

GRACELAND UNIVERSITY

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT INFORMATION

Weather



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Average high in °F/°C	32/0.2	37/2.9	49/9.7	62/16.7	72/22.1	82/27.5
Average low in °F/°C	14/-9.9	18/-7.8	29/-1.8	40/4.6	52/11.1	62/16.5
Average precipitation in inch/millimeters	0.98/25	1.46/37	2.6/66	3.98/101	5.71/145	5.2/132
Average snowfall in inch/millimeters	6/15.2	6/15.2	4/10.2	1/ 2.5	0	0

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average high in °F/°C	86/30.1	85/29.2	76/24.7	64/17.7	49/9.4	35/1.8
Average low in °F/°C	66/19.1	64/17.9	54/12.4	42/5.7	30/-1.1	18/-7.8
Average precipitation in inch/millimeters	5.12/130	4.53/115	4.17/106	3.35/85	2.4/61	1.57/40
Average snowfall in inch/millimeters	0	0	0	0	2/5.1	6/15.2

Weather in Lamoni varies greatly between seasons and is often unpredictable, so it should be taken into consideration during your planning. In the summer, it can get very hot, and humidity is high, making the temperature feel even warmer. In the winter, the temperature gets very cold and there are high levels of wind, which makes it seem even colder. It is recommended that you purchase a winter/snow coat before you move to campus. Coats can be purchased from a range of shops located in Des Moines, Iowa, or Kansas City, Missouri, where your flight will likely arrive. There are minimal shops in Lamoni.

Cell Phones



When moving to the United States, it is recommended that you get a U.S. phone. There are two ways to do this: You can buy a new phone once you arrive, or you can bring your phone from home and buy an American SIM card to go in it. Again, it is recommended that the phone or SIM card be purchased in Des Moines or Kansas City before arriving at Graceland, where you will have more options for cellular providers.

The cellular networks that work best in Lamoni are Verizon, AT&T and T-Mobile.

Bringing your phone from home: For many students, this is the easiest option because you can keep your phone and simply purchase a SIM card. This seems relatively simple, however, some cellular companies will only sell prepaid plans to international students without a Social Security number. Prepaid plans can be ordered online prior to arrival, if you choose.

Buying a new phone: The second option is to buy a phone once you arrive in the U.S., however, without a Social Security number, some cell phone providers may only offer limited options or none at all.

Shipping to Graceland



The residence halls are very basic, and there are many items that will need to be personally supplied. It is possible to order online and ship items to the Graceland address before you arrive. Each student will be sent their individual campus address within two months of move-in day.

Housing



Supplied in each room: Each room has one twin bed per resident with a mattress (the size of sheets required is “twin extra long”). There are only single-sex rooms with options of two-person rooms, semiprivate or private rooms (available for juniors and seniors). Freshmen are assigned to a two-person room to help them meet new people and integrate into the campus community.

Supplied by students: A suggested list of things you may need in your college room can be found online. The items you may wish to bring to college may vary. Remember that what you bring will need to be stored somewhere for the summer or taken home with you.

The people on your “House”: Upon arrival, you are encouraged to become acquainted with the people on your hall — your roommate, the House President, the Chaplain and others. You are also encouraged to be involved in the House activities, which will help you become closer with your housemates.

On-campus requirements: You must be a full-time student, enrolled in a minimum of 12 credit hours, in order to live in the residence halls or campus apartments. You will be required to fill out the online housing contract. There are visitation hours for visitors of the opposite sex, and no alcohol or use of tobacco products is permitted on campus.

Campus apartments: Small and Thomas Apartments (juniors and seniors are eligible) come with two bedrooms, two bathrooms and a full kitchen. There is open visitation.

Off-campus requirements: Juniors and seniors are eligible to apply to live off campus. *They must submit an off-campus housing application and be approved by Residence Life. Living quarters off campus may or may not be furnished. You can cook your own meals, eat out or you may still purchase a campus meal plan.

*There is no guarantee for approval to live off campus if you apply. Make sure to have a back-up plan for a living arrangement, just in case.

Textbooks



In the United States, textbooks are used as a main resource for homework, tests and studying. Some teachers may provide the textbooks for you, but you will most likely need to purchase the books yourself. There are many options for you besides the Graceland bookstore. If you chose to get your books from the bookstore, you have the option of renting. The books are usually used, meaning they have been previously used by another student, but are in good condition. The rental fee will be less than the purchase price of the book, however, you must return rented books at the end of each semester.

Other options to purchase or rent textbooks include chegg.com and amazon.com. These can be great resources for finding textbooks cheaper but may not have the convenience provided by the bookstore.

Student Account Information



You may charge book purchases or rentals to your student account. This eliminates the need to pay for your books up front, however, you will be responsible for your student account balance. The amount you charge to your account will need to be paid off by the end of the semester.

It should be noted that there are payment plans for helping you with making a smaller payment amount each month.

Banks



Bank of the West (0.5 miles one way) Lamoni, Iowa
BTC Bank (2 miles one way) Lamoni, Iowa
American State Bank (0.7 miles one way) Lamoni, Iowa

*Bank of the West and American State Bank are about a 10-minute walk from campus. BTC Bank is farther, and you may choose to find a ride to their location.

*There are many other banks in Iowa and the U.S., but they do not have branches in the town of Lamoni.

How to Manage, Set Up an Account



If you choose to set up a bank account when you arrive in Lamoni, you will need to go to the bank of your choice to do so.

The banks are close to campus, and there is always the option to go there yourself, or feel free to visit the International Programs Office to talk to Diana Jones. You can also ask a housemate or teammate to go with you. There is always someone who is willing to help you at Graceland.

Wire Money/ Fees



Western Union is a way students can get money from outside the country. The closest Western Union is located in Osceola, Iowa, a 30-minute drive from campus. However, the Western Union in Osceola only accepts the equivalent of \$1,999 U.S.D. in a single transaction.

Bank of the West accepts money wires for a fee of \$13. There may be an additional charge from the bank back home.

Cash



Living on campus, there are three meals available per day (breakfast, lunch and dinner), depending on your meal plan. The times are (7-9 a.m., 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. and 4:30-7 p.m.). Cash may be needed for snacks and student expenses like pencils and other necessities.

If you are approved to live off campus, you may choose to have a campus meal plan, if you would like. If you do not choose to have a campus meal plan, you will need to budget for the cost of groceries, utilities for your house or apartment, as well as rent. The price for utilities may vary depending on the time of year, with winter usually being more expensive.

Currency



Lamoni does not have a money exchange center or house. Big airports like Los Angeles, Atlanta, New York, Miami and Dallas may have them, but it is not guaranteed. You should research the airport you are flying into, before your departure, to learn if they have one. If possible, it is recommended to change your money before coming to the U.S.

It is important to know that you will have difficulty coming to the U.S with more than \$10,000 cash at one time. You have the option to wire money to Lamoni prior to your arrival, which can alleviate any stress you may have associated with this issue. No matter how you choose to organize your money for your time in the U.S., remember to bring enough for things at the airport like meals, snacks or a shuttle, if needed.