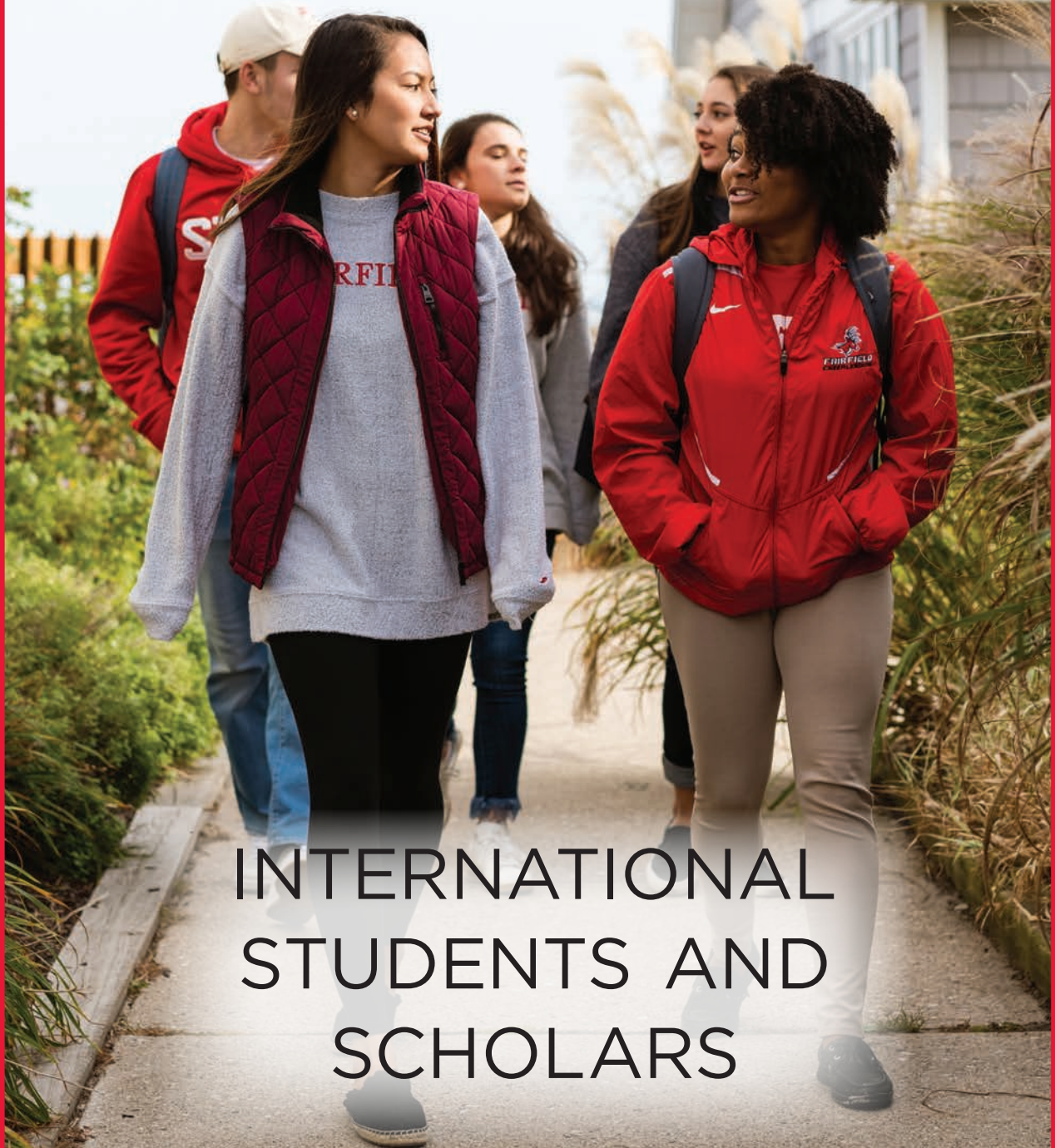




WELCOME



INTERNATIONAL
STUDENTS AND
SCHOLARS

FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY

WELCOME TO FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY

WELCOME!

Welcome, and congratulations once again on your acceptance and enrollment at Fairfield University. This guidebook has been designed to simplify the next steps in the process and to answer questions you may have about your arrival to campus.



For more information, contact the
Office of Student Engagement at:

e-mail: international@fairfield.edu

phone: 203-254-4110

website: fairfield.edu/internationalstudentlife



WELCOME TO FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY



ABOUT FAIRFIELD



FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY OFFICE OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT - INTERNATIONAL STUDENT LIFE

The Office of Student Engagement, International Student Life, assists all international students and scholars with visa and immigration matters as well as adjusting to life at Fairfield University.

Our office is located in Barone Campus Center: Room 96, and we are open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. EST. Contact us via e-mail at international@fairfield.edu or call +1-203-254-4110.

International Orientation is mandatory for all new incoming F1 and J1 students. Topics covered include required immigration overviews and information about the university resources such as the Health Center, Residence Life, Counseling & Psychological Services, Department of Public Safety, Course Registration, the Library, etc. There are opportunities for students to open bank accounts, register for cell phone plans, shop for essential items, and get their university StagCard (student identification card). Information about Orientation dates will be emailed the semester before your arrival.

FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY MISSION & IDENTITY

Fairfield University is a comprehensive Jesuit institution that prepares students for leadership and service in a constantly changing world. Founded in 1942 by the Society of Jesus, the University has grown from an initial class of 303 undergraduate male students in 1947 into a coeducational university of more than 5,000 undergraduate and graduate students. Along the way, the University has awarded more than 45,000 degrees since 1951, and has developed a reputation for educational excellence both regionally and nationally.

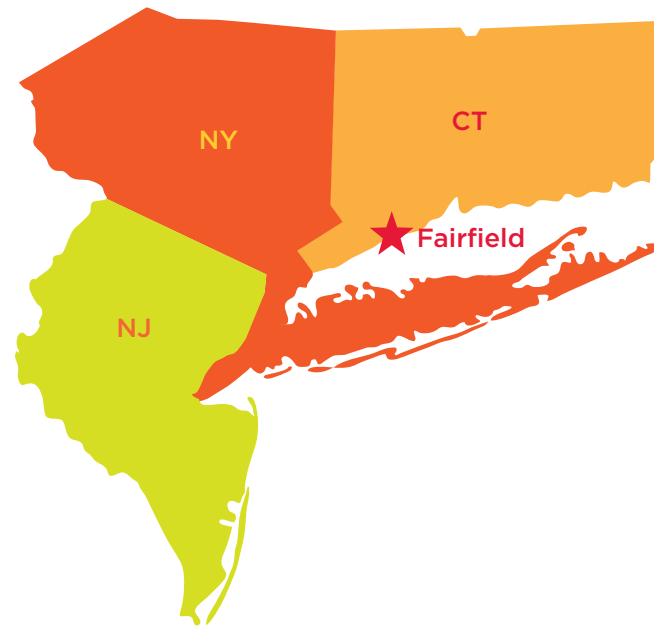
Fairfield University is proud of its identity as a Jesuit and Catholic university, an identity that gives rise to our vibrant institutional mission: education in the liberal arts, sciences and professions that prepares students to lead their communities with insight, empathy, critical rigor and a determination to serve and promote justice.



ABOUT FAIRFIELD

THE TRI-STATE AREA

The New York Metropolitan area, also known as the Tri-State area, includes New York (NY), Connecticut (CT) and New Jersey (NJ). Many students who attend Fairfield are from these areas.



TOWN OF FAIRFIELD

The historic shoreline town of Fairfield offers a peaceful oasis for study and recreation. Families and students can enjoy all the town has to offer. They can also hop on a train and — in less than an hour — arrive in New York City to take in a Broadway show, or head east and enjoy the vibrancy of historic New Haven. Have a little more time? Students can cheer on the Boston Red Sox at Fenway, jump on a ski lift at majestic Mt. Tom, or catch a wave on the beaches of Rhode Island!



PREPARING FOR FAIRFIELD

PRE-DEPARTURE PLANNING

To ensure your successful transition to Fairfield University, students will need to start planning before arriving in the United States:

- **U.S. Department of State**
Information about how to apply for a visa on travel.state.gov.
- **Study in the States**
Study in the States offers free government resources that explain the rules and regulations governing the international student process in the United States. Visit studyinthestates.dhs.gov.

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

If you are coming to study in the United States for the first time, you will need to follow certain procedures in order to acquire the necessary documentation allowing you to study at Fairfield. The documents you will need are:

- A valid passport
- A valid U.S. visa
- A valid Form I-20 (only if you are coming as an F1 student)

- A valid DS-2019 (only if you are coming as a J1 student or scholar)
- Declaration of finances
- Form I-94

PASSPORT

The passport is a document issued by your government giving you permission to travel outside of your country. It is renewed through your embassy or the nearest consul and it serves as your identity documentation in a foreign country. **Make sure to keep your passport in a safe place. You should also keep a copy of your passport in a safe place in case the original is lost or stolen.** Your embassy will be able to issue a replacement more promptly, if you can provide them with a copy of the original. In order for you to maintain your legal status in the United States, your passport must remain current at all times. For passport renewal, your embassy may need a letter verifying that you are a full-time student. You may request such a letter from the Office of Student Engagement.



PREPARING FOR FAIRFIELD

APPLYING FOR A UNITED STATES VISA

What is a Visa?

A visa allows a foreign citizen to travel to a U.S. port-of entry and request permission from the U.S. immigration officer to enter the United States. It does not guarantee entry into the U.S. For more information about the definition of a visa, as well as policies and procedures regarding visas, please visit the State Department Visa Home page.

What is SEVIS and SEVP? What should you know about it?

The Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) is designed to help the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Department of State better monitor school and exchange programs and F, M and J category visitors. Exchange visitor and student information is maintained in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS). SEVIS is an Internet-based system that maintains accurate and current information on nonimmigrant students (F and M visa), exchange visitors (J visa), and their dependents (F-2, M-2, and J-2). SEVIS enables schools and program sponsors to transmit mandatory information and event notifications via the Internet, to the DHS and Department of State (DOS) throughout a student or exchange visitor's stay in the United States.

