

Fact Sheet & Application Guidelines Spring 2018



Unlike some exchange programs, which are university-wide, this partnership with your home institution is specifically with one of Cornell's seven undergraduate colleges: the College of Agriculture of Life Sciences.

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs) 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 College. Before applying, it is important that you refer to our [areas of study](#) to ensure you are an appropriate candidate for the exchange:

To join the CALs Exchange Program as an Exchange student, you must currently be enrolled at one of our exchange partner universities and be nominated by your home university. Please do not start contacting faculty or staff at Cornell before you have officially been nominated by your home institution.

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

You 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 your intended duration of study at Cornell under the exchange program. Your home university area of study should closely align with CALs.

GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA)

Nominees must have a minimum cumulative GPA equivalent to a **U.S. 3.0 on a 4.0 scale** (above average grades). Refer to <http://www.foreigncredits.com/Resources/GPA-Calculator/> for help calculating your GPA. We will ask you to indicate your US GPA in our online application.

ENGLISH

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

Unless explicitly waived by the CALs Exchange

Coordinator, you are required to submit either the Test of English as a Foreign Language [TOEFL] or the International English Language Testing System [IELTS] results if:

- you are from an institution where English is not the primary language of instruction; and/or
- your first language is not English.

The following requirements must be met:

- a. Test of English as a Foreign Language [TOEFL] score of at least:
 - (i) 600 for the paper-based test; or
 - (ii) 250 for the computer-based test; or
 - (iii) 100 for the Internet-based test; or
- b. International English Language Testing System (IELTS) average result of at least 6.5; and/or
- c. any other qualifications as determined by the exchange program.

Candidates may also be subject to a skype interview.

OFFICE RESPONSIBLE FOR CALS EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

Assistant Director/ Exchange Coordinator: Julia Franke

Associate Director of International Engagement: Cindy Tarter

In order to provide accurate answers to your questions, please contact the CALS Exchange Office (cals-ex-incoming@cornell.edu). We may refer you to another department, if appropriate, but our office should be your first contact.

Contact Information: CALS International Exchange Program
140 Roberts Hall
Ithaca, New York 14853 USA
cals-ex-incoming@cornell.edu

PHONE: +001 607-255-2570

SOCIAL MEDIA: You can connect with other exchange and visiting students via the Exchange and Visiting Student [Facebook group](#). Once you have been accepted and matriculated at Cornell, we will register all CALS exchange students for the CALS social platform: Chatter! Through this powerful tool, students will be able to join groups and conversations relevant to their academic and social life at Cornell.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Spring 2018

Nomination Deadline: September 30, 2017
Application Deadline: October 15, 2017

Welcome Dinner for new International Students: TBD
Mandatory Orientation Session for Exchange students: TBD

January Orientation begins: Thursday, January 18
Classes Begin: Wednesday, January 24
February Break begins: Saturday, February 17
Instruction resumes: Wednesday, February 21
Spring Break begins: Saturday, March 31
Instruction Resumes: Monday, April 9
Last Day of Classes: Wednesday, May 9
Scheduled Exams: May 14-17 and May 19-22

Academic Calendar 2017-18: <https://www.cornell.edu/academics/calendar/?year=2017-18>

CLASSES AND LEARNING EXPECTATIONS

REGISTRATION

Exchange students register for courses after matriculated (regular, full-time) Cornell students. Students may find that certain courses are closed or already full upon arrival. It is important to be flexible with course selection and schedules as students will not officially register for classes until just before classes begin. While students are asked to provide initial course requests at the time of application, course changes are still possible during the first two weeks of classes, as this is the time when students “shop” around to solidify their schedule. (“Shopping” for classes is the practice of attending a number of classes during the first two weeks of classes before finalizing your schedule.)

COURSE LOAD

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.

The majority (minimum of two-thirds) of credits must be taken in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs).

