



University at Buffalo

Department of Civil, Structural
and Environmental Engineering

School of Engineering and Applied Sciences

ITU/UB Dual-Degree Program

UNOFFICIAL Handbook

New Student Orientation, Fall 2017



University at Buffalo

School of Engineering
and Applied Sciences

ITU/UB Dual-Degree Program Alternative Handbook

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Section 1: Introduction

Welcome to the University at Buffalo! We are excited to have you in our department, and are eager to help you learn more about civil engineering, UB and our country. While your primary objective at UB is to complete your degree, we realize that there is more to making your study abroad experience meaningful. To help you settle in and function successfully in your new environment, we devised a helpful *book of tips* on the social and practical aspects of life in the U.S. Please note that this book is compiled from feedback gained from students who either completed the program or are currently in it.

This handbook is meant to accompany the [ITU/UB Dual-Degree Program New Student Orientation Handbook](#). The UB-ITU Dual Diploma Handbook is based on university rules, and its main focus is academic matters. The UB-ITU Dual Degree Program *Alternative* Handbook helps students adjust to life at the university and in the United States.

Think of this book as your unofficial guide. As such, it is a work-in-progress, and a book of advice to which you can also contribute. If you think we have left something out, or missed out on something important, please let us know. All DDP students are asked to fill out our survey to help generate additional information and advice for this handbook. This way you can benefit from the advice of those who have gone through the program before you, and help out those who will follow in your footsteps. Please take the survey seriously, and contribute to the success of the ITU/UB experience. Your suggestions/comments will help fellow students!

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***Note this handbook is UNOFFICIAL. Any official University at Buffalo policy that contradicts its content should be considered official, and should be followed as this handbook is not an official University guide.**

Section 2: Academic Integrity

While enrolled at UB, you agree to follow the University's academic integrity policy. The policy can be found at:

- <https://catalog.buffalo.edu/policies/integrity.html>

Appendices for the Undergraduate Academic Integrity Policy can be found at:

- <https://catalog.buffalo.edu/policies/integrity-appendices.html>

The academic community at UB expects students to display high ethical behavior in the completion and submission of academic work. Students should **assume** that no assistance or aid is allowed on exams or homework, unless explicitly indicated by the instructor or professor.

Some examples of activities that would harm your academic integrity include:

- Plagiarism: Copying another student's work, or copying work from an online or other source, and submitting it as your own
- Cheating: Asking for and/or receiving information like answers to exam or homework questions, or using an internet-connected device (cellphone, laptop, tablet, etc.) during an exam
- Falsifying academic materials: Producing fake lab reports and computer data, forging signatures and submitting work prepared for you by someone else.

These are just some examples of violations of UB's Academic Integrity Policies. Students should always err on the side of caution when faced with an ethical dilemma or uncertainty about how a particular action will be perceived. For any questions regarding Academic Integrity please visit either one of the links above, or the [Academic Integrity Website](#). In addition, read the course syllabus carefully and check with your instructor.

Section 3: Banking and Credit Cards

As you begin to settle into your studies at UB, you will likely need to open a bank account. Familiarize yourself with the documents you will need and the guidelines that banks must follow when opening new accounts.

Banking:

There are three local banks with locations either on campus, or very close to campus. They are: Bank of America, KeyBank and M&T Bank.

Customer Identification Programs

Banks in the U.S. are required to verify the identity of every individual who opens a bank account. In compliance with federal regulations, all banks operating in the U.S. have established Customer Identification Programs (CIP) that they must follow for anyone who seeks to open an account. While the specifics of the CIP **may vary** from one bank to another, U.S. Department of Treasury regulations set forth the following minimum information that banks must obtain from you before allowing you to open an account:

- Proof of your name
- Proof of your date of birth
- Proof of your street address
- An Identification number *

* A non-U.S. citizen must provide one of the following identification numbers:

- Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN)
- Passport number and country of issuance
- Alien identification card number

Number and country of issuance of any other government-issued document evidencing nationality or residence and bearing a photograph or other similar safeguard.

Documentation

When opening your bank account, be sure to bring the following documentation with you:

- Your **UNEXPIRED** Passport
- Your 1-94
- Your 1-20
- A secondary form of identification you may have: UB Card for example

Form W-8 BEN is necessary to establish that you are not a U.S. citizen and to determine if taxes should be withheld from your account. You can obtain this form from the bank itself, or download it from the IRS website [HERE](#).

