

WELCOME TO SIMON!



SIMON
BUSINESS SCHOOL

UNIVERSITY *of* ROCHESTER

INFORMATION BOOKLET

Congratulations on being admitted to Simon Business School and welcome to the Simon community!

As you prepare to move to a new country and experience a new culture and the business school setting, we would like to extend our support to help make your transition smooth. Last year, many of us were in your shoes. We made decisions about student housing, travel logistics, family visits, course materials, and much more. We want to help you choose the best options while you make similar decisions.

This welcome booklet contains valuable information that will help you plan your travel to the United States (US) and get adjusted to a new lifestyle. We recommend that you go through the information included in each of the subsequent sections. In addition, please visit Simon Business School's [Admitted Student Portal](#) frequently for important information and updates.

If you have any questions or require any other information that is not covered in this document, please feel free to contact the Admissions Office (admissions@simon.rochester.edu).

***As per the University's slogan, we hope that your experience here will be "Ever Better"!
Meliora,***

--The International Student Body at Simon

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TRAVELING TO ROCHESTER

Booking Tickets and Flight Logistics

Before you purchase your flight ticket, if you have concerns regarding your I-20 documentation or visa interview in your home country, please reach out to the International Services Office (ISO) here at the U of R. We are not enclosing information about these matters in this booklet because there may be unique requirements for different countries and visa types, and therefore we do not want to misinform you.

Researching and booking a plane ticket should be your first priority once you have decided to enroll at Simon. Purchasing your ticket early will offer you a better chance of finding lower prices and will also give you time to plan out your first few days here. To find the best combination of low price and appropriate time, the recommended website is Student Universe, which can provide a choice matrix to help you decide.

You will not be able to book a direct international flight to Rochester because ROC airport only accommodates domestic flights (with the exception of Toronto). You will need to fly into one of the major airports, such as John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK) in New York City, Newark Liberty International Airport (EWR) in New Jersey, O'Hare International Airport (ORD) in Chicago, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL) in Atlanta, or Toronto Pearson International Airport (YYZ). From there, you can connect to a domestic flight to fly into Rochester. Leave yourself plenty of time for connections, as customs can take a while to move through.

Travel Documentation

You must have the following travel documents with you AT ALL TIMES during your journey and they should be stored in your cabin gear and NOT in your checked bags.

- Passport and flight tickets
- I-20 (keep at least two copies)
- The I-94 is a printable document that you should download after submitting payment for the SEVIS fee. You should print this document upon the receipt of your I-20 and carry this with you as well.
- Graduation certificates from high school, college, and/or other institutions
- All Simon-related correspondence (scholarship letter, letter of admission, etc.)
- Financial documents (which you might have prepared for your visa interview)
- Credit/debit cards and cash (you are allowed to carry no more than \$10,000 in cash/negotiable instruments when you enter the US)
- Certificate of health examination (if applicable)
- You will need to fill out a customs form upon your arrival at the airport or during your flight and present it to the immigration officer along with your passport, visa, boarding pass, and I-20. This form asks about the items that you are importing into the US and their value. Designate the value as \$0. The rationale behind this is that you do not intend to sell your belongings in the US and that they will only be used for personal purposes.
- We encourage you to carry about ten dollars in \$1 bills as you may need them to pay for luggage trollies at the international airports. We also advise you to carry some cash in \$10 or \$20 bills to pay for cabs, public transportation, and meals in case you encounter issues with your credit card at the airport. ATM machines are also easily accessible at the airports if you need to take out additional cash.

Luggage Tips

- **International flights** typically allow travelers to carry two checked bags and one carry-on gear in addition to a purse or a laptop bag. Please refer to your airline's website for more accurate information about the size and weight requirements.
- Certain airlines, such as Air India, British Airways, and Emirates, will allow you to check three bags instead of two if you are a student. Please check with your airline to see if this is an option for you.
- Please try to not over pack! This will only make your travel less convenient. The next section of this booklet will discuss which items will be most important for your stay here in Rochester, and we hope that it will help guide your packing-related decisions!
- Many US **domestic airlines** charge for checking bags, and the policies and rates differ according to the carrier. For more information, please refer to the carrier's website for which you intend to use when flying into Rochester. For international flights, the check-in will be all the way to Rochester and you will not need to worry about domestic check-ins.

