J-1 Scholar Orientation
International Scholars Team

- Carina Hansen, Director, hansen.34@osu.edu
- LaTasha Carruthers, Office Associate, carruthers.15@osu.edu
- Robert Bauchmire, Scholar Immigration Coordinator, bauchmire.1@osu.edu
- Gary Schickler, Scholar Immigration Coordinator, schickler.1@osu.edu
- Oana Falasca, Scholar Immigration Coordinator, falasca.8@osu.edu
Arrival Form

- Local address should be where you are sleeping tonight (even if this is a hotel)
- If you are eligible for Ohio State’s health insurance, it would be stated on your offer letter
- Your emergency contact must be someone in the United States
The Midwest

- Columbus, Ohio is in the midwestern region of the United States
- Occupies the northern central part of the country
The Oval

• The heart of campus
• Great for studying, relaxing, socializing and enjoying sunshine
The Ohio Union

- The student activity center at The Ohio State University
- Provides facilities for student activities, organizations and events, and serves as a meeting place for campus and community interaction
Recreational Sports

- recsports.osu.edu/facilities
- Must pay for entry/membership
University Libraries

- The Thompson Library is Ohio State library's main branch and single largest repository
- Ohio State's library system encompasses 21 libraries located on its Columbus campus
Brutus – Ohio State’s Mascot

- Brutus Buckeye is the athletics mascot of The Ohio State University
- Brutus is a student dressed in Buckeye colors with a headpiece resembling an Ohio Buckeye nut.
O-H-I-O

• O-H-I-O is a rallying cry for Buckeyes everywhere
• People will take photos as O-H-I-O at new places they visit to show pride
POST ARRIVAL CHECKLIST
Activate Email

• To activate online, visit my.osu.edu
• Nationwide Children’s Hospital employees, see a Human Resources representative
Employee Identification Card

- University Departments
  BuckID Office
  3040 Ohio Union
  12th Avenue and High Street

- Wexner Medical Center
  • See Human Resources representative

- Nationwide Children’s Hospital
  • See Human Resources representative
Social Security Number (SSN)

- A SSN is needed if you are being paid while in the United States (for tax purposes)
- Wait 14 days after arriving and apply in person
- Social Security Administration
  200 North Hugh Street
  #2 Bus to Downtown
  Spring Street stop
Taxes and GLACIER

• If you are paid by Ohio State, you will receive an email about registering for GLACIER, a system that ensures the proper amount of tax is taken from your payments

• If you do not get registration information within two weeks after your start date, contact Human Resources:
  • 614-292-2521
  • taxoffice@hr.osu.edu
Ohio State Driver’s License

- Read up and study for the driving exams
- For more information, visit ohiobmv.com
- The closest Bureau of Motor Vehicles to campus is:
  4503 Kenny Road
  Columbus, OH 43220
Public Transportation

- Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA)
  - cota.com
  - Exact fare amount is required since change is not available

- Campus Area Bus Service (CABS)
  - ttm.osu.edu
  - Free bus service on campus

- Nationwide Children’s Hospital Shuttle
  - Free shuttle to hospital and back to campus available throughout the day
IMMIGRATION REGULATIONS
Office of International Affairs

• Our office can help with the following:
  • Health insurance
  • Travel
  • Extension of programs
  • Transfer of programs
  • Driving questions
  • Departure

• Appointments with immigration coordinator can be made online
  • Monday – Thursday, 1 – 4 p.m.
  • oia.osu.edu/schedule-an-appointment
Address Reporting

• Report your address if you move within 10 days in the Ohio State Employee Self Service system.
• hr.osu.edu
Health Insurance

• Required for all J-1s and J-2s throughout the entirety of their stay
• Sign up as soon as possible
• Send insurance documentation to oiainsurance@osu.edu

• Options:
  • Gallagher Student Health and Special Risk for Scholars
  • Ohio State Health Plan (if applicable)
  • ACA/DOS compliant health plan
Gallagher Insurance

- Your cost for the plan is $135 per month
- The same rate applies for each J-2 dependents
- Gallagher Student Health and Special Risk for Scholars is cost effective and meets the Department of State’s requirements
J-1 Program Activities

• You are required to be engaged in the activities located at the address listed on your DS-2019

• Before any changes can be made in your activities, you will need a new DS-2019
  • Must see an immigration coordinator
Your Program / Employment

• Approved for Ohio State and your Department only
• May qualify for occasional lecture or consultation
  • Paid or unpaid
  • Written permission is needed from an immigration coordinator (see coordinator at least two weeks in advance)
Retroactive Unlawful Presence

• New regulation about violations of status and potential bars to returning to the United States

• Example:
  • Started program January 1, 2018
  • Paid for teaching June 1, 2018
  • Changed to H-1B January 1, 2020
  • The United States Immigration and Citizenship Services finds previous unlawful work
  • Unlawful presence from June 1, 2018 – January 1, 2020, or 1.5 years
  • Results in a 10-year bar from re-entering the United States
Class Enrollment / Student

