

USEFUL INFORMATION TO GET TO KNOW WILLIMANTIC

The Intercultural Center

The Center is open Monday to Friday between 8 am to 8 pm. You are **always** welcome here. We are located in room 114 in the Student Center. You can also reach us by phone (860) 465 5749, or by email petoskeyi@easternct.edu.

Social Security Number

It is required to obtain a Social security number before entering employment. International Students are eligible to apply for a social security number after receiving a paid employment or internship *offer* through Eastern. Students must also be authorized by the International Advisor to accept the position.

What you need to do:

- You must get employment on campus before applying
- Get a letter from your employer proving you have been given employment (must be supplied on company letter-head stationery and with an original signature and include the Employer Identification Number)
- Get a letter from the International Student Advisor
- You will need to take ALL of the following items to the Social Security Administration (SSA) office:
 - Letter from on-campus employer (Steps 1 and 2)
 - Letter from ISS Advisor (Step 3)
 - Application form from SSA
 - I-94 card
 - I-20 (for F-1 students)
 - Valid Passport
 - Visa
 - One photo ID that is at least one year old (passport)
- DO NOT FORGET TO ASK FOR A RECEIPT from the Social Security Administration in order to prove to your employer that you have applied for a social security.

Call SSA (860) 423-6386, toll-free 1-800-772-1213, or visit at the nearest location: Social Security
1320 Main Street
Willimantic, CT 06226

See separate sheet for information on requirements to obtain a drivers license

Open Bank Account

Before opening a bank account, make sure you find out if the bank has any monthly or annual fees – some banks are a better choice for students than others.

[Savings Institute Bank & Trust](#)

803 Main St, Willimantic, CT - (860) 423-4581

[Liberty Bank](#)

679 Main St #1, Willimantic, CT - (860) 456-5900

[People's Bank](#) (open on Saturdays)

1391 Main St, Willimantic, CT - (860) 450-0087

[Bank of America](#)

1589 Main St, Willimantic, CT - (800) 841-4000

Foreign money transfer

Western Union, please call toll-free 1-800-325-6000

Or visit their website to find nearest location www.westernunion.com

MoneyGram International, please call toll-free 1-800-666-3947

Or visit their website to find nearest location www.moneygram.com

iKobo Money Transfer, please call toll-free 1-866-800-4562

Or visit their website to find more information www.ikobo.com

Get a cell phone

There are many phone companies to choose between, however, many of the companies require that you sign a contract for a specified amount of time. By doing so you might receive a better rate but companies also offer prepaid phones. Just keep in mind that phone companies here in the U.S. charge you for both *incoming* and *outgoing* phone calls.

Stores located in Willimantic:

- Verizon Wireless - Located on 1589 Main Street. You can also call (860) 643-1160
- Sprint/Nextel call – Located on 1589 West Main Street. You can also call (860) 423-8120
- Cingular – Located on 95 Storrs Road. You can also call (860) 423-4045

Please visit **Virgin Mobile** on their website www.virginmobileusa.com/phones to receive good deals on *prepaid phones*. Virgin Mobile does not have a store located in Willimantic but their phones can be purchased in various convenient stores; e.g. CVS and Walgreen's. They can also be purchased in Wal-Mart along with phones from other companies.

Buy an international phone card

Xtra Mart has a wide variety of phone cards. The store is located within 5 minutes walking distance from the university. Visit them on *1071 Main Street, Willimantic*, or call (860)-465-1499.

However, most convenient stores and gas stations sell phone cards as well.

Where to buy food, school supplies, household products etc.

Stop & Shop is the closest located grocery store. It is located 15 minutes walking distance from the campus on 1391 Main Street. You can buy everything from fresh fruits, bakery items, meat, to makeup.

Shaw's is another grocery store which is located within 25 minutes walking distance from campus on 60 Cantor Drive.

Wal-mart is your *most economical choice!* It is not located within walking distance, however, the local bus route drives by the store. Wal-Mart is located on 474 Boston Post Road, North Windham. Visit <http://www.wrtd.net> to get more info about the bus schedule.

CVS and Walgreen's are convenient stores which offer a little bit of everything. You can buy food, medicine, birthday cards, and even develop your photographs. CVS is located on 1200 Main Street. Walgreen's is located on 1475 Main Street. Both stores are within walking distance from campus.

How to get around

Local bus in Willimantic. Retrieve the schedule on <http://www.wrtd.net>. Fare: 70c (exact change)

Dial-a-ride. To schedule a ride, call the Dial-A-Ride dispatcher at (860) 456-1462 by 4:00 pm, a minimum of two business days before you'd like a ride. Fare \$3.

