Tasks Upon Arrival

Megan McCarthy
Arrival
• U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Arrival

• When you arrive at your first stop in the U.S., you will need to go through U.S. Customs

• Make sure to have the following documents with you — do not pack them in your suitcase:
  – Passport with valid F-1 or J-1 visa
  – I-20/DS-2019
  – Printed copy of your admission letter
  – Financial documents
Arrival

- Make sure to allow for plenty of time in between your connecting flights
  - All international students must go through “secondary inspection” to verify their immigration status
  - You may experience significant delays – it is advised to plan approximately three hours in between connecting flights
Arrival

• Once you are permitted to enter the U.S., your passport will be stamped “F-1” or “J-1” and “D/S” — make sure your documents are stamped correctly

• You will be issued an electronic I-94 card number

• Once you arrive in the U.S., you will need to print out your electronic I-94 and keep a copy for your records
  – We can assist you during your immigration check-in session if you have any questions
Transportation
Transportation

- The Office of International Affairs will offer limited free transportation from Port Columbus International Airport to The Ohio State University main campus.

- Please visit http://oia.osu.edu/pre-arrival-and-orientation/pre-arrival-information.html for the most up-to-date information, as well as to make reservations.

- Stop by and say hello to the Ohio State representative at the Group Welcome Center in the baggage claim area!
Transportation

- Ohio State’s main campus is located less than 10 miles (16 km) from Port Columbus International Airport, and taxi service from the airport to campus is relatively quick and inexpensive
  - The cost of a taxi from the airport to campus is approximately $25 (153 RMB), and the drive should take approximately 15 minutes
Transportation

- COTA, the Central Ohio Transit Authority, operates a bus that runs from the airport to campus on select days
- For more information, and to see if this bus will run on the day you arrive in Ohio, please visit:
  
cota.com/assets/Riding-Cota/Schedules/Current/052.pdf
Housing
Housing

- Limited on-campus housing will be available for freshmen and upperclassmen, as well as transfer students

- Move-in day is Saturday, August 23, 2014
Housing

- For students with Ohio State housing contracts, temporary on-campus housing is available starting Wednesday, August 6, 2014

- The cost for this temporary on-campus housing is $25 per day (215 RMB)
Arriving on campus
• Check-in and orientation
TASKS UPON ARRIVAL

Arriving on campus

• Once you arrive on campus, you will need to attend a mandatory immigration check-in with the Office of International Affairs
  – If you have not already scheduled your immigration check-in session, please schedule online as soon as possible by visiting oia.osu.edu/pre-arrival-and-orientation/pre-arrival-information.html
Arriving on campus

- The check-in and orientation process involves multiple mandatory steps, including orientation, placement tests (if applicable), course registration and a health screening.

- You will not be able to register for classes until you have completed your immigration check-in with the Office of International Affairs and taken the English as a Second Language placement test (if applicable).
Arriving on campus

- On average, it takes between five and seven days to complete this process; please make arrangements accordingly.
- We encourage you to arrive as early as possible to allow time to adjust and get settled before classes begin.
- There will be a number of free and low cost activities offered daily throughout the month of August to orient you to Ohio State and the city of Columbus and meet current international and American students.
Arriving on campus

You must bring the following documents with you to check-in:

- Admission letter to Ohio State
- Current passport
- Current U.S. visa
- I-94 card (you will print this using the number you receive when you enter the U.S.)
- Ohio State form I-20 or Form DS-2019 (note: if you have an active immigration record that is being transferred from another college or university in the U.S. to Ohio State, please also bring your Form I-20 or Form DS-2019 from your previous school)
- Form I-20(s) or Form DS-2019(s) of your dependents (spouse and children), if applicable
- Student Record Form — be sure to download, complete, and print the form before arriving. Bring the form to check-in; failure to complete the form before your arrival could result in a longer wait at check-in
Arriving on campus

- **Important dates to remember:**
  - Monday, August 4 – Tuesday, August 26: Check-in with the Office of International Affairs at the Ohio Union
    - This immigration check-in session and campus orientation session are still mandatory, even if you have attended a pre-departure orientation session
    - You must pre-register online for a specific check-in time before Monday, July 21
    - Pre-register at oia.osu.edu/pre-arrival-and-orientation/pre-arrival-information.html
  - Orientation (you will be assigned one):
    - Thursday, August 7
    - Tuesday, August 12
    - Thursday, August 14
    - Tuesday, August 19
    - Thursday, August 21
Arriving on campus

