

Important Orientation Information for International UNDERGRADUATE Students

Welcome to Bowling Green State University!

This document will serve as a guide as you prepare to enter the United States and begin your studies.

Please note that you will be **required** to attend international student orientation on

Wednesday, January 6, 2016

Mandatory international student orientation from 8:00am -5:00pm

Thursday, January 7, 2016

Mandatory international student orientation from 8:00am -5:00pm

Friday, January 8, 2016

Mandatory international student orientation from 7:30am -5:00pm

Please bring your passport, Form I-20, visa, and I-94 with you to the orientation all three days.

We are looking forward to having you with us!

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Welcome to Bowling Green State University!

Bowling Green State University welcomes you to our campus community. We are committed to assisting you in reaching your academic goals and are looking forward to your arrival to the United States.

This guide provides information necessary for beginning your education. Please also check our website for Orientation Information.

<http://www.bgsu.edu/international-programs-and-partnerships/international-student-services/future-students/orientation.html>

What is the process for entering the United States as a student?

The following section outlines the steps for becoming a student in the United States on an F-1 nonimmigrant student visa.

Obtain the Form I-20 from BGSU

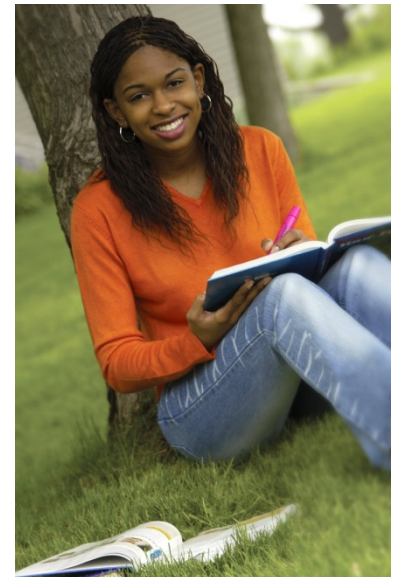
After you are admitted and you submit the required immigration documents, BGSU will send you a Form I-20 along with your admission packet. Students are required to submit the documents listed on this [website](#) in order to receive the form I-20.

After you are admitted and you submit the required immigration documents, BGSU will send you a Form I-20 along with admission packet via standard mail. If you wish to have these documents expedited, please complete the process on this [website](#). After you receive the Form I-20, carefully check it to ensure that it matches your passport exactly. If there are any inaccuracies on your I-20, please contact our office immediately: iss@bgsu.edu.

SEVIS Fee Information

Before you can apply for your first F-1 visa for entry to the United States, you must pay the SEVIS fee. This is a separate payment from the visa application fee.

- The form I-901 SEVIS fee information is available ONLINE www.fmjfee.com.
- The Bowling Green State University “school code” is: CLE214F00006000.



- The SEVIS fee must be paid in US dollars and may be done either by post, internet, or through Western Union's "Quick Pay" service. More information is available at www.fmjfee.com.
- Keep the receipt of payment! You will have to present the receipt as proof of payment at your visa appointment and at a US port of entry.
- Canadian citizens must present the SEVIS fee payment receipt at a US port of entry. You will not be able to pay the SEVIS fee at the border.

Applying for an F-1 Student Visa

After you receive your Form I-20 from BGSU, you should apply for the F-1 Visa.

To apply for your F-1 Student Visa: Apply for an F-1 Student Visa at the nearest United States Embassy or Consulate: http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1268.html. You will have to fill out the DS-160 to make your appointment.

Special Note for Canadian Citizens: Canadian citizens do not need to apply for an F-1 visa prior to entering the United States but must have a payment receipt of your FMJFee as outlined in the SEVIS Fee section above.

When you make your visa appointment, you will receive a list of required documents. Please ensure that you take these documents with you to your appointment. You will have a very short time with the Consular Officer. Make sure you are prepared for the brief interview. Below are some tips to remember when going to your appointment.

Ten Points to Remember When Applying for a Student Visa

1. Ties to your home country:

Mention jobs, family, financial prospects, and investments in your home country, since these will give you a reason to return to your home country after completing your studies.

2. English:

Your interview will most likely take place in English. Practice the interview with a native English speaker if possible.

3. Speak for yourself:

You will give a negative impression if you cannot speak on your own behalf.

4. Know your program and how it fits your career plans:

Inform the interviewing officer of your reasons for studying a certain program in the US. Also tell them how you will use this education once you return home.