Factors to determine where to open a bank account

There are several different accounts you can open with a bank in the U.S. The two most common are a checking account and a saving account. A checking account allows you to deposit, withdraw money, and write checks up to the amount of money in the account. A checking account and debit card allows you to withdraw money from an Automated Teller Machine (ATM).

A savings account earns interest based on the amount of money in the account, but may not have check-writing or ATM privileges. Savings accounts may have a limited number of monthly transactions.

Some banks may charge service fees per month, check or ATM withdrawal. Be sure to determine whether or not the bank you choose has a fee.

A bank may or may not offer wire transfer services. Be sure to find out whether or not the bank you are considering offers a wire transfer service, as this will be your primary way of sending money to and receiving money from your home. If a bank does offer wire transfer services, determine whether or not there is a fee and how much the fee costs.

Credit Cards:

Credit cards allow individuals to purchase goods and services on credit. If you use a credit card to purchase a good or service, you will be billed for it at a later date (usually monthly), and interest will be applied to the amount of money you owe. If you do not pay your bill on time each month, you will be charged a late fee, which could be an additional \$30-50 beyond what your minimum payment will normally be. Interest rates vary largely and can be anywhere from 7% to over 30% depending on the credit card company, or bank you choose to enroll in.

Interest is accrued on a monthly basis. If you pay off your purchases during the same month they were made, you will not be charged interest. Some credit card companies offer a specific number of months "interest-free," and this is often an attractive option for individuals looking to open a credit account.

Some of the Dual Diploma students we surveyed had credit cards through Bank of America, however, the location on campus is not permitted to release credit card applications. Other students used the Turkish Yapi Kredi Bank to obtain a credit card, so it is possible to use an international credit card in the U.S.

For more information on bank accounts or credit cards in the U.S., and for maps of where different banks are located, visit the link below:

[Office of International Student and Scholar Services - Banking](#)

View the PowerPoint labeled “What You Should Know About Bank Accounts” at the bottom of the page for more information about credit cards.

Section 4: Health

Insurance

While you are enrolled at UB, we strive to provide you with a healthy, safe and thought-provoking environment in which to learn. Despite our best efforts, students may experience one or more forms of sickness. This section provides you with the necessary information in case you need to visit a doctor or hospital.

All international students registered for at least one credit at UB are automatically enrolled in the SUNY health insurance plan. This year, the cost of one year of coverage is \$1,414.80. The cost is rolled into your other University expenses.

For more information on your specific health insurance plan visit the link below:

- [GeoBlue Student Member Guide](#)

The health insurance plan **Does Not Cover Dental** or **Vision Care**. Dual Diploma students we surveyed suggest using UB Dental (located in Squire Hall on South Campus) as your primary dental care provider. Fees at UB Dental are less expensive than the usual cost of dental services.

Prescriptions

Current and former ITU/DDP students advise bringing any medication you are currently prescribed from Turkey. If you have arrived in the United States without your medicine, you may want to determine whether or not a family member or friend can ship it to you at UB.

UB Non-emergency Services (Student Health Services)

For non-emergency services, our ITU/DDP, other international and domestic students often use Student Health Services, located in the Student Life building, Michael Hall at 3435 Main Street, South Campus. The staff at UB Health Services has been described as providing “good service,” and as “helpful.”

Student Health Services offers high-quality medical services and care for all registered UB students. Student Health Services are excellent to utilize for non-emergency care. Students can receive primary care (physicals, checkups, etc.) and preventative treatment, and they can visit health care providers in Student Health Services to receive treatment for colds, flus and other common ailments.

People often get sick at inopportune times. If you are sick, and will need to miss a test due to your illness, you must go to Student Health Services. In addition, you must inform your professor. Student Health Services will not provide you with documentation (i.e. a doctor’s note), but you can fill out an information release form. Your professor can then call Student Health Services to get confirmation of your illness.

If you would prefer to visit a specialist or primary care physician outside of those at the UB Health Center or Student Health Services, you will be charged a \$50 deductible. The deductible can be waived only if you have a referral from Student Health Services.

Non-emergency Services (Traveling the U.S.)