Applying for a Visa

Please be aware, information may change. You should visit the Department of State's website for the most current requirements. As part of the visa application process, an interview at the embassy consular section is required for visa applicants from age 14 through 79, with few exceptions. Persons age 13 and younger, and age 80 and older, generally do not require an interview, unless requested by embassy or consulate. The waiting time for an interview appointment for applicants can vary, so early visa application is strongly encouraged. **If you do not have enough time to obtain your visa before your program start date, you will be unable to start your study at Fairfield University that semester.** Visa wait times for interview appointments and visa processing time information for each U.S. Embassy or Consulate worldwide is available on most embassy websites. Learn how to schedule an appointment for an interview, pay the application processing fee, review embassy specific instructions, and much more by visiting the Embassy or Consulate website where you will apply. During the visa application process, usually at the interview, an ink-free, digital fingerprint scan will be quickly taken.

Some visa applications require further administrative processing, which takes additional time after the visa applicant's interview by a Consular Officer. Also, because each student's personal and academic situation is different; two students applying for same visa may be asked different questions and be required to submit different additional documents.

Required Documentation

Documents and processes for obtaining a U.S. visa are subject to change, and may vary by country. Please confirm required documentation on your home country's U.S. Embassy webpage. Each applicant for either an F-1 or J-1 visa must submit these forms and documentation as explained below:

- Form I-20 or DS-2019. You will need to submit a SEVIS generated form, which was provided to you by your school. You and your school official must sign the I-20 or DS-2019.
- Online Nonimmigrant Visa Electronic Application, Form DS-160. Visit the DS-160 webpage to learn more about the DS-160 online process.
- A passport valid for travel to the United States and with a validity date at least six months beyond the applicant's intended period of stay in the United States (unless country-specific agreements provide exemptions). If more than one person is included in the passport, each person desiring a visa must complete an application.
- One (1) 2x2 photograph.
- A Machine Readable Visa (MRV) fee receipt to show payment of the visa application fee.
- The SEVIS I-901 fee receipt.

All applicants should be prepared to provide:

- Transcripts and diplomas from previous institutions attended.
- Financial evidence that shows you or your parents who are sponsoring you have sufficient funds to cover your tuition and living expenses during the period of your intended study. For example, if you or your sponsor is a salaried employee, please bring income tax documents and original bank books and/or statements. If you or your sponsor own a business, please bring business registration, licenses, etc., and tax documents, as well as original bank books and/or statements.

What are the Required Visa Fees?

- Nonimmigrant visa application processing fee - For current fees for Department of State government services check the Department of

State's website. You will need to provide a receipt showing the visa application processing fee has been paid, when you come for your visa interview.

- Visa issuance fee - Additionally, if the visa is issued, there will be an additional visa issuance reciprocity fee, if applicable. Please consult the Visa Reciprocity Tables on the Department of State's website to find out if you must pay a visa issuance reciprocity fee and what the fee amount is. If there is a fee for issuance for the visa, it is as equal as possible to the fee charged to United States citizens by the applicant's country of nationality.

Useful Links

Department of State visa information: travel.state.gov/content/visas/en.html

SEVIS Fee information: fmjfee.gov

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement: ice.gov/sevis/i901

Fairfield University International Students and Scholar Services: fairfield.edu/international

TYPES OF VISA

There are 65 different types of non-immigrant visas. These categories are determined based on the purpose of the foreigner's visit to the United States. Of these 65 categories, only B visas (for tourism and business), F-2 visas (dependents of F-1 students), and C visas (transit visas) are not legally allowed to enroll full-time in a degree-seeking program.

As an international student coming to the United States, you will need either F-1 student status or J-1 exchange visitor status.

The F-1 student visa permits an individual to enter the United States for full-time study at an authorized institution in the United States. To obtain F-1 status, it is necessary to present a Form I-20 (Certificate of Eligibility) to an American Embassy.

J-1 exchange visitor status permits the individual to enter the United States for study, teaching, research, or training. The individual presents a Form DS-2019 to an American Embassy abroad to obtain a J-1 visa. He/she is obligated to engage in the activities specified on the Form DS-2019 while in the United States. Students holding J-1 visas generally receive support either from the University or hold scholarships from the United States government or home government. The exchange visitor's sponsor is the organization which

issues the form DS-2019, which may or may not be the agency that actually provides financial support.

Form I-20

The Form I-20 allows for the F-1 visa to be obtained and is required for full-time international students at Fairfield University. The Form I-20 is sent after an international student has completed all necessary application procedures, has been admitted to the program of study, has accepted the offer of admission, and has paid the required confirmation deposit and fees.

Form DS-2019

Similarly to Form I-20, Form DS-2019 is a government document, which certifies your eligibility to come to Fairfield University as an exchange student, professor or research scholar. This form clearly defines the parameters and conditions of your exchange program as defined by the sponsor. You need a valid DS-2019 to obtain a J-1 exchange visitor visa for your stay in the United States. A DS-2019 can only be obtained from Fairfield University once you have been admitted to an approved program at Fairfield University.



PREPARING FOR FAIRFIELD

Declaration of Finances

To secure a student visa, you will need to submit financial documentation to show you can cover the cost of tuition for one full year. Please see first page of your I-20 Form or DS-2019 for cost estimates.

Form I-94

The I-94 Form can be retrieved on-line at: i94.cbp.dhs.gov/i94/#/home. Status is your reason for being in the United States, and the different categories correspond to visa categories. This document determines whether you are in the country as a tourist (B-2), student (F-1), or any other status. Besides determining your status, the I-94 card determines the length of your stay in the United States. For F-1 students this will read "D/S" which means "duration of status." In other words, you will be able to stay legally in the United States as long as you maintain your status.

IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

All students must complete and submit the Fairfield University Medical Report Form by email to the Health Center (health@fairfield.edu). Please, visit fairfield.edu/immunization for all requirements.

Immunization requirements are strictly enforced. You will need to be in compliance in order to register for classes.

All students born after January 1st, 1957 are required under Connecticut law to provide documentation of the following immunizations:

- Current Tetanus/Diphtheria booster (within the past 10 years)
- 2 doses of vaccine against Mumps, Measles, and Rubella (MMR)
- 2 doses of Varicella vaccine or lab result/health care provider confirming immunity
- 1 dose of Meningitis vaccine (MCV4) if living on campus
- 3 series of Hepatitis B vaccine are strongly recommended

Remember:

- Forms must be completed in English
- Dates should be listed as month/day/year
- Students from countries with high rates of tuberculosis (listed on the Medical Report Form) must also be tested for tuberculosis

- Students testing positive must also have a chest x-ray
- Vaccination with BCG does not preclude tuberculosis testing

More details and copies of the medical form can be found online at fairfield.edu/immunization.

We strongly recommend having your physical examination and any necessary immunizations completed prior to your arrival; it will be much cheaper than getting them done in the US, and you will not be able to move into housing or register for classes without this confirmation. If you have any questions, please e-mail health@fairfield.edu.

HEALTH INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

All students and their dependents regardless of the visa status at Fairfield University are required to purchase Fairfield's international student health insurance because it meets the requirements of the University and the US government. The Office of Student Engagement will advise students on the cost of insurance, and the Bursar will charge students' accounts. Insurance must be paid in full to the Bursar, and there are no monthly payment plans available. Any questions about the coverage and amount being charged for insurance should be sent to international@fairfield.edu. For questions about payment methods, please refer to the Financial Obligations and Payment Information sheet, included in your welcome packet.

You will be enrolled in Fairfield's insurance prior to the start of your academic semester. Upon enrollment, you will be given instructions on how to log in to the insurance website and e-mailed a link to print out your insurance ID card. This will be explained further during Orientation.

TRANSPORTATION FROM THE AIRPORT

Most students come into the United States through John F. Kennedy Airport in New York City. Others arrive through LaGuardia Airport in New York City or through Newark Airport in New Jersey.

Fairfield University is an hour and fifteen minutes by car from Kennedy or LaGuardia, barring heavy traffic. Newark Airport is two hours from Fairfield. There are two public means of transportation from these airports:

PREPARING FOR FAIRFIELD

GO Airport Shuttle Connecticut, formerly known as Prime Time Shuttle, travels from Kennedy, LaGuardia and Newark Airports directly to the Fairfield University campus and they offer a special rate for Fairfield students. Contact Go Airport Shuttle for current rates and fares. We prefer this service because it will bring you directly to campus. For more information, please visit 2theairport.com/universities/fairfielduniversity.php.

You may contact GO Airport Shuttle at the Ground Transportation Desk in the baggage claim area of the terminal. Pick up the phone of the carrier that you

choose to hire and tell the dispatcher that you would like to go to Fairfield University. He/she will give you further directions.

If you are coming from Boston, take the Amtrak train and connect either at New Haven or Bridgeport. From either New Haven or Bridgeport you can take a Metro-North train to the Fairfield station. You can then take Fairfield Cab to campus. If you have any questions, or need special accommodations, please contact Office of Student Engagement at 203-254-4110, or by e-mail prior to your travel.



ARRIVING AT FAIRFIELD

FUNDS FOR YOUR ARRIVAL

All students should arrive at Fairfield with enough funds to cover immediate arrival expenses. The University strongly advises students to not bring large sums of cash. Instead, it is suggested students bring/ have the following:

- **Traveler's Checks**
With traveler's checks funds are immediately available and can be replaced if lost or stolen.
- **Electronic Banking**
Funds are immediately available with ATMs and check cards.
- **International Credit Cards**
Note to students: Not all U.S. stores and businesses accept international credit cards.
- **Bank Checks/Drafts**
Students can bring a bank draft or a foreign check to open an account. However, funds are not available for up to 3 weeks, so do not rely upon these funds for immediate cash.
- **Wire Transfers**
Once in the U.S., students can open a bank account where funds can be wired. There are fees associated with wiring funds.

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS AND PAYMENT INFORMATION

Complete payments include University tuition, health insurance, and any other applicable fees billed to the student account.

Full-Time Graduates (MA/ MS/ MBA/ DNP):

Payment of all University charges is due August 15 for fall semester and January 1 for spring semester. Tuition and fees can be found online at fairfield.edu/graduatetuitionfees.