Norwich Taxi LLC, call (860) 456-2227

Thread City Cab, call (860) 423-5700

Find a restaurant

There are a variety of restaurants to be found in the area. To mention a few restaurants *within walking distance*:

Friendly's – Great American cuisine. Located on 1405 Main Street, or call for pickup (860) 423-8084.

Tony's Pizza – Located on 117 Main Street, or call for pickup or delivery (860) 423-7717

Domino's – Pizzeria. Located on 241 Valley Street, or call for pickup or delivery (860)-456-0306.

Subway – Sandwich shop. Located on 33 High Street.

Tacobell – Mexican fast food restaurant. Located on 1320 Main Street.

Main Street Café – Great variety of food and they also have their own beer brewery.
Located on 896 Main Street, or call (860) 423-6777

Royal buffet – Chinese cuisine. Located on 1228 Main Street.

Restaurants that *require transportation*:

Applebee's - American cuisine. Located on 93 Storrs Road.

Ruby Tuesday – American Cuisine. Located on 6 North Ridge Drive.

The Plum Tomato – Pizzeria. Located on 1681 Main Street.

Angelino's – Italian Cuisine. Located on 135 Storrs Road, Mansfield Center. Or call to order (860) 450-7071.

These restaurants are only a few suggestions. Please visit www.whatshoppin.com/Listings.html to find more restaurants in the Willimantic area.

Rent a movie

Blockbuster is a great store with a huge selection of the latest movies. They also rent out computer games etc. They are located within 15 minutes walking distance on 1329 Main Street.

A more convenience and affordable option is the "Red Box". You can find these vending machine style DVD rentals inside of Stop and Shop and outside of Walgreen's.

Find a movie theatre

Mansfield Movieplex 8 – Located on 95 Storrs Road, in the East Brook Mall, or call for show times (860) 450-1395.

Mansfield Drive In Theatre – Located on 228 Stafford Road, or you can call for show times (860) 423-4441.

Showcase Cinema Buckland Hill – Located on 99 Red Stone Road in Manchester, CT 06045, or you can call for show times (860) 646-9800.

Find a shopping mall

East Brook Mall – is the closest located mall. It is not a very big mall, however, it still offers a fairly good variety of stores. It is located on 95 Storrs Road.

The Shops of Buckland Hill – Is a great mall located 30 minutes (with transportation) from Willimantic. It has a huge selection of stores and great open hours. They are located on 194 Buckland Hills Drive, Suite 2500, Manchester, CT 06042.

Travel outside of Willimantic and Connecticut

Peter Pan Bus Lines – Terminal located on 790 Main Street by the Quick Mart. Please visit their website www.peterpanbus.com or call (800) 343-9999 for bus schedule and additional information.

What to do for fun

Eastern arranges numerous activities and events all year around. Try to check the bulletin boards regularly so you don't miss all the fun stuff. If you want to do something off campus there are a few options:

Willi Bowl – Bowling alley located on 292 Boston Post Road, or call for more information (860) 456-2695.

Sports Bar – A nice place to meet you friends and play some pool. Located on 157 Boston Post Road, Windham.

Please visit <http://www.whatshoppin.com/home.html> for more information.

The town of Windham also arranges activities which involves the whole community; e.g. the Willimantic Street Fest and The Romantic Willimantic Chocolate Festival. Keep your eyes open for additional information.

Send letters or packages

The U.S. Post Services – Located within 10 minutes walking distance from campus on 919 Main Street. You can also call them (860) 456-4270 or visit their website www.usps.com.

Where to practice my religion

Please visit <http://willimantic.areaconnect.com/churches.htm> for Christian churches in Willimantic.

The closest located *Islamic Mosques* are the Muhammad Islamic Center of Hartford, located on 31 Grand Street, Hartford, phone (860) 246-3995, and the Islamic Center of CT, located on 68 White Rock Drive, Windsor, phone (860) 249-0112.

The closes *synagogue* is Colchester Synagogue, located on 84 Lebanon Avenue, Colchester, phone (860) 537-2809.

The closest *Hindu temple* is Connecticut Valley Hindu Temple Society, located on 11 Training Hill Road, Middletown, phone (860) 346-8675.

Closest Buddhist temple is Lao Lane XANG Temple of CT, located on 40 Cisar Road, Willington, phone (860) 429-0401.