Frequently Asked Questions

Arrivals

Can I arrive late or early?
We have set dates for arrival. Please refer to your acceptance letter. The dates set are strictly enforced. Early arrivals will not be permitted. If you must arrive late, it needs to be approved by our office. Clarkson is willing to proctor final exams from your home university to ensure you arrive on time.

What airport should I fly into?
The arrival airport is Syracuse Hancock International Airport (SYR) in Syracuse, NY or Ogdensburg International Airport (OGS), Ogdensburg, NY. If arriving at SYR, you may take a Trailways bus directly from the airport to Clarkson University. If arriving in Ogdensburg on the designated dates, we will have a staff member pick you up. We discourage your last leg of travel to be from Canada or other airports as ground transportation is limited. Please note, in the past we have experienced extended flight delays and/or cancelations of flights coming in and out of OGS.

How will I know where to go once I arrive?
As long as you submit your Arrival Form (you will be given a link at a later date) by the due date we will coordinate your arrival and have someone to pick you up at Clarkson University bus stop! If you will not be arriving by bus, just let us know and we will come up with an arrival plan. If your travel plans change, just let us know!

Billing

How can I see my bill?
Your bill will populate in the “Finances” tab in your myCU account about a month before it is due.

What will be included in my bill?
- Housing (see the Housing & Meals section of our website for estimated costs)
- Health insurance, optional if you have another policy with the appropriate amount of coverage (see the Health Insurance section for more information).
- Meal plan or declining balance, optional (see Housing & Meals for more information).

Can I make partial payments on my bill?
No. Bills are due in full prior to your arrival. The due date will be in your acceptance letter.

Classes

In what language are classes taught?
All classes are taught in English. We recommend having a TOEFL score of 550 paper-based, 213 computer-based, and 80 Internet-based or an IELTS score of 6.5, but it is not required. If you do not have test scores to submit, you may have a representative from your home university sign the English Ability Form endorsing your ability to read and write in English. This form is located in the application in CU Global.

**What are prerequisite and corequisite courses?**
Prerequisite courses are classes that you must have taken prior and passed. These courses provide a solid foundation of knowledge so you may build upon it. If you request to take a class and there is a prerequisite, please provide us with a class description from your home university so we may compare it to the Clarkson prerequisite classes. A corequisite is a class that must be taken at the same time as the class you are requesting. All of this information will be in the details of the class description in PeopleSoft.

**Are there any courses I cannot take?**
You may take most classes at Clarkson even if they are outside of your major as long as you have taken the prerequisite courses, if any. Please note that exchange students cannot enroll in internship or co-op classes. If you would like to enroll in an independent study, you will need to find a Clarkson professor to work with and that professor will need to email jcootwar@clarkson.edu with permission and how many credits it is worth.

**How do I enroll in classes?**
You will receive a Class Request Worksheet link with detailed instructions on how to research and choose classes. When you are searching courses, the details will provide you with any exceptions (ex: business majors only, freshman only, etc.), prerequisites, or corequisites. Your Clarkson academic advisor will review your requested courses, transcript, and the course descriptions of all prerequisites prior to giving permission for enrollment. When your class requests are approved, the International Center will request enrollment for you.

**I am an undergraduate student; can I take graduate classes?**
No, undergraduates can only take undergraduate courses ranging from 100-499.

**I am a graduate student; can I take undergraduate classes?**
Yes, but please note all graduate courses are 500 level and above.

**How many credits will transfer back to my home university?**
Please discuss credit transfers with your international office at your home university. Clarkson will provide your home university with a transcript at the end of the semester and your home university will convert it into credits.

**How many credits do I need to take?**
Undergraduates must take a minimum of 12 credits, but no more than 18 credits. Graduate students must take a minimum of 9 credits, but no more than 15 credits. Classes may be taken above 18 and 15 credits, but there is a fee. We do not recommend taking over the 12 or 9 credit limit.

**Health Insurance**

**Is health insurance required?**
Yes, you must have proof of health insurance; or Clarkson can provide health insurance for an additional fee. Travel insurance will not be accepted. Please see the Health Insurance section of our website.

**Where can I buy health insurance?**
Clarkson offers a policy through United Health Care. Click this link for more information: Student Health Insurance. You may also look on this website for NAFSA endorsed companies.
Housing & Meals

Is housing guaranteed?
Yes, you are guaranteed housing on campus.

How much does housing cost?
-Housing is about $4,600 per semester. This cost is factored into your Certificate of Finance form and supporting financial documents you will submit with your application so covering the cost should not be a problem since you previously showed you have the finances.

Do I need to apply for housing?
No, we will communicate with the Residence Life office about reserving housing for you. Please be aware that you might be sharing a bedroom with one other student or might be assigned a single. You may not choose your housing or roommates.

Can I live off campus?
No, all exchange students must live on campus.

Can I choose my housing?
No, all housing is assigned by Residence Life. Depending on which semester you study at Clarkson, housing availability can be inflexible, therefore you cannot choose your housing.

Can I choose my roommates?
No. We wish to provide you with the most cultural experience you can have while at Clarkson. You will be housed with other international students and American students. In addition, depending on which semester you study at Clarkson, housing availability varies and is limited.

My partner/spouse is coming to Clarkson as an exchange student as well, can we live together?
We do not house couples together on Clarkson’s main campus, but depending on availability, we may be able to house you together in our downtown apartments. It is about a 15-minute walk to campus from these apartments.

Are meal plans required?
No, students will have a full kitchen in their shared apartment. Students can add money as a declining balance on their ID cards, add a meal plan, or use cash/credit to pay for on-campus meals. Click this link for more information: Meal Plans

If you have any questions that were not answered above, please check the Incoming Exchange Student webpage and if you still have questions, email jcootwar@clarkson.edu.

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