Full-Time Undergraduates (BA/BS):

Payment for all University charges is due August 1 for fall semester and January 1 for spring semester. Tuition and fees can be found online at fairfield.edu/undergraduatetuitionfees.

Payment can be made via fairfield.flywire.com.

Holidays and other celebrations may delay processing of international payment therefore, it is recommended that students initiate their payment at least 10 business days before the payment deadline to ensure timely processing. Incoming payments must be limited to the cost of University tuition, fees, and health insurance charged to the student account for the current

semester. Any excess funds will be held on the student account toward the following semester charges. For Fall and Spring semesters, full time Graduate students may utilize a monthly payment plan for tuition and fees (not including health insurance). There is a processing fee for the payment plan. If you choose to utilize the monthly payment plan, the first installment is due at registration. This first installment must include 33% of tuition plus 100 % of all fees and 100% of health insurance. Details of the payment plan can be found online at fairfield.edu/paymentplans.

For the Summer semester, there is no monthly payment plan option.

Bursar Contact Information

Phone: 203-254-4000 ext. 4102, 2410, 4191 or 2165

E-Mail: bursar@fairfield.edu

FOREIGN CURRENCY EXCHANGE

Though the use of a debit card is highly recommended, students can exchange foreign currency at some banks and the below location:

Travelex America
1495 Post Road East
Westport, CT
203-254-1359
travelex.com

REPORTING YOUR ARRIVAL TO FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY

U.S. immigration laws require all new students report to the University after their initial arrival in the country. Failure to do so may result in a termination of program and can lead to serious consequences for your legal status and ability to return to the U.S. in the future.

Students will need to update their address and report their arrival to the Office of Student Engagement, International Student Life. For more information, please visit fairfield.edu/internationalstudentlife.



GETTING SETTLED

Cell Phones

Since students may already have a cell phone, they will need to inquire about its use in the U.S. Many major cell phone companies offer international plans. Common cell phone providers in the U.S. include AT&T, Verizon, T-Mobile, Sprint, and others. Representatives from one of the above cell phone providers will typically be at International Orientation, but you are not limited to enrolling in just that company. Please be prepared that cell phone plans in the United States tend to be of a higher cost than other countries.

Telephone Services

If you live in Fairfield, the area code is 203.

Department of Public Safety

To report any emergency, students should call ext. 4090 or 203-254-4090. All students are to program the DPS phone number into their cell phones prior to arriving on campus.

Directory Assistance

Call 411 to get an operator. There is a fee.

Calling outside the U.S.

Call 011 + country code + city code + phone number.

In the U.S. but calling outside local area code

Call 1 + three digit area code + seven digit phone number.

Calling in local area code

Call the area code + seven-digit phone number.

On-campus to another on-campus phone

Call only the last four digits of the phone number, which is an extension.

On-campus phone to an off-campus phone

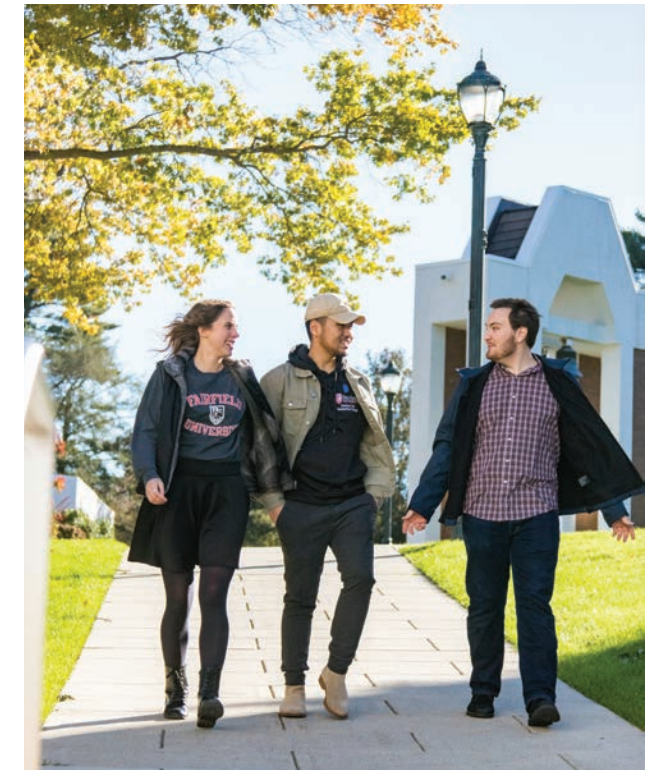
Dial 8 + 1 + area code + seven digit phone number.

Yellow Pages

The phone directory book, Yellow Pages, lists all contact information for businesses, stores, restaurants, government agencies, city services and tourist attractions in the area. The website is yellowpages.com/fairfield-ct.

International Calling Cards

Students can call home by using an international calling card, which can be purchased on the Internet or at any grocery or convenience store listed here:



Walgreen's
414 Kings Highway East
Fairfield, CT 06825
7-11
257 Reef Road
Fairfield, CT 06824
Rite Aid
1619 Post Road
Fairfield, CT 06824
CVS
700 Post Road
Fairfield, CT 06824
CVS
330 Grasmere Avenue
Fairfield, CT 06824
CVS
961 Black Rock Turnpike
Fairfield, CT 06824

ACADEMIC CALENDAR: The calendar is on the University web site at fairfield.edu/academics/academiccalendar



GETTING SETTLED

WhatsApp

WhatsApp allows you to text and call people all over the world. Download the app to get started.

United States Post Office

In addition, to an on-campus mailbox (provided only to undergraduate students), students can send letters and packages by first class, priority, express, certified or registered mail through the U.S. Post Office. U.S. Post Offices near Fairfield's campus include:

357 Commerce Drive
Fairfield, CT 06824

1300 Post Road, Ste. 5
Fairfield, CT 06824

In addition to the U.S. Post Office, students can go to FedEx or the UPS Store. If you need overnight or quick delivery of a package, contact the following express courier services:

- DHL Worldwide Express dhl.com
1-800-225-5345
- Federal Express fedex.com
1-800-463-3339
- US Postal Service usps.com 1-800-275-8777
- United Parcel Service (UPS) ups.com
1-800-742-5877

IDENTIFICATION

Passport and Arrival Documents

The students' passport will be their main form of identification until they get their Fairfield University StagCard or Connecticut Driver's License.

The StagCard is Fairfield University's official identification card. Students can have their picture taken when they arrive on campus. Students are expected to carry the card at all times.

The StagCard Office is located in the Lower Level of the Barone Campus Center. The office is open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and on Tuesday from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. For more information, please visit fairfield.edu/stagcard.

Social Security Number

A Social Security number (SSN) is required for everyone who works in the U.S., including non-immigrants. If you are planning to work in the U.S. and have an offer of employment, you must apply for a Social Security Number. If you have any questions, please contact us at international@fairfield.edu or 203-254-4110.

When to Apply for Social Security

Students must be physically present in the U.S. in order to apply for a Social Security Number. Students must also have a job offer. The Social Security Administration will need to verify your legal entry into the country before issuing a Social Security Number.

The Social Security Administration recommends that F-1 and J-1 students wait a minimum of 10 days after arrival in the U.S.

J-1 visiting scholars must wait 10 business days after entering the country and the submission of the Scholar Arrival Form.

Application Process

1. Collect all required documentation, which includes

Required Application Documents	F-1 Students	J-1 Students	J-1 Scholars
Passport	X	X	X
I-94	X	X	X
I-20	X		
DS-2019		X	X
Employer's Letter*	X	X	

2. Fill out the Online International Student Request form on the International Student Life page. Once you begin the form, be sure to select "On-Campus Work Authorization" and then follow the instructions to complete the form.
3. Complete a Social Security application form SS-5 available from the Social Security Office or on the website at ssa.gov/forms/ss-5.pdf.
4. Submit the application in person along with other required documents to the Social Security Administration's office. The office is located at 35 Courtland Street, Second Floor, Bridgeport, CT 06606. If you have any questions regarding the Social Security Application, please contact the Bridgeport office at 866-331-6399 for assistance. Office hours are Monday, Tuesday,

GETTING SETTLED

9-4, Wednesday, 9-noon, Thursday, Friday, 9-4. Upon completion of the above steps, students will receive their Social Security card in the mail in two weeks. Once students receive their Social Security Number, students should be careful about where and to whom they give their Social Security Number. Students should never carry their card with them or give their Social Security Number over phone, email or websites unless it is for official government purposes.

Connecticut Driver's License

An International Driver Permit (IDP) is an English translation of a foreign language driver's license issued by a foreign country.

Students and Visitors to Connecticut:

An International Driving Permit (IDP) is not considered a valid license. It must accompany the valid foreign license. Connecticut permits a student or visitor to operate a motor vehicle in Connecticut for a period of up to one year with his or her foreign license. If the license is in a language other than English or Spanish,

the license must be accompanied by an IDP, which serves as an English translation of the foreign license. Non-U.S. citizens seeking a first-time driver's license must go to the DMV Office. Prior to going to the DMV office, applicants must fill out the Online International Student Request form on the International Student Life page. Once you begin the form, be sure to select "Driver's License/State ID" and then follow the instructions to complete the form. Students must bring an I-94 document, passport and proof of Connecticut residency, which can be proven in the form of 2 pieces of mail addressed to your official residence in the US. First-time drivers must take a knowledge test and road test before being issued a license. Appointments are mandatory in order to take the knowledge and road tests. To study for the road test, students can download a copy of the Connecticut Driver's Manual as well as sample tests. Students must supply an insured and registered vehicle for the road test. For more information, please visit ct.gov/dmv.



GETTING SETTLED



Connecticut Identification Card

In Connecticut, a non-driver identification card can be used as photo identification if you don't have a CT driver's license or if your license has been suspended. You can use your CT identification card for a number of things, including traveling, getting an apartment, or opening a bank account. If you are a non-U.S. citizen, you must apply in person at a DMV Hub Office. For more information, please visit dmv.org/ct-connecticut/id-cards.php.

