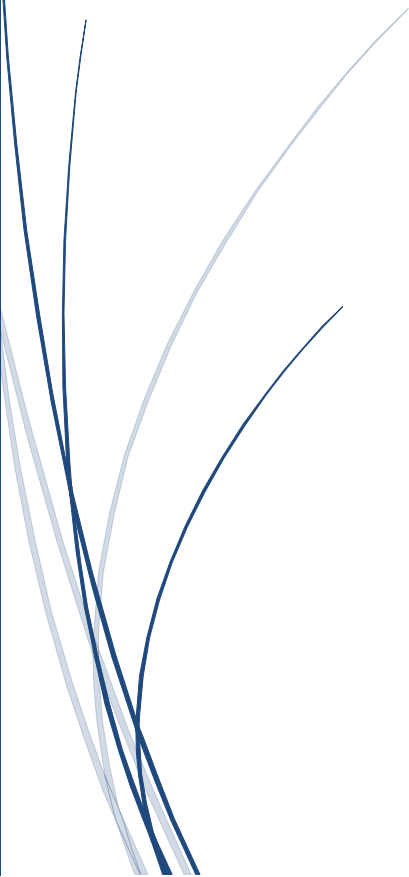




Updated December 2024

# Champaign- Urbana Guide

Everything you need to know to live here!



Developed by the Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies, Grace Carvalho, Nathalya Mendes, Thaís Zappellini, Victor Souza, Thallyta Cavoli, Maria Saab, Flávia Andrade, and WGPP.



# CHAMPAIGN-URBANA GUIDE FROM BRAZILIANS TO BRAZILIANS



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- RULES OF GOOD COEXISTENCE ON SOCIAL NETWORKS AND WHATSAPP GROUPS
- ONLINE RESOURCES
- SERVICES PROVIDED BY AND FOR THE BRAZILIAN COMMUNITY
- HOUSING
- BEAUTY
- CO-WORKING SPACE
- SPORTS
- HEALTH
- GET-TOGETHER
- COURSES AND PRIVATE CLASSES – ENG/POR
- BRAZILIAN PRODUCTS AND FOOD
- MUSIC, HOBBIES AND CRAFTS
- ITEMS AT LOW COST
- CHILDREN
- SPIRITUALITY AND RELIGION
- AIRPORT TRANSFERS CHICAGO - CHAMBANA
- TRAVEL TIPS
- DRIVER'S LICENSE
- VOTER REGISTRATION CARD
- FAQ
- VOCABULARY WITH NAMES OF BRAZILIAN FOODS IN THE USA
- APPENDIX 1 - GUIDELINES PARA VISITING/RESEARCH SCHOLARS
- APPENDIX 2 – GUIDE WITH EXTRA RESOURCES – ILLINOIS SCHOLARS AT RISK PROGRAM

### **Contact Us**

THALLYTA CAVOLI - +1 (217) 979-6907 WHATSAPP

LUCAS CAVOLI - +1 (217) 402-1673 WHATSAPP

## RULES OF GOOD COEXISTENCE

WHATSAPP GROUPS: "1 - BRAZILIANS IN CHAMBANA", "2 - BRA in IL 2"

Links to the groups:

1 - <https://chat.whatsapp.com/B6J6gGOEAhi987LOsmlmzy>

2 - <https://chat.whatsapp.com/BFP8IDFoZ1UEwUhAQoKUFd>

- ✓ Try to initially **find the information you need in that document** before asking the group. This compilation was made exactly to facilitate and so that the information does not get lost.
- ✓ Limit yourself to matters related to the **group's objective**, which is to answer questions, give tips, sell/donate items and publicize events that may interest the community of Brazilians who live in Champaign-Urbana.
- ✓ **Sales:** If you're going to sell a large amount of items, you can choose to also advertise on Craigslist, Nextdoor App, Facebook, or others Media. Remembering that there is a group in the Facebook "Brazilians in Urbana-Champaign Classifieds" which has been created for this purpose: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/461732977182305/>
- ✓ **Events:** if you want to combine details and share photos of an event you are organizing, create a Whatsapp group and share the link in our group so that those interested can add each other. This prevents people who are not interested/won't attend from receiving a large number of messages that are not useful to them.
- ✓ **Everyone can be added** and is very welcome to join the group, regardless of when they move to the city and how long they will be here.
- ✓ If it's not in everyone's best interest, **answer privately**. Not everyone knows but if you click on the message and hold, there is the option: "...More." When you click on "...More", the "Reply Privately" option appears. Use and abuse this tool!
- ✓ **Avoid controversial and personal topics.** Politics, football, and religion are the classics we should avoid

- ✓ **Don't send** stickers, GIF's, chain letters, gossip, random news and ready-made good morning messages. What sounds fun, funny, or interesting to you, isn't always for everyone in the group
- ✓ **Avoid audio messages** (especially very long ones). When in doubt, send it privately.
- ✓ **Help out whenever you can!** One day we help, the next day we are helped. And so we continue to be happy and make friends all over Champaign.

## ONLINE RESOURCES

### **\*\*BRAZILIAN COMMUNITY\*\***

Instagram Page: [@amigosemchampaign](#)

Page that mobilizes everyone and especially those who speak Portuguese and want to make friends in Illinois. They do different events and tours to Chicago, Saint Louis, celebrations of commemorative dates, and among them, they also do Bible study and worship in Portuguese and English. All are welcome!

Contact:

Lucas Cavoli - + 1 217 402 1673

Thallyta Cavoli - +1 217 979 6907

Official social media of the Lemann center:

Instagram Page: [@lemanncenterillinois](#)

Facebook Page: [Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies](#)

[https://www.facebook.com/LemannCenterIllinois/?locale=pt\\_BR&rdr](https://www.facebook.com/LemannCenterIllinois/?locale=pt_BR&rdr)

The official social media page of the Lemann Center that promotes teaching, research, and community activities about Brazil by faculty and students at Illinois and their Brazilian counterparts.

Grupo do Facebook: [Brazil and Brazilians at UIUC](#)

Events and Tips on Studying in Illinois – Connecting Urbana-Champaign's Luso-Brazilian Campus and Community since 2004). The group is for you if you are coming to live in Urbana-Champaign, Illinois and want to know about cultural events, important deadlines, news, tips, and activities happening in the city. Come be part of this exchange of experiences between students, faculty, staff and members of the Urbana-Champaign community. The group has already promoted and developed several activities related to Portuguese culture and language, including the traditional **Carnival, the Festa da Indecência (Brazilian Luau), Festa Junina.**

Junte ao grupo no Facebook: “Brazil and Brazilian at UIUC”

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/BrasileirosIllinois/>

Facebook group: [Brazilians in Urbana-Champaign – your Brazilian Classifieds.](#)

The group "Brazilians in Urbana-Champaign" was created for you, who need to BUY, SELL, TRADE, AND DONATE items! Need to sell the car, the furniture? Post it here!

Looking for a house, apartment? Ask here!

Do you have an apartment, house, or a room to rent? Post it here!

Looking for a roommate? Ask here!

New to town and have questions about services and business? You're not sure. Ask here!

Post your classifieds here on "Brazilians in Urbana-Champaign"

Join the Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/461732977182305/>

## **\*\*COMMUNITY IN GENERAL\*\***

### Illini Union

[Front Page](#) | [Illini Union](#) | [UIUC \(illinois.edu\)](#) - website with events and activities held by the UIUC student union

### Bridges International

<https://www.instagram.com/bridges.uiuc?igsh=ZnBwODU0YTdtb2x3> - Instagram page of this group that welcomes and does various activities for international students.

### Fighting Illini

[University of Illinois Athletics - Official Athletics Website \(fightingillini.com\)](#) - website with information about the games and tickets of the university's teams

# SERVICES PROVIDED TO OR BY THE BRAZILIAN COMMUNITY

## **\*\*GENERAL DOCUMENTATION\*\***

√ ISSS - International Student and Scholar Services

[Home](#) | [International Student and Scholar Services \(illinois.edu\)](#)

√ Consulate General of Brazil in Chicago

[Consulate General of Brazil in Chicago](#) | [Chicago, IL](#) | [Facebook](#)

## **\*\*EXCHANGE OF MONEY BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS\*\***

Whatsapp group for those who need to buy or sell dollars: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/C6gGiYcs68x8y4HkBtIYKW>

## **\*\*BUYING AND SELLING CLOTHES, OBJECTS, FURNITURE...\*\***

Whatsapp group for those who need to buy something or let go of something:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/L0hDJEbzfQs2esUYoJKEdf>

**\*\*ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS\*\***

√ Projeto Portuguese for Kids

Project for Brazilian children of all ages. The project addresses the Portuguese culture and language. In addition to participating in the events, any mom can participate by helping with ideas and organizing the events that take place once a month at the Champaign City Library.