Other Essentials

It may take longer than expected for you to get your SIM card/phone connection in the US considering the formalities in the first couple of days. There are International prepaid SIM cards with data plans which might be extremely helpful to contact your family, book cabs, etc. Under some circumstances, some of your accounts may be tied to your previous phone number. You may also need to contact the mobile operator in your own country to confirm if your old phone number can be used in a foreign country.

Also, carrying excess cash is not advisable. Make sure you carry a travel card or an international credit card. Once you create a bank account, you can transfer the amount from your card into the bank account.

Airport to Home

Uber and Lyft were introduced to Rochester on July 1, 2017. These services are extremely convenient, and you can book an Uber/Lyft online using their app at the airport.

Taking a cab from ROC airport is easy and convenient. You can schedule a pick up from the airport by calling Marketplace Taxi (marginally discounted if you mention that you are a U of R student) at +1 (585) 274-2222. You can also find other cabs at the airport that are usually parked across the street from the exit doors of the airport. Typically, there is a taxi dispatcher around the area who assists travelers to get in queue for the next available cab. Cab rides from the airport to any location around the University should be no more than \$20.

It is also optional to take a bus or a train into Rochester from New York City, New Jersey, Boston, or other major cities in the Northeast. Bus and train tickets are cheaper than flight tickets. However, we **STRONGLY** advise you to take into account the inconvenience of carrying and dragging your luggage with you if you take a bus or a train, especially if you have just arrived to the US from a different country. If you do decide to take a bus or a train, please research and gather adequate information about public transportation transit centers and travel logistics in the city you will be traveling from. Once you have reached the bus terminal in Rochester, you can order a cab (or ride-share option) to get to your final destination.

THINGS TO CARRY

The short list below is compiled based on suggestions from previous students. It is by no means a complete and comprehensive list, so please use your own discretion.

Clothing for Rochester

The weather in Rochester varies throughout the year. The summer months (June through September) are often warm and breezy with daytime temperatures between 70° F and 85° F (21° C and 30° C). Temperatures can drop below 10° F (-12° C) during the winter months (November through March) with even lower wind chills and frequent snow accumulations.

You will need a winter coat (preferably waterproof and wind resistant), boots, a hat, a scarf, and gloves. We recommend that you buy your winter clothes in the US because you will have a variety of options. Winter clothes generally tend to be expensive, but many stores (both online and in shopping malls) sell winter items at a discount during holidays in the fall and early winter seasons, such as Labor Day and Black Friday. Take advantage of the offers if you can!

Students are expected to dress business casual during classroom hours (shirts, trousers, etc.). You will need formal business suits for events, such as orientation, classroom and company presentations, recruiting events, and job interviews. **Therefore, don't forget to carry at least two formal suits.**

Medicine and Medical Prescriptions

If you have a medical condition, please make sure to bring a decent supply of your medication as well as a prescription from your doctor. You will not be able to buy prescription medication from drugstores unless you provide a doctor-signed prescription. We also strongly recommend that you get a dental and eye examination before you come here—both can prove to be expensive and are not covered by regular medical insurance plans here in the US.

What Not to Get!

Books

Most of Simon's coursework is based on materials distributed in class or the Harvard Business Cases that can be purchased online. Moreover, textbooks are not required for some courses. We advise you to wait until you reach Rochester and gain access to your course syllabi in order to purchase course materials. You can easily purchase or rent books online from various merchants and websites, such as Amazon, Textbooks.com, and EBay. These sellers offer used books at a cheaper price as well. If you are an MBA candidate, you can also purchase used books from second year MBAs. Additionally, some professors put textbooks on reserve at Rush Rees Library. You can borrow books on reserve for two hours at a time for free (you will need your University ID).

