break.

If you have any questions about housing policy, stop by the office in O’Shea Hall or call 716.286.8100.

For a list of recommended items to purchase, please visit www.niagara.edu/things-to-bring/.

To review information regarding residence hall and room size, electronic devices, laundry, mail and more, please visit www.niagara.edu/quick-fact-sheet/.

Niagara University’s Residence Life website has several more details that will give you further information on campus living at www.niagara.edu/residence-life/.

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What is the PurplePass?
The PurplePass is a single sign-on system that allows Niagara University students to use one username and password across several online systems and services. All current NU students will have a PurplePass created for them.

How are PurplePass accounts activated?
All Niagara University students will have a PurplePass automatically generated for them. You don’t have to go anywhere for it. If you are an incoming freshman, you will receive a letter in the mail with your PurplePass username and password. All other students will need to activate their PurplePass online. To activate your account, go to http://mynu.niagara.edu/purplepass.php.

Which systems work with the PurplePass?
Currently, myNU, Web Advisor and Google Apps@NU work with the PurplePass. In addition to these major systems, individual areas of the Niagara University website utilize the PurplePass. Just look for the PurplePass logo!

What is myNU?
MyNU is a system that offers personalized content to NU students, carefully selected and organized links, and many other useful services. The system’s main function is to bring all of the useful content to our students in an efficient and organized website. It also facilitates efficient communication with our students through its messaging system.

How do I login to the myNU system?
Using a web browser, go to http://mynu.niagara.edu. Here, you will be able to log in to your personal portal using your personal information.

What is my username?
Your username is s plus your seven-digit student number. For example, if your student number is 106848, your username would be s0106848.

What is my password?
If you are an incoming freshman, you will receive a letter in the mail with your PurplePass username and password. All other students will need to activate their PurplePass online. To activate your account, go to http://mynu.niagara.edu/purplepass.php.

What do I do if I forget my password?
Assuming that you’ve provided us with security question responses and a personal, non-NU email address, you can reset your PurplePass account online at http://mynu.niagara.edu/forgotpp.php. If you have not provided this information (you should, and you can right in myNU), you must visit the Information Technology Help Desk located on the first floor of the library with valid photo ID.

Is the course schedule I see on myNU correct?
The course schedule is updated nightly. If you make a change during the day, it will not reflect until the following day. The printouts from the Records Office are always the best method of retrieving your schedule, but the myNU system is accurate as of the previous day’s status.

Is it important to logout?
Yes! Always use the logout function located in the upper right area of the website. This makes sure that no one else can see your personal data. Also, you should close the web browser after you logout, especially if you are accessing myNU from the labs. This rule of thumb goes for all web-based services where your personal data is used.

How do I change my password?
On the upper-right of the myNU page, you’ll see the “Change Password” link. Just click on that and enter your new password in the form provided.

Will my username or password change from semester to semester?
No, the username and password will be the same throughout your academic life at NU. You can always change your password.

Is it important to check myNU for information?
Yes, myNU has a feature that allows different departments on campus to contact students with important information and notices. Also, emergency information such as closings and delays will be listed on your myNU home page. It is also important to check your NU email account, as this is the primary account used by NU staff and faculty to contact students.

If I have a question or problems, what can I do?
• Visit www.niagara.edu/it for online help
• Visit the IT Help Desk in the library with your student ID for assistance
• Call 716.286.7300
Choosing Courses and Enrolling Online

WebAdvisor and Registering for Classes
You can review the course offerings in WebAdvisor which is a link on the Niagara University homepage, www.niagara.edu. When in WebAdvisor, click on Students > Search Only for Classes. Next, select Term > Subjects/Academic Level and submit. There is also a link for registration instructions, however you will need to talk with your advisor and before registering. After your first semester, you will need to meet with your advisor prior to registration to assist you with course selection and have them unlock your account.

The link for the course listings is www.niagara.edu/courses.

After reviewing the course list, you may contact your dean’s office for assistance with registration.

College of Arts and Sciences
Dr. John Sauter
Assistant Dean
jps@niagara.edu
716.286.8062

College of Business Administration
Myriam Witkowski
Assistant Dean
mlw@niagara.edu
716.286.8183

College of Education
Cheryl Wilson
Assistant to the Dean
cwilson@niagara.edu
716.286.7364

College of Hospitality and Tourism Management
Kristina Bradshaw
Assistant to the Dean
bradshaw@niagara.edu
716.286.8279
International Peer Mentoring Program

When you arrive on campus we want you to feel at home, so we asked our current students to serve as peer mentors and introduce you to the campus and the surrounding community.

