International Student Arrival Checklist
SPRING 2024

BEFORE DEPARTING

Check your BuckeyeMail account frequently and read pre-arrival emails from the Office of International Affairs.

Immigration

☐ Download your I-20 or DS-2019 visa eligibility document and verify your BuckeyeMail

☐ Pay your I-901 SEVIS fee at **FMJfee.com**

☐ Schedule your visa appointment with the nearest U.S. consulate or embassy to apply for a visa (Canadian citizens do not need a U.S. visa)

☐ Plan to arrive early – we recommend arriving 2-3 weeks before classes start on January 8

  ✓ F-1 and J-1 visa students cannot arrive more than 30 days before the first day of class

☐ Transfer students only: Complete the SEVIS transfer process if you are transferring from another U.S. school

Mandatory Immigration Check-in, orientation and class registration

☐ Schedule your Mandatory Immigration Check-in if you have a confirmed visa appointment by January 8 – **go.osu.edu/ImmigrationCheckIn**

☐ Register for your mandatory in-person International Student Orientation session – **go.osu.edu/OIA-Orientation-Registration**

☐ Complete the virtual Mandatory International Student Orientation – **go.osu.edu/OIA-Orientation**

☐ Take the Intercultural English Language Programs Academic English Writing Assessment or math placement test, if required

☐ Register for classes – if your academic advisor does not email your BuckeyeMail by January 3, contact **global-engagement@osu.edu**

Housing, vaccinations and insurance

☐ Find early-arrival and permanent housing – Need help looking? Contact **housing@osu.edu** for on-campus housing or to arrange for early move-in for your residence hall, or contact **offcampus@osu.edu** for off-campus housing

  ☐ For students living off-campus: before signing a lease, review it with Student Legal Services to understand your rights and responsibilities under Ohio law – **studentlegal.osu.edu**

☐ Complete your vaccination requirement and upload required documentation to My BuckMD – **go.osu.edu/RequiredVaccinations**

☐ Purchase interim student health insurance available through Ohio State's Student Health Insurance Health Program if you will arrive in the United States before January 1 – **shi.osu.edu**

☐ Review your Statement of Account and pay tuition by the second Friday of the semester

Travel

☐ Make flight arrangements to Columbus, Ohio – John Glenn International Airport (CMH)

☐ Starting December 1, request a free Lyft code to use for transportation from the airport to your campus residence by emailing **global-engagement@osu.edu** – learn more about creating an account at **lyft.com/rider**

☐ Make sure the following documents are easily accessible while you travel – do not pack them in your suitcase:

  ☐ Admission letter to Ohio State

  ☐ Current passport

  ☐ Current U.S. visa

  ☐ Form I-20 or Form DS-2019

  ☐ SEVIS fee payment receipt

  ☐ Proof of funding (financial documentation as listed on your Form I-20 or Form DS-2019)

STARTING YOUR BUCKEYE JOURNEY

Maintaining immigration status

☐ Attend your scheduled Mandatory Immigration Check-in appointment with OIA – you must be physically present in the United States to check in - **go.osu.edu/ImmigrationCheckIn**

☐ Ensure that you attended an in-person orientation session and completed virtual orientation.

☐ Maintaining immigration status is your responsibility; review your responsibilities at – **go.osu.edu/MaintainingStatus**

Utilities

☐ Learn about money and banking and set up a local bank account – **go.osu.edu/Banking**

☐ Set up your phone to work in the United States by purchasing a SIM card through a service provider

☐ For students living off-campus: set up any utilities (gas, water, electric, internet, etc.) you are responsible for while living in your apartment – if you're not sure, review your lease or ask your landlord

Academics

☐ Obtain your BuckID – you will receive an email with instructions to your BuckeyeMail account

☐ Attend meetings, orientations and scheduling appointments required by your specific college/department

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THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Getting help and resources

To help you understand which university offices are available to help, we highlighted their main responsibilities and contact information at **go.osu.edu/UniversityResources.**