Welcome Packet

Fall 2017

Bowling Green State University

International Programs & Partnerships
Welcome to Bowling Green State University!

Please note the following important dates. You should expect to arrive to BGSU no later than Friday, August 11th and take part in activities through the start of classes on Monday, August 21st.

New student check-in is available from 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM on

**Monday, August 7 - Friday, August 11, 2017**

*Please bring your passport, Form I-20, visa, and I-94 with you to check-in.*

Mandatory International Student Orientation from 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM on

**Sunday, August 13 – Wednesday, August 16, 2017**

*Undergraduates register for classes on Tuesday, August 15, 2017.*

*Graduate students will register with their respective Graduate Coordinator.*

Welcome Weekend activities on

**Thursday, August 17 – Sunday, August 20, 2017**

*We are looking forward to having you join us at BGSU!*

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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 do I need to get started?

Your BGSU admission letter and Form I-20 have been mailed to you. This is the beginning of your journey to becoming an F-1 student in the United States. Carefully check your I-20 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. If your Form I-20 is accurate, you will

1. Pay your I-901 SEVIS fee: http://www.fmjfee.com/
2. Apply for an F-1 student visa at your local United States Embassy or Consulate: https://www.usembassy.gov/. You will have to fill out the DS-160 to make your appointment.
3. Make travel arrangements and notify the International Student Services of your arrival date. Make sure that you arrive in time to attend the mandatory International Student Orientation. More information regarding our orientation program can be found here.

SEVIS Fee Information

Before you can apply for your first F-1 visa for entry into 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 at 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 or internet. 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

**Immigration Documents:** When you are accepted, BGSU will send you a Form I-20 along with your acceptance letter via standard mail. If you wish to have these documents expedited, please complete the process on the following website:

http://www.bgsu.edu/international-programs-and-partnerships/international-student-services/future-students/admissions/expedite-shipping.html

**When entering the United States:** You will be required to present your Form I-20 and your F-1 Student Visa. Do not pack these items in your checked baggage.

**Mandatory International Student Orientation:** Bring your passport, Form I-20, F-1 student visa and I-94 record (retrieved at https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/).

**To apply for your F-1 student visa:** Make an appointment with the nearest U.S. Consulate through the DS-160 Form. You may make the appointment through the State Department website: http://www.usembassy.gov/

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.

Special Note for Canadian Citizens: Canadian citizens do not need to apply for an F-1 visa prior to entering the United States, but will need to pay the SEVIS fee, as mentioned above.

**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. **Different requirements for different countries:**
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 education in the US.

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 refusal reason in writing.

For more information, visit [http://www.nafsa.org/resourcelibrary/default.aspx?id=8643](http://www.nafsa.org/resourcelibrary/default.aspx?id=8643).

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**Arrival**

The nearest airports to Bowling Green are the Toledo Express Airport (TOL) and Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW). From **August 5 – 11, 2017** there will be free shuttle available to all incoming students. There will be one pick up per day from **Detroit (DTW) airport**. For other pick up times and arrangements, please see the paragraph below.

If you choose not to take the free BGSU shuttle, you can arrange pickup from Toledo Express Airport or Detroit Metro Airport by contacting 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.

**Please contact BG Airport Shuttle at least one week before your arrival to ensure proper preparation for your arrival.**

Students who arrive early may stay in BGSU temporary housing beginning on **Saturday, August 5, 2017 at 8:00 AM** and must check out by **Saturday, August 12, 2017 at 10:00 AM**. The cost is $25 per day and linens are included. You must sign up for early arrival housing using this link: [https://orgsync.com/98234/forms/245798](https://orgsync.com/98234/forms/245798).
What to Bring

Plan your wardrobe carefully as the weather in Bowling Green, Ohio varies greatly. If you are arriving for the fall semester (August), you will encounter some of the hottest weather of the year, with temperatures averaging 82°F (28°C) but occasionally rising higher as our summers are humid. If you arrive for the spring semester (January), you are likely to find snow or ice along with low temperatures averaging 15°F (-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 Bowling Green, or Westfield Shopping Mall in Toledo, which is about 25 miles north of campus.

Orientation

Fall 2017 International Student Orientation begins on Sunday, August 13, 2017 at 8:00 AM and ends on Wednesday, August 16, 2017 at 5:00 pm. Activities continue with other departments through Sunday, August 20, 2017. Your attendance is required. There will be separate programming at times for undergraduate and graduate students. During this time, you will take placement assessments, register for classes, 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 Monday, August 21, 2017.