In short, your peer mentor will:
- Email you before you arrive to introduce themselves and answer any questions you have about attending Niagara University.
- Share stories of their experiences at Niagara and help you with any concerns about your upcoming semester.
- Help you understand how to work with professors and become familiar with classroom etiquette in the U.S.
- Demonstrate time management and study skill techniques to help you do well in your classes.
- Help you understand the resources available on campus and make you familiar with the various office locations.
- Help you adjust to American culture.
- Be your main point of contact when you arrive at Niagara and welcome you at the International Student Orientation on Thursday, Aug. 28, 2014.

Each mentor was selected based on their experiences or interest in international education and study abroad. These are students who enjoy helping others succeed.

“Like” us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/NUInternationalStudents.

We look forward to helping you make a smooth transition into your “home away from home!”
Arriving in the United States

Before you leave your home country, visit www.educationusa.info/pages/students/planning.php for a pre-departure checklist.

When making accommodations for travel, please keep in mind these important dates:

**Fall 2014**
- Tuesday, Aug. 26: Move-in day
- International Student Orientation
- Graduate Student Orientation
- Thursday, Aug. 28: Classes begin
- Wednesday, Dec. 17: Semester ends

**Winter Break**
- Thursday, Dec. 17: Thursday, Jan. 19

**Spring 2015**
- Wednesday, Jan. 8: Move back-in day
- Monday, Jan. 19: Classes begin
- Move-out day
- The halls will close on Monday, May 11, for all students who aren't graduating. If international students happen to be graduating or need to stay for graduation, the move out date is noon on Sunday, May 17.

Be sure to make SEVERAL copies of your important documents:
- I-20 you have been issued
- The pages in your passport showing your picture, birth date, passport number, expiration date
- Visa
- I-94 card

Keep one set of copies in your carry-on luggage, one set in your checked baggage and leave a set at home, preferably with someone who can send them to you if needed. Make sure to carry your original passport and I-20 with you at all times. If you are stopped by any government official (police, border patrols, immigration officers, etc.), you will be required to show them your original documents.

You will fly into Buffalo/Niagara International Airport (http://buffaloairport.com/) on the day of your arrival to America. To check Niagara's weather and flight arrival information, go to www.niagara-usa.com/ and www.buffaloairport.com/Flight.asp.

You also may fly in Toronto, Canada (www.torontopearson.com/#); however, we suggest you try and plan your travel arrangements so you arrive into Buffalo.
Once you book your flight, email us your flight information so we know when to expect you on campus. If you arrive after 10 p.m., please stop by Campus Safety and they’ll assist you to your residence.

For your convenience, Niagara works in conjunction with ACT-1 Transportation Services. Please contact Christine with ACT-1 Transportation Services at 716.908.7405 to schedule your arrival and pick up time at the airport. If you change your flight, your flight is delayed or you wish to cancel the service, please contact Christine. The cost is $40 up to two people and an additional $25 for each person after that. For more information, go to www.act1-transportation.com/index2.html. If you would like the Office of International Relations to book a pick up for you, please email them at rshiah@niagara.edu.

The Buffalo/Niagara International Airport is approximately 30 minutes from the campus.

For information and a checklist for when you arrive in the United States, please visit www.niagara.edu/arrival-to-the-u-s/.

The Niagara Region
Niagara University is located at the rugged, water-carved Niagara River Gorge. The Niagara area holds a treasure of wonderful resources to explore and experience.

For example, you can visit Niagara Falls, which is just minutes away from the campus, as well as the many parks that surround the falls and the Niagara River on both the U.S. and Canadian sides of the border. Other well-known attractions include Artpark in Lewiston, historic Old Fort Niagara, Maid of the Mist, Whirlpool Jet Boat, the Aquarium of Niagara Falls, Power Vista, and much more.

Attractions such as these draw millions of visitors annually from all over the world, and offer Niagara University students a unique opportunity to participate in global educational experiences.

