ACTION ITEMS THAT NEED YOUR ATTENTION

Before you arrive:
- Initiate your U of M e-mail account (p. 2)
- Apply for your student visa (p. 2) or begin your student visa status transfer process (p. 6)
- Submit final secondary school documents (p. 8)
- Reserve your temporary housing (p. 8)
- Research housing options (p. 8)
- Plan your expenses and the payment of your tuition (p. 10)
- Send your immunization record to Boynton Health Service (p. 14)
- Choose your arrival date (p. 15)
- Attend pre-departure orientation in home country (p. 15)

When you arrive:
- Check in to temporary housing (p. 8)
- Plan transportation from the airport (p. 17)
- Complete your Orientation and Immigration Check-In requirements (p. 17)
  Also visit the ISSS website to complete a mandatory online orientation and learn more www.isss.umn.edu/new

---

INSIDE

Welcome ......................................................... 1
Visas................................................................. 2
Visa Status Transfers ........................................ 6
Housing Information ........................................... 8
Expenses .......................................................... 10
Health Care and Insurance ................................... 13
Arrival in the United States .................................. 15
Orientations ...................................................... 17
Optional Programs ............................................ 18
English Proficiency .......................................... 19
Students with Disabilities .................................... 19
Connect with a Current U of M Student ............... 20
Dear Student,

On behalf of the staff of International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS) in the Global Programs and Strategy Alliance, I want to congratulate you on your admission to the University of Minnesota!

Our Twin Cities campus is centrally located in the exciting cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul. These cities have a strong reputation for welcoming international students. Each year hundreds of new students from more than 130 different countries begin or continue their academics at the University of Minnesota. We think you will find this to be a warm and accepting community. The people of Minnesota place a high value on education and also realize the importance of having international students studying alongside students from Minnesota and the rest of the United States.

We look forward to the opportunity to meet and assist you. ISSS staff are here to help you in accomplishing your academic and career goals. Our office provides:

- Information to help you adjust to the University and to U.S. culture
- Advising and counseling services to help you maintain your immigration status
- Educational and social programs to help you meet U.S. and other international students

Please read this booklet carefully and complete the activities at www.isss.umn.edu/new. Understanding this information is very important to make sure your studies at the University of Minnesota begin well.

The staff at ISSS looks forward to welcoming you to Minnesota. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us. We are delighted you have chosen Minnesota!

Barbara Kappler, Ph.D.
Assistant Dean, International Student & Scholar Services
YOUR UNIVERSITY E-MAIL ACCOUNT

Initiate your University e-mail account.

All University students receive an e-mail account that must be initiated in order to send and receive messages. Your University e-mail is the official form of communication at the University. Official announcements from the University, your department, professors, and ISSS are sent to this e-mail address. You are responsible for any information sent to you via University e-mail, including tuition bills and other critical information from instructors and administrative offices, including ISSS.

Initiate your University e-mail at www.umn.edu/initiate. When asked for your Social Security Number while initiating your account, leave that section blank if you do not have this number.

VISAS

Now that you have the document to apply for your visa, you must apply for an entry visa sticker to be placed in your passport so that you can enter the United States with student status.

- Canadian citizens do not require an entry visa (p. 4).
- If you are currently in the United States in F-1 or J-1 visa status and plan to remain in that same visa status, you must transfer your F-1 or J-1 SEVIS record to the University of Minnesota. See “VISA TRANSFERS” (p. 6) for instructions.

To apply for an entry visa, follow these steps:

1. Determine the type of entry visa you need

Most U of M students should apply for an F-1 student visa. For some students, the J-1 student visa is more appropriate. J-1 students are usually in formal exchange programs, or they receive most or all of their funding from their home government, a U.S. government agency or, in some cases, the University.
If you received an “I-20” document from the University, you will apply for an F-1 visa. If you received a “DS-2019” document from the University or another U.S. agency, you will apply for a J-1 student visa. If you think you received the wrong type of visa document, please contact ISSS.

**Caution:** Do NOT enter the United States in visitor status (B1/B2 or Visa Waiver) or in F-2 (dependent of F-1) status. Individuals with these immigration statuses are not eligible to register for an academic course of study. If you have questions about any other visa types, contact ISSS.