The health insurance you are enrolled in at UB works in every country, with the exception of your home country (in this case, Turkey). You will have coverage if you travel to any city in the U.S., Canada or other countries. If you require non-emergency services, you can visit a doctor, but may be subject to a deductible.

If you were to become incredibly sick, to the point where you needed to return home, the insurance, GeoBlue has medical evacuation repatriation coverage. This coverage will cover your travel charges if you needed to be sent home due to an illness.

Emergency Services (Hospitals)

Utilizing the benefits available through Student Health Services is an excellent idea for non-emergency situations. In the event of an **EMERGENCY ON CAMPUS**, students should call **UNIVERSITY POLICE AT (716) 645-2222**. **IF STUDENTS EXPERIENCE A MEDICAL EMERGENCY OFF CAMPUS, THEY SHOULD DIAL 911**. In most instances of an off-campus emergency, a paramedic or EMT will arrive, assess the situation and transport the individual experiencing the emergency to the nearest hospital. In the unfortunate event that you do have to go to the hospital, you will likely need to provide proof of health insurance, which is why it is important to have your insurance card on you at all times.

Some emergency situations on and off campus may be manageable. A broken wrist, for example, needs to be taken care of as soon as possible, but does not require an ambulance. If you experience a non-life-threatening medical emergency, a friend can drive you, or you can drive yourself to the emergency room at the nearest hospital. If you are unsure of the severity of a situation, however, do not hesitate to reach out to the appropriate emergency services.

If you experience a medical emergency while off campus, and require emergency services or hospitalization, it is likely you will be treated at one of the following hospitals. There are several hospitals in Buffalo and Western New York. Some former ITU/DDP students have utilized DeGraff Memorial Hospital for services unavailable on campus. DeGraff Memorial Hospital is about 10 minutes away from campus and is relatively close. For more information on other hospitals in Buffalo, please review the following links:

- [Buffalo General Medical Center](#)
- [DeGraff Memorial Hospital](#)
- [Erie County Medical Center](#)
- [Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital](#)

*Note that there are many other hospitals and medical facilities in Buffalo and around UB. If you need specialized non-emergency services do a thorough search before deciding on a facility.

Emergency Services (Traveling the U.S.)

You will likely want to travel at some point during your stay to other states and cities in the U.S. While we hope you enjoy your time seeing different sights and landmarks, we want you to be prepared in the event that you require emergency services in a different part of the country.

Handling emergency services in another area is very similar to handling emergency services off-campus. Before arriving at your destination, you should know the location of the nearest hospital. There are various ways you can obtain this information, including: a [Google.com](https://www.google.com) search, reviewing this information on the city's website, or by other means.

If you find yourself in need of emergency services while traveling, the procedure is similar to what you would do if you were in the same situation off-campus. If a situation is manageable and you or a friend can transport you to a hospital, take advantage of that option. Otherwise, dial 911 and explain the situation.

Mental Health

While in college, students often have to work under tight deadlines. You may have several exams, homework assignments and projects due on or around the same date. It's normal to be stressed out over grades, friends or even a personal crisis. UB offers mental health counseling to all registered students.

There are Counseling Services centers throughout UB's campuses. Counseling Services on North Campus are located in 120 Richmond Quadrangle. The phone number for North Campus Counseling Services is (716) 645-2720.

Counseling Services on South Campus is located in 202 Michael Hall, and students can reach the center at (716) 829-5800.

If you fear that you or a friend is or will be experiencing a mental health emergency, **call University Police** at (716) 645-2222. University Police officers are trained to handle crisis situations. You can also reach the mental health counselor on call.

For any mental health emergencies off campus, dial 911. There is also a 24-hour Crisis Services hotline available. You may reach Crisis Services by dialing (716) 834-3131.

For additional questions regarding health insurance and healthcare, please visit the link below:

- [Office of International Student and Scholar Services – Health Insurance](#)
- [GeoBlue \(International Insurance Provider\)](#)

Section 5: Housing

Students enrolled in the Dual Diploma Program have the option of living on-campus, off-campus or a combination of the two (on one year, off another).

On-Campus Living:

There are 17 student-living residence halls, apartments and complexes on UB's campus. Students can live in different buildings depending on what year they are in.