5. Be concise:

Consular officers are busy and you should only expect 2 or 3 minutes of their time. Keep your answers short.

6. Additional documentation:

It should be clear what each document is and what it signifies. Again, you will only have a few minutes.

7. Not all countries are equal:

Applicants from countries suffering economic problems or from countries where many students have remained in the US as immigrants will have more difficulty getting visas.

8. Employment:

The main purpose of going to the US should be to study. Make it clear to your officer that you intend to return to your home country for employment after finishing your US education.

9. Dependents remaining at home:

If you are leaving dependent family members in your home country, explain how the family will be supported while you are gone.

10. Maintain a positive attitude:

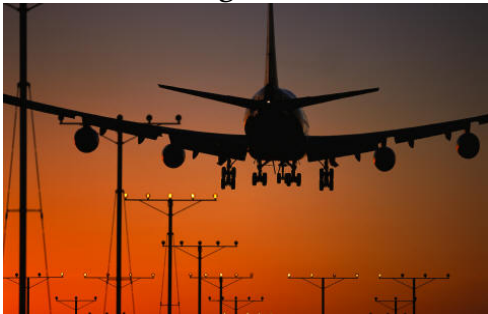
If your visa is denied, do not argue. Politely ask for the reason for refusal in writing.

For more information, visit <http://www.nafsa.org/resourcelibrary/default.aspx?id=8643>

Special Note for Canadian Citizens: Canadian citizens do not need to apply for an F-1 visa prior to entering the United States.

Free Airport Pickup and Arrival

When entering the United States: You will be required to present your Passport, Form I-20, and your F-1 Student Visa. You should also carry your financial documents in case you are questioned.



Mandatory International Student Orientation: Bring your Form I-20, F-1 Passport, Student Visa, and Immunization and Health forms.

From **August 8-13** there will be Free Shuttle available to all incoming students. There will be one pick up per day from Detroit and one pick up from Toledo. Times will be announced. Students must fill the linked form in order to be picked up on the [free shuttle](#). If the free shuttle hyperlink does not work, please go to this website: <http://www.bgsu.edu/content/dam/BGSU/international-services/documents/AirportPickupRequest.pdf>

For all other pick up times and arrangements, please see the following paragraph below.

To arrange pickup from Toledo Express Airport or Detroit Metro Airport, please contact BG Airport Shuttle: bgairportshuttle@gmail.com. Be sure to provide your full name, the name of your airline, flight number, and date/time of your arrival. The fee for transportation from Detroit Metro Airport is \$125.00, and the fee for transportation from Toledo Express Airport is \$60.00.

[Driving](#) directions can be found on the BGSU website.

Temporary Housing

Students who arrive early may stay in BGSU temporary housing beginning on August 8, 2015 at 10am and must check out by August 15, 2015 at 10am. The cost is \$25 per day and linens are included. You must sign up for early arrival housing at this link: <https://orgsync.com/98234/forms/135965>

Weather in Bowling Green, Ohio

Plan your wardrobe carefully as the weather in Bowling Green, Ohio varies greatly. If you are arriving for the Fall Semester, you will encounter some of the hottest weather of the year, with temperatures averaging 82 degrees Fahrenheit (28 C) but occasionally rising higher as our summers are humid. If you arrive in January, you are likely to find snow or ice along with low temperatures averaging 15 degrees Fahrenheit (-9 C). Keep in mind that the wind chills can make it feel much colder.



Given our large range of temperatures, it's important that you bring everything from loose fitting, light clothing, to heavy winter coats and boots. When purchasing your winter coat, look for insulation products such as Thinsulate to provide extra warmth. Clothing can be purchased in town at various retailers in Bowling Green, but a larger selection may be found at Levis Commons in Perrysburg, which is about 15 miles north of BG, or Westfield Shopping Mall in Toledo, which is about 25 miles north of campus.



Packing List of things to bring from home

Most students say, pack as little as possible!

- Passport, student visa, financial documents, admission letter, and/or required proof of identity. Always make a copy of your passport and leave with your family in your home country.
- Mementos and items of personal significance. While you do *not* want to bring irreplaceable family heirlooms or other valuables that would be best left behind, you'll be glad you brought a few pictures, posters, and other things that remind you of home.