1. **Pay the SEVIS fee**

New students must pay the SEVIS fee before applying for an entry visa or entering the United States. This fee is charged by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and is not administered by the University. Keep in mind that you will not be able to pay the fee until you have your I-20 or DS-2019 in your possession. For more about how to pay the fee, visit www.fmjfee.com.

2. **Locate the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate in your home country**

Embassy and consulate information, including locations and document requirements, is available online at www.embassyworld.com.

3. **Schedule your visa interview appointment**

Your local embassy or consulate will have specific instructions for scheduling an appointment. Waiting times for an appointment can be lengthy (up to several weeks or longer), especially during the busy summer months. Schedule your appointment as soon as possible after receiving your visa documents.

4. **Prepare documents for your visa interview**

All visa applicants must provide the following documents to the U.S. embassy or consulate at the time of the application:

- Valid passport
- I-20 or DS-2019 document
- Admission letter (or print out of electronic
admission notification)
• Documented proof of financial support for at least one year (scholarship or assistantship letter, bank statement, etc.)
• Receipt of SEVIS fee payment
• Visa application forms (available from the U.S. embassy/consulate)
• Any documents requested by embassy/consulate

Canadian Citizens: Canadian citizens are eligible to enter the United States without obtaining an entry visa in their passport. However, Canadian citizens must obtain an I-20 or DS-2019 and pay the SEVIS fee before entering the United States. Upon entry, you must present to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer your passport, I-20 or DS-2019, proof of financial support for at least one year, your admission letter, and receipt of SEVIS fee payment.

Dependents: Your spouse and children under age 21 are eligible to accompany you to the United States with a dependent visa (F-2 or J-2). You must request a dependent I-20 or DS-2019 document for each of your eligible dependents. For more information, contact the University of Minnesota office responsible for your visa documents (p. 5). Dependents are not required to pay the SEVIS fee. Be aware that F-2 status holders may not work in the United States, nor can they study at a university or other post-secondary institutions in the United States.

Advanced Tuition Payments

Occasionally, an embassy or consulate requires that you make an advanced payment to the University for your tuition. Please read the information about advanced tuition payments in the “EXPENSES” section (p. 10).

Importance of Name Consistency

To avoid problems or delays in obtaining your visa and entering the United States, ensure that all of your immigration documents reflect the same name, exactly as it appears in your passport. Do not use hyphens or non-English letters or markings. Spaces can be used between multiple names. Single names must use the U.S. Department of State visa format—put in Surname/Primary Name field and leave the Given Name field empty. Do not use “nicknames” or shortened names on
any of your documents, including your passport, I-20 or DS-2019, entry visa, or any additional documents that you acquire after your arrival in the United States

Deciding between Multiple Schools

You MUST attend the initial school that is indicated on the I-20 or DS-2019 that you use for your visa application. If you received more than one visa document, you should NOT apply for a visa until you are certain which school you would like to attend. Once you have made a decision and applied for your visa, return any unused I-20 or DS-2019 documents to the school or agency that issued them to you.

If you have any questions about your DS-2019 or I-20, or if you need to change any information on your documents, contact the office or agency that issued it.

I-20s are issued by the following University of Minnesota offices:

- Undergraduate Students: isss@umn.edu
- Graduate School Students: gsquest@umn.edu
- Professional Degree Students: Your college admissions office

DS-2019s:

- Issued by the University: isss@umn.edu
- Issued by another agency: Agency’s contact person

Visa Denials

If your visa is denied, ask the consular official to provide a written explanation of the denial, and then contact ISSS for assistance. E-mail isss@umn.edu and write “Visa Denial” in the subject line.

Security Clearance Checks

Many visa applicants are subject to additional security clearance checks that will delay the issuance of your visa by one to two months. This is NOT a denial. Most applicants who are subject to security clearance will eventually receive the visa. You cannot prevent a security clearance, nor can ISSS or your department intervene to speed up the process.
You are considered a “Visa Transfer Student” if you hold F-1 or J-1 status at another institution in the United States and plan to remain in that visa status. Your SEVIS record must be transferred to the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities. If you are not transferring your SEVIS record, skip to the next section on page 8.

F-1 Transfer Students

The transfer process involves several steps, all of which must be carried out to complete your transfer.

