The purpose of this book is to introduce you to life at Full Sail, as well as what you can expect as an international student learning and living in the United States. We are excited to welcome you to our international student community, and want to share the resources available to you.

Students from all over the world come to Full Sail University because they have a vision of a career path in the industry they are passionate about. In addition to beginning an education that is based on professional experience and hands-on learning, you’ll encounter a thriving international community and a support system designed to meet its needs.
Arriving from the Airport

You have a couple of options for transportation from the Orlando International Airport (MCO) to Full Sail University.

**Taxi**
This is the easiest way to travel from the airport, but also one of the more expensive. A taxi from the airport to Full Sail costs about $50 USD. Travel time is about 35 to 45 minutes.

**Shuttle Van**
This is a reasonable option both in regards to time and cost. The cost is about $27 USD on average and travel time is about an hour. If you have hotel accommodations, they might offer a free shuttle service; please check with them before arrival.

For additional information on travel options from Orlando International Airport, visit [www.orlandoairports.net](http://www.orlandoairports.net).

**Travel and Transportation**

**Public Transportation**
The Central Florida area’s public transportation service, LYNX, provides bus service throughout Orlando, Winter Park, and surrounding cities and counties. You can view schedules, fares, and more at [www.golynx.com](http://www.golynx.com).

Please note that public transportation in Central Florida is not as comprehensive as it is in other countries, so living close to school and/or obtaining a car or bicycle is recommended.

**Taxi Service**
Taxi service is available in Winter Park and Orlando and can be obtained by calling a company directly. Outside of Downtown Orlando, be mindful that arrival times may vary, so it is best to plan your taxi travel ahead of time.

**PRE-DEPARTURE CHECKLIST**

- **Solo flight ticket**
- **Arrival information**
  - Do you have transportation from the Orlando airport to your hotel or apartment?
  - Address of your apartment or hotel
  - Map of Orlando
- **Emergency contacts**
- **School contacts**
- **Documents**
  - Passport — must be valid at least six months from arrival date
  - I-20 form — make sure this is signed and dated
  - SEVIS fee payment confirmation
  - Letter of Verification and Welcome Letter from Full Sail University
  - Evidence of financial resources (bank statement)
- **Accessible funds**
  - Credit/debit card — be sure to contact your bank or card issuer to authorize international transactions
  - Cash
  - Travelers Cheque
- **Valuables/essential items**
  - Bring in carry-on luggage. Have copies available for any prescriptions you may have. Be sure to check TSA regulations before your flight for restrictions.
  - Carry all documents and tickets with you at all times. Do not check them in with luggage.
Living in Winter Park, a suburb of Orlando, gives you both the conveniences of city life with the unique shops, restaurants, and culture of a smaller town. From concert venues, to comic book stores, to museums, to malls and outlets, there is plenty to do no matter how you like to spend your free time.

If you enjoy experiencing the outdoors, Florida is known for its warm climate year-round – and there are many surrounding places to enjoy it. There are beautiful beaches on the east and west coasts, nature parks offering hiking and biking trails, rivers, and lakes, as well as the attractions and amusement parks that the area is known for.
The Full Sail University campus is located in Winter Park, Florida, which is about 10 to 15 minutes north of the city of Orlando. Full Sail is close to several other colleges – including UCF and Rollins College – so groceries, affordable restaurants, laundry facilities, and other businesses that suit a student’s lifestyle are nearby.

On a bike or on foot, you can easily get to what you need. And with a car (or a friend with a car), you can get to museums, beaches, concerts, conventions – whatever your heart desires.
Making friends in the area will help you build the support and relationships to make the most out of your academic experience.

Full Sail has special clubs and events that are designed to celebrate the diverse cultures of International students, as well as connect students that are new to the country. Ask your International Student Liaison for information on specific student groups and clubs.
RESOURCES

Here are some of the resources available to you as an international student:

International Student Center
The staff here can provide you with information on your daily needs, such as opening a bank account and obtaining a driver’s license, and can also provide you with assistance and guidance regarding your visa status.

Housing Handbook
This handbook provides the details of finding and securing an apartment complex close to Full Sail that is familiar with international students’ unique situations.

Scholarship Guide
Our Scholarship Guide provides you with an overview of scholarships for qualified students.
Instead of carrying your passport around as identification, you should consider obtaining a Florida Identification Card or a Florida Driver’s License from the Department of Motor Vehicles.

You may want to obtain health insurance while staying in the U.S. as it will dramatically offset your medical costs. Ask your International Liaison for more information on health insurance options.

Most cell phone providers require a social security number to establish service. However, many offer pre-paid options that do not require credit or a contract. Common cell phone carriers in the United States include AT&T, T-Mobile, Verizon, and Sprint.

Medical care
There are several urgent care walk-in clinics close to Full Sail University, including Florida Hospital Winter Park, Centra Care, University Walk-in Medical Center, and Aloma Urgent Care. The nearest hospital is Winter Park Memorial Hospital. If you have symptoms that lead you to believe you are experiencing a life-threatening medical emergency, dial 911.

You may want to obtain health insurance while staying in the U.S. as it will dramatically offset your medical costs. Ask your International Liaison for more information on health insurance options.

Banking
Once you arrive in the U.S., you will want to open a bank account. You will need the following information to do so:

- Passport
- Full Sail Student ID
- I-94
- Proof of U.S. residency
- Proof of residence in your country of origin
- Funds to deposit

Be sure to open at least one checking account, which will allow you to pay bills and make purchases with either a check or a debit card (check card). Ask your banker about any fees related to your account; some banks offer accounts for college students that have lower fees.

Banks near Full Sail include Bank of America, Regions Bank, SunTrust, and Wells Fargo.

ID card / drivers’ license
Instead of carrying your passport around as identification, you should consider obtaining a Florida Identification Card or a Florida Driver’s License from the Department of Motor Vehicles.

The law requires you to complete registration with your school and to inform your International Liaison if you apply for a license or ID card before your start date. You will need to bring your passport, two proofs of residential address, your I-20, and a paper copy of your electronic I-94 with you when you apply.

Cell phones
Most cell phone providers require a social security number to establish service. However, many offer pre-paid options that do not require credit or a contract. Common cell phone carriers in the United States include AT&T, T-Mobile, Verizon, and Sprint.

ESSENTIAL INFO
Medical care

1. Winter Park Memorial Hospital
   200 N Lakemont Avenue
   Winter Park, Florida 32792
   +1.407.646.7425

2. Aloma Walk-In Clinic
   7480 Aloma Avenue
   Winter Park, Florida 32792
   +1.407.657.7799

3. University Walk-In Medical Center
   11550 University Boulevard
   Orlando, Florida 32817
   +1.407.282.2044

4. Orlando Walk-In Medical Center
   8010 Red Bug Lake Road
   Oviedo, Florida 32765
   +1.407.977.4544

Banking

5. SunTrust Bank
   3191 University Boulevard
   Winter Park, Florida 32792
   +1.407.671.8200

6. Wells Fargo Bank
   4010 North Goldenrod Road
   Winter Park, Florida 32792
   +1.407.657.3142

7. Regions Bank
   7562 University Boulevard
   Winter Park, Florida 32792
   +1.407.657.1711

8. Bank of America
   1905 Aloma Avenue
   Winter Park, Florida 32792
   +1.407.678.1924

9. Chase Bank
   7315 University Blvd
   Winter Park, Florida 32792
   +1.407.677.7896

Grocery Stores

10. Publix
    4000 N Goldenrod Rd
    Winter Park, FL, 32792

11. Target
    3770 N Goldenrod Rd
    Winter Park, FL, 32792

12. Walmart
    1230 State Road 436 #101
    Casselberry, FL, 32707

13. Walmart
    Neighborhood Market
    2271 N Semoran Blvd
    Orlando, FL, 32807

14. Aldi
    3760 Aloma Ave
    Winter Park, FL, 32792

15. PUBLIX
    4000 N Goldenrod Rd
    Winter Park, FL, 32792

16. T-Mobile
    2525 Howell Branch Road Suite 1001
    Casselberry, Florida 32707
    +1.407.657.4647

17. Verizon
    3742 East Colonial Drive
    Orlando, Florida 32803
    +1.407.894.5770

ID card / drivers’ license

18. Driver License Office
    104 Wehrle Boulevard
    Casselberry, Florida 32707
    +1.407.665.1000

ESSENTIAL LOCATIONS
Full Sail University is proud to offer Intensive English (IE) courses of study on campus for students who are preparing to enroll in a Full Sail degree program.

**ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**

**Your Classes**
One of the reasons why your learning experience at Full Sail is unique is that it moves at the same fast pace as the entertainment and media industry. That means many of your courses are delivered on a month-to-month basis, and your class time will be spent working on projects using the technology found in your industry.

This experience gives you an authentic introduction to your future career path, and your employers will know you have already become familiarized in professional environments.

**Campus Events**
The Full Sail campus hosts a variety of exciting events, including industry speakers, recruiting events, award ceremony celebrations, and the annual Hall of Fame celebration.

**Real-World Opportunities**
From assisting with production on the nationally syndicated Daily Buzz morning show (filmed on campus), to working alongside ESPN staff to produce video and graphics projects, to designing motion graphics for the Orlando Magic NBA team, some of our students are able to gain experience on projects that gain a lot of exposure.

**Intensive English**
Full Sail University is proud to offer Intensive English (IE) courses of study on campus for students who are preparing to enroll in a Full Sail degree program.
SAFETY TIPS

Your safety is our foremost priority. Here are a few simple precautions that can help minimize your risk:

- If you walk or bike to class, travel with a friend or classmate and always stay in well-lit and highly visible areas. Do not do anything that would impair your senses (e.g., listening to loud music on headphones). Remain aware of your surroundings at all times.

- If you have a car, remove all expensive/important belongings any time you park your car. Lock the doors on your car and in your apartment, including sliding glass doors.

- Always carry your purse or bag close to your body. Do not leave luggage unattended or with a person you do not know.

- Obtain renters insurance. This is a very inexpensive way to safeguard your belongings.

- Be sure to back up all your data. You will spend a lot of time and effort on your projects and you don’t want to lose all of this work because of an issue with your computer.

For more information and resources on safety and security, please go to the Orange County Sheriff’s website at www.ocso.com.