Project manager: Vivian Felicio +1 (217) 493-8773

**\*\*REALTOR AGENT\*\***

√ Michael Stablein

Contact: +(847)987-1282

chambanahousing@gmail.com

√ Simone Bhatia

Contact: +1 (312) 956-7374

He works mainly in Chicago, but is willing to help in the Champaign-Urbana area.

**\*\*PHOTOGRAPHY\*\***

√ Elen Madaloso

Contact:+1 (217) 278-9824

**\*\*EVENTS PRODUCTION/PLANNING\*\***

√ Goio Lima -Music for events and parties

Contact : 1+(217)418-7818

Email: goiolima@gmail.com

**\*\*CUSTOM\*\***

Customized General: creative sewing, mugs, t-shirts, etc

√ Juliana Vernici

Contact: +1(217) 766-7354

**\*\*SWEET/SAVORY\*\***

Sweets, Cakes and Easter Eggs to order

√ Raquel Castro

Contact: +1 (309) 222-7616 (Whatsapp)Payment methods: Cash, Zelle, Venmo and PayPal

Coxinha, cheese ball and ham and cheese risoles, and meat.

√ Joice

Contact: +1 (217) 991-0686

Payment: Cash

## **\*\*AUTOMOTIVE DETAILING\*\***

√ Andrew

Contact: +1 (219) 771-4320

## **\*\*MUSIC & DANCE\*\***

√ Saxophone, flute, guitar, music theory lessons

Goio Lima

Contact: +1(217)418-7818

goiolima@gmail.com

√ Afro-Brazilian dance classes

Venue: Capoeira Angola Center of Mestre João Grande

202 S Broadway Ave Unit 100, Urbana, IL 61801

Capoeira classes for adults and children. All levels.

Informações: [www.angolacenterillinois.com](http://www.angolacenterillinois.com)

Contact: Mestre João Grande, tel. (217) 721-0887Mariana +1 (217) 819-9645 (WhatsApp or SMS)

√ Ballet Classrooms

Urbana Fine Arts Center

2740 S. Philo Road, Suite C, Urbana

Ballet classes for children from 3 years old and for adults. The school also offers tap, hip-hop, and jazz classes.

Directed by: Luciana Rezende

Information: <https://www.urbanafineartscenter.com/>

√ Brazilian Zouk and Bachata Classes

Location: La Casa Cultural Latina

1203 W Nevada St, Urbana

Free classes on Monday evenings. It does not require a partner or prior experience.

Information: <https://www.facebook.com/UIUCBachataSen/>

√ Children's music classes

Music Together at Champaign School of Music

1712 S Duncan Rd, Champaign

The school also offers classes for other ages. In the children's section, one of the teachers is Brazilian: Mrs. Daniele.

Informações: <https://www.champaignschoolofmusic.com/>

## **\*\*CAR MECHANIC SHOP\*\***

√ Right Solution Auto Repair

306 Tiffany Ct., Suite F, Champaign

General mechanics and exhaust

Contacted: Cristobal (217) 607.5291

**\*\*MAINTENANCE OF COMPUTERS, LAPTOPS, ROUTERS, ETC.\*\***

√ Vitor Occchiutto

Technician in maintenance of computers, notebooks and peripherals (routers, installation of home networks, configurations of TV sets, home-theater, etc).

Contact: +1 (217) 693-9008

**\*\*PET-SITTERS/DOG WALKING\*\***

Costa √

Contact: +55 22 99777-1213

Payment: Cash

√ Fran Andriola

Contact: +1 (217) 600-0551

**\*\*PICTURE PAINTERS\*\***

√ Selma do Prado

Contact: +1 (217) 693-9633 Instagram @gallery\_gold\_brush

√ Eliz Artz

**\*\*HEALTH\*\***

Therapeutic Grade Essential Oils & Organic Natural Products

√ Melissa Alves

Contact: +1 (217) 693-2427

Instagram: @seventeen17y

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/melalvesdoterra/>

Website: [www.mydoterra.com/melissaalves](http://www.mydoterra.com/melissaalves)

Clinical psychologist

Renata Ito

He lived for a while in Champaign and currently makes calls via video call

Contacted: +55 (61) 8170-4116

Psychotherapist and bodyworker

Ann L. Chan living in Urbana for over 30 years. Specializes in trauma and body-oriented psychotherapies, proprioception, and vestibular issues. Offers neurofeedback and biofeedback services.

**Contact:**

605 Eliot Dr, Urbana, IL 61801

Tel: (217) 390-2917

[Ann Chan's Psychology Today Profile](#)



## Website

### Ortho-Balance Website

### BrasFarma

Brazilian Pharmacy Online

They ship medicine all over the USA. Contact: +1 (217) 979-2597

<https://farmaciabrasileirausa.com/>

### Pediatricians:

Dr Jon Youakim Carle Urbana on Windsor (Primary Location) 1818 E. Windsor Rd. Urbana, IL 61802 Main Office: (217) 255-9700

<https://carle.org/find-a-doctor/1642>

Dr Anna Ziemmer Carle Urbana on Windsor (Primary Location) 1818 E. Windsor Rd. Urbana, IL 61802 Main Office: (217) 255-9700

<https://carle.org/find-a-doctor/1640>

### Convenient Care

If you need medical attention but it is not a serious case, you have the option of seeing a convenient care facility, which provides care without prior appointment. The cost is much lower than a visit to the "Emergency Room".

There are several Convenient Cares in the city and most of them are open during business hours. Examples of situations handled by Convenient Care: Urinary tract infections, asthma, allergies, cold and flu symptoms, minor cuts, earache, etc.

## HOUSING OPTIONS

### **\*\*UNIVERSITY HOUSING\*\***

<https://housing.illinois.edu/> - website with information about housing owned by UIUC. Usually they have the most affordable apartments. In case of choosing Orchard Downs or apartments in general go with unfurnished and then buy what you need used and you will save a lot of money.

### **\*\*PRIVATE COMPANIES – BY CHEAPEST TO MOST EXPENSIVE\*\***

#### >The Atrium

1306 N Lincoln Ave, Urbana, IL 61801

(217) 328-5122

<https://atriumurbana.com/>

#### >Hessel on the Park

1862 Valley Rd, Champaign, IL 61820

(217) 356-4012

[Hessel on the Park Apts - Home \(hesselparkapartments.com\)](http://hesselparkapartments.com)

>Carisbrooke Apartments

2407 Hampshire Dr, Champaign, IL 61820

(217) 359-0248

[Carisbrooke — Signature Management \(champaign-apartments.net\)](http://champaign-apartments.net)

>The Pointe at UIUC

1601 E. Florida Ave, Urbana, IL 61802

(217) 337-3901

<https://www.pointe-ui.com/>

>Hunters Pond

2717 Hunters Pond Run Champaign, IL 61820

(217) 903-4680

[Apartments in Champaign, IL | Hunters Pond Apartment Homes \(hunterspond-apartments.com\)](http://hunterspond-apartments.com)

**\*\*OTHER SEARCH USEFUL WEBSITES\*\***

<https://www.roysebrinkmeyer.com/520>

[Apartments.com: Apartments and Homes for Rent](http://Apartments.com)

[Search Available Units | JSM Living](http://Search Available Units | JSM Living)

## SUGGESTIONS OF ESTABLISHMENTS OR ACTIVITIES IN GENERAL

**\*\*BEAUTY\*\***

√ T.L.JONES Salon - Tonya Cabeleireira (Americana)

Sola Salons, 105 N Mattis Ave, Champaign, IL 61821

Favorite hairdresser of many Brazilian women

Contacted: +1 (217) 637-1540

### ✓ Shear Impressions Salon

1604 N Cunningham Ave., Urbana  
Faz escova progressiva (Brazilian Blowout)

### ✓ Andy's Barber Shop

2036 S Neil Street, Champaign  
Men's haircut for adults and children

### ✓ Waxing

Bare Waxing Studio  
2918 Crossing Ct, Champaign, IL  
Facebook: <https://m.facebook.com/BAREthewaxingstudio/>

### ✓ SportClips

Men's cut  
[Haircuts for Men | Sport Clips Haircuts of Champaign - Neil Plaza](#)

### **\*\*CO-WORKING SPACE\*\***

#### Lodgic Everyday Community

1807 S Neil St, Champaign

It offers co-working space with various types of membership and also drop-in childcare, café, restaurant and meeting place. It's great for those who are postdocs or don't have an office at the University, or are freelancers and need a place to work.