BANKING

Opening a Bank Account

Upon arrival, students should open a bank account as soon as possible. The University has a Bank of America ATM located on campus in the Barone Campus Center. America First Credit Union is also located on campus in Gonzaga Auditorium. Other banks in close proximity to campus include Webster, TD, Chase, Wells Fargo, Citibank, People's United and Hudson City Savings Bank.

It is extremely important for all students to have a U.S. checking account to pay bills and tuition, transfer, withdraw, and deposit funds. This should/can be done either before or during International Orientation.

Credit Cards

If students do not have a credit history in the U.S., they may be unable to obtain a credit card. However, students can establish a credit history by obtaining a "Secure Credit Card," which requires students to deposit money on the card in order to use.

NEWS SOURCES

There are many local newspapers, which include the *New Haven Register* (nhregister.com), *CT Post* (ctpost.com), *The New York Times* (nytimes.com) and the *Wall Street Journal* (wsj.com). These news sources can be obtained at convenience stores and online. There are also many news apps available for access on your cell phone. Additionally, Fairfield generates a weekly news publication called News@Fairfield and a student-run newspaper, *The Fairfield Mirror*.

AREA HOTELS

There are a number of different hotels for students and their families to stay in, if needed. Some hotels include:

Best Western Plus Fairfield Hotel
100 Kings Highway Cutoff
Fairfield, CT 06824
203-659-2200

Hotel Hi-Ho
4180 Black Rock Turnpike
Fairfield CT 06824
866-430-2692

The Fairfield Circle Inn
417 Post Road
Fairfield, CT 06824
203-255-0491

Holiday Inn
1070 Main Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604
203-334-1234

A more comprehensive list can be found at: fairfield.edu/areahotels.

GETTING SETTLED

HOUSING (UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ONLY)

All undergraduate students are guaranteed on-campus housing via the Office of Residence Life. Please refer to your New Student Guide for the housing process (or commuter process if applicable).

HOUSING (GRADUATE STUDENTS ONLY)

It is possible for students to find housing from outside of the United States. We recommend students arrive two weeks early to search for and secure housing. We recommend working with a realtor. If you do find housing from abroad, never send unsecured funds to a landlord before you arrive unless you have fully identified who they are and their legitimacy.

All undergraduate students are housed on campus by the Office of Residence Life.

Fairfield University Off-Campus Housing Hub:

fairfield.edu/gradstudenthousing

This page is maintained by the university and has a lot of resources to help you find a rental, match with roommates, or answer some of your major questions.

Craigslist

craigslist.org

This website is not maintained by the University but often has affordable listings. You can also use Craigslist to find used furniture and appliances for sale and even items for free!

Zillow

zillow.com

This site is supported by real estate agents, but listings tend to be a bit more expensive.

FINDING HOUSING

Housing Search Strategies

Here are some suggestions for starting your search:

1. Contact a realtor, which you can find on: fairfield.edu/gradstudenthousing.
2. Have a cell phone and a laptop computer to inquire about vacancies that become available. You will find that many apartment-leasing offices don't answer calls and have voice mail or email only. It is best to have a plan for what to say to a potential landlord. Be sure to mention you are a Fairfield University student.
3. Think about transportation when looking at properties. Use a map to determine proximity to public transportation or determine how to access a personal vehicle. The GBT bus, StagBus, and

MetroNorth Railroad can be combined to get students to and from certain areas.

4. Become familiar with housing language (on pages 16-17)
5. Prepare a Tenant Resume (optional, but recommended). This can be found on the Housing Hub! fairfield.edu/gradstudenthousing.
6. Get a recommendation letter from the Office of Student Engagement - International Student Life to verify your finances and certify that you are a student. We may provide a letter or can speak with any landlord or property manager. Many property managers and landlords expect renters to have a credit score, which is based on a US finance history. Because you don't have this score, we will do what we can to verify your finances and support your application. E-mail international@fairfield.edu if you need this letter or information.
7. Walk or drive around neighborhoods you like and look for "For Rent/For Lease" signs posted in the windows of houses and apartments.
8. Drive/walk by to see the places you are interested in to find out what the exterior and the neighborhood look like before making an appointment for viewing. When you find something you like, do not hesitate to let the landlord know immediately that you are interested. Have a check or money order ready to pay the deposit.
9. Prepare a list of questions to ask your potential landlord such as, "What utilities are included in the rent (water, gas, electricity)? What is the cost of gas and electricity per month? When will the apartment be available? How much is the security deposit? What is the parking availability? Are there laundry facilities located on site?"
10. Meet potential roommates in person before making a commitment. Do not make arrangements to have a roommate from abroad. You would not want to move in with someone that might not be suitable for you.
11. Get all agreements in writing. Whenever you speak to your landlord, use written communication. This will give you support if there is a dispute about your arrangements.

Know Your Rights as a Renter

jud.ct.gov/Publications/hm031.pdf.

Renter's insurance information: ct.gov/cid/lib/cid/ConsumerAlertRentIns.pdf.



GLOSSARY OF HOUSING TERMS

BachelorSmall apartment without a kitchen. Sometimes a hot plate or microwave is provided.

EfficiencyOne room for living, eating, and sleeping. The bathroom is separate.

Single or StudioSingle room apartment with a small kitchen and a bathroom.

One Bedroom EfficiencyLarge single that has been converted into a one bedroom by dividing the room with doors. An efficiency should be smaller and cheaper than a normal one bedroom.

In-law HouseHomeowner sometimes has a smaller structure behind or next to their property that can be used as a private living space. Size and features vary. Sometimes it is a converted garage or pool house.

Townhouse or CondominiumPrivate home or very spacious and luxurious apartment that sometimes has its own laundry, pool and recreational facilities.

LeaseA legal contract signed by both the manager and the renter regarding the length of stay, price, and conditions of a rental agreement. It is important to not sign a lease for more than the amount of time you will stay. You are responsible for rent the entire length of the lease. Violation of the lease agreement can result in a heavy financial penalty. Residents should understand all of the conditions of the lease before signing. Any negotiated variation should be set out in

writing, initialed, and dated by both the tenant and the manager as an amendment to the lease.

Credit CheckA process in which the landlord verifies your credit history and confirms your bank information. International students or scholars who do not have a credit history in this country should not need to pay for a credit check, but it may be necessary to negotiate an agreement with the landlord in this case.

Deposit or Security DepositAn additional amount you must pay when moving into an apartment (usually at least one or two month's rent) to guarantee occupancy, payment of rent, repair of damages, and professional cleaning after you leave. In most cases, the deposit is returned in full if there is no damage to your apartment at the end of your stay (there may be a slight deduction for cleaning). Inspect the apartment carefully when moving in and record any damages, so you won't be charged when moving out.

First, Last, DepositThis means that to move in, you must pay the first and last month's rent amount, plus the security deposit amount. Most rental apartments require this, but it is possible to find those that only require the deposit amount and the first month's rent.

RentPayment made for living accommodations, usually on a monthly basis.



UtilitiesThe term used for the extra charges for gas, electricity, cable television, and water. Plan on spending an extra \$25-\$100 per month depending on your lifestyle. Some students are careful about finding "gas stoves" and "non-halogen lamps" as they use less energy.

SubletSpecial arrangement where you live in someone's apartment in their place. Sublets are attractive because they are often short-term opportunities with furnished rooms and no deposit. However, it is usually best to ask the person renting if their manager or landlord knows about your agreement, in case the lease prohibits you from taking his / her place.

A/C or AIRAir-conditioning

BR or BDRMBedroom

FPFireplace

4-PlexA rental unit comprised of two ground floor or "garden" apartments and two second floor apartments

2/2 or 3/2The first number indicates the number of bedrooms in the apartment. The second number indicates the number of bathrooms. Bathroom facilities include bathtub and/or shower, toilet (WC), and washbasin.

ABPAll bills paid. Your utilities (water, electricity, gas, sewage, garbage collection) have been included in your rent. You only have to arrange for optional telephone/Internet/television services.

W/DWashing machine and clothes dryer are provided.



GETTING SETTLED

Utility Services in your New Place

Often, when living in a rental property, you will be required to set up and maintain your own utility services. The fees for set up and the monthly costs are not usually included in your lease amount. However, oftentimes the landlord will include some of these utilities with the rent, and you will not need to arrange for set up. Discuss this matter with the landlord BEFORE you sign the lease agreement.

Heating Your Rental

There are several ways in which homes can be heated in Connecticut. Some rentals include heat with the rental. Pay attention to the listing. Each rental usually has one fixed option. Gas is cheapest and most common in cities/multiple unit rentals. Oil is the next cheapest option and is delivered by several companies and prices vary by time of year, company, and ordering. Electric heat can be expensive and is tied in with your electric bill. You can find utility prices by searching online.

Electricity

Your electric company will depend on the provider in the area you live. Inquire with your landlord when you make arrangements to begin your rental.

Water

Water is provided by each city or town you live in. Rental agreements/leases will explain how the water bill is handled. You most likely won't have to pay for your water, but make sure the details are clear.

Internet and Television Services

Most home telecommunications companies provide both Internet, television, and phone packages combined together or separated based on your needs. The cost of Internet will depend on your need for speed levels. We recommend subscribing to the basic television packages. You will need to determine the providers that are available in your neighborhood. Possible providers include: optimum.com, frontier.com, and DirectTV.com. There are also streaming only options for those with Internet service. Some providers include Netflix, Hulu, Roku, and SlingTV.

Tips for Tenants

Listed below are some helpful words of advice for people who are new to renting housing in the U.S.:

Bring your paperwork. If your real estate agent or landlord has questions, be prepared to provide documented information. This may include financial,

immigration, or student information. Always assume a landlord doesn't understand your international student status.

Review the lease. Carefully review all of the conditions before you sign on the dotted line. Your lease or rental agreement may contain a provision that you find unacceptable—restrictions can include number of guests, pets, design alterations, or running a home business.

SHOPPING

Furniture

As a visitor in the U.S., students may want to purchase inexpensive furniture and household goods. Many furniture stores will deliver items for free or for a minimal price.

New Furniture

Ikea

450 Sargent Drive
New Haven, CT 06511

Inexpensive and modern Scandinavian-style furniture that you can order online.

