

# International Student Arrival Checklist

## AUTUMN 2025



### 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](https://www.fmjfee.com)
- ☐ Schedule your visa appointment with the nearest U.S. consulate or embassy to apply for a visa as soon as possible (Canadian citizens do not need a U.S. visa)
- ☐ Plan to arrive early. Students must arrive on campus by August 19 to complete Mandatory Check-in and Orientation before classes begin on August 26
  - ✓ 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 August 25 – [go.osu.edu/ImmigrationCheckIn](https://go.osu.edu/ImmigrationCheckIn)
- ☐ Register to attend in-person International Student Orientation and complete online orientation. Both are required – [go.osu.edu/OIA-Orientation](https://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 July 29, contact [global-engagement@osu.edu](mailto:global-engagement@osu.edu)

#### Housing, vaccinations and insurance

- ☐ Find early-arrival and permanent housing – Need help looking? Contact [housing@osu.edu](mailto:housing@osu.edu) for on-campus housing or to arrange for early move-in for your residence hall, or contact [offcampus@osu.edu](mailto: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](https://studentlegal.osu.edu)
- ☐ Complete your vaccination requirement and upload required documentation to My BuckMD – [go.osu.edu/RequiredVaccinations](https://go.osu.edu/RequiredVaccinations)
- ☐ Purchase interim student health insurance available through Ohio State's Student Health Benefits Plan if you will arrive in the United States before August 21 – [shi.osu.edu](https://shi.osu.edu)
- ☐ Review your Statement of Account and pay tuition and fees by the indicated due date

#### Travel

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

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## Maintaining immigration status

- ☐ Attend your scheduled Mandatory Immigration Check-in appointment with the Office of International Affairs. You must be physically present in the United States to check in – [go.osu.edu/ImmigrationCheckIn](https://go.osu.edu/ImmigrationCheckIn)
- ☐ Attend in-person International Student Orientation and complete your online orientation. Both are required
- ☐ Maintaining immigration status is your responsibility; review your responsibilities at – [go.osu.edu/MaintainingStatus](https://go.osu.edu/MaintainingStatus)

## Utilities

- ☐ Learn about money and banking and set up a local bank account – [go.osu.edu/Banking](https://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 in your BuckeyeMail account
- ☐ Attend meetings, orientations and scheduling appointments required by your specific college/department



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## Getting help and resources

To help you understand which university offices are available to assist you, their primary responsibilities and contact information can be viewed at [go.osu.edu/UniversityResources](https://go.osu.edu/UniversityResources)



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**  
OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS