



Education, Global and Experiential <sbglobal@email.gwu.edu>

GWSB Pre-Arrival Newsletter Week 3: Health Insurance and Healthcare

1 message

GWSB International <sbglobal@gwu.edu>

Thu, Dec 12, 2024 at 3:00 PM

Reply-To: sbglobal@gwu.edu

To: sbglobal@gwu.edu



Global & Experiential Education



G&EE Pre-Arrival Newsletter Three: Health Insurance and Healthcare

Hello! This newsletter covers topics related to healthcare, health insurance, and immunizations.

- Healthcare: Before Arrival
- Healthcare: After Arrival
- Orientations

As always, if you have any questions, please email us at sbglobal@gwu.edu.

Best,

Elisa Boyea
Program Manager
International Student Services



Healthcare: Before Arrival

Note that all the information in this newsletter can be accessed online on the [GW Student Health Center \(SHC\)](#) website.

If you have any questions regarding GW Health Services, please contact the GW Student Health Center directly at shcadmin@gwu.edu or call 202-994-5300.

Immunization Requirements



GW no longer requires that students be vaccinated against COVID-19, however, students **under the age of 26**, are still required to submit proof of certain immunizations to the Student Health Center. The list of required immunizations (and instructions on how to submit your immunization record) can be found on the [SHC Immunization webpage](#).

If you need to request an exemption, visit the [SHC Immunization webpage](#) and view the "Medical or Religious Exemptions" dropdown at the bottom of the page for additional information.

Please Note: New students **under the age of 26** will be able to register for their first semester without a health form on file. However, failure to submit the required immunization records will result in a **hold on your Student Account that prevents you from registering for classes** in subsequent semesters.

Please retain a copy of your immunizations for your records. It is each student's responsibility to ensure that they obtain their immunization records and that it is submitted to Student Health by the deadline. If you have any questions regarding immunizations, email immunreq@gwu.edu.

Immunizations

Healthcare: After Arrival

How Does U.S. Healthcare Work?

The U.S. healthcare system probably looks a lot different than what you're used to! Get an overview of how the U.S. healthcare system works by watching this short, six-minute video:

[Overview of the U.S. Healthcare System for International Students](#)

(Video Credit: International Student Insurance)

Required Coverage



All international students in F-1 or J-1 immigration status are required to maintain health insurance coverage for the duration of their GW studies.

As an F-1 or J-1 student, GW will **automatically** enroll you in the **GW Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP)** through Aetna Student Health, which means **you do not need to take any action to enroll in GW SHIP**. The cost of insurance coverage will automatically be added onto your bill for tuition, fees, and other university expenses.

Visit the following pages for information about GW SHIP:

- [GW Student Health Center - Health Insurance](#)
- [GW SHIP Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [University Health Plans](#) - GW partners with University Health Plans to provide GW SHIP to students. You can visit the University Health Plans site for even more information about GW SHIP.
- [Aetna Student Health - Plan Design and Benefits Summary](#) - Very detailed document with in-depth information about the specific features and coverage included in GW SHIP.

For questions about the GW Student Health Insurance Plan, please email ship@gwu.edu or call University Health Plans at 1-833-251-1721.

Application for Exemption

You have the right to request that 1) you not be covered by GW SHIP, and 2) the charge for GW SHIP on your bill be removed. You may request this by:

1. Completing an [exemption or waiver application](#) through the University Health Plans website; **and**
2. Providing documents that prove you have health insurance under a different plan that satisfies the minimum requirements. The minimum insurance requirements can be found here: [GW SHIP Waiver Requirements](#).

Additional information about waiving SHIP and the waiver process can be found on the [University Health Plans website](#) under the "Waiver Process" header.

The Spring 2025 waiver form will be available on the [University Health Plans website](#) within the next few weeks. **The deadline to submit the Spring 2025 waiver is April 30, 2025.** There is no appeal to waive coverage after the waiver deadline.

Using Your Plan and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Unless you waive GW's Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP), you will automatically be enrolled in SHIP. So, how do you use SHIP?

When does my GW SHIP coverage begin?

Your GW SHIP coverage for the Spring 2025 semester will begin on **January 1, 2025** and end on **August 11, 2025**.



What do I do if I'm feeling sick?

If you need to see a doctor, you should first seek treatment at the [GW Student Health Center](#), which is located on-campus and is open Monday, Thursday, and Friday from 8:30am - 5:00pm, Tuesday and Wednesday from 8:30am - 7:00pm, and Saturday from 10:00am - 2:00pm.

I need medical assistance outside of those hours. What do I do?

The Medical Assistance Line, (202) 994-5300, is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Call to speak with a clinician and be evaluated for next steps, which can include a telemedicine appointment, an in-person office visit, or a referral to an off-site medical provider.

But what if I need to see a doctor or a specialist that isn't associated with the GW Student Health Center?

To find providers outside of GW Student Health Services that accept SHIP, please visit [Aetna Student Health DocFind](#).

Accessing Your Insurance Card

Insurance cards are **not** mailed to students. Once your GW SHIP coverage begins on January 1, 2025, you'll be able to print your insurance card and/or access your digital ID card by visiting [Aetna Student Health](#).

Orientations

The below-listed **mandatory orientations** in January will provide pertinent information for international students relating to immigration and the academic culture at GWSB. These sessions

are **required** of ALL GWSB international graduate students studying on an F-1 or J-1 visa.

Tuesday, January 7, 2025, 10:00am-12:00pm

ISO New International Student Orientation

Hosted by the International Services Office (ISO)

Location: Jack Morton Auditorium (805 21st Street NW, Washington, DC 20052)

[Visit the ISO's Website for More Information](#)

Tuesday, January 7, 2025, 1:30-4:00pm

Spring 2025 GWSB International Student Orientation

Hosted by GWSB Global & Experiential Education (G&EE)

Location: Duquès Hall, Room 151 (2201 G Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20052)

[Register Here!](#)

For questions, please email G&EE at sbglobal@gwu.edu

See You There!

PROGRAM-SPECIFIC ORIENTATIONS

Please contact your [academic department](#) for dates and times of program-specific orientation sessions

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