ACTION ITEMS THAT NEED YOUR ATTENTION

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

☐ Initiate your U of M e-mail account (p. 4)
☐ Apply for your student visa (p. 4) or begin your student visa status transfer process (p. 8)
☐ Submit final school transcripts (p. 10) and English language test scores (p. 21), if necessary
☐ Reserve your temporary housing (p. 11)
☐ Research housing options (p. 11)
☐ Plan your expenses and the payment of your tuition (p. 12)
☐ Send your immunization record to Boynton Health Service (p. 16)
☐ Choose your arrival date (p. 17)
☐ Complete the International Student Preparation Course (p. 16)
☐ Attend pre-departure orientation in home country (p. 17)

WHEN YOU ARRIVE

☐ Plan transportation from the airport (p. 19)
☐ Check in to temporary housing (p. 11)
☐ Remove registration holds (p. 19)
☐ Complete your Orientation and Immigration Check-In requirements (p. 20)

www.isss.umn.edu/new

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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 140 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 and succeed at the University of Minnesota
- 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 email isssnew@umn.edu. We are delighted you have chosen to study in Minnesota!

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

INITIATE YOUR UNIVERSITY EMAIL ACCOUNT

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

Initiate your email at www.umn.edu/initiate. You can leave the section asking for a Social Security Number blank, if you do not have this number.

Note to Students in China: It may be difficult for incoming students living in China to access their UMN email account as the University uses Gmail. Please initiate your account at www.umn.edu/initiate and review the recommendations at z.umn.edu/chinatech.

Many, but not all, offices will also send communications to the personal email address you provided on your application. We also recommend you sign up to receive messages from the UMN China Office’s WeChat official account (“UMNChina”). Learn more at china.umn.edu.

APPLYING FOR AN ENTRY VISA

• If you are a Canadian citizen, you are not required to get an entry visa. Skip to p. 4 for further information.

• 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, skip to “VISA TRANSFERS” (p. 8) for instructions on how to transfer your F-1 or J-1 SEVIS record to the University of Minnesota.
By now, you should have your visa document (I-20 or DS-2019) from the University of Minnesota or your sponsoring agency (if you have not, see p. 7 for a list of contacts). You must next apply for an entry visa sticker, so you can enter the United States with student status. You must have a visa document AND entry visa stamp in your passport to enter the United States with student status.

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 receiving 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). 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.

2. 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 it is not administered by UMN. 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.

3. LOCATE THE NEAREST U.S. EMBASSY OR CONSULATE IN YOUR HOME COUNTRY

Embassy and consulate information (including locations and document requirements) is available at www.embassyworld.com.
4. 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.

5. 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 their 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

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’s MRZ (Machine Readable Zone - the lines on the bottom of the biographical page).

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, visa, or any additional documents that you acquire after your arrival in the United States.

DEPENDENT VISAS

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. 7). Dependents are not required to pay the SEVIS fee.

Be aware that F-2 status holders are not permitted to work in the United States. They, also, cannot study full-time at a university or other post-secondary institution in the United States.

**Canadian Citizens:** Canadian citizens can enter the United States without having an entry visa in their passport. However, Canadian citizens must obtain an I-20 or DS-2019 and pay the SEVIS fee (p. 5) 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, admission letter, proof of financial support for at least one year, and receipt of SEVIS fee payment.

Additionally, if you are a Canadian citizen who is 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 UMN (p. 8).

**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:

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

DS-2019s:

- Issued by the University: iss@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. Email 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.

VISA STATUS TRANSFERS
TRANSFER YOUR VISA STATUS, IF NECESSARY
You are considered a “Visa Status Transfer Student” if you hold F-1 or J-1 status at another institution in the United States and plan to remain in the same immigration status (F-1 or J-1) when at the UMN. 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 p. 8.

F-1 TRANSFER STUDENTS
The F-1 transfer process involves several steps, all of which must be carried out to complete your transfer.