Target

5065 Main Street
Trumbull, CT 06611

120 Hawley Lane
Trumbull, CT 06611

Wal-Mart

650 Main Avenue
Norwalk CT, 06851

Bed, Bath & Beyond

2280 Kings Highway
Fairfield, CT 06824

Major retail store selling inexpensive household items and furniture.

HomeGoods

1850 Post Road East
Westport, CT 06880

A large variety of furniture sold at an affordable price.

Used Furniture

Rummage, Garage or Moving Sales

Yard sales where sellers sell used items at an affordable price.

Craigslist

craigslist.com

Search under Fairfield, CT for items in the local area.

GETTING SETTLED

The Goodwill Store

500 Kings Highway East
Fairfield, CT 06825
Household Items

Clothing Stores

In addition to Target and Wal-Mart, other clothing stores include:

Marshall's

700 Post Road
Fairfield, CT 06824

Old Navy

2215 Black Rock Turnpike
Fairfield, CT 06825

Kohl's

290 Tunxis Hill Road
Fairfield, CT 06825

T.J. Maxx

425 Tunxis Hill Cut Off
Fairfield, CT 06825

Factory Outlet Stores

Clinton Crossing Premium Outlets (50 minute drive)

Tanger Outlets Westbrook (50 minute drive)

Department Stores

JC Penney

Westfield Trumbull Mall
Trumbull, CT

Macy's

Westfield Trumbull Mall
Trumbull, CT

Shopping Malls

Westfield Trumbull Mall

5065 Main Street
Trumbull, CT 06611

Hawley Lane Shopping Center

160 Hawley Lane
Trumbull, CT 06611

Connecticut Post Mall

1201 Boston Post Road
Milford, CT 06460

Boutiques and Retail Stores

Along the Post Road in downtown Fairfield, there are a number of shops and places to eat, including both boutiques and retail stores.

FOOD

Supermarkets

Stop & Shop

760 Villa Avenue

Fairfield, CT 06825

1160 Kings Highway Cut-off
Fairfield, CT 06824

ShopRite

1975 Black Rock Turnpike
Fairfield, CT 06825

Trader Joe's

2258 Black Rock Turnpike
Fairfield, CT 06825

Whole Foods

450 Grasmere Avenue
Fairfield, CT 06824

BJ's Wholesale Club (requires a membership)

40 Black Rock Turnpike
Fairfield, CT 06825

Cultural Food

Mecha Noodle Bar

1215 Post Road
Fairfield, CT 06824

Bonchon - Fairfield

1561 Post Road
Fairfield, CT 06824

Taj Indian Cuisine

1879 Black Rock Turnpike
Fairfield, CT 06824

Señor Salsa

580 Post Road
Fairfield, CT 06824

Ginkgo Sichuan Cuisine

923 Post Road
Fairfield, CT 06824

Patel Brothers

330 Connecticut Avenue
Norwalk, CT 06854

Oriental Food Market

109 New Canaan Avenue
Norwalk, CT 06850

For information about area restaurants, visit fairfield.edu/restaurants.

ACADEMIC SUPPLIES

Stag Spirit Shop

Fairfield University
Barone Campus Center

Fairfield University Bookstore

1499 Post Road
Fairfield, CT 06824



GETTING SETTLED

Staples

1201 Kings Highway
Fairfield, CT 06824

Books and other academic supplies can also be purchased online. A few suggestions would be: Amazon and Chegg. Visit their websites for more details. [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and [chegg.com](https://www.chegg.com).

PHARMACIES

Pharmacies located near Fairfield University include:

CVS Pharmacies

961 Black Rock Turnpike
Fairfield, CT 06824

330 Grasmere Avenue
Fairfield, CT 06824

700 Post Road
Fairfield, CT 06824

Walgreens

414 Kings Highway East
Fairfield, CT 06825

Rite Aid

1619 Post Road
Fairfield, CT 06824

TRANSPORTATION

Stag Bus

Fairfield University provides a daily off-campus shuttle service that departs from the Campus Center. The shuttle service goes to numerous locations along the Post Road, including the Fairfield University Bookstore, Super Stop & Shop, and CVS, as well as to the Fairfield train station.

In addition, on weekends the shuttle service runs to the Trumbull Shopping Mall and movie theatres. The shuttles are accessible. Schedules are posted in the Campus Center and at [fairfield.edu/shuttle](https://www.fairfield.edu/shuttle).

Public Transportation

At Fairfield, there are a number of public transportation options available to students including Bridgeport Transit, Metro-North Railroad, taxis, Uber, and Lyft..

Greater Bridgeport Transit

The Greater Bridgeport Transit's bus route can take students to Bridgeport, Trumbull, Fairfield, Stratford, Shelton Derby, Monroe, Westport, Norwalk and Milford. The bus fare differs depending on the length of the ride. For more information, please visit [gogbt.com](https://www.gogbt.com).

Metro-North Railroad

The Metro-North Railroad is a convenient way for students to get around the local area and is only a 75-minute ride to New York City. There are two Metro-North stations located in Fairfield:

Fairfield Center Station

165 Unquowa Road
Fairfield, CT 06824

Fairfield Metro Station

61 Constant Comment Way
Fairfield, CT 06824

For more information about fares, schedule or destination information, please visit [mta.info/mnr](https://www.mta.info/mnr).

Taxis

Although taxis are not the most popular form of transportation due to the higher fare, there are different taxi services that serve the Fairfield area. In order to utilize these, you may have to call ahead and make a reservation.

Uber & Lyft

Uber and Lyft are ride-sharing services popular in the area. These apps allow you to request a driver that will pick you up from your location and bring you wherever you need to go. These apps are linked to a debit/credit card that you put into the app and takes the money out through that manner. Prices will differ based on distance, location and time of the day.

Greyhound Bus System

Greyhound is the largest provider of bus transportation. It provides regularly scheduled passenger service and offers charter packages for businesses, conventions and schools. The nearest bus terminals include:

Bridgeport Bus Station

710 Water Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Stamford Bus Station

30 Station Place
Stamford, CT 06902

Amtrak Trains

Amtrak is the largest rail company in the U.S. Amtrak offers train service to places as far as Washington, D.C. and Vermont. There are two stations located in Bridgeport and Stamford, CT. The Bridgeport station is located on 525 Water Street and the Stamford Station is located on Washington Boulevard and East State Street.

Rental Cars

There are a number of rental car agencies located in the Fairfield area. The minimum age and the policies regarding driver's licenses can be found on the agencies' websites. Some Rental Car agencies in the area include: Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Hertz Rent A Car and Avis Rental.

Buying and Owning a Car

Car ownership can be expensive due to annual registration fees, car insurance, emissions tests and parking fees. If you have decided it's best for your situation to purchase a car, it is recommended that you become familiar with the following resources:

Kelley Blue Book

Kelley Blue Book provides information about car resale values in the U.S. and is an excellent resource for comparing prices, especially for used cars. The "Blue Book " is the nation's number-one-selling automotive book featuring 15 years of used car values on more than 10,000 models of cars, trucks and vans and is available in bookstores, auto supply stores and other locations. For more information, please visit [kbb.com](https://www.kbb.com).

Consumer Reports Magazine

Provides unbiased car ratings and car buyer information. Visit [consumerreports.org](https://www.consumerreports.org).

Before you purchase a car, compare prices from different websites selling similar vehicles to see if their prices are fair. There are several online resources that will allow you to compare different styles and models, evaluate prices and option packages including [carsdirect.com](https://www.carsdirect.com). Be sure to check the vehicle's history before purchase. Students can find out additional information by asking the dealer or by visiting [carfax.com](https://www.carfax.com).

Car Registration

In the state of Connecticut, a car must be registered with 60 days of moving to the state and 30 days of purchase. Registration can be completed at the Department of Motor Vehicles.

The Connecticut Emissions Program identifies vehicles that are high emitters, and requires that they be repaired to prevent excessive air pollution. If your vehicle failed its emissions test, it is exceeding the allowable emissions standards for the year in which it was manufactured. Vehicles that fail need to be repaired and retested within 60 calendar days from the date of the initial test. Emissions tests identify the specific area(s) where a vehicle is deficient; however, it does not diagnose the cause of failure.

GETTING SETTLED

If your vehicle fails its initial test, it is entitled to one free retest per test cycle, not per paid test. You may request the free retest at any Emissions Test Center within 60 consecutive calendar days. Emissions test can be done at most gas stations.

Car Insurance

Drivers have a financial responsibility for personal injury and property damage caused during accidents. The State of Connecticut requires that all drivers to have car insurance. Major insurance companies include AAA, Allstate, State Farm, and GEICO. International students will need a valid Connecticut driver's license in order to get car insurance.

PARKING IN FAIRFIELD

Parking at Fairfield University

All student, faculty and staff vehicles must be registered with the Parking Office located on the ground floor of Loyola Hall. Tel. 203-254-4000, ext. 2745.

Vehicles that receive multiple violations for being unregistered will be immobilized and towed at owner's expense.

First-year and sophomore resident students are not authorized to have automobiles on campus (including weekends). Students who violate this policy will lose their privilege to register cars as juniors.

Visit Parking Office web site [fairfield.edu/parking](https://www.fairfield.edu/parking).

Fairfield Train Station

Fairfield Center Station

Day parking is available on both sides of the train station in designated areas marked with green signs with yellow writing as well as in the Fairprene lot on Mill Plain Road across from St. Thomas Cemetery. After 9 a.m., day parking is permitted in any open parking space. Cost is \$6 per day. A day fee ticket will be placed on the car's windshield. There is a three-night maximum for overnight parking in a day parking space. Consult the Downtown Station Parking Map to view the location of Day Parking spaces at the Downtown Station.

Fairfield Metro Station

Day parking is available. For information, please call Fusco Management Company at 203-603-5207.

Paying Day Fee Tickets (R Ticket)

You will receive a ticket on your windshield with payment instructions on the back. You can pay by



GETTING SETTLED

mail, by phone, credit card or Pay Pal. See instructions below:

Online: Visit 2.parkingticketpayment.com/fairfield to pay your ticket. If you pay within ten days of receiving the ticket there are no fees. However, if you pay on the tenth day or later the payment company will add a \$3.50 convenience fee for handling payments via credit cards.

