

## Frequently Asked Questions Union Graduate College (Summer 2008)

### Where is Schenectady?

Schenectady is located in northeastern New York State. It is located within about a 3 hour drive from three major metropolitan areas; New York City, Boston Massachusetts, and Montreal, Canada.

Address: Lamont House; 807 Union St.; Schenectady, New York 12308; USA.  
Phone: 518-388-6148  
Fax: 518-388-6686  
Website: [www.uniongraduatecollege.edu](http://www.uniongraduatecollege.edu)

### How do I travel to Schenectady?

**Plane:** The Albany International Airport is only a 20 minute drive from campus. International travelers typically arrive in the USA through a major metropolitan airport and then take a connecting flight to the Albany Airport.

**Train:** The Schenectady train station is a ten minute walk from campus. The larger Albany/Rensselaer station train station is a 30 minute drive from campus ([www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com)).

**Bus:** The Schenectady bus station is a 15 minute walk from campus. The larger Albany bus station is about a 30 minute drive from the campus ([www.greyhound.com](http://www.greyhound.com) or [www.trailway.com](http://www.trailway.com)).

**Taxi:** Taxi service is available in and around Schenectady. Central Taxi transports students from Schenectady to other areas (518-346-2344) and CapitalLand Taxi transports students from Albany to other areas (518-426-1405). There are additional taxi companies listed in the phone books and at train/bus/airports.

### From New York City to Schenectady:

- 1) Take the air train to Penn Station (\$12 peak fare - you will have to buy a metro card [from a vending machine near the train terminal. More information is available at <http://www.panynj.gov/airtrain/>
- 2) From Penn Station take the Amtrak to Schenectady (around \$36-41 one way - make reservation at [www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com)

(This method may not be the least expensive option, but is the most reliable)

### What are the housing options?

Union Graduate College has limited housing available.

**Park Place Apartments:** Two bedroom apartments with a shared kitchen, living room and bathroom. These are furnished with a bed, dresser and chair in each bedroom, kitchen table and chairs, and chairs in living room area. Rent is approximately \$300/month including most utilities (television and internet access are not included).

**University Place Apartments:** These apartments are unfurnished and feature 3 or 4 bedrooms. Each bedroom has a keyed entrance and the apartment common areas such as the kitchen and living room are shared. Rent is \$325/month + shared utilities.

Students who plan to utilize Union Graduate College housing need to let the admissions office know early in the process. Signing lease agreements and securing keys will be arranged on an individual basis depending upon arrival time.

Students who utilize housing will be provided with a set of sheets, blanket, pillow, bedspread and set of towels upon arrival. There are various stores close to campus purchase food, medicine, clothing, household items, etc. These stores can be accessed by campus shuttle bus, city bus, or taxi. In addition, our staff makes every effort to help students get settled during their first few weeks on campus.

#### **Where and what is closest bank?**

Many international students establish a local banking account. There is a Bank of America within walking distance of campus (645 Nott Street, Schenectady, NY 12308 – [www.bankofamerica.com](http://www.bankofamerica.com))

#### **What is the climate?**

Summer can be as hot as 90F and winter as low as 0F. Depending on when you plan to travel you should plan accordingly with clothing, shoes, and boots. To view local weather, you can go to [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com) and search zip code 12308 (Schenectady, NY).

#### **Who can I contact at Union Graduate College with other questions?**

Rhonda Sheehan, the international student officer, should know of your arrival date, time and other details. ([sheehanr@uniongraduatecollege.edu](mailto:sheehanr@uniongraduatecollege.edu))

Lorie Ruth is another international student officer and can be contacted if Rhonda is unavailable. ([ruthL@uniongraduatecollege.edu](mailto:ruthL@uniongraduatecollege.edu)).

Another option is to call the main number (518-388-6148) for assistance. In an emergency, the security office at Union College should be able to contact a staff member for you. You can contact the security office at 518-388-6911 – be sure to state that you are a GRADUATE student.

#### **Where do I do Laundry?**

**Park Place Apartments:** There are coin operated Laundromats in the area. They can be found in local phone books or by asking fellow students. The Union Laundromat is close to Park Place Apartments, where it is typically \$2.00 to wash a large load and \$1.00 to dry.

**University Place Apartments:** There are coin operated washing machines and dryers in the basement of this building.

6/2008