Cookware

You can purchase cookware at an affordable price in Rochester. No need to bring any cooking items with you. University apartments are equipped with a refrigerator, oven, and stove tops, but you will need to purchase other items when you arrive. If you intend to live off campus, please inquire about kitchen items that come with the apartment from your landlord or leasing office. This is again personal preference, as some students carry specific cooking items such as a cooker, pan, etc., from their home country.

Food and Other Items

You should avoid carrying food grains (rice, lentils, sugar, etc.) and meat in your **checked bag**, as these items may show up in random agricultural screenings and could cause you inconvenience during your check-ins at the airports. Do not worry about missing out on your home country's cuisine—almost everything you will need is available here. There are a variety of authentic restaurants in Rochester, such as Indian, Chinese, Ethiopian, and other cuisines.

Additionally, please do not carry sharp or pointed items in your **hand bag** during your travels.

TYPICAL MONTHLY EXPENDITURE FOR STUDENTS

Rough estimates of students' personal expenditures are listed below. These numbers will vary depending on your lifestyle. Visit the Admitted Student Portal for information about tuition, course material, and medical insurance expenses.

*All expenses in the table below are per person per month **when shared with one other person.***

Expenditure	Amount (\$)
Apartment Rent	450 – 800
Groceries	150 – 300
Utilities (<i>Electricity and Heat</i>)	30 – 60
Cell phone	20 – 70
Cable TV and Internet	40 – 50
Gas (for car owners)	30 - 50

You should budget at least \$700 for your monthly expenses. However, your expenses for the first few months will be higher than the suggested amount as you will need to purchase other household materials. Make sure to check with your landlord or leasing office to confirm which household items will be included in your rent payments.

HEALTH INSURANCE

As an international student, you will automatically be enrolled in UR Health Insurance, and no action is required on your part unless you want to enroll a dependent (more information will be provided on the Admitted Student Portal).

The UR Student Health Insurance Plan (Aetna) provides coverage for visits to specialists, hospitalization, surgical procedures, diagnostic laboratory tests and x-rays, athletic injuries, immunizations, and prescription medications.

IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

Under state guidelines, University of Rochester requires you to furnish proof of certain vaccinations. Please follow the instructions given in the Health History Form (HHF) for the required vaccinations (you will receive this form with your I-20 paperwork). The form will need to be submitted to University Health Service (UHS). Some of the required vaccinations are:

- Measles, Mumps, and Rubella
- Meningococcal
- Tuberculosis
- Tetanus
- Hepatitis

We suggest that you get all of the vaccinations in your country because some of the vaccinations are expensive here in the US. If you are not able to get these vaccinations in your home country, please call the UHS office and check if you can receive the vaccinations here on campus during orientation week.

TO-DOs AFTER ARRIVING IN ROCHESTER

We recommend that you refer to the campus maps available on Simon's website when you visit the departments discussed below (you will also receive a copy of the campus map when you report your arrival at the Admissions Office). You can easily walk from one location to another once you are on campus and familiarize yourself with the campus as you get some registration work done! Please also remember to carry your passport, I-20, admissions letter, and other required documents.

Reporting Your Arrival

If you arrive a few days before the start of orientation, please report to Simon's Admissions Office and ISO. The Admissions Office will provide you with a welcome kit, a map, and a checklist of to-dos that you will need to complete before you start classes. ISO will register you in the SEVIS system and provide you with documents that will be helpful when you open a bank account, register for a social security number, etc. If you arrive just in time for orientation, you will get an opportunity to interact with all departments at the orientation expo, where each department will have a table and is easily accessible for any questions.

University of Rochester Identification Card

We recommend that you obtain your University ID card as soon as you arrive in Rochester because you will need it to complete other administrative procedures during orientation and to enter your apartment building if you live in Goler House. If you arrive before orientation, you can get your picture taken and receive your University ID card at the Susan B. Anthony building on campus. If you register during orientation, you will be provided with more information on how to acquire a University ID card at the orientation expo.

Bank Account

There is a Chase Bank branch on campus. Chase usually requires students to have a minimum balance to open an account. However, it is optional to research other local banks that will accommodate your preferences better than Chase.