By Mail: Mail payment along with ticket (address found on the back of your ticket) goes to:

Parking Authority of Fairfield
P.O. Box 6014
Brattleboro, VT 05302-9913

By Phone: You can pay by phone with a credit card. Dial 1-866-658-6082. It will ask you if you want to pay a Railroad parking ticket press 1 or Police Dept. ticket press 2. By doing this it will put the prefix of R for Parking Authority Railroad parking or a P for the Police dept. ticket, when prompted put in your ticket number (the yellow tickets for Parking Authority have seven digits) the system will automatically put the extra zero's to support the new systems ten digit requirement.

FAMILY RESOURCES

If your spouse will be staying with you in the U.S., here are services and resources to help with the transition.

Education

If your spouse decides to pursue a degree program while in the U.S., they will need to meet with Office of Student Engagement, International Student Life to modify their visa status.

Employment

Many other dependent visas do not allow paid employment in the U.S. Students will need to meet with our office to check their dependent's work eligibility before they accept any paid employment opportunities.

Parent/Guardian Communication and Contact Information

Parents/Guardians are asked to provide specific contact information so the University can send the Fairfield University Magazine, the News@Fairfield e-newsletter, and invitations to regional and campus events. The University does not e-mail parents/ guardians very often; however, in times of emergency or when other important information needs to be communicated in a timely fashion, e-mail has proven very efficient and effective. Parent/Guardian Information Form should be completed. The form is located: pginfo.fairfield.edu.

Call toll free at (877) 748-5123 or e-mail parentscom@fairfield.edu with any questions.

Childcare

Families are responsible for finding suitable childcare for their children while in the U.S. One resource near the Fairfield campus is Creative Minds Early Childhood Center at 234 Greenfield Street in Fairfield, CT. For more information, please visit creativemindcecc.com.

Education for Children

In Connecticut, all children between the ages of 5 and 18 are required to be registered in school. Before entering school, all children are required to have medical exams and be up to date on immunizations.

In the U.S., all children are eligible for free public school education in their local school district. Most schools offer after-school programming and English as a Second Language instruction. To enroll in the Fairfield Public School District, please visit fairfieldschools.org.

Private and parochial schools are additional educational options for families. These schools often charge tuition. A comprehensive list can be found at privateschoolreview.com.

Homeschooling is another option for families in Connecticut. There are many ways to homeschool children but it is important to make sure lesson plans comply with state laws. The Connecticut Homeschool Network website is a great resource to learn more about this type of education. Their website is cthomeschoolnetwork.org.

U.S. Educational Structure

Pre-school is not mandatory in the state of Connecticut, but is highly recommended. Fairfield Public Schools offer preschool programs at the Early Childhood Center, Burr Preschool, and Dwight Preschool for 3 and 4 year olds. There are also a number of different private preschools in the area. Information about these can be found at: fairfieldpubliclibrary.org/childrens. Contact the schools/centers directly with any questions.

Children reaching the age of five on or before January 1st of any year shall be eligible for kindergarten in the preceding September. Children reaching the age of five between January 2 and February 28 may qualify for accelerated kindergarten admission entrance in the preceding September if they qualify as superior in the various aspects of readiness. Many schools require certain immunizations before they can begin attending school.

GETTING SETTLED

Family Legal Matters

Connecticut law requires all drivers and passengers wear safety belts. Children must ride in a proper child safety seat until they are above eight years old and 60 pounds. In addition, infants must ride in a rear-facing seat until they are two years old AND 30 pounds. After a child exceeds these limits, the child must be secured in a booster seat with a lap and shoulder belt, until they outgrow the booster seat.

Failing to follow the child safety seat rules can result in a fine and an order to complete a car seat education class.

Unattended Children

In Connecticut, there are strict laws that forbid leaving children unattended in cars, in public or at home. The law states that leaving a child unattended is considered to be "child neglect" since there is a risk of a child getting harmed.

Accepting Public Assistance

Non-immigrants are not eligible for public assistance in the U.S. Unfortunately, the cost of health insurance can be high for families. Some families are unable to afford health insurance and choose to risk not having health insurance coverage. In some instances, hospital staff or doctors may even suggest that an international student or scholar take advantage of such public assistance. The consequences of accepting assistance are that if you leave the U.S., you will not be able to reenter the country until the public assistance has been repaid.

HEALTH INSURANCE

All visiting students and their dependents are required to maintain or purchase Fairfield University's International Student Health Insurance. All F-1 and J-1 visa students will be automatically enrolled in this insurance plan. This requirement was established to maintain the health and well being of students, which is integral to the quality of their college experience. To view the policy and price details, go to gallagherstudent.com/fairfield.

J-1 Insurance Coverage Requirements

The insurance provided to you has been defined by U.S. federal regulations and is required for all J-1 students and scholars. All F-1 and J-1 visa students will be automatically enrolled in this insurance plan. Please visit gallagherstudent.com/fairfield for additional information.

Where to Get Medical Care

All full-time undergraduate students can use the Student Health Center. The Health Center is open daily when classes are in session. Services provided include the diagnosis and treatment of common illnesses and injuries, allergy shots and a women's clinic. Health Center clinicians are able to order laboratory tests and prescription medications when indicated. Students who have prescriptions from their private healthcare provider for long-term conditions should arrange to have these prescriptions filled at a local pharmacy prior to coming to Fairfield University.

In the case of a medical emergency, students will be transported to a local hospital for care. Bridgeport Hospital and St. Vincent's Hospital both serve Fairfield University students.

Confidentiality of Your Medical Records

By law, information you share with a doctor, nurse, or other medical provider must be kept confidential. A doctor in the U.S. is not permitted to contact your family, friends, or anyone else to discuss your medical condition, symptoms, illness, or treatment without your written permission unless your life is in danger or if you are unconscious or unable to make medical decisions.

The closest urgent care centers and hospitals to Fairfield University are:

Bridgeport Hospital

267 Grant Street
Bridgeport, CT 06610

St. Vincent's Medical Center

2800 Main Street
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Connecticut Children's Fairfield

Specialty Care Center

95 Reef Road
Fairfield, CT 06824

Connecticut Children's Specialty Care Center in Fairfield is located in Southern Connecticut for children and families in need of specialized pediatric health care for a range of conditions.

Counseling & Psychological Services

Counseling & Psychological Services (C&PS) is a confidential service for full-time undergraduate students. Graduate students may utilize this service for a single session to coordinate a referral. Fairfield's Counseling Center is accredited by the International Association of Counseling Services (IACS) and



GETTING SETTLED

provides individual and group psychotherapy by professional psychotherapists to help students deal with adjustment issues, mood disorders, relationship problems, family issues, and emotional distress.

Services offered include psychological counseling, crisis intervention, psychiatric services, and substance abuse assessment and treatment, including Choices, Eating Disorder Treatment and Referral, and Sexual Assault Response. To learn more about the comprehensive services offered by C&PS, call 203-254-4000, ext. 2146 or visit fairfield.edu/cps.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Open 24 hours per day, 365 days per year, the Department of Public Safety is authorized to prevent, investigate, and report any violations of state or federal law and/or Fairfield University policies and regulations on campus. Students can report any potential criminal act or emergency to any officer or representative of the department. Public Safety officers patrol the campus in cars, on foot, and on bicycles. Officers are trained as emergency medical technicians (EMTs), and Public Safety is the first-responder for medical emergencies on campus.

Public Safety encourages all members of the community to practice basic crime prevention practices by leaving valuables at home, always locking doors, and traveling with friends.

Public Safety officers perform a number of other services on campus, including an escort service, coordinating security needs for campus events, and parking enforcement.

Fairfield University utilizes an emergency notification system called StagAlert, to notify and send information to students, faculty, and staff in the event of a significant emergency.

The StagAlert system is able to send messages simultaneously as voice calls, text messages, and e-mail messages. Depending on the nature of the situation, any or all of these methods may be used to communicate with the intended recipients. Additionally, Public Safety encourages all students, faculty and staff to use the smart phone app, LiveSafe. LiveSafe activates and streams real-time video and audio, GPS location and two-way texting to Fairfield University's DPS dispatch center. LiveSafe allows dispatchers and first responders to monitor information in real time, streaming from a person's phone, enabling a quicker and more effective response by our Public Safety Officers

TAKING CARE OF YOURSELF

Culture Shock and How to Adjust

Culture shock is an experience a person may have when moving to a cultural environment that is different from his or her own culture. This can include culture, language, customs and the loss of support systems. Being able to anticipate feelings associated with culture shock, and having an understanding of the cycle of adjustment help minimize the difficulty of adjusting to life in the U.S. Feelings of culture shock can last anywhere from a few days to a few months. Feel free to reach out to the Fairfield University Office of Student Engagement, International Student Life to speak with an advisor.

Town of Fairfield Emergency Notification System

Sign up for Fairfield's emergency notification system to be notified by your local emergency response team in the event of emergency situations or critical community alerts. Visit the Town of Fairfield website for more information.

The Department also sponsors personal safety and defense workshops. Students can even participate in a ride-along program. For more information, visit fairfield.edu/publicsafety. To report any emergency, students should call ext. 4090 or 203-254-4090. All students are to program the DPS phone number into their cell phones prior to arriving on campus.

Intimate Partner Violence

Get help right away if you think you are in an intimate partner violence situation. Inform yourself of the options and resources that are available to you in the community. Here are resources available to students:

Confidential On-Campus Resources

Counseling & Psychological Services
203-254-4000, ext. 2146

Clergy at Campus Ministry
203-254-4000, ext. 3405

Student Health Center
203-254-4000, ext. 2241

Confidential Advisor
203-254-4000, ext. 2342

Confidential Off-Campus Resources

The Center for Family Justice
203-334-6154

Sexual Assault Hotline
203-384-9559

GETTING SETTLED

Domestic Violence Hotline
203-384-9559

Español Hotline
1-888-568-8332 (24/7)

LGBTQ Anti-Violence Project
212-714-1141

Non-Confidential On-Campus Resources

Public Safety
203-254-4090 (24/7)

Title IX Sexual Assault Staff Members
203-254-4000

Residence Life
203-254-4000, ext. 4215

Dean of Students
203-254-4000, ext. 4211

Non-Confidential Off-Campus Resources
Connecticut State Police
860-685-8190

Fairfield Police Department
911 or 203-254-4800

Community Resources

Women's Law

womenslaw.org

The Women's Law website provides legal information and resources to women living with or escaping partner violence or sexual assault.

