Welcome

We look forward to your visit and hope to make your stay as comfortable and informative as possible. Below is some useful and important information regarding your visit.

Before You Arrive

**ATTIRE:** Make sure to check the weather report ([www.atmos.illinois.edu/weather/](http://www.atmos.illinois.edu/weather/)) for Champaign-Urbana (C-U) for your stay so that you can pack the appropriate attire. You will be doing some walking outside, so you may want to pack comfortable shoes and a sweater or jacket. Casual attire is appropriate for events on Sunday and Tuesday. However, business casual is suggested for Monday’s events.

Once You Arrive

**TRAVEL:** If you are arriving by car, free parking is available at the I-Hotel and Conference Center ([http://stayatthei.com/](http://stayatthei.com/)). If you are arriving by plane, you will fly into Willard Airport. Willard Airport is a small airport and you will easily find your way down the escalators to the first floor lobby. If you are travelling by bus or train, you will arrive at the Illinois Terminal.

**SHUTTLE SERVICE TO HOTEL:** Those of you are arriving by plane, train or bus, please know that an I-Hotel shuttle service has already been arranged to meet you to take you to the hotel. The shuttle van will be outside the main entrance at the airport and at the Illinois Terminal. If, however, you do not see the shuttle, call 217-819-5000.
CHECK-IN & REGISTRATION: When you arrive at the I-Hotel, check in at the front desk and let hotel staff know you are part of the ASPIRE program. If you have allowed us to arrange your accommodations, there will be no room charge. (However, the hotel may require you to put a credit/debit card on file for any incidentals. The Graduate College will not be able to pay for incidentals such as room service, movies, etc.) After you check-in, please register with the Graduate College outside the Chancellor Ballroom. Registration begins at noon on Sunday.

During Your Stay

MEALS: Meals will be provided during ASPIRE program events. If you indicated a dietary restriction on your registration, please let the server know. A special meal will be provided.

If you miss a meal or need any food in between scheduled meals, the I-Hotel has a café and a Houlihan’s restaurant located inside the facilities. There are also numerous restaurants on campus. If you are scheduled to arrive before program events begin, a meal will be arranged for you.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS: You will receive a complete schedule. An overview of events is included below.

**SUNDAY:** Check-in will begin at noon. There will be some optional community and campus tours during the afternoon. The ASPIRE welcome dinner begins at 6:00 p.m. at the I-Hotel and will include the Illinois Graduate Student Panel and the Graduate Student Networking/Reception.

**MONDAY:** There will be a full day of events that start with breakfast at the Illini Union. The day includes a student panel, ethnic studies program and cultural centers open house, and visits with prospective programs. The evening will end with dinner back at the I-Hotel. Shuttle service will be arranged for your on-campus travel. See the agenda for details. ([http://www.grad.illinois.edu/sites/default/files/pdfs/aspire2014.pdf](http://www.grad.illinois.edu/sites/default/files/pdfs/aspire2014.pdf))

**TUESDAY:** Hotel check out will take place until noon.

CONTACT: If you need assistance related to your stay at the I-Hotel, please call the front desk at 217-819-5000. If you have questions or need to contact the Graduate College, please contact Renee Hart jrhart@illinois.edu or 217-300-7747.

EXPLORE C-U: Depending on your schedule during your visit, you may have some time to explore campus and the C-U community to see where you might live, work, and shop. C-U offers a vibrant local community with much to see and do ([http://illinois.edu/about/community/leisure.html](http://illinois.edu/about/community/leisure.html)): music venues, museums, parks, and a wide variety of restaurants. The Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District ([www.cumtd.com](http://www.cumtd.com)) bus system is an easy and cheap way to get around if you want to explore areas like downtown Champaign, downtown Urbana, or campustown. If you want to check out where you might live, there are many housing options ([www.grad.illinois.edu/prospective/housing](http://www.grad.illinois.edu/prospective/housing)) available for graduate students. If you have a family, you can also explore local services ([http://www.grad.illinois.edu/spouses-partners-families](http://www.grad.illinois.edu/spouses-partners-families)) like school districts, childcare, medical facilities, and family-friendly recreational activities.