Courses with the following prefixes count as CALS credits: AGSCI; AIS; AEM; 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. [Here](#) you can verify if the course you are interested in, is offered within CALS

PLEASE NOTE

- **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 you have not already taken the equivalent prerequisites in your home institution, you will not be able to register in these courses.
- You can access the **Cornell class roster** here: <https://classes.cornell.edu/browse/roster/FA17>. The class roster lists course availability, locations and times as well as contact information of the faculty teaching the course. CALS has started to make course syllabi available to students. Click on the “syllabi” button on the upper right of the page to access the ones that are already available. If the required syllabus is not available, we can try to put you in contact with the instructor. Keep in mind that many faculty members are not prepared to answer questions during the summer and breaks as they are involved in professional or personal activities away from campus.
- You can access additional course descriptions through the **Courses of Study** website www.cornell.edu/academics/courses.cfm. Type in your course title in the search field on the upper right of the page (“Courses of Study Search”).
- Once you have been matriculated and you have obtained a Cornell netID, you can look at more syllabi here: <http://courseeval.cals.cornell.edu/evalpublic.aspx>
- Time clashes are common, so it’s important to be flexible in scheduling. It is your responsibility to verify that the courses chosen do not create conflicts in your schedule. You must attend all of your lectures, seminars, and laboratories.
- The course numbering system allows you to understand if a course is offered within the college of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the level of the course <http://courses.cornell.edu/content.php?catoid=28&navoid=7292>
- You are not required to take the swim test and are not held to any Cornell graduation requirements.
- You cannot pre-enroll for Physical Education courses; enroll once you arrive on campus.
- Cornell University’s School of Continuing Education and Summer Sessions, Cornell in Washington, Cornell in New York City, Urban Semester, or any other special programs are **not** included in the terms of exchange program.

Class restrictions

Due to demand and space constraints, the following academic programs have limited or restricted access for exchange students:

APPLIED ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT (AEM)

Enrollment in ALL classes in the Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management (AEM) is **very competitive**. Full-time, degree-seeking Cornell students are ALWAYS given priority. AEM classes are limited to students who are business majors at their home university. Some exceptions are made, please contact the Exchange Office before assuming you're eligible.

You will be assigned an **advisor** from the Dyson School who will be **able to assist you** in making course selections and help with any changes when you arrive on campus.

As a guide, note you **cannot enroll in classes that have a permission note** saying "Enrollment limited to and **required for Dyson/AEM majors**." But, there are frequently non-limited comparable courses that may be open. For example, AEM 2420 Marketing for Dyson Majors is not available, but **AEM 2400 Marketing** is open in the fall to non-majors.

Many of the speaker series classes (e.g. AEM 1220, AEM 1660) are open to exchange students. But, the following upper-level courses have been very difficult (or impossible) for Exchange Students to enroll in: **AEM 4020/4021** Food and Brand Lab Workshop (full year sequence); **AEM 4140** Behavioral Economics and Managerial Decisions; **AEM 4190** Strategic Thinking; **AEM 4210** Futures, Options and Financial Derivatives; and **AEM 4570** Corporate Finance.

As an alternative, we encourage students to explore business-related courses offered by departments in other colleges/schools at Cornell. Some other departments at Cornell to explore: Department of Economics (ECON), Policy Analysis & Management (PAM), Hotel Administration (HADM), and Johnson School of Management undergraduate courses (NBA). **We waive the requirement of taking two-thirds of coursework in CALS for AEM majors.**

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Prior approval and portfolio is required. Please email portfolio in PDF format to Exchange Coordinator.

DEVELOPMENT SOCIOLOGY

Many classes are only open to major, degree-seeking students only. Please check with Exchange Coordinator before applying.

ESTIMATED LIVING EXPENSES

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.