The Center for Family Justice, Inc.

753 Fairfield Ave., Bridgeport, CT
Open: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.- 5 p.m.
203-334-6154

FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Fairfield University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, marital status, veteran's status, political ideology, religion, national or ethnic origin, age, or disability in the administration of educational policies or programs, admission and employment policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

As a Catholic, Jesuit institution, Fairfield University values and celebrates the diverse backgrounds, cultures, experiences, and perspectives of our community. Through the promotion and protection of diversity, the Fairfield University community creates an environment where holistic development, academic excellence, and a commitment to the well-being of

others can flourish. The University is committed to maintaining a diverse and multicultural community in which the dignity and worth of each of its members is respected. The University strongly condemns any unlawful or wrongful discrimination against the rights of others.

Sexual Misconduct Policy

Fairfield University is committed to providing a learning environment free of gender-based discrimination, including sexual harassment. Sexual misconduct is a form of sexual harassment prohibited by this policy. This policy is intended to guide students on the University's general response policy to incidents of sexual misconduct, the resources available to victims of sexual misconduct, and the sexual misconduct prevention initiatives of the University.

Drug Policy

The possession, use, or distribution of illicit or illegal drugs is strictly forbidden. The possession of drug paraphernalia is also prohibited. In addition to University disciplinary action, responsible students are subject to arrest and prosecution by state and/or federal authorities.

The improper use of prescription drugs is a serious problem on college campuses. For this reason, it is a violation of University conduct rules for a student to be in possession of another person's prescription medication, or for a student to provide another person with drugs that have been prescribed for that student. Sanctions will be assessed based on the behavior in question but can include a fine, disciplinary probation, drug education, and/or referral for evaluation, counseling, or Restorative Mentoring.

Fairfield University Smoking Policy

Smoking is prohibited in all University buildings and facilities. The use of electronic cigarettes, vaporizers and hookahs are also prohibited in all University buildings and facilities. Consistent with applicable state law, this prohibition includes all of the student residences (residence halls, townhouses, and apartments). In addition, individuals smoking are expected to be at least 30 feet from the building or whatever greater distance is required so as not to allow smoke to travel back into the building. Violations of the smoking policy may result in a fine, an educational activity, and/or community service.



GETTING SETTLED

LEGAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Connecticut Laws

Smoking and E-Cigarettes

Smoking is prohibited in many public places including: state and local government buildings; any area of a health care institution; any area of a retail food store; any restaurant; any bar/tavern; within a school building while school is in session or student activities are being conducted; any passenger elevator; in any dormitory of any public or private institution of higher education; and any dog racing track or off-track betting facility. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require any smoking area in any building.

Exceptions to the law include: 1) correctional facilities; 2) designated smoking areas in psychiatric facilities; 3) public housing projects; 4) classrooms where demonstration smoking is taking place as part of a medical or scientific experiment or lesson; 5) smoking rooms provided by employers pursuant to section 31-40q Connecticut General Statutes, 6) outdoor areas of restaurants subject to certain conditions; and 7) tobacco bars as defined. The operator of a hotel, motel or similar lodging may allow guests to smoke in not more than 25 percent of their rooms.

Car Safety Belts and Seats

Connecticut law states that drivers and front seat passengers must wear safety belts at all times. Rear seat passengers aged 4-16 years old must wear safety belts as well. Children must ride in a proper child safety seat until they are above eight years old and and 60 pounds. In addition, infants must ride in a rear-facing seat until they are two years old and 30 pounds. After a child exceeds these limits, the child must be secured in a booster seat with a lap and shoulder belt, until they outgrow the booster seat.

Failing to follow the child safety seat rules can result in a fine and an order to complete a car seat education class. Car seats in Connecticut must meet federal motor vehicle safety standards.

Cell Phones and Driving

Connecticut law states that, drivers under 18 years old are not allowed to use cell phones (including the hands-free type) or any mobile electronic devices while driving. This includes personal digital assistants (PDAs) and text-messaging systems. Motorists over 18 years old may only use hands-free cell phones while driving. However, drivers of all ages are permitted to use a conventional or hands-free cell phone in an emergency situations, such as when calling for an

ambulance or contacting law enforcement. All drivers, regardless of age, are banned from texting while behind the wheel.

TAXES IN THE U.S.

In the state of Connecticut, the statewide sales tax rate is 6.35%.

Filing Taxes

Every international student and their dependents (including spouses and children of all ages) are required to file their taxes if they were in the US during the previous calendar year. The Dolan School of Business typically offers a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) clinic each Spring semester. They provide help in completing your tax forms, and is free to students. While filing your taxes may sound difficult, there are a number of benefits to filing your taxes other than it's the law:

- You might get a refund. Some international students will qualify for a refund due to tax treaties and a lack of serious income if they've earned income in the US.
- Protect taxation of your worldwide income.
- You fulfill your visa obligations. All international students must file at least Form 8843 in order to remain legal under F, J, M & Q visas, even if you didn't earn any money in the US.

Income Tax

Income tax includes wages, scholarships and earnings on investment. The tax is withheld by the employer from the employee's paycheck as an estimated tax payment. International students must file an annual tax report by April 15.

At the start of your employment, employees must complete a W-4 form. The form determines how much will be withheld from the paycheck for taxes. Most international students are required to file as "single." The employer will be able to help employees complete the W-4 form.

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is a U.S. federal agency that collects income tax. Visit the State of Connecticut Department of Revenue Services at <http://portal.ct.gov/>.

After leaving the U.S., you must file a U.S./Connecticut State tax report for the period you were in the U.S. This tax report is due in the April of the year following your stay in the U.S. All tax information is available on the IRS website.

GETTING SETTLED

Tax Treaties

Certain countries have tax treaties where certain types of income are exempt from federal tax. Information about tax treaties can be found on the IRS website. Provide the IRS form 8233 and a tax treaty statement to the income providers to reduce or avoid tax withholding. Even with a tax treaty, all international students must complete an annual federal tax return.

LOCAL ARTS AND CULTURE

Fairfield takes great pride in the arts and intellectual co-curricular programming offered to our students. Engagement with the arts as a change agent in one's life is an integral component of our mission as a Catholic, Jesuit University. The Fairfield area is home to a variety of different museums, music, theatres and entertainment.

Regina A. Quick Center

Are you hoping to experience the best in performing arts and cultural and intellectual events without heading into NYC? Fairfield University students enjoy tickets to Quick events for just \$5 with their Stag ID. Learn more at quickcenter.com.

Events include the best musicians, dancers, and actors in the world; the Open VISIONS Forum which offers distinguished lecturers and taste-makers in a town hall style program; Live in HD screenings of The Met Opera and National Theatre; and featured performances by student ensembles including Theatre Fairfield, the Glee Club, and the Dance Ensemble.

Engage in global conversations as the world comes to your doorstep when you make the Quick your home for meaningful and enriching experiences!

Bellarmino Museum of Art

Publicly inaugurated in the fall of 2010, the Bellarmino Museum of Art (BMA) is housed in the University's signature building on campus, Bellarmino Hall. The award-winning BMA stewards a rich and varied collection of paintings, sculpture, decorative art objects and works on paper, including a number of paintings from the Italian Renaissance and Baroque periods; a large selection of historic plaster casts after canonical works from ancient Greece and Rome; a range of non-Western art objects, including pre-Columbian figures, Chinese funerary objects from the Han and Tang Dynasties, and South East Asian sculptures; and 20 objects from the Celtic, late Antique, Medieval, and Renaissance periods on loan from the Metropolitan Museum of Art/The Cloisters Museum. The BMA mounts up to four temporary exhibitions each year.

These shows, which embrace a wide range of themes and academic disciplines, are intended to supplement the museum's permanent collection by examining subjects through an array of interpretive perspectives.

Thomas J. Walsh Art Gallery

The Thomas J. Walsh Art Gallery at the Quick Center for the Arts seeks to establish direct and meaningful connections with students, faculty, and the Fairfield community. As a practical "laboratory" for presenting art, and host to a wide range of diverse and multicultural exhibitions, lectures and educational programming, the gallery plays an extremely significant and visible role at Fairfield University — offering a spacious venue for exhibitions on myriad subjects, and enhancing the academic programs of the Department of Visual and Performing Arts as well as the cultural programs at the Quick Center. For further information on Fairfield's cultural offerings visit fairfield.edu/arts.

Fairfield Museum and History Center

The Fairfield Museum and History Center is a museum and library located at 370 Beach Road in Fairfield, Connecticut. The museum features exhibition galleries, special collection research library and reading room, family education center, a theatre and museum shop. The museum hosts a series of programs and events throughout the year. For more information, please visit fairfieldhistory.org.

Housatonic Museum of Art

The Housatonic Museum of Art is a museum at Housatonic Community College in Bridgeport, Connecticut. The museum's permanent collection is on display the entire year across campus. The museum also hosts a series of lectures and programs. All gallery exhibits are free and open to the public. For more information, please visit hcc.comnet.edu/artmuseum/.

Barnum Museum

The Barnum Museum is located at 805 Main Street in Bridgeport, Connecticut. The museum is dedicated to P.T. Barnum and contains an extensive collection of P.T. Barnum art and artifacts. For more information, please visit barnum-museum.org.

Discovery Museum and Planetarium

The Discovery Museum and Planetarium is a hands-on interactive science museum in Bridgeport, Connecticut. The museum has a number of exhibits, a planetarium where you can view a simulation of the starry sky, art exhibitions and the Challenger Learning Center. For more information, please visit discoverymuseum.org.



GETTING SETTLED

Fairfield Theatre Company

Fairfield Theatre Company (FTC) is a nonprofit center for arts and culture that offers live music and entertainment at three concert venue locations. Located in downtown Fairfield, FTC shows include a mix of music, art, drama and dance. To view upcoming events, please visit fairfieldtheatre.org.

