Mandatory Drexel Account:
In order for you to sign up for Drexel housing and for your academic advisor to register you for classes, you must activate your Drexel email.

1. Go to: https://accounts.drexel.edu/start_drexel.asp and click the “New to Drexel” link.
   Enter your university ID number (located at the top of this letter). This is your identification number for all Drexel related activities.
2. Enter your date of birth in the American format: Month/Day/Year (ex: June 8, 1989 = 06/08/1989)
3. Skip the zip code and move to step 4.
4. Enter your home country
5. It takes 24 hours for your email to be fully active—you will receive a welcome email to let you know that your account is active and you may then continue with signing up for housing.

Optional Drexel Housing:
Exchange students are not required to live in Drexel residence halls, but in the past many students have found this option very convenient. Trying to find independent housing and signing a lease while in your home country can be quite a challenge.

If you choose to live in Drexel housing, Drexel will bill you directly for your room cost. Details on Drexel housing options, including costs and how to apply, can be found here: http://www.drexel.edu/housing/NewStudents/
(In order to register for Drexel housing, you must first activate your Drexel email account – see above.)

All Drexel dormitories are double rooms, which means sharing your bedroom with another student. Some of the dorm rooms are suites, whereby several students share the same living area including the bathroom and kitchen. While some housekeeping is provided, it is primarily the responsibility of students to clean up after themselves.

If someone else from your university is coming to Drexel as well, you will not be allowed to room together. This will only hinder your integration with Drexel students. We allow students to enter and visit their friends in other residence halls and all the residence halls are close together so you will have ample time to visit with friends from your home school.

On-campus housing is very limited thus you should make your housing decision as soon as possible. Once you sign up for housing, changes/refunds are NOT allowed so please choose carefully.

IMPORTANT: Before you book your plane ticket, please confirm the official move-in and move-out dates for Drexel residence halls or your independent housing. You will not be permitted to move in prior to that date. You may need to stay in a hotel for several days if you arrive prior to the official move-in date.

Optional Drexel Meal Plan:
Exchange students are not required to purchase a meal plan even if you choose to live in Drexel housing. However, you may be required to select a meal plan when completing the Drexel housing application. Later in the application process you will indicate whether you wish to actually purchase the meal plan or not. All Drexel students living in the residence halls have access to a kitchen.

If you plan to purchase groceries and prepare your own food, you should not sign up for the meal plan. However, if you prefer the convenience of cafeteria and on-campus food vendors, then consider the meal plan. Details and cost for meal plan options can be found here: http://www.drexel.edu/dining/plans.html

IMPORTANT: Once you sign up for a meal plan, changes/refunds are not allowed so please choose carefully.
**Mandatory Health Insurance:**
All Drexel exchange students are **required** to purchase the Drexel student health insurance plan. This plan meets all of the requirements for students on J-1 Visas. The policy will cover you locally and worldwide. The insurance plan must be purchased immediately upon entrance into our university and must be purchased for the full length of your stay at Drexel. If you are not staying for the full academic year, you will have the opportunity to buy the plan for the terms that you are at Drexel. You can purchase health insurance from the Drexel Health Office located in the Creese Student Center Room 201. Details can be found here: [http://www.drexel.edu/studentlife/ch/II_Main.html](http://www.drexel.edu/studentlife/ch/II_Main.html)

**Immunization Record & Mandatory Immunizations:**
The Immunization Record form can be found in your acceptance packet. Before arriving at Drexel, you and your physician must complete the form. If you have not received various vaccinations be prepared to spend approximately $230-$260 for immunizations, as well as a $30 one-time immunization processing fee required of all students upon your arrival in the US. Currently the US government requires all foreign students to prove that they have had a tuberculosis test that has been administered in the United States within 12 months of arrival in the US. You will have the opportunity to get a TB test once you arrive on campus. The State of Pennsylvania is further recommending all students to have an immunization against meningitis. If you plan to live in the residence halls, you will be required to get the meningitis vaccine.

**IMPORTANT:** There will be an immunization clinic during the 1st week of the term where you will be able to get all the immunizations that you are missing.