Website: <https://www.lodgic.org/>

### **\*\*SPORTS\*\***

#### ✓ Activities and recreation Center (ARC), University of Illinois

Super complete fitness and swimming gym. People linked to the University usually have "free" access, but there is the possibility of enrollment by people not linked, for a higher price.

Location: 201 E Peabody Dr, Champaign, IL 61820

<https://campusrec.illinois.edu/facilities/activities-and-recreation-center-arc/>

#### ✓ Brazilian Football - Mondays at 6:30 p.m. on the ARC fields

whatsapp group: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/KIHkTL59giMDu5OXCUCb2Y>

#### ✓ Tennis

Group for those who like to play tennis and want to find friends to play with. Whatsapp group

link: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/DgKwUK61jpTBfLeRJB1Gb1>

#### ✓ Gracie Outside Jiu Jitsu

408 North Race Street, Suite E Urbana, IL 61801

<https://www.gbchampaign.com/>

#### √ Second Wind Running Club

Running club in the city. All ages and levels, from beginners (hiking only) to marathon runners. They have a series of events and meet for lectures, races and training.

Information: <https://www.secondwindrunningclub.org/>

#### √ Runners of Champaign

WhatsApp group created by Brazilians for Brazilians who want to run.

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/DcwAO8zLbWtI9WNO9x80II>

#### √ Prairie Cycle Club

Cyclists' club in Champaign. They meet weekly for cycling and for events. Activities for all levels.

Informações: <http://www.prairiecycleclub.org/>

#### √ Stephens Family YMCA

2501 Fields S Dr, Champaign, IL 61822

It offers a fitness center, group classes, swimming lessons and various other sports for the whole family, summer camps and recreational activities in general.

It has a childcare service while you work out or relax over a coffee in the lobby.

They offer a discount for families with limited financial resources.

Website: <http://sf-ymca.net/about/>

#### √ Family football on Sunday mornings – from May to September (or as long as the weather allows!)

In family football, adults and children of any gender and age are welcome. Just want to have fun and exercise! The game usually takes place on the synthetic fields of the University from 10am to 12pm.

#### √ Football Wednesdays in the late afternoon and Saturday mornings - from May to September

This football is for those who already have some skill. Men and women are welcome. Schedules are set close to the "season" according to the availability of those interested.

### **\*\*MUSEUMS\*\***

#### √ Krannert Art Museum

Everyone is welcome to enjoy the rich collections of fine art from around the world, vibrant exhibitions, and engaging programs.

<https://kam.illinois.edu/>

#### √ Champaign County History Museum

"Just a few exhibit halls. [...] It offers a good overview of the history of the county. One room is devoted to how World War II affected Champaign County, especially at the (now defunct) Chanute Air Force Base in Rantoul. That was very interesting. The people who work/volunteer there are friendly and clearly knowledgeable. You can see it for free, but it's worth more than the suggested \$3 donation."

Local: 102 E University Ave, Champaign, IL 61820  
Open from Wednesday to Saturday

#### √ The William R and Clarice V Spurlock Museum

A regional hub for cultural and archaeological collections from across history and around the world. With 9 permanent exhibitions at the Spurlock Museum represent historical and contemporary peoples from all over the world. Pay a visit, arrange a tour, or browse our collections. Experience presentations, talks, and creative activities at our Knight Auditorium and Zahn Learning Center. There's always something going on in Spurlock.

Local: 600 S. Gregory St. Urbana, IL 61801

Aberto de Terça a Domingo

<https://www.spurlock.illinois.edu/>

#### **\*\*GET-TOGETHER\*\***

#### √ Welcome Lunch, Easter, Christmas, New Year's Eve, among other events

Don't be alone here!! Find a family away from home!! @amigosemchampaign

Responsible for the organization:

Lucas Cavoli - +1 217 402 1673

Thallyta Cavoli - +1 217 979 6907

#### √ Feijoada da Independência

This very Brazilian feijoada and drizzled with lots of guarana and fun usually takes place on the second weekend of September.

Responsible for the organization: Raquel Castro +1 (309) 222.7616

## ENGLISH-RELATED CLASSES AND COURSES



#### **\*\*ENGLISH LESSONS\*\***

The city offers different options. These are some popular ones among Brazilians.

#### English as a Second Language (ESL) at Parkland College

2400 W Bradley Avenue, Champaign

Free course for basic and intermediate levels. Advanced level is paid.

To determine the level of English, an on-site test is taken. Information by phone: (217) 351.2580 or on-site.

#### English as a Second Language (ESL) at the Urbana Adult Education Center

211 N Race Street, Urbana

Course from basic to advanced level. Advanced level is paid, but basic and intermediate are free.

To determine the level of English, an on-site test is taken. For more information, call (217) 384.3530 or visit the website.

#### ESL Classes at the First Presbyterian Church of Champaign

302 W Church Street, Champaign

Classes are free for all levels.

For further information, please contact: <http://www.firstpres.church/es/>

### International Women Connections

Group of international women who gather at Twin City Bible Church on Wednesday mornings to befriend and learn about American culture. Includes ESL. They offer childcare.

Contacted: Ruth (217) 840.04474

For further information, please contact: <http://www.iwc-tcbc.weebly.com>

### International Coffeehouse

Every Friday from 4 to 6 pm, people gather for coffee and English practice.

Informações: <http://wesleyui.org/studentcenter>

### Private English Lessons for Brazilians (online) – Basic / Intermediate Level

\$80 monthly. Classes taught in Portuguese/English

From Monday to Thursday (30 minutes per day) totaling 2 hours per week

Contato: Grace (Whatsapp) +55 79 9 96406642

### Free English conversation classes

The **Convo-Buddy English Club** program is for you if you are interested in practicing the English language. The goal of the program is to promote English conversation practices as well as connect you with an English-speaking partner. And in return, the international student helps someone to practice their language, in this case the Portuguese. In addition, the program seeks to integrate international students into American culture and the Urbana-Champaign community, thereby enriching the linguistic and cultural experiences of international students. The program is free, you just need to enroll.

Contact: Dr. Vivian Dixon

E-mail: [convobuddy@gmail.com](mailto:convobuddy@gmail.com)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ConvoBuddy/>

### English Corner

Free English conversation group on various topics: [EnglishCorner@uiuc](mailto:EnglishCorner@uiuc)

## CLASSES AND COURSES RELATED TO BRAZIL



### Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies

[Home](#) | [Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies](#) | [UIUC \(illinois.edu\)](#)

### Department of Portuguese and Spanish at UIUC

[Home](#) | [Department of Spanish & Portuguese](#) | [Illinois](#)

### Association of Luso-Brazilian Students at UIUC

<https://www.instagram.com/lusobrazilianuiuc?igsh=bzdsMGRyMmo0OWUy>

### Academic Consulting and Mentoring

This service is offered free of charge.

Contact: Mikaela +55 5198229-9483

### Portuguese Language and Brazilian Studies at UIUC

Information: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/209002855788221/>

### Private Portuguese Lessons for Foreigners (Online) – Basic / Intermediate Level

\$90 monthly. Classes taught in Portuguese/English

From Monday to Thursday (30 minutes per day) totaling 2 hours per week

Contacted: Grace (Whatsapp) - 79 9 96406642

## BRAZILIAN PRODUCTS AND FOOD

### University of Illinois Meat Science Lab

1503 S Maryland Avenue, Urbana

Sale of meat, sausages, bacon and eggs always fresh.