1. Complete a Transfer Release form.
   B. Contact the international student advising office at your previous school and inform them of your intent to transfer. Your international student adviser must:
      • Complete section #2 of the Transfer Release form.
      • Fax the form to ISSS at 612-626-7361.
      • Electronically send your SEVIS record to the University after you finish classes.

*ISSS cannot process your I-20 before your SEVIS record has been electronically sent to the University.

2. A University of Minnesota “Transfer Pending” I-20 record will be created within two to three weeks after the record from your previous school has been received. A “Transfer Pending I-20” will be issued if it is needed for travel outside the United States. This is a TEMPORARY I-20 that will expire 15 days after the start of the semester. A “Transfer Completed” I-20 will be prepared after you have completed steps 3, 4, and 5 below.

3. Complete your Immigration Check-In.

4. Update your “Current Mailing Address” (your local Minnesota address) on the Personal Information Quick Link on the One Stop website at www.onestop.umn.edu.

5. Register full-time for courses at the University.
6. You will receive an e-mail from ISSS indicating your University of Minnesota “Transfer Completed” I-20 is available for pick up in 190 Humphrey School.

You have now completed the SEVIS transfer process.

*Important Note:* A “Transfer Completed” I-20 is your official University of Minnesota I-20 and you are required to obtain this documentation. You must complete all of the steps listed above, including obtaining your “Transfer Completed” I-20. Failure to do so could put your F-1 status at risk.

**J-1 Transfer Students**

1. Meet with a J-1 adviser at your current school to discuss your intent to transfer to the University of Minnesota and to determine a SEVIS transfer “effective date.”


3. Ask the J-1 adviser at your current school to transfer your SEVIS record to the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities.

4. Once your transfer becomes effective, meet with Kathrin Hahn (or Gabriele Schmiegel for sponsored students) at ISSS within 25 days to complete the Immigration Check-In and to obtain your University of Minnesota DS-2019.

**Traveling during the Transfer Process**

If you are currently on an F-1 or J-1 student visa and you are traveling outside the United States before beginning your studies at the University of Minnesota, you will need to obtain a temporary ‘transfer pending’ I-20 or a new DS-2019 to re-enter the United States. You may request a ‘transfer pending’ I-20 or new DS-2019 before departing the United States or arrange to have it mailed to your overseas address. You must also have a valid entry visa in your passport. A valid F-1 or J-1 entry visa from a different institution can be used for the University of Minnesota.
FINAL TRANSCRIPTS

Submit your High School/Final Secondary School Transcript (First Year/Freshman Only)

Successful completion of secondary school/high school graduation is a requirement for enrollment at the University of Minnesota. In order to verify that you have completed secondary school, have your secondary school submit your final secondary school transcript and proof of graduation (i.e., graduation certificate or leaving exam results) to the Office of Admissions no later than August 1 for those enrolling in the fall semester or January 15 for students enrolling in Spring:

All documents not issued in English must be in the original language and include a certified true English translation. (Official documents are those that are original, or are attested copies of original academic documents, that are mailed in a stamped and sealed envelope directly from the secondary school.)

Send your documents to the Office of Admissions at:

University of Minnesota
Office of Admissions
240 Williamson Hall
231 Pillsbury Drive SE
Minneapolis MN 55455, USA

HOUSING INFORMATION

Temporary Housing on Arrival

You should arrange for temporary housing before your arrival. For Fall 2015, temporary on-campus student housing is available through the International Reception Center (IRC) from mid-July to early-September for newly admitted international students. Visit www.housing.umn.edu/international for more information and to make a reservation at the IRC. Spouses and children are not eligible to stay at the IRC. If you have been assigned a room in a University Residence Hall for the academic year, you can request to move in early by visiting www.housing.umn.edu/earlymoveinrequest or by sending an e-mail to housing@umn.edu for more information.
There is no on-campus temporary housing available before the spring semester. Other temporary housing options are listed at www.housing.umn.edu/international. You should arrange for temporary housing before your arrival.

☑️ On-Campus Housing

Explore your on-campus housing options under the “Apply for Housing” link at www.housing.umn.edu.