Also, the campus is not far from Toronto and Buffalo. Museums, art galleries, fine restaurants, upbeat night spots, major shopping centers, outlet malls and many cultural activities are within a relatively short drive or train ride.

If you are a sports fan, you can enjoy the excitement of the Buffalo Bills, Sabres, Bandits and Bisons or the Toronto Blue Jays, Maple Leafs and Raptors.

To learn more about the Niagara region, go to www.niagara-usa.com or www.greaterniagara.com.

Weather in Western New York
Three basic types of clothing are essential for the Niagara climate. In winter, November to March, heavy jackets or overcoats, warm hats, scarves, gloves or mittens and snow boots are necessary. During chilly autumn, September to November, and spring days, March to June, raincoats or medium-weight wool coats or ski jackets are worn outdoors while sweaters are often worn indoors. A lightweight jacket is sometimes appropriate for cool nights during the spring, summer and fall. All university buildings are heated during cold weather and some are air-conditioned during the summer, June to September.

In general, student dress is casual. Many of your instructors will also dress informally. Blue jeans and t-shirts are acceptable for class, but you should also bring some formal clothing for interviews, receptions and other special occasions. It is a good idea to bring seasonal clothing with you or have it mailed to you after you arrive.
To contact the Financial Aid or Student Accounts offices, you can send an email to finaid@niagara.edu or sao@niagara.edu.

**Paying Your Fees**
Niagara has an international payment portal through North Star or peerTransfer and you can access this by going to www.niagara.edu/accounts and then you can click on the one you would like to use.

**Methods of Payment**
Please visit www.niagara.edu/payments for more information. International admissions deposits may be made through peer transfer at http://apps.niagara.edu/admissions/peer-transfer.php.

NU’s Financial Aid Office offers you and your family special financial assistance that can help make NU affordable. This assistance includes special payment options, alternative loan programs and government supported loans. NU’s Financial Aid Office has a staff of knowledgeable, helpful professionals who will be happy to work with you on an individual basis to provide you with step-by-step details about affordable options. Contact NU’s Financial Aid Office at 716.286.8686 for further information.

Information regarding international student scholarships and grants can be found at www.niagara.edu/international-scholarships-and-grants/.

The following programs are also available for your assistance to paying your tuition. Please keep in mind that payment plans cost an additional $25 per semester and you must sign up each semester, preferably in June for the fall semester and at the end of November for the spring.

**Level Tuition Plan (LTP)**
The Level Tuition Plan gives new, full-time freshmen the option of locking in one tuition rate for all four years. Under this plan, a slightly higher rate of tuition is paid the first year. However, this rate will remain stable in the years ahead if/when the cost of tuition increases.

**NU’s Monthly Payment Option**
In an effort to accommodate every family’s educational financial needs, Niagara University offers an interest-free payment plan that allows each semester’s cost to be paid in one down payment of 20 percent and four (4) monthly interest-free installments per semester. There is a nominal charge for this service. Please look for additional information from the Student Accounts Office, including the required application and all scheduled due dates for the upcoming academic year.
For assistance converting currencies, please visit: www.xe.com/currencyconverter/.

First Niagara Bank has an ATM (automated teller machine) for simple banking in the Gallagher Center, Lower Level.

Niagara also has Alliance Niagara Credit Union on campus for full- and part-time students and their family members. Occupants of the member’s household are also eligible for membership in the credit union.

**Alliance Niagara Federal Credit Union**
Clet Hall  
Phone: 716.286.8368  
Fax: 716.285.1575  
Monday – Thursday: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Friday: 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Alliance offers Niagara employees and students a safe and cost effective alternative for your banking needs including the following products and services:
- Fee-free checking with debit card
- Check cashing
- Savings accounts, Christmas club, vacation accounts
- Discount tickets to Regal Cinemas, Delta Sonic, Darien Lake and Fantasy Island
- VISA credit cards, VISA gift cards, VISA travel cards
- Home equity loans, mortgages, auto loans and more.