1. Complete a Transfer Release form.
   A. Complete section #1 of the Transfer Release form available at www.isss.umn.edu/forms/pdf/f1/transfer-Releaser.pdf
   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 and fax it to 612-626-7361.
      • Set your SEVIS record to be automatically transferred the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities after you finish classes at your current institution.

*ISSS cannot process your I-20 before your SEVIS record has been electronically sent to the University of Minnesota.
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 (p. 20) after arriving at the UMN.

4. Update your “Mailing Address” (your local Minnesota address) through the “My Info” tab on the MyU Portal at www.myu.umn.edu. Directions are at www.isss.umn.edu/INSGen/address.html

5. Register full-time for courses at the University.

6. You will receive an email from ISSS within the first two weeks of the semester indicating your University of Minnesota “Transfer Completed” I-20 is available for pick up at ISSS (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 document. 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

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.” Complete and submit to ISSS the DS-2019 Application for New J-1 Degree-Seeking Applicants at www.isss.umn.edu/forms/pdf/j1/JFinancialCert.pdf

Ask the J-1 adviser at your current school to transfer your SEVIS record to the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. Once your transfer becomes effective, meet with Julie Halfen (or Gabriele Schmiegel for sponsored students) at ISSS within 25 days to complete 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. You may use the F-1 entry visa from your previous educational institution to re-enter the United States. Check with an ISSS adviser if you have a J-1 visa.

FINAL TRANSCRIPTS

Submit your final high school/secondary school transcript (undergraduate degree-seeking students 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. To be considered official, transcripts must be an original document (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
For Fall 2016, temporary on-campus student housing is available through the International Reception Center (IRC) from mid-July to early-September for newly admitted international students. Only students can stay in the IRC; students traveling with family (including parents, siblings, or spouses) should find other temporary housing options. Visit www.housing.umn.edu/international to make a reservation at the IRC or to learn more about other temporary housing options.

Students who have been assigned a room in a University Residence Hall during the academic year can ask for permission to move in early by visiting www.housing.umn.edu/earlymoveinrequest or by sending an email to housing@umn.edu for more information.

For Spring 2016, there are no temporary housing options available in the residence halls or apartments on campus. Students needing temporary housing options before the start of the spring semester should consider the options listed at www.housing.umn.edu/international.

If you are an incoming first-year undergraduate freshman, you are guaranteed housing if you confirm your enrollment and apply for housing by May 1. Housing assignments are done in the order they are received, so we recommend that you apply as soon as possible. You may apply for housing prior to being admitted to the University of Minnesota, however you cannot be guaranteed housing until after you are admitted.

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. To learn more about the learning communities, visit www.housing.umn.edu/student/llc.
All transfer, graduate, and professional students need to apply for housing online. **You will be considered 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 interested individuals should apply early. Find more at [www.housing.umn.edu/family](http://www.housing.umn.edu/family)

The online housing application will require a fee payable with a major credit card. Email the housing office if you have any questions at housing@umn.edu.

**RESEARCH OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING**

Start researching your housing options early; we recommend starting at least one to two months before your arrival. Look at the information and listings at [www.housing.umn.edu/international](http://www.housing.umn.edu/international) and [www.rentals.tc.umn.edu/ochls](http://www.rentals.tc.umn.edu/ochls) to learn about housing options and costs.

It is important to understand the legal responsibilities of renting in the U.S. Remember that you should always see an apartment before signing a lease, and most apartment managers require a 12-month lease. For more tips on renting, visit [usls.umn.edu/tenancy.html](http://usls.umn.edu/tenancy.html)

**EXPENSES**

**COMPLETE YOUR FINANCIAL CERTIFICATION**

Your financial certification form must 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 these funds will be available for the length of your degree program. You must have funds available to you equal to or above these expected costs, including any increases in the cost of tuition.

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.
KNOW YOUR EMPLOYMENT OPTIONS

F-1 students, and J-1 students who are sponsored by the UMN, may work on campus for up to 20 hours a week during an academic year. It is important to know that, while the income may help to partially support an individual, student jobs do not pay enough to fully cover a student’s living expenses.