If you are an incoming first-year undergraduate freshman, you are guaranteed housing if you submit your enrollment confirmation and apply for housing by May 1. Please note that housing assignments are done on a first-come, first-served basis, so we recommend that you apply as soon as possible. You may apply for housing prior to being admitted, however you cannot be guaranteed housing until after you are admitted. Apply online through the Housing & Residential Life website. The online application will require a fee payable with a major credit card. E-mail the housing office if you have any questions at housing@umn.edu.

There are a limited number (approximately 200) of guaranteed spaces for transfer students. Priority will be given to students who select and are admitted to one of the transfer Living Learning Communities. For more information about the learning communities, please visit www.housing.umn.edu/student/llc.

All other transfer, graduate, and professional students will also need to apply online. You will be considered for on-campus housing only after first-year undergraduates receive rooms. Be prepared to find off-campus housing. Married/partner housing is available, but it is in high demand so apply early. Find more information at www.housing.umn.edu/family.

☑️ Off-Campus Housing

Start researching your housing options early, at least one to two months before your arrival. It is also important to understand the legal responsibilities of renting in the United States. Please visit the online workshop listed below for more information. Information about living off-campus is at www.housing.umn.edu/international.
Look at the listings to get an idea of your housing options and possible costs. Remember that you should see the apartment before signing a lease. Most apartment managers require a 12-month lease. For more tips on renting please visit http://usls.umn.edu/tenancy.html.

Off-Campus Housing Workshops

(Strongly recommended for students living off-campus!) ISSS provides an online workshop for students who are looking for off-campus housing. Assessing the housing options, knowing what legal factors are involved, and navigating the off-campus housing website are some of the topics covered. For more information about these workshops, go to www.isss.umn.edu/resources/housingshop.html.

EXPENSES

Financial Certification

The financial certification form needs to be completed before the University can issue your I-20 or DS-2019 form. The financial certification must anticipate the minimum amount needed to cover your educational and living expenses for at least 12 months with the expectation that those funds would be available for the length of your degree program. You must have funds available to you that are equal to or above the expected cost.

The University and the U.S. government hold you responsible for the information you provide on the financial certification form. If you do not have the funds available to cover these costs, you should defer your enrollment until you obtain adequate funding. The cost of tuition and fees increases each year and you will be required to cover these additional costs. The University does not offer financial assistance to international students.

After arrival and Immigration Check-In, F-1 and J-1 students may work on campus for up to 20 hours a week during the academic year. Please note, while the income may help to partially support living expenses, student jobs do not pay enough to fully cover your living expenses. Off-campus employment is prohibited for F-1 students during the first academic
year in the United States. J-1 students need to receive approval from their J-1 sponsor prior to beginning any employment in the United States.

Make sure you bring funds with you to cover your immediate expenses such as security deposit for rent, phone and electricity, two months’ room and board, and possibly the purchase of warm clothing. We recommend that you open a bank account in the United States soon after your arrival. Money for your tuition, fees, mandatory health insurance, and ongoing living expenses can be transferred into that account from overseas.

If you are a graduate student with an assistantship, your first paycheck will most likely be issued a month after the start of your assistantship. Therefore, you should bring funds with you to cover your initial expenses. Your assistantship may not cover all your expenses, so make sure to plan your budget and calculate how much additional money you may need for the rest of the year. Keep in mind that the total value of your appointment may be subject to a deduction of as much as 28 percent to cover taxes on the value of your tuition waiver.

If you choose to bring large amounts of money with you, we recommend that you carry traveler’s checks rather than cash. Do not carry money in your baggage; keep it on your person at all times.

Important: If you carry $10,000 or more (or the foreign equivalent) in cash or checks with you, you must file a report with U.S. Customs when you enter the United States. The U.S. government allows you to carry any amount of currency or other monetary instruments into the United States but failure to report amounts of $10,000 or more may result in confiscation of these funds by the U.S. government. If you travel with family members, including your parents, you must add all the funds brought to the United States by all family members and report them in a family declaration with the U.S. Customs if the total amount is $10,000 or above.

peerTransfer

International students have an option to pay tuition bills online through your Student Account with “peerTransfer.” This option offered through the University allows students to bypass international
transfer fees and access foreign exchange rates that are typically more favorable than those offered by banks.

To take advantage of this option, log into your Student Account and select “International Payment” from the drop-down menu. You will need to create an additional account, so be sure to have your student ID and payer information handy. For more information, see www.onestop.umn.edu/finances/pay/where_when_how/pay_online.html.