Specific hours of operation: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1-5pm and Fridays, 8am-1pm

They sell picanha if ordered a few days in advance.

### World Harvest International & Gourmet

306 E Springfield Ave, Urbana

Guarana, frozen cassava/cassava, yerba mate

### El Progreso Mexican Grocery Store

1) 1001 W Bloomington Rd, Champaign

2) 510 N Cunningham Ave. Urbana

Tapioca gum, cassava/cassava, passion fruit pulp, guarana etc

### Aldi, Walmart, Meijer, Target, Harvest Market, Costco, wild forks (online), everyday brazil (online)

Shoestring potatoes, nest milk, frozen cheese bread, sour cream, condensed milk, chocolate powder, sprinkles, passion fruit pulp

### Buying Picanha Cut in Markets

In any market that has a butcher shop, it is possible to ask them to cut the picanha to guarantee the barbecue! At the butcher shop ask for "top sirlon with fat cap". Most need to order at least 1 day in advance, as it's not a common cut around here.

### Green Onion Asian Market

2020 S Neil St, Champaign, IL, United States, Illinois

It sells egg roll dough that works well for making pastry.

[Green Onion Asian Market | Champaign IL | Facebook](#)

#### [Rick's Bakery & Cafe](#)

130 W Main St, Urbana

Very good cakes. Special indication for the 3 leches.

#### [Steakhouse options in the city](#)

Texas Roadhouse

Alexander's steakhouse (near the Mall)

Black Dog Smoke and Ale House

Hickory River Smokehouse

Outback Steakhouse

Oishi Hibachi Steakhouse

#### [Brazilian Market & Restaurant Options outside the city but close by](#)

##### [International Fresh Market \(em Naperville, Chicago\)](#)

856 S Route 59 Naperville, IL 60540

Various Brazilian products such as cheese bread, assorted snacks, guarana, farofa...

##### [Tropical Café \(inside the International Fresh Market in Naperville\)](#)

856 S Route 59 Naperville, IL 60540

Latin bakery - French bread, cakes, pudding, pastry, passion fruit mousse, picanha sandwich..

##### [Saraga Foods \(em Indianapolis\)](#)

3605 Commercial Dr, Indianapolis, IN 46222

Various Brazilian products, including catupiry

##### [Brasilia Bar and Restaurant \(in Saint Louis\)](#)

3212 South Grand Blvd, Saint Louis, MO 63118

Restaurant with snacks, a la carte dishes and all-you-can-eat meat on Sundays.

##### [Fogo de Chão \(in Chicago\)](#)

Steakhouse with All-you-can-eat

661 N. LaSalle Blvd.

Chicago, IL 60654

1824 Abriter Court

Naperville, IL 60563

##### [Brazilian Bowl \(em Chicago\)](#)



Restaurant with snacks and a la carte food dishes.

3204 N Broadway St  
Chicago, IL 60657

3200 W Lawrence Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60625

## MUSIC, HOBBIES AND CRAFTS

### Samba Soul Band, the best sounds of Brazil

Samba and Bossa Nova band that performs in the city. Vocalist: Vivian Felicio. To stay up to date and schedule for the band's concerts, join the Facebook group.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SambaSoulBand/>

Email: sambasoulband@gmail.com

### Detuned Band

Bossa Nova band, samba, MPB, and other Brazilian sounds. Vocalist: Elis Artz. Join the Facebook group to stay up to date on the band's shows.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Desafinado-192235997269/>

### Global Wednesdays

During spring/summer, the Silvercreek restaurant, in Urbana, holds this event with typical cuisine and music from various countries. There's always a day from Brazil!

Informações: <http://www.couriersilvercreek.com/global-wednesdays/>

### **\*\*CRAFTMANSHIP\*\***

#### Group for those who like to crochet

Everyone is welcome, whether they know how to crochet or not:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/EnEL1krksOB1uNjb5dvJB5>

#### The Champaign-Urbana Community Fab Lab

1301 S Goodwin Avenue, Art Annex 2, Urbana

<http://cucfablab.org>

For those who like crafts and creation, FabLab offers scrapbooking machines, sewing and embroidery machines, 3D printers, metal and wood engraving machines and many other tools that can be used at no cost.

## CHILDREN

### **\*\*EDUCATION\*\***

Orchard Downs Preschool

For children from 3 to 5 years old. Lots of cultural diversity. Excellent teachers.

Website: <https://housing.illinois.edu/living-options/apartments/orchard-downs/preschool>

### University Primary School

UIUC College of Education Elementary School. Inspired by the Reggio Emilia method of education. From preschool to 5th grade. Super-trained teachers. Opportunity for partial or full scholarships for low-income families.

Website: <https://uniprimary.illinois.edu/>

### Campus Cooperative Preschool

For children from 3 to 5 years old. Parent-managed. Play-based.

Website: <https://campuscooperativepreschool.com/>

### Public Schools

Champaign Public Schools Information: <https://www.champaignschools.org/>

Urbana Public School Information: <https://usd116.org/>

### Municipal Libraries

Urbana Free Library e Champaign Public Library

In addition to books (they have books in Portuguese as well), it is possible to borrow DVDs, CDs, musical instruments, etc. They offer monthly and weekly events. Special indication for storytime for children from 0 to 5 years old, which is also a great opportunity to meet other parents in the area.

Champaign Library: <https://champaign.org/>

Urban: <https://urbanafreelibrary.org/>

### **\*\*MOM/DAD GROUPS\*\***

#### Mothers' Center of Champaign County

Moms group that offers support and social events for moms in the area: Moms Night Out, Book Club, Playgroups and Field Trips, Moms Helping Moms meals, Family Events, Volunteer Leadership opportunities, etc.

Great opportunity to make friends with other moms and get to know a little more about American culture.

Requires payment of an annual fee to join the group (to cover costs).

Instagram: @mothersofchampaigncounty

Website: <http://motherscenterchampaign.com/>

Facebook: <https://m.facebook.com/MothersCenterofChampaignCounty/>

#### ChambanaMoms

Super complete website, with resources for families, tips for events and activities for children throughout the year. Posts with tips on daycare, preschools and schools in the region. The "Event Calendar" is always full of event suggestions, every day of the week.

Website: [www.chambanamoms.com](http://www.chambanamoms.com)

## DIVERSE ITEMS AT A LOW COST

### ReStore

119 E University Ave, Champaign

Receives and resells used furniture and objects. Opportunity for those who want to spend little on the temporary house. Proceeds from sales are donated to Habitat for Humanity.

They accept donations and provide opportunities to volunteer.

Informações: <http://cuhabitat.org/>

### Goodwill

Receives and resells used clothes, objects and furniture.

<https://llgi.org/>

### Salt and Light

1512 Anthony Dr, Champaign, IL 61821

Receives and resells used clothes, objects and furniture. They accept donations and provide opportunities to volunteer.

<https://saltandlightministry.org/>

### Salvation Army

Receives and resells used clothes, objects and furniture.

### One Week Boutique

Bazaar of children's items (Newborn up to 14 years old). It takes place twice a year: April (sell spring/summer items) and September (sell autumn/winter items). They sell clothes, shoes, toys, books, furniture, etc. Items are "gently used". Information: [www.theoneweekboutique.com](http://www.theoneweekboutique.com)

### YMCA Dump and Run

Once a year there is a grand bazaar held by the University YMCA, usually at the end of August.

[University YMCA](#)

## SPIRITUALITY AND RELIGION

**\*\*INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH\*\***

IBC - Brazilian Church in Chambana

2101 E Washington St - Urbana

Once a month the group meets in person to sing, pray, hear a word and eat together. And every fortnight they have a Bible study in Portuguese and English. Everyone is very welcome regardless of belief or denomination. They have activities for the children during the meetings. They share about the meetings on the instagram page:

@amigosemchampaign and in whatsapp groups.

Contact: Lucas Cavoli - + 1 217 402 1673

Thallyta Cavoli - +1 217 979 6907

### **\*\* CATHOLIC CHURCH \*\***

St. John Catholic Newman Center

Local: Armory Av.

