



Study at an Ivy League institution on  
Exchange for a semester or a year!









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College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

# The Fingerlakes

- Tourist destination in Upstate New York
- Top [wine destination](#) with over 100 wineries (plus brewing and distilling!)
- Agri-tourism
- Outdoor activities (skiing, snowboarding, sailing, golf, tennis, kayaking, hiking, etc.)





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# Ithaca, New York

## ■ “Ithaca is Gorges!”

- Refers to the 100+ gorges and waterfalls located within 10 miles of downtown
- The largest, 215-foot Taughannock Falls (pronounced Tuh-GAN-ick), is three stories **taller** than Niagara Falls
- Along with the falls, gorges and beautiful lakefront, the surrounding county offers access to 28,000 acres of public forestland for hiking, mountain biking and outdoor recreation

## ■ Recognitions

- “Smartest City” (Luminosity.com)
- “#1 College town in the USA” (American Institute for Economic Research)
- “The Most Secure Place to Live” (Farmers Insurance Group, one of the largest insurance groups in the country)
- #8 of the Top Ten Places to Live (Kiplingers)







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# Ithaca, New York

- Residents
  - City of Ithaca: 60,000 (of which, 30,000 are students!)
  - Tompkins County (city, plus surrounding area): 102,000
- Main areas around campus
  - Collegetown
  - Downtown “The Commons”
  - Ithaca Mall & Triphammer Mall





# Ithaca, New York

- Ithaca Transportation
  - Ithaca Airport: Direct flights to Detroit, Philadelphia and NYC
  - Good public bus system (TCAT)
  - Exchange students receive a free bus pass when they arrive
  - Car share program
  - Car rental for road trips
- Top destinations for Exchange Students
  - New York City - 4 - 5 hours by bus  
*Over 8 departures per day with Greyhound, Shortline or Campus to Campus buses; 1 hour by plane*
  - Toronto, Canada – 4 hours
  - Montreal, Canada (French speaking) – 6 hours
  - Niagara Falls – 3 hours
  - Boston – 6 hours
  - Philadelphia – 4 hours
  - Washington DC – 6 hours







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Live Music On & Off Campus  
Big acts come to campus too!  
(Phoenix, Arcade Fire,  
Passion Pit, Flaming Lips, etc.)



Collegetown Bagels:  
A Favorite Hang Out



Fine Dining in Collegetown



The Commons – Downtown  
Many Independent  
Businesses & restaurants





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# The Campus







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*"I would found an institution where any person  
can find instruction in any study."*

*Ezra Cornell, 1868*



- Founded in 1865 by Ezra Cornell and Andrew Dickson White
- More than 100 years of excellence in **teaching, research, and extension**
- Both a private university and the land-grant institution of New York State, Cornell is the most educationally diverse member of the Ivy League
- More than 260 buildings on 745 acres
- Forty-one Nobel laureates have been affiliated with Cornell as faculty members or alumni
- Ithaca campus: 14,158 Undergraduates; 6,964 Graduate/professional
  - Every US state is represented
  - 19% international
- 1,564 Faculty; 8,081 Staff







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## CALS: Knowledge with a Public Purpose

- One of 7 undergraduate colleges at Cornell
  - Agriculture & Life Sciences (CALS)
  - Architecture, Art & Planning
  - Arts & Sciences
  - Engineering
  - Hotel Administration
  - Human Ecology
  - Industrial & Labor Relations
- Second largest college at Cornell
  - Over 3,500 undergraduate students, 21 majors, 28 minors, and 1,200 classes
- Academic Priority Areas
  - Food & Energy Systems
  - Environmental Science
  - Economic & Community Vitality
  - Life Sciences



Student-run organic farm host weekly farmer's Market on campus



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## CALS Undergraduates

- Over 5,300 applications for the freshman class
- Annual enrollment target of 650
  - In addition to freshman, we also admit between 250 – 350 transfer students each year (coming from other colleges/universities)
- Most accepted students in top 10% of their class
- Practice highly selective admissions







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# Semesters

- Two 14-week semesters per year: Fall and Spring
  - Fall: mid-August to mid-to-late December
  - Spring: mid-January to mid-to-late May
- Plus two shorter semesters: Winter and Summer
  - Exchange students cannot take winter or summer classes without paying tuition for them (~\$1,000 per credit)





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# Classes

- Must enroll in a minimum of 12 credits (not including physical education)
  - Most classes are 3-4 credits each; studios are 5
  - 2/3 of your credits must be in CALS
  - Other classes can be taken in other colleges—if space allows and you have prerequisites
  - Can take any physical education class too (over 100 per semester including dance, soccer, tennis, yoga, martial arts, sailing)
  - We *do not* recommend more than 15 credits unless your home university requires it
- Check to see what your home university requires you to take
- You may not take two classes that are scheduled at the same time
- Grading options
  - Letter; S-U (Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory); Some offer both, although some classes are only available as Letter OR S-U





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# Grades

S/U		Letter		Grade Point Value	Description
S	Passing	Passing	A+	4.3	Excellent to very good: comprehensive knowledge and understanding of subject matter; marked perception and/or originality.
			A	4.0	
			A-	3.7	
		Passing	B+	3.3	Good: moderately broad knowledge and understanding of subject matter; noticeable perception and/or originality.
			B	3.0	
			B-	2.7	
		Passing	C+	2.3	Satisfactory: reasonable knowledge and understanding of subject matter; some perception and/or originality.
			C	2.0	
			C-	1.7	
U	Fail	Fail	D+	1.3	Marginal: minimum of knowledge and understanding of subject matter; limited perception and/or originality.
			D	1.0	
			D-	0.7	
		Fail	F	0.0	Failing: unacceptably low level of knowledge and understanding of subject matter; severely limited perception and/or originality.



