Welcome to Anthropology at Indiana University!

I want to congratulate and welcome you to a great department that is filled with great faculty and staff and great students! My name is Seleste Sanchez. I am the new Anthropology Graduate Student Association (AGSA) President. I hope that you are having a good summer thus far and are as excited about starting as we are to be having you here. If you want to get a jump on everything that is going to be flying your way come the Fall semester there are some things you can do now that will make your life a lot easier in the long run:

1. Set up your computer account, submit your medical info, and apply for financial aid using: http://admit.indiana.edu/admitted/index.shtml. The website is geared towards incoming undergrads, but the information is useful for graduate students. You will need your 10 digit University ID number, which should have been sent to you with your admissions information. If you do not have your ID number, Debra Wilkerson, the Graduate Secretary, is the person to contact. Carry this number with you, you will need it to get your ID, but it will not be on your ID, and you will need it more often than you think (e.g. some professors have you write it on exams).

2. Join the Anthro Grad listserv. AGSA maintains a listserv for all of the graduate students in our department so that we can communicate efficiently.

To subscribe to the list, email LISTSERV@INDIANA.EDU with the following text in the body (not subject): SUBSCRIBE ANTH-GRADS-L

It’s good to join early since our Office Services Assistant frequently sends out emails concerning funding opportunities, events on campus, etc. and if graduate students are having social events or gatherings, need roommates, etc. it will go out through the listserv. If you cannot join the listserv right now, but want to contact all of the grad students, you can send an email to ANTH-GRADS-L@listserv.indiana.edu.

3. There are also several helpful and important IU websites:

a. University Information Technology Services (uits.iu.edu) has links for setting up your email and passphrase, free software (like the entire Adobe Suite and Microsoft Office), info on tutorials and training sessions, and info on setting up your VPN.

b. OneStart (onestart.iu.edu) connects you with financial services, academic information, and a other information. This is the site you will eventually need to use when you register for classes. There is also a section in OneStart for classifieds where you can find more housing info. You will need your user name and passphrase to access this site.

c. OnCourse (oncourse.iu.edu) will be a key site after you have registered for classes. Professors may use this as their primary form of communication with students. In addition, class syllabi, assignments, readings and grades may be posted on this site.

d. Library (www.libraries.iu.edu) You can use IUCAT to search for books and have them delivered to any library on campus or you can click on the subjects link and go directly to the anthropology library page which is maintained by our subject librarian Moira Marsh.
e. Graduate and Professional Student Organization (www.indiana.edu/~gpso/) gives updates for graduate student gatherings and information concerning your graduate career (health care, child care, campus diversity, etc.).

f. Anthropology Graduate Student Association: http://www.indiana.edu/~anthgrad/home.html

g. IU Anthropology Department Home Page: http://www.indiana.edu/~anthro/index.shtml

h. IU Anthropology Department Welcome to New Graduate Students: http://www.indiana.edu/~anthro/cp/welcome.html

There are lots of useful links at the bottom.

i. IU Anthropology Graduate Program: http://www.indiana.edu/~anthro/cp/grad/index.html

j. Guide For Graduate Students in Anthropology: http://www.indiana.edu/~anthro/cp/grad/gradguide.html

I know this is a lot of information to handle at once, it’s ok if you feel a little overwhelmed. We wanted to get this information to you so you can address it at your own pace. Administrative questions can be directed to Debra Wilkerson (dwilkers@indiana.edu) or Catherine Tucker ctucker@indiana.edu). Please feel free to e-mail me (sesanche@indiana.edu) with any of your questions as well. You will also have the chance to ask questions, meet people, and socialize after you get here during orientation. Enjoy your summer and remember to take a day off if you get the chance!

Below is more information about IU and Bloomington in general:

Housing

Housing is always a top concern when moving to a new place. There are several different options depending what you are looking for in a space to live. The most cost-effective strategy is probably to try to find roommates and get a larger apartment or house together. If you would prefer to live by yourself or are moving with your family there are several websites that will be of help to you (listed below). There are several anthropology graduate students that have been happy living in Meadowpark Apartments, Fountainpark Apartments, Woodbridge Apartments, Steeplechase Apartments, and the townhouse complex off East Sherwood Hills Drive. Due to the number of students there are several real estate and rental companies in Bloomington, in addition to individuals who rent converted houses and apartments themselves. Some students have had good luck using Parker Real Estate Management, but they are not the only good realtor in town.

Bloomington is a fairly safe town and there are no areas that should unilaterally be avoided. However, if you like a quiet space to live and study I would advise against renting an apartment across from the stadium or behind the fraternity and sorority houses on 3rd St. If you are willing to make the commute, looking just outside Bloomington city limits may provide a cheaper option with more space. Look for housing sooner rather than later. You will be able to find a place to live if you leave it until the end August, but you will end up paying for waiting. Location and proximity to campus really factor into price, so see what is available and once you decide, sign the paperwork. If you are planning a visit to Bloomington early enough walk around to see what is available, pick up a couple of papers, and you will be fine.
IU also has Student Legal Services (https://www.indiana.edu/~sls/services.html), which is free if you are a full time student at IU and have paid your fees. They offer several services, including: “SLS will review your lease before you sign, help you with maintenance concerns as your lease proceeds, and represent you in court if your landlord sues you or if you need a court’s help when your landlord gets attached to your damage deposit.” A few students have had some frustrations working with them, but they are free. Also, the state of Indiana is known for having laws that do little to protect renters, so be sure to read your lease carefully.