Health History Form

Please submit your health history form to UHS if you have not already mailed it from your home country. **You are legally required to submit this form before classes begin.**

Laptops

If you have not already configured your laptop, take time to do so now; instructions can be found on the Admitted Student Portal. Please plan to buy a laptop as soon as possible if you will not bring one with you from your home country. It will be an integral part of your education at Simon. A student discount for laptops is available in most stores.

Social Security Number (SSN)

SSN is the primary identification number assigned to US citizens and permanent or temporary (working) residents in the United States. You must have an SSN to be eligible to get a bank credit card, set up

telephone/mobile services, purchase a car, obtain legal employment both on campus and off campus, and file income tax returns. Simon has planned sessions during orientation to help international students obtain an SSN, and we highly recommend that you attend these sessions.

Apartment Move-In

Please reconfirm your move-in date and time with your landlord or leasing office. ***The leasing offices may not operate outside of their usual office hours (commonly 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. but may vary by day). Therefore, you may need to arrive during their hours of operation to obtain your apartment key and pay required fees.***

If you live at Goler House, you will also need your University ID card to enter the building. We recommend that you arrive to Goler House from the airport, leave your luggage at the leasing office, which is located on the ground level of the building (sometimes they let you temporarily store your luggage at your apartment until you get your ID), and walk (roughly 15 minutes) or drive to Simon Business School to obtain your welcome kit from the Admissions Office and your student ID. ***All of the offices that you will need, including Simon Admissions, are only open during office hours.*** For Goler House, in the event that you cannot get your University ID card after you register at the leasing office, Goler office will give you a temporary card to get in and out of the building. However, you still need to get your University ID card as soon as possible.

Shopping

If you live in College Town or Goler House, and temporarily need food or household items, there is a pharmaceutical store, CVS, which you can walk to and is open until 9 p.m. or 10 p.m. There is also a Dollar General store about a seven-minute walk from Goler. Additionally, there are other restaurants and fast-food chains around the College Town area.

The closest grocery store to College Town is Tops Supermarket, which is located about 1.8 miles from Goler House. Also, there is a small Chinese grocery store called Hikari Foods & Grocery, which is about a seven-minute walk from Goler House. If you have a car, you can also drive to Wegmans, Walmart, and other stores in the Rochester area. Wegmans has a variety of food options, including an Asian ingredient section, and most students generally prefer to shop there. If you do not have a car, please use the University's shopping shuttles (Green Line shuttle). The shopping shuttles operate on Wednesdays and Saturdays and are free for students. Please go to the University of Rochester's shuttle website for more information about bus stop locations and hours. You will need your University ID card to use the shuttles.

You can purchase household items at Walmart, Target, and Office-Depot within the Rochester area. These stores sell furniture at reasonable prices and are accessible using the Green Line shuttle. You can also buy used furniture from graduating students at a much lower price. Check bulletin boards in your apartment building and the Simon Housing page on Facebook for bargains. Additionally, [Craigslist Rochester](#) is another great resource for purchasing used furniture.

Driver's License

Your driver's license from your home country will legally allow you to drive in New York State. However, we recommend that you apply for a US driver's license if you intend to drive in the US. To apply for the learner permit, which can be used as a photo ID, you only need to take the paper-based exam without the road exam. Please check the Department of Motor Vehicles website for more information. Your driver's license will also serve as a valid government ID for other purposes, such as alcohol purchases. Please see <https://dmv.ny.gov/more-info/moving-new-york> for more information.

Cell phones

Typically, US mobile carriers require you to have an SSN to apply for their contractual services. You can also get temporary prepaid phones from many carriers such as AT&T, Verizon, and T-Mobile without an SSN, and you do not need to sign a contract for them. Please verify the pros and cons of prepaid and contractual services before you make any purchase. There is no right one, as people prefer one over the other for various reasons. Cell phone purchases can be made at Walmart or the carrier's store, such as the Verizon, AT&T store located in the College Town area.