Advanced Tuition Funds

As part of the visa application process, the U.S. Consulate may require you to show that you have pre-paid the tuition and fees indicated on your I-20. Alternatively, you may have a loan from your bank at home that needs to pay funds directly to the University. **The University does not accept wire transfers to pay for charges on a student's account.** In order to pre-pay your tuition, you must send an e-mail to schm0535@umn.edu with the subject heading “Advanced Tuition Deposit” or “Demand Draft” and get instructions on what you need to do. Prepayment of tuition takes some time so do not wait until just before your visa appointment to take care of this.

Prepayments or demand drafts issued to the University must be drawn on a U.S. affiliate bank. The University will accept funds only for the amount of mandatory educational expenses; do not include estimated living expenses in any payment unless you live in University housing on campus. If a check includes more funds than what your balance is for the first semester, the University is not able to refund your money. Your money will be kept in a non-interest bearing account and the excess funds will be applied to your education expenses for future semesters until they are either used up or you leave the University.

Payments By Sponsored Students

If your financial sponsor (home country government, U.S. government, international organization, employer, bank, etc.) needs to be billed by the University, you must provide a billing authorization letter to Gabriele Schmiegel, Director of Sponsored Student Programs. This letter must be in English and on official letterhead stating that the University is to bill the sponsor directly.
In addition, the letter must include the following information:

- Your full name
- The length of time for which the funding is granted
- What items are to be billed (e.g., tuition, fees, health insurance)
- An address to which the University needs to send the bill
- The name of a contact person
- Any limitations or exclusions (e.g., funding only for a specific degree or major)
- Signature of sponsor

If your funding is renewed on an annual basis, you must provide an updated letter to Gabriele Schmiegel each year. Bring all sponsorship information when you check in with ISSS. The University can only accept documents that are written in English.

**HEALTH CARE AND INSURANCE**

Medical expenses in the United States are extremely high—one day in the hospital can cost well over $10,000 even for routine care. International students and their dependents are not eligible to use any public assistance programs that are supported by the U.S. government or the State of Minnesota. The University requires that all international students and their dependents enroll in the University-administered health insurance program—the Student Health Benefit Plan (SHBP). International students will automatically be enrolled in the plan each semester. Find additional information at [www.shb.umn.edu/twincities/international-students/index.htm](http://www.shb.umn.edu/twincities/international-students/index.htm).

Students holding a qualifying graduate assistantship appointment will be eligible to enroll in the Graduate Assistantship Plan as an alternative to the SHBP. **International students should NOT purchase alternative insurance from a private insurance company for either themselves or their dependents.**

Once you have checked-in, you are covered under the plan retroactively to the date of your arrival or August 1 (whichever is later) at no extra cost. If you arrive prior to August 1 due to departmental orientation, training, or an early start date of a graduate assistantship, you can purchase pre-semester insurance at an additional...
cost. Please note that each pre-semester enrollment request is contingent on review by the Office of Student Health Benefits.

If you have questions about the SHBP or the Graduate Assistant Health Plan, send an e-mail to umshbo@umn.edu; you can also find additional information at www.shb.umn.edu/twincities/international-students.

Dependent Insurance

International students are required to enroll dependents who are present in the United States in F-2 or J-2 status on the University's insurance plan. Dependents are not enrolled automatically on the plan. They are covered from the date of their arrival as long as the F-1 or J-1 student completes the enrollment paperwork with the Office of Student Health Benefits within 30 days of their arrival. For information about cost and coverage details, visit www.shb.umn.edu/twincities/international-students/student-health-benefit-plan.htm or contact umshbo@umn.edu.

Immunization Requirements

Minnesota law requires all students to be immunized against measles, mumps, rubella, tetanus, and diphtheria. Complete the secure online immunization record or print out the pdf form available on the Boynton Health Service website at http://www.bhs.umn.edu/immunization-requirements.htm. If you do not complete the form, you will receive a registration hold on your record for the semester following your arrival. Please review the immunization requirements at www.bhs.umn.edu/international-students/index.htm.

Pre-Existing Conditions

The University's insurance plans cover any pre-existing conditions. If you have a health condition (e.g. diabetes, heart problems, asthma, depression, etc.) that requires ongoing care, please make sure to bring copies of your medical records with you to Minnesota as well as a list of medications you are taking so that your care is not interrupted. You may also wish to complete the medical history form in consultation with your physician at home and bring it with you to Minnesota. You may find the form at www.bhs.umn.edu.
EducationUSA Offices all over the world offer pre-departure orientation sessions to international students preparing to depart for the United States. These sessions address frequently asked questions about living in the United States, succeeding at a U.S., university and logistical issues involved with moving and entering the country. For details on session dates, times, and locations, please visit the EducationUSA website at www.educationusa.info/students-orientations.php. Sessions are generally offered in May, June, or July each year.

The University of Minnesota’s office in Beijing offers pre-departure orientation sessions in late May each year. These sessions provide information that is specific to the University of Minnesota. For details, please visit www.beijing.umn.edu.

ARRIVAL IN THE UNITED STATES

Choosing your Arrival Date

All new undergraduate students beginning Fall 2015 are required to arrive by Sunday, August 23, 2015.

For all other students, including all new students beginning in the spring semester, you should plan to arrive in the United States approximately 10 days prior to the start-date on your I-20 or DS-2019 document.

If you need to secure off-campus housing, then you should arrive three weeks prior to the start-date of classes so you have sufficient time to search for housing.

Choose your arrival date so you have enough time to:

- Rest up from jet lag
- Find permanent housing
- Attend any required orientation sessions and complete your Immigration Check-In
- Remove “holds” that prevent course registration
- Register for classes
- Complete paperwork for on-campus employment and assistantships (if applicable)
• Take any exams such as English proficiency or SPEAK test (if applicable)
• Attend Graduate Assistantship training (if applicable)

Immigration regulations permit arrival up to 30 days prior to the start-date of your document for both F and J visa holders. If you cannot arrive before your document start-date, contact the appropriate office listed in the “VISAS” section (p. 2).

Students with Graduate Assistantships

The start-date for most graduate assistantships is at least one week earlier than the start of classes. You must be on campus and ready to begin working on this date. Therefore, you should plan to arrive a few days prior to your employment start date to ensure you have sufficient time to complete all of the necessary payroll procedures. Failure to begin working on the assistantship start-date may result in a loss of salary and a portion of your tuition and health care benefits. Your department may also require you to arrive even earlier for a special orientation. Contact your department for more information about your assistantship.

✔ Prepare for Inspection at the U.S. Port of Entry

During your flight to the United States, flight attendants will give you a CBP Declaration Form 6059B to complete. Air (and sea) arrivals will be posted on an electronic I-94 arrival record available online after inspection is complete at www.cbp.gov/I94.

Land border arrivals may require completing a paper Form I-94 as an arrival record. Use your passport or visa name spelling exactly.

You must present to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer your passport with entry visa, your completed Declaration Form 6059B, and your DS-2019 or I-20 document. You may be asked to show additional documents such as proof of financial support. Make sure to carry these documents with you, not in your checked baggage.

Please see www.cbp.gov/travel/international-visitors for more port of entry information.
Arrange for Airport Transportation

The University of Minnesota operates a “Gopher Chauffeur” service that transports international students from the Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport to the University of Minnesota campus every hour from 10 a.m. to 9:20 p.m., Monday, August 17 through Saturday, August 29.

For more information and to submit your online reservation, please visit www.bhs.umn.edu/peer-health-promotion/gopher-chauffeur-airport-rides.htm.

Super Shuttle service is available from the Minneapolis-St. Paul airport for approximately $16 per person. Taxi service is available for approximately $30-$40. After claiming your baggage, you can find the shuttle and taxi service by following signs for “taxis.” The signs will take you through the tram tunnel one floor below the baggage claim. When you reach the transportation center, an airport agent can assist you. For more information visit www.mspairport.com.

International student organizations are also very helpful and may offer to assist you with transportation from the airport. Contacts for these organizations can be found at www.sua.umn.edu/groups.

ORIENTATIONS

All new international students are required to attend an in-person orientation in order to remove a hold from their records so they can register for classes (www.isss.umn.edu/new/removeholds.html). Additional information will be provided to you by ISSS and other departments regarding your Orientation and Immigration Check-In requirements.