First-year students:

- Ellicott Complex
- Governors Complex
- South Campus Halls

Sophomore Students (First-year ITU students):

- Greiner Hall
- Ellicott Complex
- South Campus Halls
- Creekside Village East Apartments

Junior/Senior Students (Second-year ITU students):

- Flint Village Apartments
- Hadley Village Apartments
- South Lake Apartments
- Ellicott Complex Residence Halls
- South Campus Residence Halls

Graduate Students/Non-Traditional Students (Should students choose to continue at UB):

- Creekside Village West Apartments
- Flickinger Court Apartments
- Flint Village Apartments
- Ellicott Complex Residence Halls
- South Campus Residence Halls

ITU students who lived on-campus preferred the Ellicott Complex. It is on North Campus, and relatively close to where students will attend class.

Although many of your classes may be on North Campus, you still may want to consider living on South Campus. The South Campus Halls are located close to many shops, restaurants and a movie theatre. South Campus is closer to downtown, where there are many activities, and South Campus Halls offer suite-style accommodation. There are single, double and triple rooms available. UB also provides bus and shuttle services to transport you from one campus to another, and to drive you around campus. More information on shuttles and buses on and between campuses can be found [here](#). For more information about South Campus Halls, visit the [South Campus Halls](#) section of the Campus Living website.

On-campus apartments may be difficult to get into during your first semester at UB because of limited availability. DDP students apply to these apartments in March and April, which is often too late (students who spent their freshman year at UB can apply much earlier). If you need to live in an apartment for special, or religious reason, you may submit an accommodation request by visiting the [Campus Living](#) website

For information regarding what constitutes Reasonable Accommodation and Religious Accommodation and Expression, visit the following links:

- [Reasonable Accommodation](#)
- [Religious Accommodation](#)

Benefits to Living On-Campus:

- Living on-campus allows students to experience independence and live on their own, but also gives them the convenience of close proximity to all of their classes and department buildings. It is also easier for students living on campus to attend events at UB. Sporting events, concerts, social events and more are usually within walking distance from where students live.
- On-campus students always feel safe due to the presence of our University Police; our UB Alert System security cameras, emergency telephone network and safety escorts. University Police is a nationally accredited police department made up of New York State police officers who are trained to protect our students, faculty and staff. Officers give presentations on crime prevention at student orientations and are dedicated to educating students about protecting the well-being and property of everyone on campus.
- Our on-campus living is diverse, and allows students to interact with individuals representing cultures around the world. We have students from over 115 different countries representing a diversity of gender, race, ethnicity, age, religion, sexual orientation, values and perspectives.
- Each residence hall and complex have quiet areas, free tutoring, group study rooms and Academic Success Centers.
- Staff at residence halls and apartment complexes are caring and handle maintenance request quickly and are available for emergencies.

Roommate relations

While living on-campus at UB, you will get to experience our diverse student population and environment. You will likely be assigned a roommate who is from a different part of the world, and each of you will be fortunate enough to get a glimpse at the other's culture and lifestyle. This will likely be an enriching experience for you and your roommate(s), but if you experience issues, there are resources for you to resolve them:

First, you should get to know your roommate. The [Roommate Relations section](#) on the Campus Living website has a list of essential questions to ask your roommate. Below are a few examples:

- Why did you choose UB?
- What time of day/night do you study?
- Are you more outgoing or more introverted?
- What are your attitudes about religion and politics?
- How many guests do you want to have at a time?

If an issue cannot be resolved by speaking with your roommate, the next course of action would be reaching out to your resident advisor (RA) or community assistant. You can have a discussion with your RA about changing your room assignment, however, in order to actually request a room change, you must meet with the residence hall or apartment complex advisor. The RA, or hall/complex advisor will make efforts with you and your roommate to resolve the issue (such as roommate mediation), before approving your request to move. The hall/complex director will provide additional instructions if your request is approved.

For information on changing your housing assignment *before* moving in, visit the following link:

- [Change your room or apartment](#)

For more information regarding On-Campus Housing, please visit the link below:

- [On-Campus Housing](#)

Student Advice for living on-campus:

“Floor mates can be noisy, but not a big problem if you ask them nicely to keep their voices down.”

— Student who has just completed the first year of the Dual Diploma Program.

Off-Campus Living

Students who choose to live off-campus must do a thorough apartment search and be very selective about the apartment and landlord. UB **DOES NOT** recommend renting an apartment without seeing it first.