Home Wi-Fi

Internet and cable services are provided by Spectrum and Frontier Communications. Once you purchase the service online or on the phone, a staff member will come to your apartment at a scheduled time and date to set up your router. Typically, the router is rented to you by the Internet service provider and the rental fee is included in your monthly Internet bills. However, if you have purchased your own router, you should let the service provider know and you may be able to save yourself the additional cost of setting up a new router. ***Please note that Internet services are not provided by the graduate housing offices and are not included in rent.***

University Employment

If you wish to work on campus, contact the Student Employment Office to discuss work opportunities across all departments in the University. You could also log in to your Black Board page and apply to campus job postings online. We encourage you to discuss your interests with your assigned advisor (a staff member from the Office of Student Engagement at Simon Business School) for more information on how to go about researching on-campus positions, and we recommend that you start the process as early as possible.

HOUSING TIPS

There are various housing options available in Rochester. Students' housing decisions are generally based on proximity to campus, housing costs, facilities available in the building, safety and security (west of the river is generally not recommended for families), and accessibility to shops, restaurants, malls, etc. The following are the most popular living areas for Simon students.

Visit <https://www.rochester.edu/reslife/graduate/index.html> for more information.

Goler House

Goler House is a 13-story high-rise building that is home to many Simon students and is located in one of the most popular locations in Rochester: College Town. It is the closest graduate housing (approx. a 15-minute walk) to campus and the most affordable University housing option. It is also well connected to the campus by U of R shuttle services, which run between Goler House and the River Campus buildings. Goler offers studios, 1BR, and 2BR. Of the three University housing options, Goler is the only one to offer furnished housing (dorm-style furniture and window treatments). Apartments are furnished with basic items such as beds, desks, chairs, dressers, dining tables (in 2-bedroom units), and basic kitchen appliances. Access to the building is controlled by ID for residents and by phone for visitors.

There are two laundry rooms located on the ground level of the building that are accessible to residents, and the machines require quarters to wash (generally a minimum of 11 quarters for one load) and dry (a minimum of 4 quarters for one load). There are ATM and bill changer vending machines in each laundry room where you can get cash and change bills to quarters. Moreover, each resident is assigned a mailbox, located on the ground level of the building. The leasing office is also located in the building, which makes it convenient for residents to access an office staff member to discuss any concerns.

Parking passes for spaces across from Goler are based off of a waitlist that is ranked based on the duration you have lived in Goler. All Goler residents have parking available at the Whipple Lot with a 24/7 shuttle service, accessible by phone from the front door of Goler. Also, there is a University bus stop at the front door.

There are many eating options available nearby, including McDonalds, Dunkin Donuts, Subway, Starbucks, Wendy's, Dominos, and smaller specialty restaurants. The presence of a large number of Simon students at Goler also makes it a great social and community building hub.

University Park Apartments (UPK)

UPK consists of two-story buildings nested around lawns and trees. It is slightly farther off from campus (approx. a 25-minute walk). However, it is well connected to the River campus by U of R shuttles. UPK is popular for students who live with their families since the environment is quiet and conducive to family enjoyment. University Park offers studios, 1BR, and 2BR, the latter of which are given with preference to students with an identified roommate or couples with children.

All UPK units are unfurnished except for basic kitchen equipment, such as stove tops, oven, refrigerator, and dishwashers (in select apartments). There are community laundry rooms and mailbox units within the complex. Parking spaces are available directly in front of the units.

Whipple Park (WPK)

Whipple Park is another popular choice for students who move to Rochester with their families. It consists of 250 two-story brownstone style apartments located in a park-like setting, bordered by wooded areas. It is also the most spacious graduate housing. It is located approximately 1.4 miles from Simon and is the farthest compared to the other graduate housing options. The U of R shuttles make frequent stops at this complex, making it easier for students to access the River Campus. However, grocery stores and other

shops are at a distance from Whipple and you will need a car to get around. The U of R shuttles will stop at Marketplace on the weekend. Whipple also comes with easy access to laundry rooms and mailbox units for residents.