**Drexel Academic Calendar:**
Drexel is a quarter school. We have 4 quarters per year: Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer. The start and end date for each term can be found here: [http://www.drexel.edu/provost/calendars/quarter/quarter-1011.html](http://www.drexel.edu/provost/calendars/quarter/quarter-1011.html).

**IMPORTANT:** Before booking your plane ticket, please confirm our academic calendar and the date when the mandatory International Student orientation will take place. For International Student Orientation details: [http://www.drexel.edu/isss/](http://www.drexel.edu/isss/)

**Course Selections:**
All exchange students must take between a minimum of 12 credits and a maximum of 20 credits per term. Most Drexel students take about 16 credits (4-5 courses). We suggest that you select 10 courses that you would like to take for each term you are at Drexel—this means that you will not be disappointed if a class in cancelled or if a class is full.

For Drexel Course Descriptions: [http://www.drexel.edu/catalog/](http://www.drexel.edu/catalog/)
For Drexel Class Schedule: [https://duapp3.drexel.edu/webtms_du/](https://duapp3.drexel.edu/webtms_du/)

**IMPORTANT:** The class schedule is normally posted one term in advance, but is subject to change. Sometimes class meeting times change and sometimes classes are cancelled. Please confirm your class schedule several times before the term begins.

**Academic Advisor & Course Registration:**
The name and email of your academic advisor is listed at the top of your acceptance letter. Your academic advisor will help you in all academic matters, including your course registration. A copy of your transcript and a list of your course selections have been forwarded to your academic advisor. Please send an email to your advisor in the coming days in order to introduce yourself and to begin discussing your course selection. Please make your course selections as soon as possible because many Drexel courses have limited enrollment and fill up quickly.

**IMPORTANT:** If you wait until your arrival in Philadelphia to select courses, you take the risk of not getting into your preferred courses, having to wait in long lines, or missing the first class meeting.

**Paying Drexel Bills:**
Though you are not responsible for your tuition as part of the exchange agreement, you will still need to think about how you will pay your Drexel charges such as housing, meal plan, immunization fee, health insurance, overdue library books, etc. (Bills are sent to your Drexel email, so it is vital that you activate this email immediately.)

Drexel accepts the following forms of payment:
- Cash, personal check, money order and cashier's check - drawn on a US bank in US dollars.
- MasterCard, Discover and American Express via your DrexelOne account or signed on as an authorized user.
NOTE: Credit card payments are only available online. All credit card payments are subject to a reasonable non-refundable convenience fee for each transaction. **VISA and Diners Club are not accepted.**
- Wire Transfer

**IMPORTANT:** The Study Abroad office does NOT have access to your bill, thus if you accidentally receive a tuition bill, please contact Sara Lynott immediately at 215-571-3558 or via email at sel46@drexel.edu so that we can rectify the error.

To better understand the various payment options available at Drexel, please explore the following links:
- Wire Transfer: [http://www.drexel.edu/bursar/wire_transfer_instructions.html](http://www.drexel.edu/bursar/wire_transfer_instructions.html)
- Web Payment (Credit Card): [http://www.drexel.edu/bursar/web_payment_instructions.html](http://www.drexel.edu/bursar/web_payment_instructions.html)
- Payment Address: [http://www.drexel.edu/bursar/payment_address.html](http://www.drexel.edu/bursar/payment_address.html)
- E-Refunds (or to set up a checking account to pay by check online): [http://www.drexel.edu/bursar/eRefunds.html](http://www.drexel.edu/bursar/eRefunds.html)
- Paperless Billing & Authorized Users: [http://www.drexel.edu/bursar/paperless_billing.html](http://www.drexel.edu/bursar/paperless_billing.html)

**Drexel Student ID Card:**
Once you arrive on campus you will need to obtain a Drexel student identification card – called the “Dragon Card”. This can only be done after you have been registered for classes. You must go the Dragon Card Office located in the Creese Student Center, present a valid photo driver’s license or passport, and have your photo taken in order to receive a Dragon Card. Your Dragon Card is required for access to the Drexel library, residence halls, recreation center, and cafeteria (if you select a Drexel meal plan). There is no charge for an initial Dragon Card, however, a $20 replacement fee, to re-issue a card that is lost, stolen, or damaged. For details about the Dragon Card: [http://www.drexel.edu/dragoncard/index.html](http://www.drexel.edu/dragoncard/index.html)