Benefits to Living Off-Campus:

Students who live off-campus have an opportunity to become immersed in the culture of the U.S. and Western New York. They also learn valuable life lessons like paying for rent, shopping for food, picking out and purchasing furniture, and living with roommates.

Tips from ITU students who lived off-campus:

- Mobility is the biggest challenge, and some Dual Diploma students suggest purchasing a car if you choose to live off-campus
- Some students suggested living off-campus with students from other parts of the world. Off-campus living provides students with an opportunity to stay with whomever they choose, and it could be the perfect situation to room with domestic students and students from other countries, not including Turkey. Some students suggest rooming and sharing apartments with students from countries in Asia. According to the ITU student who completed the program, “Asian students’ culture is so close to Turkish, and they are friendly.”
- Be cautious when renting through private companies. A few students expressed difficulty with reaching them and having questions answered.
- Living together (four or more students) can sometimes cause problems. There is a lot of shared space, and not very clear responsibilities as to who is to clean which space.
- It can be slightly more difficult to make friends while living off-campus. You are simply around more students when you live on campus versus when you do not.

Off-Campus Housing Locations:

The University offers an off-campus student services property listing where students can review available apartments in the area. To learn more about the property listing, follow the link: [Off-Campus Housing](#)

Below is a list, with links, of off-campus apartments our ITU students have previously lived:

- [Villas at Chestnut Ridge](#)
- [Peppertree Village Apartments](#)
- [London Towne Apartments](#)
- [Deer Lakes Apartments](#)
- [Twenty91 North](#)
- [Villas on Rensch](#)

Below are more online apartment listings:

[Craigslist](#)

[Apartment Finder](#)

[My Apartment Map](#)

[Trulia](#)

[Apartment Guide](#)

View the [Off-Campus Housing](#) page on the ISSS website for helpful tips regarding:

- Neighborhood and Apartment Safety and Condition
- Finding out about your landlord
- **Having your lease checked before signing**
- Paying rent and security deposit
- Renter's Insurance
- Getting to know your neighbors
- Finding assistance when experiencing problems with your landlord or housing.

Section 6: Relationships and Communication

Fostering and maintaining relationships with U.S. students during your time in the Dual Diploma program may be difficult. Adjusting to a new culture requires a lot of effort and cooperation, but part of your UB experience should be making friends and connections. We have collected input from ITU students at various points in the program to help provide you with the tools to secure and nurture the relationships you have at UB.

Clubs

The School of Engineering and Applied Sciences at UB has over 40 student clubs. Joining a club is an ideal way to work on relevant projects, improve your learning and English-speaking skills, and make friends with other UB students. Most clubs accept students from any major, and this allows students across diverse cultures and disciplines to interact with one another. Some student clubs suggested by our current Dual Diploma students are:

- [American Society of Civil Engineers UB Student Chapter](#)
- [Earthquake Engineering Research Institute UB Student Chapter](#)

For a complete list of clubs in the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, follow this link:

- [Student Clubs and Organizations](#)

There are over 300 clubs and organizations at UB, which can be found browsing through [UBLinked](#), a central hub for campus activities and involvement. [UBLinked](#) provides an easy and convenient way to explore, connect with and learn more about the various clubs, organizations and offices on campus.

A portion of the ITU students who provided input joined the Outdoor Adventure Club, where students engage in activities such as whitewater rafting, backpacking, camping, and more. This is one of the many clubs you can learn more about through [UBLinked](#).

Events

A good way to meet people and maintain relationships is to attend some of the free events on campus. The [Student Life Gateway](#) provides information on events (both academic and social), student engagement, student health services, and more. Here is where you will find more information and dates for our Welcome Weekend, International Tea Times and other student social events.

The Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering and the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences each maintain their own calendars of events. Department or School-affiliated events tend to more academic, and are a great place to learn more with a group of your peers. Follow the links below for more information on the Department and School events:

- [Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering News and Events](#)
- [School of Engineering and Applied Sciences Events](#)
- [List of all UB events](#)

Relationship with Instructors

Instructors in all University departments have office hours. During this time, instructors are normally free to meet with students and answer any questions they may have regarding specific homework, topics in class, or students may stop by just to chat. A few of the students who responded to our survey suggested visiting professor office hours regularly (daily or weekly) will help you understand concepts in class, and help form a positive relationship with faculty members.

Communication

Several of our respondents offered tips on how to improve communication between yourself (incoming Dual Diploma students) and other students, faculty and staff. The general consensus is to spend a lot of time with students who speak different languages. The more time you spend with students in groups or at events, the easier it will be to understand and communicate over different cultural and language barriers.

Section 7: Seeing Buffalo and Other Areas

For many Dual Diploma students, this is the first (in some cases only) time they visit the United States. While the primary objective of the DDP is to succeed and obtain a dual diploma from the University at Buffalo and the Istanbul Technical University, many students utilize their stay in Buffalo as an opportunity to visit landmarks, and other world-renowned areas in Western New York and across the United States.

Below is a list of some of our former and current students' favorite places to visit in and nearby Buffalo (ranked by popularity):

- [Niagara Falls \(US\) & Niagara Falls \(Canada\)](#)
- [Elmwood Avenue & Elmwood Village](#)
- [Canalside](#)
- [Downtown Buffalo](#)
- [Allentown](#)

Students did mention additional areas, but these were referenced more frequently than any others. There are several areas in and around Buffalo to explore. Some good ways to see the area are to join a club, or ask students who are from the area.

Office of International Student and Scholar Services Trips

Students may plan trips and travel to different parts of Buffalo and Western New York with friends and classmates. However, the Office of International Student and Scholar Services at UB offer a variety of different trips and events to some of the most recognized spots in the area.

To view past and register for upcoming trips, visit the link below:

- [Office of International Student and Scholar Services – Trips and Activities](#)

Other Areas

Several of our DDP students used their time in the U.S. to visit regions outside of Buffalo, and experience different parts of the country and Canada (given UB's proximity to Canada). Below is a list of other cities and states our students visited (ranked by popularity):

- [New York City](#)
- [Canada \(will need a travel visa\)](#)
- [California](#) (West Coast)
- [Florida](#)
- [Boston, Massachusetts](#)

- [Washington, D.C.](#)
- [New Jersey](#)
- [Cleveland, Ohio](#)
- [Virginia](#)
- [Chicago, Illinois](#)
- [Las Vegas, Nevada](#) (West Coast)
- [North Carolina](#)
- [South Carolina](#)
- Other cities in Western New York: Syracuse, Rochester, Cortland, Binghamton, etc.

Be advised that many of these destinations are far away from campus. New York City alone is about a seven-hour car ride, and flights to certain cities in California could be longer than ten hours, because there are no direct flights. Your primary focus while enrolled in the DDP is to succeed and earn your diploma, but there is certainly an opportunity to balance your time between work and travel. Many students visited these other areas to sightsee, or visit friends and family. A few, however, were able to visit these places as part of University and club functions, or as part of an internship.

Section 8: Shopping, Items from Home & Restaurants

One of the most valuable pieces of information you will need to live comfortably during your time in Buffalo is where to purchase your groceries, apartment/dorm items, electronics and other essentials. It's helpful to know more about different restaurants in the area. Buffalo, and the area around campus, have many great places to eat, that also give you a better look at culture in the U.S., specifically, Western New York.

Shopping

Finding where to purchase the essential items you will need to live the dorm room or apartment lifestyle may be challenging. Current and former DDP students made the following suggestions to help ease the process of living on your own (or with a few other students) in a foreign country. Here are a few places they used to purchase different items:

Groceries	Clothing	Electronics	Personal	Items for Living Space	Items missed from home
Walmart	Fashion Outlets of Niagara Falls	Best Buy	Walden-Galleria Mall	Walmart	Walmart
Wegmans	Burlington Coat Factory	Amazon (online)	Walmart	Craigslist (online)	Lincoln Park Market
Tops	Marshalls		Wegmans	Target	International Halal Market
International Halal Market				Amazon (online)	Target
					Wegmans

The information in the previous table are examples of some responses we received from DDP students who completed the program. There are countless other stores to shop in. For a comprehensive list, please visit the link below:

- [Grocery Store/Supermarket](#)

UB helps students who do not have their own transportation get to different shops, markets and entertainment. We have a bus to transport students from both North and South Campus to markets and the mall. We also have a bus to transport students to Walden Avenue and Transit Road. To view or track the off-campus bus schedule, visit the following link:

- [UB Bus Schedule](#)