Any student wishing to arrive after the final check-in day of Friday, August 11th, will be required to submit a Petition for Late Arrival form for consideration. The form is available upon request by emailing iss@bgsu.edu. Only students who have received their visa late or have extenuating circumstances will be considered for late arrival. Arriving late without permission can result in the cancelation of a student’s SEVIS record, and for graduate students with assistantships, the loss of his/her assistantship.

Please note that a one-time $100 Orientation Fee will be included in your Bursar bill for Fall 2017. Since Orientation is mandatory, you will be charged even 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.

PLEASE VIEW THE **BGSU BURSAR'S WEBSITE** FOR COMPLETE AND UPDATED INFORMATION REGARDING TUITION AND FEES

**ESTIMATED** Summary of Student Fees* in US Dollars:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost of Attendance</th>
<th>Tuition &amp; Fees</th>
<th>Insurance &amp; Books</th>
<th>Rooms &amp; Meals</th>
<th>Total for Academic Year**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate (12 credits)</td>
<td>$19,500</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
<td>$9,500</td>
<td>$32,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate (Full time = 8 credit hours)</td>
<td>$16,000</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
<td>$9,000</td>
<td>$29,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*All fees are subject to change with the Board of Trustees’ approval

**Please note that an academic year is different from a calendar year. An academic year covers only 9 months.

The Bursar’s Office utilizes Flywire, a service providing a streamlined way to make international payments. Please note that you should only transfer the funds necessary to pay your BGSU bill. BGSU will not serve as a refund mechanism for excessive funds. For more information, please visit [http://www.bgsu.edu/bursar/taking-care-of-your-bill/payment-options.html](http://www.bgsu.edu/bursar/taking-care-of-your-bill/payment-options.html).

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, telephone, and household items. Students living off-campus will also have rent, deposits, electricity and other potential costs. We recommend that you bring at least $1,500 USD extra to cover your initial expenses.
**Health Insurance**

BGSU requires health insurance coverage for all students and international scholars. This includes students registered for thesis hours, co-ops and internships. International and domestic students are required to maintain sufficient health insurance coverage as a means of protecting themselves. Health insurance coverage through outside carriers is often insufficient when real medical emergencies occur.

All international students are required to enroll into the BGSU sponsored plan. The cost of the student health insurance is automatically billed to the student’s bursar account by semester.

The student insurance website is: [http://www.bgsu.edu/student-insurance-program/international-students.html](http://www.bgsu.edu/student-insurance-program/international-students.html). For additional questions about the student health insurance requirement, contact:

Student Insurance Office  
Falcon Health Center, Suite 202  
Bowling Green, OH 43402  
Phone: 419-372-7495  
Email: studentins@bgsu.edu

International students who are covered by an insurance policy that is backed by a government/embassy and meets all BGSU minimum requirements or is a dependent of US-based employee may qualify to waive the required student health insurance plan. Students who meet these criteria must contact the Student Insurance Office and request an international student health waiver prior to the published deadlines.

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**Health Screening**

International students must complete their health screening requirement which includes Tuberculosis screening and testing performed at the Falcon Health Center. The university-sponsored health insurance plan will cover this test.

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**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 will be required to sign a legally binding housing contract upon arrival.

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](http://www.bgsu.edu/residence-life.html).

**Graduate Housing**

BGSU Graduate Students-- Are you looking for housing or a roommate? Listing information can be found at [http://www.bgsu.edu/off-campus-student-services.html](http://www.bgsu.edu/off-campus-student-services.html).

The 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 out the Falcon Landing website at [http://www.bgsu.edu/graduate/student-housing.html](http://www.bgsu.edu/graduate/student-housing.html) for more information.

Contact their office for more information about leasing: falconlanding@bgsu.edu or 419-806-4478.

A 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.

For additional off-campus housing options, please see [http://www.apartmentsforrentbowlinggreen.com/](http://www.apartmentsforrentbowlinggreen.com/).

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**Creating Your E-mail Account**

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 Chrome by accessing [www.bgsu.edu/newaccount](http://www.bgsu.edu/newaccount).
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, and interact with your BGSU account. 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 Facebook pages:

- International Programs & Partnerships - https://www.facebook.com/BGSUInternationalProgramsandPartnerships/
- World Student Association - https://www.facebook.com/WSABGSU/
- There are many others, too! Check out the main BGSU page at https://www.facebook.com/OfficialBGSU/.

You can also connect with current international students by emailing our International Student Ambassadors at Ambassadors@bgsu.edu.

For your reference, our office information is as follows:

International Programs & Partnerships
301 University Hall
(419) 372-2247
iss@bgsu.edu