• One of the goals of check-in and orientation is to provide you with information on university requirements
  – These requirements include the mandatory health screening, placement tests, how to pay tuition and fees and more

• In addition to helping you organize these required tasks, we also provide opportunities for you to make new friends and feel connected to the Ohio State community prior to the start of the semester
Arriving on campus

- In addition to helping support check-in and orientation programs, Orientation Leaders and Global Engagement Welcome Ambassadors organize their own trips around campus and around Columbus, and you are invited to join them.

- There will be a variety of activities, such as tours of the city and campus, a visit to the Columbus zoo, sporting events, dinner at local restaurants, grocery shopping trips and more.
Arriving on campus

• These events are designed for you to learn more about your new home in Columbus and meet current international and American students, as well as fellow new international students.
• At the welcome booth, you will receive a Calendar of Events which will provide details regarding each of these events.
• All of these trips are optional and are free or low cost, so please feel free to attend as many as you like.
An Overview

Pre-Departure Orientation

Health insurance and health screening
Health insurance and health screening

- International students are required to purchase Ohio State Student Health Insurance and are automatically enrolled in the Comprehensive Plan, which includes medical, prescription, dental and vision coverage.

- Coverage for autumn semester 2014 will begin on Wednesday, August 20, 2014.

- You will be charged for Ohio State Student Health Insurance when you register for classes.
Health insurance and health screening

- Make sure your personal/family insurance will cover your travels to the U.S. and your time in the U.S. prior to the start of your Ohio State health insurance coverage (August 20)

- You may purchase interim insurance under the Comprehensive Plan:
  - Provides up to four weeks of extended coverage
  - A pro-rated weekly minimum must be paid the University Bursar in addition to the standard rate for comprehensive coverage for the upcoming enrolled term.
Health insurance and health screening

• If you have any questions regarding interim insurance, please contact the Student Health Insurance Office at (614) 688-7979 or shi_info@osu.edu
Health insurance and health screening

- Please note that The Ohio State University requires all new international students to undergo a brief health screening through Student Health Services.

- You will be given your screening date and time at check-in.
Health insurance and health screening

- Failure to complete your health screening will result in your not being able to register for classes.

- No forms need to be completed prior to this health screening — any forms you will need to fill out can be completed at the screening or upon your arrival in the United States.
Health insurance and health screening

• This health screening is free to students who attend during their required screening day and time

• If you do not attend your health screening in the required timeframe, your student record may be locked, leaving you without access to grades or scheduling
Health insurance and health screening

- Your health screening will include questions about any medical conditions and/or allergies you have, as well as any medications you may be currently taking.

- Bring with you any important medical information (for example, TB tests, chest X-rays and prescription, vaccine and allergy information) with an English translation.
Recap

• Important dates
• Action items
Recap of important dates

Monday, August 4 – Tuesday, August 26: Check-in with the Office of International Affairs at the Ohio Union

- This immigration check-in session and campus orientation session are still mandatory, even if you have attended a pre-departure orientation session
- You must pre-register online for a specific check-in time before Monday, July 21
- Pre-register at http://oia.osu.edu/pre-arrival-and-orientation/pre-arrival-information.html

Orientation (select one):

- Thursday, August 7
- Tuesday, August 12
- Thursday, August 14
- Tuesday, August 19
- Thursday, August 21
Recap of important dates

- Wednesday, August 20: Tuition payment is due (one week prior to the start of the term unless otherwise noted on your statement of account)

- Wednesday, August 20: Health insurance coverage begins
  - Consider purchasing interim insurance coverage if you will arrive before this date

- Saturday, August 23: Residence hall move-in day

- Wednesday, August 27: First day of autumn semester
PREPARING FOR YOUR JOURNEY TO THE U.S.

Action items

- Activate your Ohio State email account
- Register for an immigration check-in session
- Enroll in the Carmen “International Arrival” course
- Pay your SEVIS fee
- Apply for your U.S. student visa
- Confirm your travel arrangements
- Confirm your housing arrangements