About Macomb, Illinois:

The Community - Macomb is a safe and friendly community that provides a positive study environment. People here enjoy a lifestyle that is more relaxed than in larger cities. Even though Macomb is not a big city, it has an interesting and diverse population. The people here represent not only the United States, but many parts of the world as well. For more information about the community, visit Macomb’s website at makeitmacomb.com.

The Climate – The average temperature in Macomb is 25° C in summer and -4° C in winter. However, the weather changes from day to day. Expect a few months of cold weather in the winter and a few months of hot, humid weather in the summer.

Recreational Activities – There are many fun activities happening around the University and throughout the Macomb community. These include The YMCA, ten city parks, and nearby Argyle and Spring Lakes. The famous Mississippi River is 68 kilometers west of Macomb. Other cities such as Springfield, Quincy and Peoria are close by too. It’s also very easy to get from Macomb to Chicago by train. The Amtrak train service is very affordable.

Important Contact Information:

Center for International Studies
Western Illinois University
1 University Circle
Macomb IL 61455
USA
www.wiu.edu/international

International Student Services
Dana Vizdal, Assistant Director
Memorial Hall 347
Phone: (309) 298-3734
Email: DM-Vizdal@wiu.edu

Admissions
Chris Parks, A/R Supervisor
Memorial Hall 342
Phone: (309) 298-2426
Email: EC-Parks@wiu.edu

Immigration
Angie Veith, Assistant Director of Int'l Admissions/Immigration Advisor
Memorial Hall 342
Phone: (309) 298-2426
Email: AJ-Veith@wiu.edu

WESL (Western's English as a Second Language)
David Bell, Director
Memorial Hall 348
Phone: (309) 298-1107
Email: D-Bell@wiu.edu

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**Orientation:**

The New International Student Orientation (NISO) is a mandatory event that will help you adjust to your new home. The week before classes begin each semester, an extensive orientation program is provided to introduce new international students to important aspects of the campus and community. NISO includes airport/train pickup and transportation, presentations on U.S. immigration regulations, how to be successful at WIU, academic advising, cultural information, ESL placement testing, banking and shopping trips, campus and city tours, social activities, and insurance. All new international students who arrive on campus will be charged a $75 orientation fee.

**Housing**

Housing is a very important part of your stay at Western Illinois University. There are several options available to you as a WIU student. It is important to begin looking for housing as soon as you are sure that you will come to WIU.

For On-Campus Housing information, please visit: wiu.edu/international_studies/Housing.php

For Off-Campus Housing information, please visit: www.macomb.com/apartments.html

You can also find information at wiu.edu/international_studies/Housing.php

**Immigration:**

If you are outside the U.S., take your WIU I-20, financial support documents, admission letter, academic documents, and valid passport to the nearest U.S. embassy/consulate to apply for a student visa. You may visit the U.S. Department of State website for information about visa issues: [http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english.html](http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english.html). Apply as soon as you receive your WIU I-20. Visa issuance may take as long as two or three months.

If you are already an F-1 student in the U.S., you must: 1) inform your present school you are transferring to WIU, 2) submit a completed SEVIS Transfer Form, and 3) bring your passport, I-94, and the I-20 from your old school to the Center for International Studies to complete the transfer procedure. A new I-20 for transfer to WIU will be prepared and given to you upon your arrival at WIU. If you will travel outside the U.S. prior to reporting to WIU, please e-mail or phone the Center for International Studies. Your WIU I-20 can be sent to you so you may re-enter the U.S. with your new I-20. Be sure your F-1 U.S. entry visa and passport are still valid.

**Health Concerns & Insurance:**

All new students born on or after January 1, 1957 are required by the Illinois College Student Immunization Act to provide a record of your immunizations to the University. Failure to provide proof of immunization will result in a hold being placed on your future registration and a processing fee assessed to your student account. This means if you have not had immunizations, or don’t have immunization records, you can’t register for classes until you get immunizations here in Macomb.

Bring the completed Health History form and other medical records (with an English translation, if necessary) with you to WIU. Do NOT mail the form to Beu Health Center. If you are unable to locate proof of past immunizations you must be re-vaccinated.

Students must be enrolled in WIU’s medical insurance plan to cover unexpected emergencies, specialized care, etc. The University Student Insurance plan for enrolled students costs approximately $690 per semester. If you are a sponsored student and have your own insurance, you MUST complete an insurance waiver. If you do not, then you will have to pay for the insurance. You will learn more about this at orientation.

**Traveling to Macomb:**

If you arrive during the Free Pickup Period, we will be happy to pick you up from either the Quad City International Airport (MLI) or the Macomb train station. In order to use the Free Pickup service, please email the information to CIS-Arrival@wiu.edu or complete the online request form.