

# CHBE’s Cultural Resource Guide in Champaign-Urbana

Made by the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering  
Graduate Student Advisory Council (GSAC)

2019 Edition

ChBE GSAC has created a list of cultural and recreational spots and opportunities in Champaign-Urbana, as well as a handful of tips to help new students from different cultural background/international students get acclimated to the life in Champaign-Urbana!

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## Restaurant

### Asian

- Sakanaya
- Rainbow Garden Champaign
- Mid-Summer Lounge (noodle place)
- Spicy Tang
- Lao Sze Chuan Chinese Restaurant
- Kungfu BBQ
- Golden Harbor
- Lai Lai Work
- Tsaocaa (boba place)
- B Won
- Jipbap Taste of Korea
- Bab Plus Korean Restaurant
- Thara Thai
- Basil Thai Urbana
- Siam Terrace
- Pho Café
- Sitara
- Kohinoor Indian Restaurant and Lounge
- The Himalayan Chimney



### Hispanic/Latinx

- Maize Mexican Grill
- Huaraches Moroleon
- La Mixteca Restaurant
- Burrito King
- Caribbean Grill
- Big Grove
- Punch
- Strawberry Fields Café
- Taco Motorizado (food truck)
- Fernando's (food truck)
- El Oasis (ice cream)



## Middle Eastern

- Jerusalem Middle Eastern Cuisine
- Ephesus
- The Rock Restaurant



## African

- Stango

## European

- Nando Milano Trattoria
- Biaggi's Ristorante Italiano

## Market

- Fresh International Market
- Green Onion Asian Market
- Asian Supermarket
- AM-KO Oriental Foods & Gifts
- Far East
- El Progreso Supermarket
- Urbana Farmer's Market at the Square (on Saturday morning)
- Student Farmer's Market on the Quad (Thursday around lunch time)



## Cultural Activities

- Japan House
  - Matsuri Festival in September: Matsuri originated as a traditional solemn temple festival in Japan, but now brings people together to celebrate the end of summer with Asian-inspired food, performances, art, crafting, dance and more. There will be fireworks starting at night!
  - More events can be found here:  
<https://japanhouse.illinois.edu/>



- Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration
- La Casa Cultural Latina
  - Event calendar can be found here:  
<https://oir.illinois.edu/la-casa-cultural-latina>
- International Week will take place from Nov. 10-16 this year. Detailed events will be updated and can be found on the event calendar on ISSS website

## Registered student organization



At Illinois, there are more than 1,600 registered student organizations (RSOs) and many international RSOs are active on campus (including a large variety of international student associations) which can be found here: <https://illinois.campuslabs.com/engage/organizations>

## Miscellaneous information:



- Set up for tax review appointment every year and sign up early as available slots are gone really fast every year. Per IRS regulations, employees' federal taxes will be withheld at the highest possible rate until after they have completed the tax status review appointment.

Website to register tax review appointments and the checklist of documents required: <https://www.obfs.uillinois.edu/payments-foreign-nationals/tax-status-review-appointments/>

- Frequent questions about filing tax (due in April every year) can be found: <https://iss.illinois.edu/publications/resources/incometax.html>
- Do not forget to get a travel signature on your I-20 before leaving the US. One travel signature is valid for a year
- A guide of applying for an Illinois driver's license can be found here: [https://iss.illinois.edu/download\\_forms/students/App\\_drivers\\_license.pdf](https://iss.illinois.edu/download_forms/students/App_drivers_license.pdf)
  - If you already have a driver's license of another state and hope to get an Illinois one, you can bring the required documents and the current driver's license to DMV. You do not need to take the driving test but only a written exam.
- OPT workshops can be found on ISSS website
- ISSS Event calendar: <https://calendars.illinois.edu/list/3715>
- Cold kits, band-aids, feminine products and reproductive products can be picked up for free at McKinley Satellite Clinic at the Union. Flu shot is available 10am to 4pm, Monday to Friday at McKinley Health Center at no charge all U of I students who have paid the Health Service Fee.
- Some useful tips about living in Champaign Urbana as an international student can be found in International student guide on Illini Daily: <https://dailyillini.com/special-sections/international-student-guide/>