Picture of US Electrical Outlet 1

- Travel adaptor. Find ones that work with your devices (or one adaptor for multiple devices, if possible). Lighting and general purpose receptacles are at 120 volts AC.

- Basic Appropriate clothing. Pack a reasonable amount of clothing that will prepare you for the typical weather wherever you're going. You can always buy clothes upon arrival there is plenty of shopping in the Bowling Green area.

- Bath towel and travel-size toiletries. You'll probably use these the very first day of your arrival, so have them ready!



- Personal laptop and electronics. It is relatively inexpensive to purchase a new laptop while you are in the United States, but some students like to bring theirs from home. Back up your files on an external hard drive, such as an external HDD or onto a cloud-based site like Dropbox in case you have a problem while traveling.
- Arrange to set up and transfer money to a U.S. bank account and bring funds (in U.S. currency) to use when you arrive. Graduate students should be prepared to place down payments on apartments and utilities prior to their first stipend check. Familiarize yourself with US currency [here](#).

Things to Buy After Arrival

- Bed linens and blankets. Students will be provided linen service if utilizing early arrival housing but will need to take advantage of one of the several shopping stores in the area to purchase their permanent items. It is better to wait so that you know the size of your bed and obtain something that will enhance the style of your room.
- Extension cords and multi plugs. These tend to be surprisingly useful, but you should check with your residence first and see whether they are allowed.
- Books and academic resources. Buy your books and school supplies after you know which classes you will be taking.
- Food items. There are many restrictions for bringing food products through customs. Do not get stuck at the border with items that are considered restricted.

Orientation

Fall 2015 International Student Orientation begins on the dates outlined on the first page of this packet and your attendance is required. During this time, you will register for classes, take placement assessments, and receive immigration information. If English is not your first language, you will be required to complete an English placement assessment before you will be

permitted to register for classes. This test is different from the TOEFL test and it will not affect your admission status. The fall academic semester starts on August 24, 2015.

Please note that a one-time \$100 Orientation Fee will be included in your Bursar bill for Fall 2015. Since Orientation is mandatory, you will be charged if you do not attend.

Tuition, Fees, and Living Costs

International students are admitted to BGSU upon evidence that they will have sufficient financial means to support themselves through their ENTIRE course of study. Students SHOULD NOT expect to receive any financial assistance from the university after arrival. There is currently NO financial aid available for international students to apply for after arrival.



PLEASE VIEW THE [BGSU BURSAR'S WEBSITE](#) FOR COMPLETE AND UPDATED INFORMATION REGARDING TUITION AND FEES

Estimated Summary of Student Fees* in US Dollars:

Cost of Attendance	Tuition & Fees	Insurance & Books	Room and Meals	Total for Academic Year
Undergraduate (12 credit hours)	\$18,098	\$2,886	\$8,244	\$29,228
Graduate (Full time = 8 credit hours)	\$13,122	\$4,600	\$8,244	\$25,966

*All fees are subject to change with the Board of Trustees' Approval

All fee payments are required **before** registration. All students must sign a Financial Responsibility Agreement regardless of how their fees are being paid. Students with sponsors should bring an official letter from their sponsor with the name and address of where their Bursar bills should be sent.

Some countries limit the amount of money that can be transferred abroad. Please inquire about these regulations BEFORE arriving. Take into account that you will have considerable expenses when you first arrive: tuition, fees, health insurance, rent, deposits, electricity, telephone, and basic household items. We recommend that you bring at least \$1,500 USD extra to cover your initial expenses even if you are planning to receive tuition assistance or stipend.

Health Screening and Health Insurance at BGSU

Health care and Health insurance is provided differently in the United States than in many countries. It is important to everyone living in the United States to have health insurance. Health insurance is the best way to be certain that medical expenses are covered. Unpaid medical bills

damage the relationship between the community and students as well as damage the reputation of students as a whole. International students are required to purchase the university-sponsored Student Health Insurance plan. This policy is crucial to the health, wellness and success of our international students.

All international students are automatically enrolled in the BGSU sponsored student health insurance once they register for class. The cost of the student health insurance is automatically billed to the student's bursar account for the semester premium. Students may enroll their dependents (spouse and children) in the BGSU sponsored student health insurance at additional cost. If you have any questions about Health Insurance, please contact studentins@bgsu.edu.