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# General Percentage Equivalents

Letter Grade	Percentage Points
A+	100 – 97
A	96.9 – 93
A-	92.9 – 90
B+	89.9 – 87
B	86.9 – 83
B-	82.9 – 80
C+	79.9 – 77
C	76.9 – 73
C-	72.9 – 70
D+	69.9 – 67
D	66.9 – 63
D-	62.9 – 60
F	Below 60





## Class Levels

**1000:** introductory course, no prerequisites, open to all qualified students

**2000:** lower-division course, open to freshmen and sophomores, may have prerequisites

**3000:** upper-division course, open to juniors and seniors, prerequisites

**4000:** upper-division course, open to seniors and graduate students, 200- and 300-level course prerequisites

**5000:** professional level (e.g. management, law, veterinary medicine)

**6000:** graduate-level course, open to upper-division students

**7000:** graduate-level course

**8000:** master's level, thesis, research

**9000:** doctoral level, thesis, research

**Most exchange students take courses at the 3000 or 4000 levels—try to balance your courseload so you don't take ALL difficult courses!**



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## CALS Exchange Program

- CALS has the largest exchange program on campus
- CALS exchange program is bigger, but still small!
- We welcome approximately 20-30 students per semester
- Dedicated international office to assist with your needs
- YOU enrich our classrooms and help us to recruit students to attend your home institution







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# Exchange Benefits

- Buddy Program
  - Paired up with previous exchange student to help answer questions before arrival & once on campus
- Exchange Orientation Program in Fall & Spring
  - Make friends and learn your way around before classes begin!
- Free Bus Pass
- Career Development
  - Mock interviews, prepare a resume for the US, etc.
- Massive online library database
- Access to 17 on-campus libraries, some open 24 hrs/day
- Fitness centers (for a fee)
- Join clubs, fitness classes, sports, etc.
- Faculty advisor assigned to every exchange student





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# Tips to Succeeding at Cornell

- Prepare yourself to be challenged
- “Shop” for the right classes during the first week of the semester—you can change your schedule around and make sure you’re happy
- Read each course syllabi
  - given at first day of class
  - be sure you understand class requirements (books, readings, assignments, etc.)
- Make sure you have the pre-requisite coursework
- Top tip from previous exchange students: Keep up with the reading each week as it is easy to fall behind
- Check office hours for Teaching Assistants or Professors, and take advantage of them if you need the help!





## Getting Involved: Over 1000 Student Organizations & Clubs

- Absolute Zero Breakdance Club
- Dragon Boat Club
- German Club
- A capella groups
- Slope media
- Sports
- Music, Arts, Performance Groups





# Housing Options

- On campus ([www.housing.cornell.edu](http://www.housing.cornell.edu))
  - West Campus House System
    - Largest community
    - Faculty-fellows; Dining plan required; Most expensive option
  - Program Houses (International Living Center, Ecohouse, Just about Music, etc.)
    - Smaller than West Campus System
  - Cooperatives
    - Smallest, most like European models
    - Shared kitchen, shared chores & cooking (pay a small fee to buy core food supplies)
    - Very popular with exchange students
  - Staying one semester? No problem, housing contract is cancelled after semester ends.
- Off campus options – many options, better selection for full-year leases
- Due to housing shortage in the fall, on-campus housing is usually only available in the spring. Students may need to live off-campus in the fall.
  - If you want to live on campus arrive in the **spring!**







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# Dining on Campus

- With more than 30 dining options on campus offering a huge variety of menu selections, you'll never have to worry about where to eat.
- You do not need a “meal plan” to dine on campus (you can pay by cash or credit card)
- Dining plans
  - From 7:00 a.m. - 2:00 a.m. each day, there is always a Cornell Dining location open where you can use your meal plan benefits for a complete sit-down meal, a deli sandwich, sushi to go, or just a café latte between classes.
  - [Traditional Meal Plans](#)
  - [West Campus House Meal Plans](#) (required if you're living on West)
  - [Debit Meal Plans](#)





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# Health Insurance Requirement

Beginning in the 2014–2015 academic year, all international students are required to purchase the Cornell University Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP). This requirement is intended to help safeguard the health and education of every international student at Cornell.

- Cost is ~ \$1,100 USD per semester (2014-15)
- More information here: <http://www.studentinsurance.cornell.edu/>





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# Application Guidelines



You should:

- Have a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of U.S. 3.0 on 4.0 scale (above average grades)
- Have completed at least 2 full-time semester of college/university-level studies
- Be proficient in the English language
  - TOEFL may be waived, talk with your international coordinator
- Be nominated by your home institution



## Acceptance Process

- We will contact you or your home university if we have questions about your application
- We will send you welcome letter by email first (April for Fall; October for Spring)
- You will receive original letter by mail. I-20 and other materials will be included. You can then apply for housing and the US visa.



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# We are an Interconnected Caring Community

- CALS Exchange Coordinator and Staff
- Academic Advisor
- International Students and Scholars Office
- CALS Student Services including career preparation such as resume and cover letter development, practice interviews, and more
- Counseling services
  - Gannett consultations 24/7
  - Walk-in “Let’s Talk” sessions
  - Peer networks





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# Questions?





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**What are you waiting for?**  
The Exchange Program,  
CALS, and Cornell University  
look forward to  
welcoming **YOU** in  
Ithaca, New York!