Masses every day at 12pm and 5pm and Sunday at 10:30am

### **\*\*SPIRITIST GROUP\*\***

Spiritist Group of Central Illinois

The group meets on Wednesdays from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. to study Spiritism.

Online meetings in Portuguese and English.

Contact: +55 79 9640-6642 (Grace Carvalho) or +1 (217) 979-2597 (Aline)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Spiritist-Study-Group-of-Central-Illinois-126632058005280/>

## AIRPORT TRANSFERS

### CHICAGO - CHAMBANA

Peoria Charter

Bus and van company that provides transportation between Chicago airports and the cities of Champaign/Urbana.

<https://peoriacharter.com/>

Private driver

Private driver sporadically Lucas Cavoli: + 1 217 402 1673

### CHAMBANA AIRPORT – CITY OR "UBER"

Private driver sporadically Lucas Cavoli: + 1 217 402 1673

## TRAVEL TIPS

[Google Flights - Find Cheap Flight Options & Track Prices](#) – website to check flight prices

[Cheap Flights, Airline tickets and Hotels - JustFly](#) – website to check flight prices

<https://www.bacctravel.com/> - Brazilian travel agency in the USA

It's usually cheaper to buy a flight to Brazil that leaves from Miami.

## DRIVER'S LICENSE

Theoretical and practical exams on the same day. I already leave with a provisional license. The final one arrives in the mail in 10 days. The theory exam can be taken in several languages, including Portuguese. Wallet fee: \$30.00. You have to bring a car with proof of insurance to take the practical exam. It can't be a rental car, but it can be borrowed. In addition to your passport, bring printed proof of residence, I-94 and DS-2019/I-20 (or any other form that is part of your visa). If the proof is taken outside the city in which the person resides, it is necessary to bring the original SSN card as well. Please refer to the DMV website for more details on the required documents. Tastings can be done in Champaign, Danville, Gibson City, Rantoul, Monticello, Tuscola... The one in Champaign usually has more queues and the one in Danville, despite having to schedule, usually has a vacancy and the practical test is usually easier.

**ONLINE TRIAL TESTS:** <https://www.dmv-written-test.com/illinois/practice-test-1.html>

If you have questions, want free driving lessons or need to borrow a car, contact Lucas Cavoli: + 1 217 402 1673

## VOTER REGISTRATION CARD

For accurate and up-to-date information on the process, please visit the link below:

<http://chicago.itamaraty.gov.br/pt-br/alistamento, transferencia, regularizacao.xml>

## FAQ

**\*\*Where to buy a plug adapter?\***

Amazon, Walmart or any big supermarket. TJ Maxx also has

**\*\*Where to order brigadeiros?\***

[https://instagram.com/brigadeiroland\\_usa?utm\\_medium=copy\\_link](https://instagram.com/brigadeiroland_usa?utm_medium=copy_link)

**\*\*When buying a gift, how do I make it possible for the person to exchange it later?\***

You ask the cashier for a gift receipt. Here comes the receipt without the amount and you put it together with the gift.

## VOCABULARY OF BRAZILIAN FOOD NAMES

Picanha - Top Sirloin

Creme de Leite - Heavy Whipping Cream

Leite Condensado - Condensed Milk

Maracujá - Passion Fruit

Fermento em pó - Baking Powder

Fubá - Corn Meal

Maizena - Corn Starch

Batata palha – Shoestring potato/ Potato sticks

Goiaba - Guava

Mandioca/Aipim – Cassava

Farinha de mandioca – Cassava flour

## GET IN TOUCH

Send information/suggestions about services to be added or removed from the list to:

>Thallyta Cavoli  
email: tcavoli2@illinois.edu

>Lucas Cavoli  
email: lc21@illinois.edu

# APPENDIX 1 - GUIDELINES FOR VISITING/RESEARCH SCHOLARS

## PRESENTATION

This manual is the result of a collaboration between *scholars* and the team of the *Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies*. Recommendations and guidelines were gathered based on the experience of researchers received by the Center, to facilitate the transition of new scholars to the *Urbana-Champaign* campus.

The main objective of the material is to guide and inform the formal stages of this process, as well as to bring useful tips for the environment abroad and in the city, covering the most frequently asked questions. Reading the manual is important to promote better insertion and adaptation in the destination country, simplifying communication with relevant sectors and contacts of the Center and the *University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*, throughout the corresponding period of studies, *teaching* and/or research.

We emphasize that this material is susceptible to continuous updates and does not replace official documents or guidelines from segments, bodies or competent authorities.

We hope that this material contributes to the success and best enjoyment of your stay in Urbana-Champaign!

## GETTING STARTED (COMEÇANDO) INITIAL PROCEDURES AND INFORMATION REQUESTED BY HR

### ***Acceptance of the position and signature of the Offer Letter***

After passing the selection process or formalizing an invitation to the *appointment* at the *Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies*, the Center will contact you to confirm your interest and availability to assume the position within the indicated period. Subsequently, an *Offer Letter* will be sent with the proposal/contract, which must be signed electronically, through the link sent by the University.

### ***Initial Contact***

A remote conversation with a member of the Center's Board of Directors will also be scheduled. A summary of the research (average of 200 words) and a photo may be requested for dissemination on the website.

### ***Processing with HR***

Upon acceptance of the *Offer Letter*, they will follow the procedures for establishing the link with the Center and the University (hiring/granting of scholarships, etc.).

It will be requested to send to the human resources sector the following:

- Simple copy of passport (main pages, current and previous U.S. visas, and stamps, if any);
- Address and contact information;
- Simple copy of *undergraduate* and graduate transcripts, preferably with (simple) translation into English.

### ***Background check***

In the case of hiring as *a staff*, as occurs in the post-doctorate, the researcher is considered an employee of the University, so he or she will need to undergo a *background check* and must provide



information through the *HireRight Customer Support* system or similar, whose access link will be released by HR.

## VISA APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The Human Resources department of the *Illinois Global Institute* and the *Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies*, with the assistance of the *International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS)*, take care of the processing of the necessary documentation so that the researcher can apply for the appropriate visa in Brazil.

It is important to note that for each position there is an appropriate type of visa, which will be indicated by HR/ISSS. Each type of visa has its own requirements and documentation.

### ***Documents Required***

For the issuance of the necessary documentation for the visa, HR will request, if it has not already been forwarded:

- Passport photo, with the main pages, as well as current and previous U.S. visas and stamps, if any (make sure it's a clear photo);
- Mailing address (make sure the address is correct, with all components); and
- Phone number (note that the delivery company may contact you if you have difficulty locating the address).

Depending on the type of visa, extra documents may be requested.

### ***Issuance and submission of documentation***

Once the applicant's information and documents have been received, the HR department will contact the ISSS, which will issue the necessary documentation for the visa within three weeks.

Once issued, the documentation will be sent by mail, through an American delivery company (e.g. UPS), usually taking three days to a week. Please note that the company may contact you if you have any questions about the address. HR will forward a link so that it is possible to follow the *status* and location of the shipment.

### ***Tips on J1 and J2 Visas***

In the case of the J1 visa (non-immigrant, exchanges and training), it is necessary to issue a DS-2019 form by the University, which will be requested by the HR sector for the ISSS via *the iStart* system. When the document is ready, the original will be forwarded by mail to the applicant.

If the applicant has dependents, which include spouses or unmarried minor children, he/she must inform HR so that it will be possible to apply for a J2 visa for dependents, together with the main visa.

### ***Applying for J1/J2 Visas***

To apply for J1/J2 visas, instructions will be provided by the HR department. Below we list the main steps. We recommend consulting the official websites for accurate and detailed information on the procedures (<https://ais.usvisa-info.com/pt-br/niv>).

- Step 1: Based on the documentation received, the HR department together with the ISSS will process the information for the issuance of the DS-2019 form. If the J-1 visa applicant intends to bring dependents to the United States on a J-2 visa, he or she must provide the pertinent information and documentation for issuance of a separate DS-2019 form.
  - Step 2: Fill out Form DS-160, standard for all non-immigrant visas to the United States, on the website of the U.S. embassy or consulate. When the form is complete, you will receive a confirmation document and barcode. The form must be brought to the interview. <https://ceac.state.gov/GenNIV/Default.aspx>
  - Step 3: Pay the SEVIS Fee (on average \$160) by entering the information from the DS-2019 form header. Keep the receipt confirming your payment. <https://www.fmjfee.com/i901fee/index.html>
  - Step 4: Schedule the delivery of documents and the interview.
  - Step 5: Collect Documents for interview, including (check official communications):
    - Passport
    - Form DS-160 barcode

- Interview confirmation
  - Photography respecting the requirements
  - All SEVIS pages and copy of Form DS-2019
  - Marriage certificate, if any
  - Proof of affiliation with the University (*Offer Letter*, Research Project, etc.).
  - Proof of sufficient finances to cover your trip to the United States
- Step 6: Attend the interview.