Here is a website put together by the IU Graduate and Professional Student Organization on housing options. http://www.indiana.edu/~gpso/housing.php Here are some other websites to look as well:

http://www.heraldtimesrentals.com/

Funding and Financial Aid

Funding can be difficult to come by at IU and budgetary cut backs have made getting departmental funding even more difficult. Don’t fear! IU has lots of places you can look for academic and non-academic positions, jobs, and fellowships.

Office of Student Financial Assistance – Links to FAFSA application, other loans – keep in mind that some loans may not be disbursed until you have registered for classes. Many graduate students do not apply for loans until the fall semester; deadlines listed on the FAFSA website typically apply to undergrad applications, not grads.

Grad Grants – The Grad Grants Center is a great resource for graduate students seeking financial aid. This site has links to job listings for academic postings, searchable funding databases (you need a university username and passphrase to access these), other granting resources, and view external fellowships frequently awarded to IU students. Many anthropology graduate students are eligible for a FLAS Fellowship (Foreign Language and Area Studies).

You may want to consider applying for a Jacob K. Javits Fellowship or an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship; both are multi-year fellowships for $30,000 and come with fee remissions. For the Javits you have to be in your first year of grad school, or in your first year following the completion of a Masters. The NSF is available for grad students in either their first or second year. Be aware; both of these fellowships have application deadlines in the fall. If you are thinking about applying you should begin writing/brainstorming now! Get into contact with your potential advisor; tell them you are considering applying for the fellowships, give them a short abstract/outline to get feedback. Think about other people you will ask to write you letters of reference. DO NOT PUT THIS OFF! Your first year will be hectic and stressful; these grants will make everything much more stressful if you put them off to the month before they are due.
Career Development Center – This website provides access to resources to help you find jobs. These jobs typically do not come with a fee waiver, but if you are looking for something, anything, this site might be able to help you out. myIUcareers is a database of jobs, internships, and workstudy positions maintained by the Career Development Center; you can upload a resume and search for jobs that fit you. You will need an IU username and passphrase to access this site.

Other options

Submit CVs to departments where you might fit in (e.g. Biology, Medical Sciences, International Studies, etc.); you never know, they might have a position open up. Join the AGSA listserv – We often received emails about graduate positions that open up in other departments. Don’t be afraid to apply; you’ll never get a position if you don’t try.

Bloomington: Some things to do and Places to go

For a relatively small community, there is quite a lot going on in Bloomington throughout the year and during the summer. Below is a partial list of some of things Bloomington has to offer so you have a base before you get to explore on your own. Things are always changing so it is good to be aware of what is going on. If there is something you want to do or need and it is not in Bloomington, like larger department stores, NFL football, specific kinds of restaurants and bars or an airport, Indianapolis is about an hour away and offers a great option.

The Bloomington Visitors Bureau is located at 2855 N. Walnut Street. They have quite of bit of information and are helpful in answering questions. There will likely be an adorable cat hanging around as well to help welcome you. (Many of you will pass it on your way into town if you come in through Indianapolis and take the first exit into Bloomington.)

• Restaurants:
  o Vegetarian: Roots (on the square), Village Deli, Laughing Planet, The Farm
  o Indian: Taste of India, Shanti, Bombay House, Amol
  o Thai: Siam House, My Thai Café, Esan Thai
  o Tibetan: Snow Lion, Anyetsang’s Little Tibet
  o There are also restaurants serving Chinese, Mexican, Italian, Mediterranean cuisine and many places that serve pub food. The usual chain restaurants (McDonalds, Taco Bell, Applebees, TGI Fridays, Steak and Shake, Jimmy John’s) are also around. For takeout and delivery options see www.btownmenus.com. Kirkwood Ave is good place to find lunch close to campus.

• Coffee: Soma, Runcible Spoon, Rachel’s Café, Scholar’s Inn and Bakehouse, Copper Cup, Green Bean and of course Starbucks

• Bars: The Upstairs Pub, The Video Saloon (the Vid), Nick’s, Yogi’s, The White Horse, The Irish Lion, The Alley Bar

• Arts, Performance, and Culture: Buskirk-Chumley Theater, School of Fine Arts Gallery (Contemporary), Indiana University Art Museum (Historic), Tibetan Mongolian Buddhist Cultural Center
Several small art galleries, historic sites, and performance spaces scatter Bloomington. The Bluebird has many live shows by a variety of musicians. In addition, art and films festivals, regular events, and special features happen throughout the year. There are two movie theaters as well.

- Parks:
  - Bryan Park (between S. Henderson St. and S. Woodlawn Ave. about six blocks from 3rd St.) has large green space for playing Frisbee, walking dogs, etc., a public pool, and has free public showings of films during the summer.
  - Lake Monroe (located about 25 minutes south of campus) has a variety of trails, as well as offering camping, boating, fishing, and a general escape into nature.

- Shopping: College Mall area, as well as many small boutiques around the square and on Kirkwood Avenue
- Food stores: Marsh, Kroger, Blooming Foods (Organic Co-op), Sahara Mart (Asian Market), Saturday Farmer’s Market (http://bloomington.in.gov/farmersmarket)
- Electronics and Office Supplies: BestBuy, Staples, Office Max
- Book Stores: Barnes and Noble, Borders, Boxcar Books and Community Center (Local Independent), several used book stores
- Department stores: Target, 24 Hr Walmart Supercenter, TJ Maxx, Kohl’s, Bed Bath and Beyond, Lowe’s, College Mall (3rd St)