Fairfield After Dark

Fairfield After Dark is an online website that has up to date information about nightlife, events and entertainment in Fairfield County. To see what is happening in Fairfield County, please visit fairfieldafterdark.com.

SPORTS AND RECREATION

Town of Fairfield Parks & Recreation

The Town of Fairfield has many things to offer to you and your family when it comes to recreation. There are a number of different playgrounds, athletic fields, and picnic areas that are available for use. More information about the locations and how to make reservations can be found on fairfieldct.org/facilities.

Fairfield YMCA

841 Old Post Road

Fairfield, CT 06824

203-255-2834

Fairfield University RecPlex

Our newly renovated RecPlex offers 40,000 square feet and three levels of space to get a great workout. The RecPlex includes an upgraded Field House, an elevated indoor track, a twenty-five meter pool, new group fitness areas and much more!

Hiking

There are a number of different local trails, which range from 2 to 8 miles. Local trails include: The Lillinonah Trail in Trumbull, CT and Webb Mountain Park in Monroe, CT.

Sailing and Kayaking

Downunder Kayak, SUP, & Surf Shop

Full-Service Kayaking & Stand Up Paddle Boarding. Located on the Saugatuck River in Westport, Downunder rents kayaks, paddle boards and offers group and private lessons as well as guided tours. Learn more at downunderct.com.

Community Sailing of Fairfield

Community Sailing of Fairfield is located at the Town Dock in Southport Harbor. This sailing program makes available to its members, two fixed keel, family-size Ideal 18' daysailers, four two man kayaks and two one

man kayaks. Household memberships are available to anyone over the age of 18. For more information about membership, please visit communitysailingfairfield.com.

Public Beaches

There are a number of beaches in the Fairfield area that are very close to the University. These beaches include Jennings Beach, Sasco Hill Beach, and Penfield Beach.

Jennings Beach

The largest of Fairfield's Beaches, this large sandy beach with great views of Long Island Sound is handicapped accessible with a concession stand, bathroom facilities, volleyball poles and sailboat racks. Jennings Beach is free and open to the public. From Memorial Day to Labor Day, a beach sticker is required to park at the beach lot. During the summer months, the weekday parking fee is \$20 and \$50 on the weekends and holidays.

Penfield Beach

Penfield Beach is a 3.5 acre beachfront property that is a great place to swim and sun. The beach has two banquet facilities, sailboat racks, rental lockers, a large covered deck, bathroom facilities and is handicap accessible. Penfield is free and open to the public. From Memorial Day to Labor Day, a beach sticker is required to park at the beach lot. During the summer months, the weekday parking fee is \$20 and \$50 on the weekends and holidays.

Cycling

There are a few different bike trails in the Fairfield county area including the Pequonnock River Valley Park/Rails to Trails.

Additionally, there are a number of indoor cycling options including Zen-Ride in Fairfield, JoyRide in Westport/Darien, SoulCycle in Westport/Greenwich, and more. Visit their websites for more details.

The Adventure Park at The Discovery Museum

Explore 11 trails, 21 zip lines, 6 difficulty levels, and almost 161 challenge bridges in the largest forest-climbing park in New England. As the sun sets, feel the magic of the trees when the park is transformed by LED lighting. For more information, please visit discoveryadventurepark.org.

FAMILY FUN FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Public Libraries

In Fairfield County, there are a number of free programs available to children at the local libraries including storytelling. Local libraries that are in close proximity to

Fairfield's campus are the Fairfield Public Library and Westport Public Library.

Connecticut Science Center

The Connecticut Science Center is about an hour away from Fairfield University. There are plenty of hands-on activities, exhibits, a 3D digital theater, educational labs, daily programs and events, and much more! To learn more, please visit ctsciencecenter.org.

Fairfield Recreational Sports/Youth Programs

The Town of Fairfield has a lot to offer when it comes to recreational sports and youth programs. Specific information can be found at fairfieldct.org.

Parks and Playgrounds

The town of Fairfield has several parks and playgrounds available to you and your family. For a full list of the parks with their corresponding locations, please visit fairfieldct.org.

Central Park

Located in New York City, Central Park is only about an hour and a half away by train. Central Park is the most visited urban park in the United States. There is always something fun going on in the park! For more information, please visit centralparknyc.org.

Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo

Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo is located in Bridgeport, Connecticut and it is only a 15-20 minute drive away from campus. People of all ages can come and enjoy the various exhibits and programs that the zoo has to offer. For more information, please visit beardsleyzoo.com.

The Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk

The Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk offers visitors of all ages the opportunity to have a good time while learning about the vital natural resource just off our shore: Long Island Sound. There are 34 different exhibits, which feature more than 1,200 marine animals of 259 species. Located in Norwalk, Connecticut, the aquarium is only a 20-minute drive away! For more information, please visit maritimeaquarium.org.

Six Flags

Six Flags is an amusement parks with locations throughout the U.S. There are 3 different locations that are in driving distance from campus. Six Flags New England is located in Agawam, MA, which is only about an hour and a half away. Six Flags Great Adventure and Six Flags Hurricane Harbor are located in Jackson, NJ and are about two and a half hours away. For locations, please visit sixflags.com.

Quassy Amusement Park

Quassy is an amusement and water park located in Middlebury, CT, which is about a 45-minute drive from campus. It has 22 rides on its 20 acres! To learn more about the park, please visit quassy.com.

Lake Compounce

Lake Compounce is an amusement park located in Bristol and Southington, CT, which is about an hour drive from campus. The park has a beach, a water park and many different themed events throughout the year! For more information, please visit lakecompounce.com.

CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT

Traditional Cultural Events

International Student Life helps to support traditional cultural events at the Graduate and Undergraduate level. These events include:

- Mid-Autumn Festival
- Diwali
- Lunar New Year
- International Education Week
- Flavors of Asia
- Una Noche en la Marina
- Holi

and more!

These events are hosted by our students, and open to the public.

Break-Events

International Student Life and the Office of Residence Life coordinates to host events and services during the times the University is closed throughout the Academic year.

For even more information about signature events and campus involvement, undergraduate students refer to your New Student Guidebook, graduate students refer to the Graduate Student Life online webpage on the Fairfield University Website.





ACADEMIC FACILITIES

- Bannow (Rudolph F.) Science Center **11**
School of Engineering
- Canisius Hall **3**
College of Arts and Sciences, Graduate School of Education and Allied Professions, Center for Faith and Public Life, Center for Catholic Studies
- DiMenna-Nyselius Library **10**
Center for Academic Excellence, ITS (Information Technology Services) Center for Applied Ethics
- NEW** Dolan School of Business **8**
- Donnarumma Hall **4**
Bennett Center for Judaic Studies
- Egan (Marion Peckham) School of Nursing and Health Studies **12**
Kanarek Center for Palliative Care
- PepsiCo Theatre **40**
- Quick (Regina A.) Center for the Arts **9**
Kelley (Aloysius P.), S.J. Theatre, Walsh (Thomas J.) Gallery, Wien Theatre/Black Box
- Xavier Hall - Fairfield Prep **17**
University Media Center

RESIDENCE HALLS

- 70 McCormick Road **35**
- Campion Hall **34**
- Dolan Campus **30**
A. Dolan (John C.) Hall
- Faber Hall **47**
- Gonzaga Hall **39**
Stag Statue
- Jogues Hall **36**
- Loyola Hall **2**
Public Safety, Ignatian Residential College, Lukacs Gallery
- Regis Hall **38**
- Townhouse Complex **28**
- The Village **52**
A. Meditz Hall
B. Kostka Hall
C. Claver Hall
D. 47 Mahan Road
- 42 Langguth Hall **56**
- NEW** The Barnyard Manor **58**

ATHLETIC FACILITIES

- Alumni Diamond **29**
- Alumni Hall - Sports Arena **14**
- Alumni Softball Field **33**
- Barlow Field **44**
- Basketball Courts **32**
- Batting Facility **60**
- Fr. Brissette Athletic Center - Fairfield Prep **54**
- Grauert Field **55**
- Lessing Field **24**
- Quick (Leslie C.), Jr. Recreation Complex **15**
- Rafferty Stadium **27**
- Tennis Courts **25**
- University Field **31**
- Walsh (Thomas J.), Jr. Athletic Center **26**
(Fields and courts are green)

STUDENT SERVICES AND OTHER LOCATIONS

- Alumni House **22**
Alumni Relations Office
- Barone (John A.) Campus Center **13**
"The Tully" Dining Commons, Oak Room, Dunkin'; Stags on the Run convenience store, Snack Bar and Offices for FUSA, StagCard, WVOF, Residence Life, Student Diversity and Multicultural Affairs, and Student Engagement
- Bellarmino Hall **6**
President and Executive Offices, Advancement, Marketing and Communications, Fairfield University Art Museum
- Bellarmino Pond **46**
- Berchmans Hall - Fairfield Prep **16**
- Central Utility Facility **53**
- Conference Center at Fairfield University **59**
- Early Learning Center **41**
- Egan Chapel of St. Ignatius Loyola **5**
Pedro Arrupe, S.J. Campus Ministry Center
- Dolan Campus **30**
A. Dolan (John C.) Hall
Student Health Center, Counseling and Psychological Services

- B. Dolan (David J.) House
The Murphy Center for Ignatian Spirituality, Study Abroad
- C. Dolan (Thomas F.) Commons
Offices for ITS (Information Technology Services), Human Resources, Design & Print
- Hopkins Pond **51**
- Jesuit Community Center (St. Ignatius Hall) **7**
- Kelley (Aloysius P.), S.J. Center **1**
Offices of Undergraduate and Graduate Admission, Financial Aid, Registrar, Academic & Career Development
- Kelley Parking Garage **57**
- Maintenance Building **45**
- McAuliffe Hall **21**
Bursar, Offices for Finance, Purchasing and Central Receiving
- Southwell Hall **42**
The Kathryn P. Koslow Family Counseling Center
- The Levee **23**



Fairfield UNIVERSITY

For more admission, academic, athletic and other information, please visit

FAIRFIELD.EDU