Visa processing time varies depending on the number of cases from your U.S. embassy or consulate. Generally, the average time is 3 to 5 weeks.

### ***Important Note About Health Insurance***

Many types of visas have specific conditions regarding health insurance, which needs to be purchased and valid before entering the country. It is recommended to check the conditions of each visa.

Health insurance coverage is mandatory for all J-1 visa visitors and their dependents (J-2). The U.S. Department of State has set minimum requirements for insurance coverage. These requirements can be consulted at the following link: <https://iss.illinois.edu/scholars/j1/index.html#j1insurance>

The ISSS also provides a list of insurance company references (it is worth mentioning that none of them are linked to the University and that it is always important to check if the chosen policy meets the requirements of each visa): [https://iss.illinois.edu/download\\_forms/scholars/j1\\_insurance.pdf](https://iss.illinois.edu/download_forms/scholars/j1_insurance.pdf)

## ***Entry into the U.S.***

Remember to present the proper visa when entering the U.S. territory. So, if you have a tourist visa, for example, but a J1 visa has been issued for your appointment in Urbana-Champaign, make sure that your travel visa (in this case, J1) is presented at the time of entry.

Confirm with the HR department and the respective consulate the deadlines for staying in the country before and after the expiration date of the visa. In the case of the J1 visa, entry (and exit) from the country is admitted 30 days before the beginning and end of its validity.

## INFORMATION ABOUT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

### **Overview**

Champaign-Urbana is an urban metropolis formed by two adjacent cities (Champaign and Urbana) in the state of Illinois, near the border with the state of Indiana. It is the county seat of Champaign County with approximately 109,000 residents, and was founded in 1828.

Since its founding in 1867, the *University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign* has earned a reputation as a world leader in research, teaching, and public development. With over 56,000 students, it is one of the largest public universities by enrollment in the United States. It consists of 16 schools and colleges and offers more than 150 undergraduate programs and 100 graduate programs.

The *University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign* is a member of the *Association of American Universities* and is classified between "R1: Doctoral Universities – Very high research activity", with high search activity. It features the fourth-largest university library in the United States by collections. Alumni, faculty members, and researchers at the University include 30 Nobel laureates, 27 Pulitzer Prize winners, two Fields Medalists, and two Turing Prize winners. More information is available at: <https://illinois.edu/index.html>

### **Airports**

The University of Illinois Willard Airport (Airport code: CMI) serves the Champaign-Urbana area. Information available at: <https://iflycu.com/>

Other airport options (at least two hours away from Urbana-Champaign) are:

- Chicago O'Hare International Airport:  
<https://www.flychicago.com/ohare/home/pages/default.aspx>
- Chicago Midway International Airport:  
<https://www.flychicago.com/midway/home/pages/default.aspx>
- Lambert – St. Petersburg International Airport <https://www.flystl.com/>

- Indianapolis International Airport: <https://www.ind.com/>

### **Bus and Shuttle to the city**

- *Peoria Charter*: private bus company serving Chicago airports (O'Hare and Midway), Union Station in Chicago, and other locations in Chicago. Available at O'Hare International Airport Terminals 2 and 5, with multiple stops on campus. <https://peoriacharter.com/>
- *Greyhound*: daily service between Chicago and Champaign. Available from downtown Chicago, with drop-off at Illinois Terminal in downtown Champaign. <https://www.greyhound.com/>
- *Express Air Coach*: daily nonstop service between O'Hare International Airport and Champaign. Available at the transportation hub and Terminal 5 (gate 5E, lower level) at O'Hare International Airport and at two campus stops, Altgeld Hall and Armory. <https://expressaircoach.com/about/>

### **Train**

*AMTRAK offers service between downtown Chicago and Champaign. It also connects Champaign (Illinois Terminal) to several other cities in the region.* <https://www.amtrak.com/home.html>

- *Illinois Terminal*: 45 E University Ave, Champaign, IL 61820. Tel.: (217) 384-8188.

### **Public transport**

The transportation operator Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District (MTD) operates in the Champaign-Urbana metro area. Most of the lines pass through the Illinois Terminal (its main MTD center), where it is possible to purchase daily, monthly and annual passes (also available on the website: <https://mtd.org/>).

- *Illinois Terminal*: 45 E University Ave, Champaign, IL 61820. Tel.: (217) 384-8188.

The cost of each ticket is \$1. There are daily passes for \$2, monthly for \$20 and annual for \$60 (last seen November 2023). You can pick it up using coins, \$1 bills, the Token Transit app, or by presenting physical passes. All students, faculty, and staff at the University of Illinois use MTD for free by showing their University of Illinois i-Card at Urbana-Champaign. Others may be eligible for free or

reduced-fare transportation on MTD (DASH card for people over 65 years of age, Veteran's Pass, or school pass).

Children 46" tall and under travel without BAT when traveling with a paying adult. Seniors (people over 65 years of age) can obtain a DASH Pass upon presentation of proof of age. Medicare cardholders and people with significant difficulties getting in or out of an MTD vehicle may qualify for a DASH Pass as disabled passengers.

The ISSS office (*International Student and Scholar Services*) has an online manual on metropolitan public transport: [https://www.iss.illinois.edu/download\\_forms/students/transportation\\_guide.pdf](https://www.iss.illinois.edu/download_forms/students/transportation_guide.pdf)

### ***Hosting Tips***

Local hotels in the Champaign/Urbana area that offer weekly rates:

- Best Western  
[www.bestwestern.com](http://www.bestwestern.com)  
709 N. Dunlap Ave Savoy, IL 61874 1-800-528-1234 or (217) 356-1824
- Candlewood Suites  
[www.candlewoodsuites.com](http://www.candlewoodsuites.com)  
1917 Moreland Blvd Champaign, IL 61822 (217) 398-1000
- Extended Stay America Champaign – Urbana  
[www.extendedstayamerica.com](http://www.extendedstayamerica.com)  
610 West Marketview Drive Champaign, IL 61822 (217) 351-8899
- Eastland Suites Hotel & Conference Center (extended stay) [www.eastlandsuitesurbana.com](http://www.eastlandsuitesurbana.com)  
1907 North Cunningham Avenue Urbana, IL 61802 Phone: (217) 367-8331
- Fairfield Inn (Marriott)  
[www.fairfieldinn.com/cmpfi](http://www.fairfieldinn.com/cmpfi)  
1807 Moreland Champaign, IL 61821 (217) 355-0604
- Hampton Inn  
[www.hamptoninn.com](http://www.hamptoninn.com)



1200 West University Avenue Urbana, IL 61801 (217) 337-1100

- Days Inn [www.daysinn.com](http://www.daysinn.com) 914

W. Bloomington Road, Champaign, IL 61821 US (217) 356-6873

- Microtel Inn & Suites (Wyndham)

[www.microtelinn.com](http://www.microtelinn.com)

1615 Rion Drive, Champaign, IL 61822 (217) 398-4136

## **Residence**

### **University Housing**

- Housing Information Office

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

100 Clark Hall, 1203 South Fourth Street Champaign, IL 61820

217-333-7111

E-mail: [housing@illinois.edu](mailto:housing@illinois.edu)

The University of Illinois features university housing (dormitories and apartments) for students, faculty, and other affiliates (*visitors, scholars, etc.*) in different locations on or near campus, with accessibility to public transportation. It is important to consult the available houses and requirements for their use. There are dormitories for students only and *short-term* or long-term stays.

Each type of housing has different facilities (e.g. parking, laundry, computer lab, etc.), whether or not included in the *rent*. It is also relevant to note whether the desired option includes furniture or not. In general, all options have a stove, refrigerator and external laundry (with price included or separately) and the amount covers rent, water and internet costs, with gas and electricity paid separately (Ameren company). It is recommended to access the website to check the housing conditions and values included, which may change.

The submission of a proposal for *lease* is carried out online, through the *University Housing website*. A temporary identification number can be generated for access to the system, if the applicant does not yet have an identification number at the University and an institutional e-mail.

### ***Other Suggestions***

- ***The Pointe at UIUC***

1601 E. Florida Ave, Urbana, IL 61802

(217)337-3901

<https://www.pointe-ui.com/>

- ***The Atrium***

1306 N Lincoln Ave, Urbana, IL 61801

(217) 328-5122

<https://atriumurbana.com/>

- ***Other useful search sites***

<https://www.roysebrinkmeyer.com/520>

### ***Driver's license in Illinois***

If you are an out-of-state student attending an Illinois college/university, you and your spouse and children can drive with a valid license from your home state or country, within Illinois. If you are not affiliated with the University, you can also drive with a valid license from your home country for up to 90 days after your arrival. Please note that an "International License" is not valid in the state of Illinois.

To obtain a license to drive a car in Illinois, you need to:

- Step 1: Visit a *Department of motor vehicles* (DMV) chauffeur services facility and take your photo and required exams. Make the fee payment (average of \$30).
- Step 2: All applicants must provide proof of identity. (Examples are: SSN, passport, birth certificate, employment document, permanent resident or foreign card).
- Step 3: All applicants must provide proof of complete Social Security (Examples are: an SSN card, a W-2, or a pay stub with full SSN.)
- Step 4: All applicants must provide two proofs of current residency (Examples are: gas/electricity bill, lease agreement, deed/title, or bank statement).

- Step 5: Take the theoretical test (there are exceptions for holders who have already had a license in other states, check on site). Remember to refer to the Updated Illinois State Driver's Handbook (2023 version: [https://driving-tests.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/IL\\_dsd\\_a112.pdf](https://driving-tests.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/IL_dsd_a112.pdf)). There are free practice tests available at: <https://dmv-practice-test.com/illinois/car/practice-test-1>
- Step 6: The practical test is done with a vehicle driven to the exam location (in your name or in the name of a third party, such as a friend), with due proof of the documents required for the regularity of the vehicle (such as registration, licensing and insurance). In general, rental cars are not accepted. The test lasts an average of 15 minutes.
- Step 7: Receive a temporary paper license. After reviewing and verifying the documents, the permanent license will be mailed to you in about 15 business days.

More information can be found at:

<https://apps.ilsos.gov/facilityfinder/facilityfinder?command=getFacilityDetails&facilityId=151>

The ISSS office provides tips on the step-by-step process:

<https://iss.illinois.edu/resources/driving.html>

### ***School for dependents***

If you live in Urbana, you will have your children in the school district there. Those who choose to live in Champaign will be part of Unit 4. It's worth checking out the website [Home | Champaign Unit 4 School District \(champaignschools.org\)](#) and see the documents required to enroll in the school. For both cities, several medical, eye, and dental examinations will be required. Several can be made in advance (and probably at a lower cost) in Brazil.

There are other options besides public schools, with private and religious schools in the area.

## ***Leisure & Sightseeing***

Urbana-Champaign boasts wide variety of parks, restaurants, museums, and cultural experiences. Below are some useful links for searching for leisure and tourist attractions:

- Admissions Blog. <https://blog.admissions.illinois.edu/things-to-do-in-champaign-urbana/>
- Experience Champaign-Urbana. <https://experiencecu.org/>
- Trip Advisor. [https://www.tripadvisor.com.br/Attractions-g36806-Activities-Urbana\\_Champaign\\_Urbana\\_Illinois.html](https://www.tripadvisor.com.br/Attractions-g36806-Activities-Urbana_Champaign_Urbana_Illinois.html)

## ARRIVING IN URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

### ***Check-in at HR and ISSS***

Within a week of arrival in the country, it must be scheduled *Check-in, online* or face-to-face, in the HR sector and at the ISSS.

HR will provide you with a kit with basic information about the University and the next steps for onboarding (including how to open a bank account, apply for *Social Security Number-SSN, I-Card* and *NETID* etc.). Also, in the session with HR, address and personal information will be updated, as well as visa documentation, such as the I-94 form.

For ISSS Check-in, you will need to provide:

- Your local U.S. address information;
- Copy of passport;
- Visa documentation (such as DS-2019 and I-94 forms) and other immigration documents, if applicable;
- Emergency contact information;
- Insurance information.

### ***Requesting the Social Security Number - SSN***

The *Social Security Number (SSN)* is a nine-digit personal identification number in the United States, similar to the CPF in Brazil. In general terms, the number can be requested by U.S. citizens, permanent residents, and people authorized to work in the U.S. territory.

The function of the SSN is to enable its bearer to properly collect and pay taxes to the U.S. government. The number is also generally required to work legally and to carry out banking transactions, as well as to build *credit score*.

Hiring of researchers as *staff* (such as postdoctoral fellows) *and faculty* (University employees, such as Professors) require SSN.

To apply for the SSN, it is necessary to appear in person at the *Social Security Administration*, by appointment or not (check the website to see if applications without an appointment are being accepted, "Walk-in"). Scheduling and more information can be found at:

<https://www.ssa.gov/number-card/request-number-first-time>

The office is located at: *101 S Country Fair Dr, Champaign, IL 61821, Tel. (800) 772-1213* and is generally open from 9am to 4pm. It is recommended, however, to check opening hours on the website.

The required documents are:

- Passport;
- Up-to-date visa documentation (Ex. DS-2019 and I-94);
- Proof of address (e.g. gas/electricity bills, rental agreement, bank account sent by mail);
- Proof of affiliation with the University (e.g. signed Offer Letter and related documents);
- Application form (Available at: <https://www.ssa.gov/forms/ss-5.pdf>).

On the day of the appointment, the *Social Security Administration* will generate a receipt of the request and the card will be mailed to you within an average of four weeks. Make sure your mailbox is properly labeled, on the inside, with last name and first name.

\* Please note: when scheduling at the *Social Security Administration office*, a request receipt will be generated. Inform HR as soon as possible, who will forward a secure link (via Box) to send the receipt.

### ***Getting an I-CARD and NETID***

The HR department will generate an identification number and e-mail address (NETID, e.g. [nomeyz@illinois.edu](mailto:nomeyz@illinois.edu)) for use in the University's systems.

In the case of *staff* positions (e.g. postdocs) and others that require the SSN for hiring, the presentation of the SSN will be necessary so that HR can request the identification number and the NETID.

With this data (identification number and NETID) it is possible to go to the *Illini Union Book Store* and request the issuance of the University's "card" (I-Card). The card is generated instantly, by taking a photo on the spot.

- Illini Union Book Store: 809 S Wright St, Champaign, IL 61820, Tel. (217) 333-2050 (horários de funcionamento disponíveis em: <https://bookstore.illinois.edu/>).

The I-Card is required to use some of the University's facilities, such as the library. It is also requested on public transport, for exemption from payment, outside the i-Stop corridor (area outside the *campus*). It can also be used as a debit card, by entering credits, for *on-campus* purchases (e.g. document printing).

Institutional email can be accessed through *Outlook*. The HR department will forward the instructions for registering the e-mail (choosing login/e-mail address and password) and performing the first access, as soon as the NETID is generated.

### ***Access to the Library and its facilities***

Once the identification number, NETID and I-Card have been obtained, it will be possible to access the library system by logging in to the Central Library page (*Main Library*). In case of difficulty in the first access, it is recommended to attend in person.

- Main Library Information Desk  
(217) 333 -2290  
1408 W. Gregory Dr.  
Urbana, IL 61801  
<https://www.library.illinois.edu/>

### ***New Hire Trainings***

If you hire as *a staff*, you will receive a link to the New Hire system after your *HR check-in*. The system provides University of Illinois employees with an overview of essential software applications and practices. Through this system, mandatory documents and training will also be requested from campus employees.

## ***Tax Review***

For researchers qualified as *staff*, a tax review will be requested. The review is essential for the collection of taxes to occur in an appropriate manner and for the benefits to which the researcher is or is not eligible (including *health insurance*) to be determined.

The *Foreign National Service Center* (FNSC) and the *University Payroll & Benefits Office* (UPB) offer tax status review services for foreign employees.

Without a review of the tax situation, no tax treaty benefit can be determined or enforced. A foreign employee's federal and state taxes may be withheld at the higher rate until the review of their tax status is complete.

To perform the review:

- Click on your university link below to log in to the registration system:

<https://www.obfs.uillinois.edu/payments-foreign-nationals/tax-status-review/>

- Register for a review of your tax status.

The registration is not used to hold a meeting (face-to-face or virtual), only to start the Tax Status Review process. The date chosen will be when the necessary documentation must be uploaded to the Box system. \*Attention: choose a date as soon as possible, as the vacancies to upload the documentation are filled very quickly.

- Upload the necessary documentation to the Box (access with NETID);
- Respond to additional requests/comments from the Service Center.
- If it is not possible to carry out the Tax Review, it is recommended to attend the office of the *Foreign National Service Center in person*.

Useful addresses:

- *Foreign National Service Center*

506 Wright Street, Urbana, IL, 61801

Road 100 A- North



- *University Payroll & Benefits*  
506 S. Wright Street, Urbana, IL, 61801  
Room 177 (MC 318)  
Tel. 217-265-6363  
[www.obfs.uillinois.edu/payroll/customer-service/](http://www.obfs.uillinois.edu/payroll/customer-service/)

### ***Phone number***

To purchase a U.S. phone, the required documents may vary from one company to another and depending on the desired plan (prepaid or postpaid).

Identification documents (SSN, driver's license, in some cases passport accepted), proof of residence, and proof of income are usually required.

\* Attention: before signing a contract with a company, check the compatibility of your mobile device.

Some companies in Urbana-Champaign are:

- Mint Mobile
- T-Mobile
- Verizon
- AT&T
- Tello

### ***Bank account***

For the opening of accounts, banking institutions usually request a Social Security Card (SSN) or Tax Identification Number (NIF), driver's license (if any) and student/employee card with photograph or proof of income and/or proof of affiliation with the University. Some banks proceed to open temporarily upon presentation of passport and University ID number, adding SSN card number and I-Card later.

Some banks in Urbana-Champaign are:

- First Federal Savings Bank
- First Midwest Bank.
- Heartland Bank.
- PNC.
- University of Illinois Community Credit Union.
- Chase

### ***Health Insurance***

To check if you are eligible for health insurance, it is important to complete the *Check-in* with the HR and ISSS sectors, as well as having an SSN (if required) and carrying out the tax review. From there, it is possible to check eligibility before the HR and Payroll & Benefits office.

- Useful link to health information for postdocs:

<https://grad.illinois.edu/postdocs/healthwellness>

\* Attention: even if the University provides insurance or some type of medium aid, it is essential to verify that the plan is compatible with the requirements of the corresponding cyst. In some cases, it is still necessary to take out separate insurance, or additional services, such as repatriation of remains.

### ***Modifications to visa status and subsequent addition of dependents***

Modifications to the *status* visa requirements, departures from the country and other matters such as the addition of dependents require consultation with the ISSS office (*International Student and Scholar Services*). In some cases, requests can be made online, through the i-Start system:

<https://sunapsis.illinois.edu/istart/controllers/start/StartEngine.cfm>

In case of impossibility of accessing the system, contact the ISSS.

- *International Student and Scholar Services*

432 Student Services Building. 610 E. John St. M/C 306, Champaign, IL 61820

Student Branch

phone 217.333.1303 ext. 1

email [iss@illinois.edu](mailto:iss@illinois.edu)

Faculty, Staff and Scholars Branch

phone 217.333.1303 ext. 2

email [iss-scholars@illinois.edu](mailto:iss-scholars@illinois.edu)

### ***Access and update your I-94 form when needed***

Your most recent version of Form I-94 (if applicable to the type of visa) can be viewed and amended at: <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/#/home>

### ***Check your earnings and financial situation and update your information***

- If you are a *staff* or *faculty* member of the University, your earnings and tax deduction description can be found at: <https://www.hr.uillinois.edu/pay/earnstmt>
- If you are an employee (*staff* or *faculty*) of the University, please consult and keep your information up to date at: <https://www.hr.uillinois.edu/myinfo>
- Your financial statement with the University (including monthly rent due for University Housing can be found at): <https://myillini.illinois.edu/IdentityManagement/Login>

### ***Electricity and gas: Ameren***

Ameren Corporation is an American energy/gas company in Illinois. In most cases, the energy and gas amounts due to the part in relation to the rents. It is important to contact Ameren to update your information as a resident. From there, it will also be possible to check bills and expenses through the site, as well as make payments.

- Ameren  
<https://www.ameren.com/illinois/>  
Phone: 800.755.5000

### ***Work Permit for J-2 Visas***

J-2 dependents of a visitor or researcher may apply for work permission from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) as long as such employment is not necessary for the support of the J-1 exchange visitor.

- Tips about it found at: <https://iss.illinois.edu/students/employment/j2employ.html>
- Application Instructions: <https://www.uscis.gov/i-765>

### ***Graduate College Information & Support***

The Graduate College (<https://grad.illinois.edu/>) has a number of useful links and support services.

- Address: Graduate College  
507 East Green Street  
Suite 101, MC-434,  
Phone: 217.333.0035  
Email: [grad@illinois.edu](mailto:grad@illinois.edu)
- Grad Links: Weekly e-newsletter with news and opportunities for undergraduate and postdoctoral students at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign:  
<https://grad.illinois.edu/pubs/gradlinks>
- Tips on Career Progression: <https://grad.illinois.edu/careers/advising>
- Resources for post-docs and scholars: <https://grad.illinois.edu/postdocs>
- Writers Workshop: Provides free support to everyone in the campus community in all forms of academic and professional writing, at any stage of the writing process. It offers

writing groups, presentations, and consultations. Appointments with instructors can be scheduled, remotely or in person: <https://writersworkshop.illinois.edu/>

- Material Tips and Examples for Proposal Submissions and Job Applications: <https://grad.illinois.edu/careers/other-materials>

## USEFUL CONTACTS AND LINKS

### *University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*

- **Foreign National Service Center**  
506 S. Wright Street, Urbana, IL, 61801  
Road 100 A- North
- **Graduate College**  
507 East Green Street  
Suite 101, MC-434,  
Phone: 217.333.0035  
<https://grad.illinois.edu/>  
Email: [grad@illinois.edu](mailto:grad@illinois.edu)
- **Human Resources**  
Illinois Global Institute  
505 E Green St. Champaign, IL 61820  
[jrandell@illinois.edu](mailto:jrandell@illinois.edu)  
[spminer@illinois.edu](mailto:spminer@illinois.edu)
- **Illini Union Book Store**  
809 S Wright St, Champaign, IL 61820, Tel. (217) 333-2050  
<https://bookstore.illinois.edu/>
- ***International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS)***  
610 E John St. # 432, Champaign, IL 61820  
217-333-1303  
<https://iss.illinois.edu/>  
[iss@illinois.edu](mailto:iss@illinois.edu)

[isss-scholars@illinois.edu](mailto:isss-scholars@illinois.edu)

- **University Payroll & Benefits**

506 S. Wright Street, Urbana, IL, 61801

Sala 177 (MC 318)

Tel. 217-265-6363

[paying-obfs@mx.uillinois.edu](mailto:paying-obfs@mx.uillinois.edu)

[paying-obfs@ad.uillinois.edu](mailto:paying-obfs@ad.uillinois.edu)

### ***External Links & Contacts***

- **AMTRAK**

Illinois Terminal: 45 E University Ave, Champaign, IL 61820

Tel.: (217) 384-8188

<https://www.amtrak.com/home.html>

- **MTD**

Illinois Terminal: 45 E University Ave, Champaign, IL 61820

Tel.: (217) 384-8188

<https://mtd.org/>

- **Social Security Administration**

101 S Country Fair Dr, Champaign, IL 61821, Tel. (800) 772-1213

<https://www.ssa.gov/number-card/request-number-first-time>

## **APPENDIX 2 – GUIA COM RECURSOS EXTRAS - Illinois Scholars at Risk Program**