Items from Home

Although many items can be purchased in the U.S. from the shops and stores listed in the table under *Shopping* and in the “Grocery Store/Supermarket” link, current and former DDP students brought the following items with them to the U.S. from Turkey:

- Laptop
- Jacket and boots
- Towels
- Bed case
- Outlet converter
- Prescribed medicine
- Bed sheet
- Clothing
- Electronic devices
- Some food & drink
- Duvet cover
- Reference textbooks

Restaurants Off-Campus

Our DDP students have suggested the following restaurants. Most of them are within a few miles from campus, and are an easy commute. The *type* of food varies. Some of the suggestions are “authentic American,” or Buffalo-specific restaurants, while others serve food from different parts of the world:

- [Anchor Bar](#): Known primarily for chicken wings, exclusive Buffalo restaurant; the original location is in downtown Buffalo, about 12 miles from campus.
- [China Taste](#): Chinese food; less than a mile from campus.
- [Duff’s Famous Wings](#): Known primarily for chicken wings, exclusive Buffalo restaurant; about two miles from campus.
- [Kebab & Curry](#): Blend of Indian & Pakistani cuisine; about eight miles from campus.
- [Blue Bull Tavern](#): American bar food; Less than a mile from campus.
- [Sato](#): Japanese restaurant; in the Elmwood Village; about eight miles from campus.
- [Tom’s Family Restaurant](#): Greek food; about two miles from campus.

- In & Out Pasta: Pasta with different sauces; about a mile from campus
- [Cheesecake Factory](#): American food, with some variations; Located at the Walden-Galleria Mall; about eight miles from campus.
- [Mighty Taco](#): Tacos & burritos, exclusive Buffalo restaurant; there is one less than a mile from campus.
- [Olive Garden](#): Italian food; about a mile from campus.
- [Five Guys](#): Hamburgers and French fries, primarily American food; about five miles from campus.
- [Denny's](#): Known primarily for American-breakfast food; about a mile from campus.

These are just a few suggestions from the group we surveyed. For a more complete and thorough list of restaurants in the area please visit the link below:

- [Restaurant Guide](#)

Restaurants On-Campus

On-campus dining features dozens of different places to eat including food trucks and award-winning dining centers. The student union on North Campus has a Tim Horton's (popular coffee shop) and a Moe's Southwest Grill (popular southwest and tex-mex restaurant). Pistachios on the second floor serves halal chicken. Rachel's Mediterranean grill in the Campus Commons is also popular. To view a complete listing of locations to eat at UB, visit the link below:

- [Dining Locations](#)

Section 9: Transportation and Acquiring a Car

Many ITU students (and UB students in general) use cars to get to and from campus, or to drive around to different shops, grocery stores and other areas. If you do choose to live off-campus, it may be a good idea to acquire a car, so you can travel to and from. If you do not acquire a car, there are several public transportation systems students can utilize. UB does have its own transportation system to transport students between campus and to different buildings.

Transportation without your own vehicle

For students who do not purchase a car, riding with friends is the best option, according to the DDP students who responded to our survey. It's easier and more reassuring to travel with someone you trust, and someone who is willing to drive with you to where you need to go. This is also a convenient way to develop and maintain relationships with other UB students.

Other options suggested by former DDP students for those current students who do not have their own method of transportation:

- Public transportation: Metro, bus, transit, taxi
- Zipcar
- Some students suggested hiring a car or using public buses.

There are many other ways to travel around Buffalo and other areas. Visit the [How to Get Around Buffalo](#) page on the Office of International Student and Scholar Services website for more information

on travel using: Metro bus (NFTA), Metro rail, taxi services, biking, nationwide buses and train services and airplanes.

Acquiring a Car

Before purchasing a car, students should apply for a New York State driver's license. In order to obtain a license, international students will need either: an **I-20**. International students will also need to pass a written test and eye exam; complete a five-hour pre-licensing course; and pass a road test.

For more information on applying for a New York State driver's license, please visit the link below:

- [Driver's Licenses](#)

Each of the DDP students who responded to our survey, and indicated they purchased a car, purchased a *used* car. Purchasing used cars will save money, but it is important to take the car for a test drive. There are multiple sources and car-vendors, some options include:

- Car dealerships – There are many different car dealerships in Buffalo and in the U.S. Car dealerships can differ based on the *kind* of car they sell. For example, some dealerships may only sell used cars, others may only sell a specific manufacturer (a dealership that only sells Volkswagen cars, for example).
- Car owners – Individuals can sell their car directly to other people, without having to get dealerships involved.
- Online sites – Some websites like Craigslist allow car collectors, owners and some dealers to sell vehicles directly to individuals over the internet.