**Pennoni Honors College**
As an exchange student, you are automatically given honorary admission into the Honors Program, which means that you will be able to take advantage of all the special activities offered by the Pennoni Honors College, including free or reduced cost cultural events, reduced cost printing, etc. Details can be found here: [http://www.drexel.edu/honors/](http://www.drexel.edu/honors/)

**Meeting Drexel Students:**
There is an organization on campus of Drexel students called “Dragons Abroad”. These students have either studied abroad themselves or are planning to study abroad in the future. This is a great way to meet other Drexel students, including those students who might be going to your university on an exchange! They will be in contact with you shortly but you can reach out to them via their Facebook group page.

**Textbooks:**
As you may have heard, the cost of text books is quite high in the United States. Many international students are surprised by how much books cost. You may have to spend as much as $500 for books for one term. Unlike many other countries, most professors in the United States require students to buy their textbooks. You will not necessarily be able to borrow your textbooks from the library or from other students. You can purchase text books at the Drexel bookstore.

**Computers:**
The Drexel residence halls are wired for Ethernet connections and much of the Drexel campus is wireless, thus if you are planning on bringing your laptop you may want to consider getting a wireless card so that you can take advantage of this technology. As is the case all over the world, unattended lap tops are very attractive to thieves so make sure that if you do bring your laptop you have adequate insurance in the case of theft.

**Cell phones:**
If you have a global cell phone you may be able to merely buy a new SIM card for the United States and then purchase a pay as you go plan. I urge you to check with your cell phone carrier to see if this is possible. Some of the major cell phone companies in the Philadelphia area are: AT&T, T-Mobile, Verizon, and Sprint. Please note: in the United States you pay for both outgoing and inbound phone calls and text messages so take this into consideration as you make your cell phone choice.

Drexel Exchange Pre-Departure Checklist

____ Did you activate your Drexel Email Account? (MANDATORY)
____ Did you register for Drexel Housing? (OPTIONAL)
____ Did you select a Drexel meal plan? (OPTIONAL)
____ Have you chosen your method of payment for Drexel fees? (housing, meal plan, health insurance, etc)
____ Did you review the course descriptions and select courses you wish to take for each term at Drexel?
____ Did you email your Academic Advisor with your preliminary class choices? (MANDATORY)
____ Did you confirm the dates below before booking plane ticket? (MANDATORY)
  • Start of academic term which you are attending_________________________________________
  • End of academic term(s) which you are attending_______________________________________
  • Official Move-in day for Drexel residence hall_________________________________________
  • Mandatory Orientation for International Students ______________________________________
____ Upon arrival, did you sign up for Drexel Health Insurance? (MANDATORY)
____ Upon arrival, did you receive the necessary immunizations? (MANDATORY)
____ Upon arrival, did you obtain your Drexel Identification Card “DragonCard”? (MANDATORY)

List of important Contacts at Drexel

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Website</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Study Abroad Office</td>
<td><a href="http://www.drexel.edu/studyabroad">http://www.drexel.edu/studyabroad</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:studyabroad@drexel.edu">studyabroad@drexel.edu</a>,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Telephone: + 1 215-571-3558</td>
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<td>Emergency Telephone: + 1 215-470-9783</td>
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<td>International Students &amp; Scholars</td>
<td><a href="http://www.drexel.edu/isss">http://www.drexel.edu/isss</a></td>
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<td>Residential Living</td>
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<td>Counseling &amp; Health Office</td>
<td><a href="http://www.drexel.edu/studentlife/ch/default.html">http://www.drexel.edu/studentlife/ch/default.html</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dragons Abroad Student group</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dragons.abroad@drexel.edu">dragons.abroad@drexel.edu</a> or Dragons Abroad Facebook group</td>
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