U.S. Visa Stamp (required)	\$200 SEVIS Registration Fee for F-1 Students http://isso.cornell.edu/students/travel/apply-f1j1-visa ~\$105-\$160 Visa Issuance Fee (unless your country has a reciprocity agreement with the US, see https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/study-exchange/student.html)		
Cornell Student Activity Fee (Required)	\$241 per semester http://assembly.cornell.edu/SA/ActivityFee		
Housing and Food		Rent	Food
	Off-campus (costs vary greatly, depending on proximity to campus, age of building, access to amenities, and more)	\$2,250-\$4,500/semester (\$500-\$1000/month)	\$200-\$400/month, depending on individual eating habits
	University-owned Cooperative Residential Houses (space is very limited)	\$2,600-\$3,500/semester	~\$500 for general kitchen supplies/semester; plus personal food expenses of \$200-\$400/month, depending on individual eating habits
	University-owned on-campus housing (based on double-room, West Campus)	\$4,056/semester	\$2,783/semester
Books and Supplies	\$435/per semester		
Cornell University Student Health Insurance (required)	\$1,106/per semester (estimated) In 2017-18, all international students enrolled at Cornell will be required to purchase the Cornell University Health Insurance Plan (SHIP). Cornell's SHIP is considered a high-value, comprehensive health plan that meets or exceeds all state, federal and college health standards. The university is implementing this new requirement to assure that the health and education of every international student at Cornell is protected by appropriate insurance coverage. Exceptions to the new requirement will be granted only in very few circumstances. International students who are covered by a U.S.-based, employer-sponsored, group health plan may contact the Office of Student Health Benefits for additional information. Review Cornell's policy and health insurance requirements. Cornell Health is your contact for all your questions and needs around student health		
Local transportation	Free. With Cornell Student ID card, all CALS Exchange Students ride Cornell and Ithaca buses at no cost.		
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$885/per semester		

DINING ON CAMPUS

You'll find plenty of variety and convenience with over 30 dining locations across campus. You don't have to be on a meal plan to dine on campus since cash or credit cards are also accepted!

TRADITIONAL MEAL PLANS

As a member of a Cornell Dining meal plan or debit plan, you can use your Cornell ID card instead of money in Cornell Dining facilities, to obtain food for less than the cash price. There are also unlimited servings in each of the 10 All-You-Care-to-Eat Facilities. For Meal Plan options, visit: <http://living.sas.cornell.edu/dine/>.

FOR STUDENTS SELECTED TO COME TO CALS ON EXCHANGE

YOUR NETID

Your Cornell network identity (NetID) is your key to secure online services at Cornell. Your NetID and activation code will be mailed to you when the admission office processes your matriculation (if you provide a valid mobile phone number we will also text you your NetID). You are expected to activate your NetID immediately.

YOUR ACCEPTANCE PACKET & IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTS

Your admissions package will be mailed to the address you indicated on your application (**this takes 4-6 weeks after application deadline**). The packet will include your letter of acceptance to the exchange program and a "certificate of eligibility" called an "I-20." You will need the acceptance letter and the I-20 to apply for an "F-1" visa stamp at a U.S. Consulate (unless you are a Canadian citizen, as Canadians are not required to obtain visa stamps to enter the U.S.). Please read <http://isso.cornell.edu/students/new-student-visas> for complete details about the visa process.

ARRIVING TO ITHACA

Students **must attend the Mandatory International Student Orientation** and should make their travel plans accordingly. The orientation session is scheduled prior to the first day of classes to assist students with their acclimation process. All students are expected to be present for the first day of classes.

READ, READ, READ!

Cornell University is a large institution, with many departments in which you will interact. Please carefully read information sent to you by email, mail, and on our website as they all contain important information.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

All exchange students are responsible for the Cornell Student Activity Fee (approximately \$241/semester), SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System) fee (approximately \$200), Cornell Student Health Insurance, meals, books, housing, printing fees, physical education (PE) course fees (if you choose to take a PE course), travel costs, and all personal expenses. You will be billed for university-related expenses online through Cornell's Office of the Bursar. Throughout the semester, you will receive a monthly bursar bill by email for any other expenses you may incur. You are responsible for all fees billed by the Bursar.

YOUR CALS BUDDY

If you wish, you will be matched with a CALS Buddy to assist you with your transition to Cornell. Before you arrive, you will be contacted by your Cornell Buddy so you may learn more about Cornell and each other. Buddies have already studied abroad and have an idea of what you're going through! We will let you know by which date you need to request a buddy.

YOUR EXCHANGE ADVISOR

In order to provide accurate answers to your questions (answers perhaps only applicable to our exchange students), please contact the CALS Exchange Office directly for inquiries of any sort. We may refer you to another department, but our office should be your first contact.