FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT FIRST-YEAR SPRING ADMISSION

1Q: What does it mean to be a First-Year Spring Admit (FYSA)?
A: A FYSA is an accepted Cornellian who will join our community in January, rather than in August.

2Q: I don’t know how I feel about the FYSA status. Can you tell me why the selection committee made this decision?
A: A place in our spring class is a vote of confidence in you! The competition for admission was intense. We considered over 1900 candidates for 275 fall freshman spaces. Because we have seniors completing their degrees in December and other students studying off-campus in the spring, we have room for new students in the spring semester. We hope you’ll be one of these students.

3Q: Am I the only FYSA accept?
A: No, you are one of 20 first-year applicants accepted to the College of Human Ecology for mid-year admission because you exhibit a strong academic background, independence, and an ability to adapt to the special nature of this opportunity—should you elect to accept it. Approximately 50 new Human Ecology students (among 250 more to other Cornell University colleges and schools) will arrive in mid-January as first-year admits and transfers.

4Q: Is it possible to get on your waiting list?
A: FYSA is a firm commitment, ensuring you a place in our college and you can plan for it now. Many on the waiting list will be offered this opportunity or the chance to transfer later. Others who may be considered for fall, will wait until late spring through early summer to learn if there is space available, while making alternate plans if they are not offered admission.

5Q: Is your waiting list ranked and will FYSA have priority?
A: No, our waiting list is not ranked, but we will work with those students who respond positively to the offer and communicate in writing their continued interest in Human Ecology. By then, we will need to make decisions based on a number of specific factors that will become more evident. Those interested in January admission and whose academic program choice can easily accommodate that option will have priority on the wait list.

6Q: If I take courses over the summer and/or use previously earned credit can I start in the fall?
A: No. This decision is not a question of credits but of available space to invite talented students like yourself to attend Cornell and the College of Human Ecology.

7Q: Will starting in January cause me to graduate later?
A: That will depend on your plan for the fall semester.

8Q: What are some of my options for the fall?
A: We would like to work with you to consider a set of options and make a plan that works best for you. You could choose to take a number of credits (as few as 3 as many as 15) that seems appropriate for you to manage with some other opportunity or pursuit (travel, work, creative outlet, research, etc.) that is enriching. You could choose not to take course work at all but rather decide to pursue another productive enterprise or endeavor. In any case, our office will be glad to work with you to make the best decision that positions you for a successful transition.

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If it is important to you to graduate with the Class of 2019 cohort, you can plan to take selected liberal arts courses similar to those that would be taken at Cornell as a fall freshmen. We will evaluate any credit earned through Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate or previous college work taught at the institution. Our office will provide academic advising to help you select appropriate courses. You can also plan with us to complete those courses during your remaining semesters at Cornell to meet requirements for a 2019 graduation date. All of your plans will require prior approval by our office.

Whatever your choice, we will want to secure a plan with you, have that in writing and discuss an appropriate deliverable (a transcript, journal, essay, video or creative project, etc.) that will mark your time and achievement.

8Q: If I choose to take courses, does it matter where I take these classes in the fall?
A: No, we believe it matters less where you study than what you take. FYSA students can choose to attend community and four-year colleges near their homes or farther away. The point is to identify the courses most important to your intended program of study in the College of Human Ecology and the best place for you to be in the fall. Course planning information is available that will help you select the classes appropriate for your major. Human Ecology will critically review your academic transcript, accept your credit if you earn a C or better (your grade point average will not transfer) and expect that you will uphold the expectation of good scholarship and citizenship.

9Q: Will there be space for me in a residence hall in January?
A: Yes, the University guarantees housing for all matriculated FYSA students.

10Q: Will I be able to eat in the dining halls?
A: Yes, you will receive the information on dining options in a fall mailing.

11Q: Is there a spring Orientation?
A: Yes. Our spring New Student Orientation information sessions and activities will give you the opportunity to meet other new and continuing students, faculty and staff. It is our expectation that you will participate in the New Student Orientation program designed to help you navigate your new environment successfully.

Special note to FYSA accepts:
Do not rely on someone else to explain this program to you. Some of the details of Human Ecology’s FYSA program are not the same as those offered by other Cornell schools/colleges or by universities other than Cornell. Use this and other Human Ecology and Cornell specific information made available for your planning. Contact the Human Ecology Office of Admissions to ask your own questions. Darryl Scott, Director of Admissions, Student and Career Development in the college, will help answer your questions and appropriately refer others. We are committed to helping you consider the option of coming to Cornell in the spring if this offer interests you. We hope it will!

Should you have further questions, we will work with you by appointment. To schedule a date and time to discuss questions/matters not covered here, please contact the College of Human Ecology Office of Admissions at 607-255-5471 (8:30 am-4:00 pm). You may also email us at humec_admissions@cornell.edu for quick questions and/or updates.