- Cannot interfere with J-1 Program
- Cannot be a J-1 Scholar and Graduate Associate
  - Teaching
  - Research
  - Administrative
J-1 Program Transfer

• To conduct research at another university or hospital
• Must discuss with an immigration coordinator
• Will need new institution’s DS-2019
• Must have no gaps between end and start dates
Program Extensions

• Restrictions:
  • Maximum stay for J-1 is six months for short-term scholars and five years for research scholars and professors
• Must discuss with an immigration coordinator 30 – 90 days before DS-2019 expires
• Complete Extension Form
  • oia.osu.edu/int-scholars/j-1-visiting-scholars/extensions
• Update financial and department forms
Departure

• Complete Departure Form 1 – 2 weeks before the end of your program
  • [oa.osu.edu/int-scholars/j-1-visiting-scholars/departure](http://oa.osu.edu/int-scholars/j-1-visiting-scholars/departure)
• Once completed, give it to your Human Resources contact
Grace Period

• You have 30 days to leave the United States after your program
• Begins the day after your last day of your work/program
• Even for early termination of program
KEY REQUIREMENTS AND MORE
Keep Documents Safe

- Keep all versions of your DS-2019
- Keep passport, DS-2019, I-94 in a safe location
- Keep copies in a separate, safe location
Have a Valid Passport

• Must always be valid for six months into the future
• Renew with your country’s embassy
J-2 Dependents

• Spouse
• Unmarried children under 21 years of age
• Must have health insurance
• May work with permission
INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL
Travel Signature

- Must get a travel signature from an immigration coordinator
- For J-2 dependents as well
- Make appointment two weeks in advance
Re-entry to the United States

- You will need:
  - Valid visa
  - Valid passport
  - Valid and signed DS-2019
  - Proof of funding letter from department
Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean

• Re-entry on an expired visa stamp is allowed under Automatic Revalidation only for trips to Canada, Mexico, or certain Caribbean Islands lasting 30 days or less

• To return you will need:
  • Valid passport
  • Signed DS-2019
  • Previous I-94 card/printout
  • Proof of funding and support
  • Letter from the department
TWO IMPORTANT RESTRICTIONS
Two-Year Home Country Return

• You may be required to return home for two years after completing your J program
• If you might want to return with H, L or immigrant visa in the future
• Waiver is available, but approval will end the ability to extend J-1 visa program
24-Month Repeat Participation Bar

• Can’t begin a new J-1 Research Scholar or Professor program for 24 months

• Able to return as:
  • Short-Term Scholar
  • Tourist
  • Student
PERSONAL SAFETY
Emergency Phone Numbers

• 9-1-1 is used throughout the United States
  • Police
  • Fire
  • Ambulance

• Blue Light Emergency Phones
  • These phones are located all over campus
  • Activate the phone by pressing the red button and speaking into the intercom
Buckeye Alert
Emergency Notification

- Safety alerts as well as weather alerts, incidents around campus to be aware of
- buckeyealert.osu.edu
Buckeye Safe Ride Service

- Free rides available seven days a week, 7 p.m. – 3 a.m.
- dps.osu.edu/safe-ride
- 614-292-3322
LIVING IN COLUMBUS
Seasonal Weather

- Columbus has four seasons: spring, summer, autumn and winter
- Be prepared for hot humid summer days and freezing snowy winter days
Grocery Shopping Near Campus

• See page 13 of your resource guide for a full list of options

• Store chains:
  • Kroger’s and Giant Eagle

• International groceries
  • Products may taste different and have different ingredients
Restaurants

• Many options from casual and budget friendly to fine dining
• International cuisine tends to be Americanized version
• A few favorites:
  • Cazuelas, Trillium, Chipotle, Brassica, Northstar, Hang Over Easy, Katalina’s, Acre, The Guild House, Condados Taco
Sports in Columbus

- Football (American) – Ohio State
- Basketball – Ohio State
- Baseball – Columbus Clippers
- Ice Hockey – Columbus Blue Jackets
- Soccer (Football) – Columbus Crew
Explore Columbus

• Fun landmarks:
  • Ohio Theatre, Palace Theatre, Southern Theatre, Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens
  • North Market
  • German Village
  • Scioto Mile
  • Shopping centers like Easton and Polaris
Explore Columbus

• For dining, events and festival options visit:
  • experiencecolumbus.com
  • 614columbus.com
  • columbusunderground.com
  • yelp.com
Explore Nearby Cities

- 80 miles (128 km) to Athens, OH
- 95 miles (152 km) to Cincinnati, OH
- 127 miles (204 km) to Cleveland, OH
- 162 miles (260 km) to Pittsburgh, PA
- 354 miles (569 km) to Chicago, IL
- 379 miles (609 km) to Nashville, TN
Scholar Conversation Hour

• Free conversation time at the Office of International Affairs every Tuesday, 12 – 1 p.m. during the semester

• Email Alessa Rosa, rosa.69@osu.edu, for a calendar reminder
QUESTIONS?