

International Student Arrival Checklist

SPRING 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
- 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 6
 - ✓ 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 6 – go.osu.edu/ImmigrationCheckIn
- Register for your Mandatory In-Person Navigation Session and complete online 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 December 16, 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)
- 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 the Office of International Affairs – you must be physically present in the United States to check in - go.osu.edu/ImmigrationCheckIn
- Ensure that you attended an in-person navigation 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



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.