Off-campus employment is prohibited for F-1 students during the first academic year in the United States, and J-1 students need to receive approval from their J-1 sponsor prior to beginning any employment in the United States. ISSS will provide additional information about off-campus employment.

BRING FUNDS TO COVER YOUR IMMEDIATE EXPENSES

When planning for arrival, make sure to bring sufficient funds to pay your immediate expenses, such as security deposit for rent, two months’ room and board, phone and electricity charges, and, possibly, the purchase of warm clothing.

We recommend that you open a bank account in the United States soon after your arrival (see www.isss.umn.edu/Resources/banking.html for more). Money for your tuition, fees, mandatory health insurance, and ongoing living expenses can be transferred into that account from overseas.

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, 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 above $10,000 may result in confiscation of these funds by the U.S. government.

If traveling with family members, including your parents, your family should file a family declaration listing all of the funds being brought into the U.S. If the total amount is $10,000 or above.
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.

**PAY YOUR TUITION WITH FLYWIRE**

International students can pay tuition online through their Student Account by using Flywire. This service allows international students to bypass international transfer fees and access foreign exchange rates that are more favorable than those offered by banks.

To take advantage of this option, log into your Student Account on the MyU Portal ([www.myu.umn.edu](http://www.myu.umn.edu)) and select “International Payment” from the drop-down menu. You will need to create an additional account, so have your student ID and payer information available. Visit [z.umn.edu/intlpay](http://z.umn.edu/intlpay) to learn more.

**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 or Betsy Madden before the beginning of the semester. You can email the letter to isssspon@umn.edu.

This letter must be on official letterhead, be written in English, and state that the University of Minnesota 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 (for example, tuition, fees, and/or health insurance)
- Address to which the University must send your bill
- The name of a contact person
- Any limitations or exclusions on the funding (for example, a specific degree or major)
- Signature of sponsor
If your funding is renewed on an annual basis, you must provide an updated letter to ISSS each year.

**HEALTH CARE AND INSURANCE**

**LEARN ABOUT YOUR HEALTH 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 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 each semester. More information is at [www.shb.umn.edu/twincities/international-students](http://www.shb.umn.edu/twincities/international-students)

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 themselves or their dependents.**

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

Questions about the SHBP or the Graduate Assistant Health Plan can be emailed to umshbo@umn.edu and you can also find additional information at [www.shb.umn.edu/twincities/international-students](http://www.shb.umn.edu/twincities/international-students)

**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

**DEPENDENT INSURANCE**

International students are required to enroll any dependents who are in the United States in F-2 or J-2 status into 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 z.umn.edu/intlshbp or contact umshbo@umn.edu

**SUBMIT THE IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS FORM**

Minnesota law requires all students to be immunized against measles, mumps, rubella, tetanus, and diphtheria. Review the immunization requirements and complete the secure online immunization record at www.bhs.umn.edu/international-students

If you do not complete this form, a registration hold will be placed on your record for the semester following your arrival (spring semester for students in the fall and fall for those starting in the spring).

**PRE-DEPARTURE ORIENTATIONS**

**COMPLETE THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PREPARATION COURSE**

All new international students are required to complete the International Student Preparation Course, an online tool developed by ISSS to help you prepare for arrival at the University.

A hold that prevents your course registration will stay on your record until you complete the International Student Preparation Course and Immigration Check-in (p. 20). Students who report to Immigration Check-in before completing the International Student Preparation Course may be delayed when registering.

Learn more, including when and how to enroll yourself into the course, at www.isss.umn.edu/new
Note for undergraduate transfer students: All transfer students are also required to complete an Transfer Student Online Orientation as part of the New Student Checklist (learn more at ofyp.umn.edu). You must complete both the International Student Preparation Course and the Transfer Student Online Orientation prior to attending your Transfer Student Orientation and Immigration Check-In. Failure to do so could cause you to be delayed when registering.

ATTEND A PRE-DEPARTURE ORIENTATION IN YOUR HOME COUNTRY (OPTIONAL)

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 the logistical issues involved with moving and entering the country. For details on session dates, times, and locations, please visit www.educationusa.info/students-orientations.php

The University of Minnesota’s office in Beijing also 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.china.umn.edu.

ARRIVAL IN THE UNITED STATES

All new undergraduate students starting school in Fall 2016 are required to arrive at the University of Minnesota by Sunday, August 21, 2016.

All other students, including all new students beginning in the spring semester, should 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 (p. 12), then you should arrive three weeks prior to the first day 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 (p. 11)
• Remove holds preventing course registration (p. 19)
• Attend any required orientation sessions and complete your Immigration Check-In
• Register for classes
• Complete paperwork for on-campus employment and assistantships (if applicable)
• Take any necessary exams, such as English proficiency or SPEAK test (p. 21)
• 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. 7).

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 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 have an electronic I-94 arrival record posted which will be available for printing after inspection at www.cbp.gov/I94

Land border arrivals may require you complete a paper Form I-94 as an arrival record. When completing this paperwork, spell your name exactly as it appears on your passport or visa document.

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

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. This van departs the airport hourly every day between Monday, August 15 and Saturday, August 27, and it can be used any time between 10 a.m. and 9:20 p.m.

Visit z.umn.edu/gopherchauffeurintl to learn more and submit your online reservation.

There are several other ground transportation options from the airport including public transportation or taxis, vans, or shuttle services. For more information, visit www.mspairport.com

International student organizations may also assist with transportation from the airport. Contacts for can be found at www.sua.umn.edu/groups

REGISTRATION HOLDS

REMOVE REGISTRATION HOLDS

It is essential that you take action to remove any registration holds that are on your student record before your registration times (see a list of the holds by going to www.myu.umn.edu and clicking on the “Holds” tab). Many international students have at least two holds on their records as part of admission to the University, and you will not be allowed to register until these holds are removed.

ISSS will either permanently or temporarily remove the AI (“Determine Visa Status”) hold from your record after you complete the International Student Preparation Course and attend Immigration Check-In.

If you have an AZ (“ESL”) or MJ/MG (“Grad School Final Degree/Transcript”) hold, you must take steps to remove it before Immigration Check-in to avoid a
delay in your registration. Information about common holds, including instructions for their removal, is at www.isss.umn.edu/new/removeholds.html.

ATTEND IMMIGRATION CHECK-IN AND ANY REQUIRED ORIENTATIONS

All new international students are required to attend an in-person Immigration Check-In. At this session, ISSS staff will review your documents, provide you with essential information about maintaining your visa status, and permanently or temporarily remove the AI “Determine Current Visa Status” hold on your record (p. 19).

First-Year Undergraduate Students will attend Immigration Check-in as part of their Freshman Orientation. If you have not yet selected your orientation date, visit the Orientation and First-Year Programs website at www.ofyp.umn.edu to complete your New Student Checklist.

Transfer Undergraduate Students will attend a two-part Immigration Check-In during their on-campus Transfer Orientation. These sessions will be held in the morning and the afternoon of your orientation, and transfer students must attend both sessions. If you have not yet selected your orientation date, visit the Orientation and First-Year Programs website at www.ofyp.umn.edu to complete your New Student Checklist.

Graduate and Professional School Students will make a reservation for Immigration Check-in as part of the International Student Preparation Course (p. 16). Immigration Check-in will be separate from other orientations you may attend. Watch for communications from other departments regarding any optional and/or required orientations.

Non-Degree Students will make a reservation for Immigration Check-in as part of the International Student Preparation Course (p. 16). All Non-Degree students will also have a separate, required orientation with their exchange coordinator. Information will be sent by your exchange coordinator.
Sponsored Students who are Freshmen and Undergraduate Transfer students will complete Immigration Check-in as part of your New Student Orientation (more at ofyp.umn.edu). All other sponsored students (Non-Degree, Graduate, and Professional School students) will make reservations as part of the International Student Preparation Course. Sponsored students will also have a mandatory Sponsored Student orientation. Review your sponsored student materials for more details.

**Important:** All new international students should complete the online International Student Preparation Course (p. 16) at least one week prior to Immigration Check-in. Students who have not completed this requirement may be asked to reschedule their Immigration Check-in, and they could be delayed in registering for classes.

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**ENGLISH PROFICIENCY**

**DETERMINE IF YOU NEED TO TAKE AN ENGLISH PROFICIENCY TEST**

We recommend that all students who have taken a TOEFL, IELTS, or MELAB test bring their official scores when they arrive on campus.

If you have not asked your testing agency to send your official TOEFL, IELTS, or MELAB scores to the University of Minnesota, you ask your testing agency send your scores directly to the Office of Admissions.

Students without a valid English test score, or a score below the minimum required by the University, may be required to take an English test on arrival. If so, you will have an AZ hold on your student record (p. 19) instructing you to go the Minnesota English Language Program (www.cce.umn.edu/esl) when you arrive. Please plan to arrive by the mandatory arrival date (p. 17), so that you have enough time to take the test.

For information about minimum test scores, how to send your scores to the UMN, and the English as a Second Language course requirements, go to z.umn.edu/intlenglishreq.

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

OPTIONAL PROGRAMS

ISSS organizes programs for international students wishing to gain leadership experience and meet international and domestic students (learn more at www.isss.umn.edu/programs). Below are programs that require registration before arriving on campus.

iSUCCESS

iSuccess, the International Student Success Program, is a customized pre-academic program. This is an opportunity to experience what it is like to be in a classroom before school starts, as well as the following program highlights:

- Pre-departure consultation with the 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 optional semester-long mentorship
- Social and fun activities (shopping trips, tours, outdoors activities, restaurant visits)
- Opportunity to be an iSuccess mentor next year

Dates: August 15-21, 2016
Register before August 1, 2016 – Space is limited www.isss.umn.edu/programs/iSuccess
isuccess@umn.edu

Want to Get Involved? There are more than 800 student groups at the University of Minnesota, You can join a group centered on environmental issues, cultural/nationality affiliation, fine arts/film/music, health and wellness, social action, or practically any group that fits your particular interests. There’s something for everyone!

A full directory of student groups is available at sua.umn.edu/groups/directory.
INTERNATIONAL AND CHINESE PARENT ORIENTATION PROGRAMS (iPOP AND ChiPOP)

International Student & Scholar Services is partners with the Parent and Family Program and Orientation and First-year Programs (OFYP) to allow international parents learn about the University of Minnesota and ask questions directly to the staff who specialize in working with international students.

International parents who sign up for the two-day OFYP Parent Orientation are invited to join ISSS on Tuesday, August 25 for a half-day orientation International Parent Orientation Program (iPOP). 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 Chinese International Parent Orientation Program (ChiPOP) orientation session on Friday, August 25. This orientation is delivered in Chinese language, and it addresses specific questions and concerns of Chinese parents.

Dates: Tuesday, August 25 (iPoP) and Friday, August 25 (ChiPoP)
www.isss.umn.edu/programs/parent
Email questions to ipop@umn.edu. We can respond in several languages.

INTERNATIONAL BUDDY PROGRAM

The International Buddy Program (IBP) wants to help ease your transition to the University of Minnesota! As part of IBP, you will be matched (based on mutual interests) with a current undergraduate student at the U of M will answer all your questions.

Your mentor will contact you before you travel to campus to help you prepare, guide you around the UMN and Twin Cities, teach you about academic and support resources, and be a familiar face on campus. IBP also hosts fun events throughout the semester, including a Welcome Party.

Visit www.isss.umn.edu/programs/Interbuddy to learn more. Apply early, as space is limited.

Questions? Email our IBP staff at ibp@umn.edu.
STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The Disability Resource Center (DRC) 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 the DRC.

Contact the DRC as early as possible to discuss reasonable accommodations. An Access Consultant will assist you with disability-related concerns that affect learning and student life.

The primary responsibility of the Access Consultants 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 Resource Center
180 McNamara Alumni Center
200 Oak St. SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455 USA
Phone: 612-626-1333 (v/tty)

Email: 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

Web: www.passport.umn.edu
Email: passport@umn.edu
Facebook and Twitter: @ISAUMN