Health Screening:

1. You will be required to meet our Health Professionals at our new facility, [the Falcon Health Center](#), during Orientation for Health Screening and clearance as required by Federal Law. Students will be given health screening tests for certain global issues such as Tuberculosis or MERS if a student is showing signs or symptoms of active infection, or a member of a high risk group.
2. Please bring any copies of immunization records that you may have with you. The recommended immunizations* are:
 - a. Hepatitis B: a series of three shots given over a 4-6 month period.
 - b. Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis: must be received within the last 10 years
 - c. Measles, Mumps, Rubella: two doses required at least 28 days apart.
 - d. Meningococcal Vaccine: must have received the vaccine between the ages of 16-21.
3. Health Insurance is mandatory for all students. Please check the Student Health Insurance website for more information. <http://www.bgsu.edu/student-insurance-program/international-students.html>

*International students must have received these vaccines and be able to provide proof. The university will not accept completion of the immunization without proper documentation.

Undergraduate Housing

Living away from home within a new and diverse community will allow you many opportunities for friendship, fun and personal growth. We hope you find everything you need to be successful academically and personally here at BGSU. Remember, our staff is here to help answer any questions or concerns and to welcome you to the campus community.

Undergraduate students are **required** to live on-campus for the first four semesters of their academic career. International students who will be living on campus must pay the full semester housing fee before they arrive.



Pillows and bedding are not provided, but may be purchased in town or brought along. Students that take possession of a room on campus are committing to a legally binding housing contract.

Detailed information regarding BGSU's housing requirements, residence hall rooms, meal plans, and housing options are available at <http://www.bgsu.edu/residence-life.html>.

Please ensure that you go through the housing sign up process in your MyBGSU portal prior to arrival to ensure that you find a room and roommate that best suits your needs!

Graduate Housing

The new Falcon Landing apartments are conveniently located on Wooster Street directly across from campus. Your rent includes all your furniture and Internet service. Your rent will be conveniently billed by the BGSU Bursar office and placed on your student account. Two bedroom apartments are available for a monthly rent of \$550 per person. Check their website at <http://www.bgsu.edu/falconlanding> for more information or contact their office at falconlanding@bgsu.edu

Graduate students may also live off-campus. A very limited number of single occupancy rooms are available in Bowling Green for about \$325 a month. There are many more apartments available, with rents ranging from \$400 to \$600 per month. These apartments may be furnished or unfurnished. When renting, you must pay a security deposit (usually one month's rent) and sign a lease, which is a legally binding contract. At the beginning, you'll need about \$500 to \$700 to secure an apartment. It would be wise to arrive a few days before Orientation if you will be seeking off-campus housing. Please check our website for more information: <http://www.bgsu.edu/content/bgsu/en/off-campus-student-services/living-off-campus.html>. If you are looking for a roommate there are listings at <http://www.apartmentsforrentbowlinggreen.com/index.p.../forum/>.

Creating Your E-mail Account and Setting up your MyBGSU Web Portal

A BGSU e-mail account is a free account available to all current and admitted BGSU students, faculty and staff. With your account, you will have access to your e-mail, contacts, and calendar on the BGSU exchange server. This is also a way to stay updated with information regarding International Student Orientation. As a member of the BGSU community, you will need this account to access various online resources, including the MyBGSU web portal. It is for this reason that your BGSU user ID and password are also called your authentication user ID and password.

If you have a BGSU ID number and a computer with Internet access, you can register for a BGSU account using a current version of Internet Explorer, Firefox, or Safari by accessing www.bgsu.edu/newaccount.

You can also go to a registration site to set up your account. If you are on the main campus, please go to a BGSU registration site with your student ID. An employee will help you start the process.

REMEMBER:

- Write down your new username and password. Keep this information in a safe place until you have it memorized.
- Your e-mail account will be ready approximately one hour after you have completed the activation process. Then go to www.bgsu.edu and click the "BGSU Email" link to log-in.
- Your access to the MyBGSU web portal will be enabled as soon as your e-mail account is created. This is the account you will use to register for My Room and Meals, take

placement tests, and request an Orientation date. Then you can go to www.bgsu.edu and click “MyBGSU” to log-in.

If you need any help during this process, please contact the technology support center at tsc@bgsu.edu or 419-372-0999 and a staff member will assist you.

Connect!

Before you arrive, get in touch with other prospective and current students by checking out these social media outlets:



[BGSU International Student Services](#)

[BGSU World Student Association](#)



[BGSU-ISS](#)