As with any large purchase, People looking to prospective car-owners should be cautious and inspect the car whenever possible (those who purchase a car online may not have this opportunity).

For information on purchasing a **New Car**, visit the following links:

- [Read the "Let the Buyer Be Aware" tips on the New York State DMV website.](#)
- [Read helpful tips about buying a car.](#)

The Office of International Student and Scholar Services has provided the following tips on purchasing a used car:

- [Get information about the market value of a used car at \[www.kbb.com\]\(http://www.kbb.com\)](#)
- Take the car for a test drive.
- Have the car inspected by a reliable mechanic or American Automobile Association (AAA) approved repair shop before agreeing to buy it.
- Be sure to get a receipt.
- Get the "title" for the vehicle.
- Be aware of New York State's "Lemon Laws": NYS' new and used car lemon laws provide legal solutions for consumers who buy or lease cars. If a car does not live up to the written warranty and cannot be repaired--or if it has not been repaired correctly after a reasonable number of attempts--the consumer could receive a refund or replacement car.
- [Get information and assistance concerning New York's Lemon Laws](#)

Purchasing a AAA membership may also be a good idea. AAA provides roadside assistance services to its members. If you need a tire replaced, or if your car breaks down on the road, AAA will come to your location to assist. For more information on AAA, follow [this link](#).

When purchasing a car, you must also purchase car insurance and get the car registered. The fees for insurance and registration should be considered when making a purchase. For more information on the registration process, visit the Buying a Car & Car Registration page on the [Office of International Student and Scholar Services](#) website.

Here are a few suggestions about the buying process directly from some of our DDP students:

“Try to check Craigslist, and take a better English speaking friend with you. I bought it from a dealer and paid a lot more than the car deserved.” – A student who has completed the DDP program.

One student who is entering their senior year advises against buying cars from dealerships, and says “buying a car in the U.S.A. is pretty straight forward.”

Another student who is entering their senior year suggests to “try to buy a car from an owner. Start selling the car 2-3 months before coming back to Tukey.”

Driving in Buffalo and the U.S.

After reviewing the driver’s manual (as part of obtaining a driver’s license), drivers will know the rules associated with transportation in the U.S. Some DDP students made the following suggestions about driving in Buffalo:

One student who completed the DDP compared the driving laws in the U.S. to those in Turkey, “driving is a lot easier here,” they said, “they just care about speeding and drunk driving.”

“Buy a car as soon as possible, enjoy,” said one student who is entering their senior year. “You must consider the effects of snow and winter, so SUVs are solid choices. Cars like the Mustang GT, which was popular, is a slippery choice. It is easy to lose control and get into an accident, especially in the harsh winter.”

“Be more careful than you were in Turkey,” said another student who completed the program.

Another student suggested incoming DDP students “get a license as soon as possible, and follow all the rules.”

Section 10: Student Advice

We asked many of our DDP survey participants to provide general advice to incoming DDP students. They were forthcoming, and provided some great insight into how certain aspects of the program should be executed from a student perspective. Below is some of the students’ general advice:

- “Do not hesitate to ask U.S. students, or students who have been to the U.S. before about your education while in the U.S.,” says one student entering their senior and final year of the program.
- A student who completed the program suggests incoming DDP students “just try to love Buffalo, it gets better as soon as you grasp it.”

- A current senior says to “be aware of plagiarism and cheating at UB. Attending classes and doing homework are no doubt beneficial.”
- “Enjoy the couple weeks of sun and say hi to random people. Get out from your shell and meet yourself!”
- Another student who has completed the program offered advice on a number of matters. They said “students should ask questions all the time for any kind of difficulty, and interact with other students not just in civil engineering department, but in other departments too. I met most of my American friends at the library. They should attend any activities they are interested in on campus.”

If you have any other input/suggestions that you feel should be included on these pages, please click on the link below to fill out our survey:

- [ITU Alternative Handbook Survey](#)

Thank you, and have a wonderful time at UB!



The CSEE Department