Off-Campus Housing

University housing is allotted at random by a lottery system. In case you have not been assigned an on-campus apartment, plan to move to Rochester at least one week in advance from your orientation date. There are many off-campus housing options available nearby campus. The costs are generally higher but there are students who have been able to find cheaper off-campus housing options.

For off-campus housing, you should give first priority to proximity to the River Campus and/or accessibility to transportation because the public transportation system in Rochester is not as reliable as the University's shuttle services. The University has a relationship with Rustic Village, a nice housing community not too far from campus. There is a bus service to and from Rustic Village throughout the day. Many students also live in Downtown Rochester in areas that are easily accessible by the Orange or Red Line University shuttles.

The University of Rochester has partnered with Places4Students.com, a company that specializes in providing off-campus housing solutions for post-secondary students, faculty, staff, and other community members. This service is free for anyone to use as an effective method of finding a place to live off campus or finding a roommate. Visit rochester.edu/reslife/non/database.html. Please note that properties listed on Places4Students.com are not inspected, approved, or regulated by the University. For further details on housing options, you can reach out to Simon students through the Simon Facebook page for their input.

GETTING AROUND IN ROCHESTER

Many people in Rochester will tell you that a car is a virtual necessity for getting around in Rochester. Although that is largely true, the adventurous have seen a lot of attractions on foot or bicycle, and the patient have taken advantage of the municipal bus system to traverse the entire county. The following are the available public transportation options:

Public Buses

The Regional Transit Service (RTS) is run by the Rochester Genesee Regional Transportation Authority (RGRTA). While the buses are clean, efficient, comfortable, and cheap, their services are not as frequent as University shuttles, and you may need to transfer to another bus to get to your final destination. Nonetheless, the bus services work adequately for rides to the downtown area of Rochester.

RTS bus stops are located near all campus housing areas. For off-campus housing areas, check with your leasing office to find out the nearest bus stop location.

Bus fares are \$1 per ride and \$3 for an all-day pass. You can also get a 5-day pass for \$14 and a full-month pass for \$56. Discounted fares are available for children and seniors (you'll need a Medicare or RTS low-fare card for the senior discount). Bus schedules are available online on the RTS webpage and Google maps. You can also download the My RTS app for more information.

Ride-Sharing Services

Uber and Lyft were introduced to Rochester on July 1, 2017. These services are extremely convenient and you can book an Uber/Lyft online using their apps. Most students share rides for grocery shopping over the weekend.

Taxi Services

You can order a taxi from anywhere in Rochester on the phone, and they will arrive to your location within 15 minutes. You can also order one day in advance for rides to the airport or bus terminal. Prices are set by the city at \$0.50 per 1/6 mile, plus \$2.00 per additional passenger.

Traveling by Foot

Downtown Rochester and College Town areas are walkable—outside of the harsh winter days. Traffic is light outside of rush hours, and crosswalks are plentiful. The Rochester Skyway is a system of enclosed elevated walkways and underground tunnels that connect numerous buildings in downtown Rochester, including hotels, office buildings, and parking garages. It's especially useful in the winter, but the network only covers the east side of the river, and its continuity was severely disrupted by the recent closing of Midtown Plaza. It provides a relatively warm, traffic-free route around the area. Look for the blue Skyway logo to find its location when you get to downtown Rochester.

Most areas in downtown Rochester and College Town are safe. We recommend that you be wary of your surroundings when walking in the northeastern areas (bounded by E. Main Street, East Avenue, the Inner Loop, and N. Clinton Avenue), especially at nighttime. We generally recommend that you avoid walking at night and order a cab ride if you are out with your friends.

We hope the information enclosed in this booklet addressed some of your concerns. Please don't hesitate to reach out to Simon Admissions if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Yog Vardhan Parihar – MBA '13

Ajey Mehta – MBA '14

Brijesh Sheth – MBA '15

Kal Tiruneh – MSA '17

Wenxin Ding – MSA '18

Gaurav Mittal – MBA '18

Shahbaaz Mubeen – MBA '18

Karthik Krishnamoorthy – MBA '19

Han Wang – MSA '19

Ankit Khandelwal – MBA '20