Pre-arrival Information for International Students

Samford University
Welcome to Samford!

Congratulations on your admission to Samford University!

We look forward to welcoming you to the United States and to our great city of Birmingham, Alabama. Samford recently celebrated its 175th year, and you are joining our community at an exciting time of great growth in our student body. The Global Engagement Office wants to help you make a smooth transition to the university and the United States. As you prepare for your academic career at Samford, please carefully read this important information and complete all the necessary steps before you arrive in Birmingham.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact us at geo@samford.edu or 1-205-726-2741.

We look forward to meeting you,
Lauren Doss, Director
Global Engagement Office

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Student Information

I-20 and Visa
Your I-20 will be sent to the mailing address on your application. Schedule your visa interview as soon as possible.

Email the Global Engagement Office at geo@samford.edu when you receive your visa.

SUId
Every student has a unique 9-digit identification number. Sometimes this number is called your “SUId,” “900 number” or “student number.” Do not confuse this number with your username. You will receive your SUId in an email message.

Username
Use this name any time you are asked for your “Username” or “User ID.” You will receive your username by email. If you have not received this information, please email support@samford.edu.

Create your password
1. Go to pwchange.samford.edu/newuser
2. Enter this information
   • 9-digit SUId
   • Family name
   • Birth date
3. Follow the instructions to create your password and to choose a security question.

Your password must contain the following:
   • 10–20 characters
   • 1 capital letter (such as A, C)
   • 1 number (such as 1 2 3)
   • 1 symbol (such as # $ % & @)

Bulldog Email
Check your Bulldog email every day.
   • Login to portal.samford.edu
   • Click on Bulldog Mail
   • Enter your username and password
What to Bring

Housing Supplies

Prepare supplies before you arrive to get ready for your new living situation. All residence halls contain furniture but no supplies. Most apartments are completely unfurnished.

You may order housing items for your residence hall or apartment through dormco.com or dormitup.com.

Supplies may be shipped within two weeks prior to orientation.

Ship to the following address:
[Your Name] c/o Hold for Student Pick Up
Samford University
800 Lakeshore Drive
Birmingham, AL 35229
USA

If you choose to bring some of your own supplies, be sure to pack the following:
• Towels
• Single-size bedsheets
  (Go to samford.edu/reslife for exact dimensions.)
• Pillow
• Blanket

You also may buy supplies once you arrive at Samford.
Clothes

**Average seasonal temperatures in Birmingham:**
Winter: 13.3° C • Spring: 23.5° C • Summer: 32.1° C • Fall: 24.1° C

**Average rainfall:** 9-12 days per month

**Average snowfall:** 0–1 day per year

**During warm weather:** Students wear shorts, short-sleeved shirts and sandals.

**During cold weather:** Students wear blue jeans, coats and boots.
Where to live
On-campus housing

Samford has 28 residence halls for students to live on campus. Living on campus is the most convenient way for you to get to class and to get involved in campus life.

How to apply

• Complete the residence hall application included on the applicant status page.

• Sign the housing agreement.

Email reslife@samford.edu.

Who can live on campus?

• All undergraduate students under the age of 21 are required to live on campus; undergraduate students under the age of 24 are allowed to live on campus if they choose to do so.

• All exchange (J-I visa) students may live on campus.

• Graduate students under the age of 25 may live on campus if housing is available.

Off-campus housing

Most graduate students live off campus. If you want to rent an apartment, you should do so before you leave your country.

There is limited public transportation to and from Samford. Students in apartments should consider purchasing a car or carpooling to school.

How to find off-campus housing

• Go to apartmentfinder.com/Alabama/Birmingham.

• Call or email the apartment complex to lease a room.

• Email geo@samford.edu and we will assist you in finding a roommate if one is available.
Medical Information

Samford University Health Services provides care for basic medical needs you may have at low prices.

Most international students are required to have a tuberculin skin test placed and read in the United States. We will help you schedule this test after your arrival.

Medical Forms

Complete the immunization form and the medical evaluation form found on the university's health services website under “New Student Health Forms” and upload to Med+Proctor before you leave your home country.

*You may have to pay a fine if you fail to submit these forms before arriving at Samford.

Insurance

Samford University requires all International F and J Visa holders to carry health insurance while attending the university. Upon registration of classes all students will enroll in Samford’s insurance plan unless proof of comparable coverage is furnished.

Email any questions about health insurance to geo@samford.edu.
Paying for classes

flywire is the official payment method for Samford international students.

- no hidden bank fees
- wholesale exchange rates
- support in your own language 24 hours a day
Travel to Samford

Arrival Airport
Birmingham Shuttlesworth International Airport (BHM) is the arrival airport. Students may also fly to Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL) and take a shuttle to Birmingham. More information on this option is available at groometransportation.com/birmingham/#gt-birminghamsched-1.

Arrive on Campus
All students must arrive on the arrival date. Please complete the pre-arrival travel information form that you will receive in an email. On the arrival date, Samford will send international ambassadors to meet you at the scheduled time.

Arriving Early
If you want to arrive before the official move-in day, to explore Birmingham, you will need to make your own arrangements at your own expense.

• Contact Birmingham Door to Door Shuttle Service. birminghamdoortodoor.com
• Contact Uber ride sharing in Birmingham. uber.com/cities/birmingham-al
• Make a hotel reservation at the Courtyard Marriott in Homewood. marriott.com/hotels/travel/bhmhw-courtyardbirmingham-homewood

Ask for the Samford rate.
INSTRUCTIONS
Make sure you have prepared everything to come to Samford University!

1. IMPORTANT
• I have emailed my current mailing address and phone number to geo@samford.edu.
• I have scheduled my visa interview.
• I have my SUid.
• I have created a password for my Samford account.
• I am checking my Samford email account every day.

2. Housing (select option 1 or option 2)
• Option 1: I have applied for campus housing.
  OR
• Option 2: I have rented an apartment.
  • I have ordered housing supplies.

3. Medical
• I have submitted immunization and medical evaluation forms to Med+Proctor.

4. Travel
• I have a plane ticket.
• I will arrive in Birmingham, Alabama, on the arrival date.
• I have completed my Immigration Check-in form.

5. Payment
• I have created my flywire account.
• I have paid my estimated bill through flywire.
Samford University complies with applicable laws prohibiting discrimination, including applicable provisions of and amendments to Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, Executive Order 11246, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Sections 501 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs or services. Inquiries and concerns regarding this policy may be directed to the vice president for business affairs or general counsel, Office of Business and Financial Affairs, 200 Samford Hall, Birmingham, AL 35229, 205-726-2811. This notice is available in alternative formats upon request.

Contact our office
Global Engagement Office
1-205-726-2741
geo@samford.edu