Here are other banks near campus available for your use:

**Bank of America**
767 Cayuga St.  
Lewiston, N.Y. 14092  
800.432.1000  
24-hour ATM  
Monday – Wednesday: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Thursday: 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
Friday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Saturday and Sunday: Closed

**Bank of America**
1263 Military Rd.  
Niagara Falls, N.Y. 14304  
800.432.1000  
24-hour ATM  
Monday – Thursday: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Friday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Saturday (Lobby): 10 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Saturday (Drive-up): Closed  
Sunday: Closed

**Key Bank**
2429 Military Rd.  
Niagara Falls, N.Y. 14304  
716.297.6500  
Monday – Wednesday: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Thursday – Friday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Key Bank**
493 Center St.  
Lewiston, N.Y. 14092  
716.278.8860  
Drive-up ATM (24 Hours)  
Monday – Thursday: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Friday: 9 a.m.-Noon  
Saturday: 9 a.m.-Noon  
Sunday: Closed

**First Niagara Bank**
7350 Niagara Falls Blvd.  
Niagara Falls, N.Y. 14304  
716.283.0749  
24-hour drive-up ATM  
Monday – Wednesday: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Thursday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Friday: 9 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Saturday: 9 a.m.-Noon  
Sunday: Closed

**First Niagara Bank**
500 Center St.  
Lewiston, N.Y. 14092  
716.754.2901  
24-hour drive-up ATM  
Monday – Wednesday: 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Thursday – Friday: 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Saturday: 9 a.m.-Noon  
Sunday: Closed

**Cornerstone Federal Credit Union**
721 Center St.  
Lewiston, N.Y. 14092  
716.754.2950  
24-hour walk-up ATM  
Monday – Friday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Helpful Offices on Campus

International Relations
Gallagher Center, Lower Level, Suite 113
Bernadette Brennen
Director of International Relations
Phone: 716.286.8331
Email: bmb@niagara.edu

Rhonda Shiah
Administrative Assistant, International Relations Office
Phone: 716.286.8360
Email: rshiah@niagara.edu

MSA (Multicultural Student Affairs)
Gallagher Center, Lower Level
Dave Blackburn
Director of Multicultural Student Affairs
Phone: 716.286.8405
Email: deb@niagara.edu

Student Records and Visa Immigration Services
Butler Building
Elizabeth Broomfield
Associate Director of Records
Phone: 716.286.8726
Email: eab@niagara.edu

Sarina Munzi
Administrative Assistant, Records Office
Phone: 716.286.8728
Email: smunzi@niagara.edu

Student Accounts and Financial Aid Services
Butler Building
Martie Howell
Director of Student Accounts
Phone: 716.286.8300
Email: meh@niagara.edu

Butler Building
Katie Kocsis
Director of Financial Aid
Phone: 716.286.8669
Email: kkocsis@niagara.edu

Office of Admissions for International Studies
Gacioch Family Alumni and Admissions Center
Tara Ganschow
International Admissions Advisor
Phone: 716.286.8719
Email: tganschow@niagara.edu

Campus Safety
Campus Safety Building (across from Dwyer Arena)
Phone: 716.286.8111
Email: safety@niagara.edu

Office of Academic Support
Seton Hall, First Floor
Daphne Wyse
Phone: 716.286.8072
Email: oas@niagara.edu or dwyse@niagara.edu

Residence Life
O’Shea Hall, First Floor
Rosanna Macri
Phone: 716.286.8100 or 716.286.8566
Email: residencelife@niagara.edu

Campus Store
Butler Building
Jennifer Nagelhout
Store Manager
Phone: 716.286.8595
Email: store@niagara.edu
Search for textbooks here!

Health Services
Butler Building
Amy Morgan
Office Coordinator
Phone: 716.286.8390
Email: health@niagara.edu
Helpful Offices on Campus

Academic Exploration Program (AEP)
St. Vincent's Hall
Stephanie Currie
Director of AEP
Phone: 716.286.8207
Email: sbc@niagara.edu

College of Arts and Sciences
Dunleavy Hall
Dr. John Sauter Jr.
Assistant Dean
Phone: 716.286.8060
Email: jps@niagara.edu

College of Business Administration
Bisgrove Hall
Myriam Witkowski
Assistant Dean
Phone: 716.286.8050 or 8183
Email: mlw@niagara.edu

College of Education
Academic Complex
Cheryl Wilson
Assistant to the Dean
Phone: 716.286.7364
Email: c wilson@niagara.edu

College of Hospitality and Tourism Management
St. Vincent's Hall
Kristina Bradshaw
Assistant to the Dean
Phone: 716.286.8297
Email: bradshaw@niagara.edu
Do more at Niagara.

Check it out at
niagara.edu