Mandatory Online Orientation

At the time of the publication of this guide, ISSS is in the process of creating a new online orientation program for international students.

This orientation program is mandatory for all students, and you will not be allowed to register for classes until you have completed it. Learn more at www.isss.umn.edu/new.
OPTIONAL PROGRAMS

iSuccess Program

iSuccess, the International Student Success Program, is a customized pre-academic program that will give you an early start. Experience what it is like to be in a classroom before school starts at the University of Minnesota starts, as well as the following program highlights:

• Pre-departure consultation with iSuccess Coordinator (also available in select languages and for parents)
• Academic preparation sessions (classroom simulations, writing workshops, understanding and speaking American slang)
• Student mentors and semester-long mentorship
• Social and fun activities (shopping trips, tours, outdoors activities, restaurant visits)
• Opportunity to be an iSuccess mentor next year

Dates: August 17-22, 2015
Register before August 1, 2015 – Space is limited
www.isss.umn.edu/programs/iSuccess
isuccess@umn.edu

International Parent Orientation Program

International Student & Scholar Services is partnering with the Office of Parent Programs and the Office of First Year Programs (OFYP) to allow international parents get to know the University of Minnesota in person.

International parents who sign up for the two-day OFYP Parent Orientation, occurring August 26-27, are invited to join ISSS on Tuesday, August 25 for a half-day orientation International Parent Orientation Program (IPoP) to address any international student related questions. This half-day session is a supplement to the two-day orientation, and there is no additional charge.

Chinese-speaking international parents are invited to join a one-day alternative Chinese International Parent Orientation Program (CHIPoP) orientation session on Friday, August 28. This orientation is delivered in Chinese language and addresses specific questions and concerns of Chinese parents.
For more questions about either CHIPoP or IPoP, please e-mail ipop@umn.edu. We are able to respond in different languages as well.

**ENGLISH PROFICIENCY**

We recommend that all students who have taken a TOEFL or IELTS test bring their official scores when they arrive on campus. This includes undergraduate and graduate students entering the United States for the first time or those who have studied at a U.S. college or university for less than two years. This also includes graduate students with less than one year of prior university experience in the U.S.

If you have not requested your official TOEFL or IELTS scores to be sent to the University of Minnesota, you must have your scores sent before you can register. We recommend you bring a copy of your scores with you. If you scored below the minimum requirement or will be tested after your arrival, you should arrive at least three weeks before classes begin to take an English language placement test. You cannot register for classes until these test results are reported. For information about minimum test scores and the English as a Second Language course requirements, go to www.isss.umn.edu/new/english.

If you are interested in improving your English skills and attending an Intensive English Language Program before beginning your academic classes, contact the Minnesota English Language Program at esl@umn.edu or visit www.cce.umn.edu/esl.

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

The Disability Services office is committed to making the University accessible and inviting for students, faculty, staff, and guests with disabilities. If you have a disability that requires an accommodation, you should register with Disability Services.

Contact Disability Services as early as possible to discuss reasonable accommodations. A disability specialist will assist you with disability-related concerns that affect learning and student life.
The primary responsibility of the disability specialist is to determine your eligibility for services and to facilitate the process of identifying appropriate and reasonable accommodations. Please contact Disability Services at least one month before your arrival if you have additional questions or wish to register for services.

Disability Services:
180 McNamara Alumni Center
200 Oak St. SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455 USA
Phone: 612-626-1333 (v/tty)
E-mail: ds@umn.edu
Web: https://diversity.umn.edu/disability/

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AMBASSADORS

Do you have questions about what it is like to be a student at Minnesota? Our International Student Ambassadors (ISA) are here to help!

If you want to learn about the student experience at the U of M and what it is like to transition, study, live, and achieve as an international student, check out the Ambassador's blogs, photos and videos at www.passport.umn.edu, e-mail at passport@umn.edu, or visit ISA's Facebook, Twitter or Google+ pages (for social media links visit www.passport.umn.edu/social).
University of Minnesota

International Student & Scholar Services
190 Humphrey School
301 - 19th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN, USA 55455
Phone: 612-626-7100
E-mail: isss@umn.edu
Web: www.isss.umn.edu
Facebook and Twitter: @isssumn

The University of Minnesota is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, or sexual orientation.

Printed February 2015