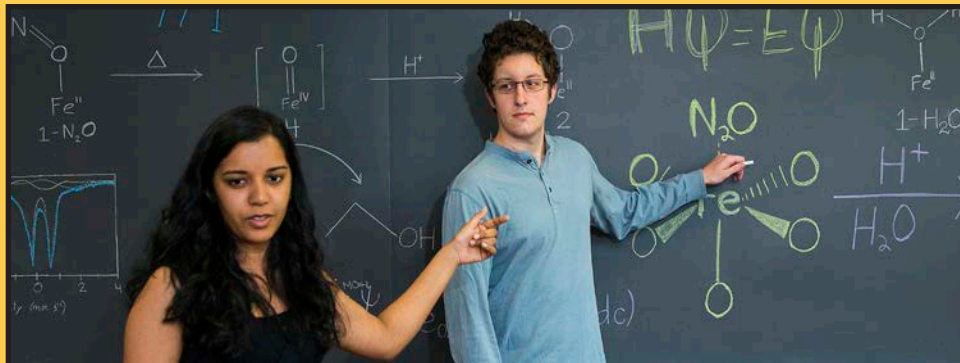


INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PRE-ARRIVAL GUIDE 2019-2020



[ISSS.UMN.EDU/NEW](https://iss.umn.edu/new)

ISSS

International
Student & Scholar
Services

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

ACTION ITEMS THAT NEED YOUR ATTENTION

- Initiate your UMN e-mail account (page 4)
- Apply for your student visa (page 5) or begin visa transfer process (page 8)
- Plan your arrival date (page 10)
- Complete the International Student Preparation Course (page 12)
- Submit English language test scores and transcripts, if necessary (page 15)
- Send your immunization record to Boynton Health Service (page 17)
- Plan your finances (page 18)
- Find temporary housing, if necessary (page 20)
- Research on- and off-campus housing (page 20)
- Attend a pre-departure orientation in home country, optional (page 21)
- Plan transportation from the airport (page 23)
- Remove registration holds (page 11)
- Take an English proficiency test, if needed (page 15)
- Submit your documents through MyISSS after entering the USA (page 13)
- Attend ISSS Check-In and Welcome Session (page 14)
- Attend Global Gopher Events, optional but recommended (page 24)

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WELCOME

Dear Student,

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

Our Twin Cities campus is centrally located in the exciting and friendly cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul. Minnesotans place a high value on education, and they also realize that hosting international students is an important component of what makes the University of Minnesota a vibrant and globalized campus. We think you will find this a warm and accepting community.

The staff of ISSS is ready to help you accomplish your academic and career goals. Our office provides:

- Information to help you adjust to the University and American culture,
- Advising and counseling services to help you maintain your immigration status and succeed at the UMN,
- Academic and career support, and
- Educational and social programs to help you meet students from the USA and around the world.

Please read this guide carefully and complete the activities explained at iss.umn.edu/new. It is very important that you understand this information so you can successfully begin your studies at the University of Minnesota. If you have any questions, please email issnew@umn.edu.

We are delighted you chose to study at the UMN, and we look forward to meeting you!



Barbara Kappler, Ph.D.
Assistant Dean,
International Student & Scholar Services



DID YOU KNOW?

6,400 international students from 130 world locations attend the UMN

INITIATE YOUR UMN EMAIL

Your University email address is the official form of communication at the University of Minnesota. Official announcements from the University, your department, professors, and ISSS are sent to this email address. Your tuition bill will also be emailed to this account.

You are responsible for knowing any information sent to you through your University email.

Go to um্ন.edu/initiate to initiate your email account. You can leave empty the field asking for a Social Security Number.

If you need help when initiating or accessing your email, you can contact the UMN's Technology Help service desk (called 1-Help) by email, phone, or chat. Learn how at z.umn.edu/1help.

ATTENTION STUDENTS IN CHINA

The UMN uses Google as our email and applications platform. We are aware that it may be difficult for incoming students living in China to access their UMN email account. Please go to um্ন.edu/initiate to initiate your account and review the other recommendations at z.umn.edu/chinatech.

Many, but not all, offices will send communications to both your UMN email and the personal email address you provided on your application for admission.

We also recommend you sign up to receive messages from the UMN China Office's WeChat official account ("UMNChina"). You can learn more about the China Office at china.umn.edu.

The screenshot shows the University of Minnesota Information Technology website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the University of Minnesota logo and the tagline "Driven to Discover". The main header includes "Information Technology" and links for "Training & Events", "News & Alerts", and a "Help" button. A large banner features the text "New Students: Start Using Technology" and a sub-header "Even before you arrive on campus, you can set up your University account and start using University technology resources and services." Below the banner is a search bar with the text "Search Self-Help Guides, Knowledge, and Training". The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column has a "Get Started" section with a green button for "Initiate and Manage Your Student Internet Account" and two sub-links: "Initiate Your Account" and "Manage Your Account Options". The right column has a "View Options" section with three buttons: "Expand All Categories", "Collapse All Categories", and "Print Friendly View". At the bottom of the screenshot, there is a review link: "Review z.umn.edu/newstudentech if you want to know more about technology on campus."

OBTAIN A NEW VISA

- If you are a Canadian citizen, you do not need an entry visa. Skip to page 7.
- If you are currently in the USA in F-1 or J-1 visa status and plan to remain in that same visa status, skip to “Visa Status Transfers” (page 8) for instructions on how to transfer your F-1 or J-1 SEVIS record to the UMN.

There are two main categories of visas given to international students: F-1 and J-1. Most international students in the USA hold an F-1 visa. If you received an I-20 document from the UMN, you will apply for an F-1 visa. If you received a DS-2019, you will apply for a J-1 visa.

1. REVIEW THE INFORMATION ON YOUR I-20/DS-2019 AND SIGN THE BOTTOM

Review the spelling and order of your name on the visa document, and confirm that it **exactly** matches how your legal name is written at the bottom of the identity page in your passport (the page that has your picture).

It is essential that your information is printed identically on **all** of your immigration documents (I-20/DS-2019, passport, and visa), and you should **always** write it the same way when completing your visa application and any other forms.

If there is a mistake or the name on your I-20/DS-2019 does not match your name in your passport, contact the office or agency that issued your document (review the list on the back of this book).

If all of the information is correct, sign and date your name on the bottom of your I-20/DS-2019. Additionally, if you have an I-20 and are younger than 18 years old, your parents/guardians must also sign your document.

Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

I-20, Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status
OMB No. 1653-0058

SEVIS ID: [REDACTED]

SEVIS PRIMARY NAME: [REDACTED] CIVIL NAME: [REDACTED] CLASS: **F-1**

PREFERRED NAME: [REDACTED] PAF: [REDACTED] NAME: [REDACTED]

COUNTRY OF BIRTH: [REDACTED] OF CITIZENSHIP: [REDACTED]

DATE OF BIRTH: [REDACTED] ADMISSION NUMBER: [REDACTED]

FORMER REASONS (INITIALS, APPROVALS): [REDACTED] LIAISON NAME: [REDACTED]

SCHOOL INFORMATION: [REDACTED] ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

SCHOOL NAME: [REDACTED] SCHOOL OFFICIAL TO CONTACT (POSITION, NAME): [REDACTED]

PROGRAM OF STUDY: [REDACTED] MAJOR: [REDACTED]

ENGLISH PROFICIENCY: [REDACTED] ENGLISH PROFICIENCY NOTES: [REDACTED]

FINANCIALS: [REDACTED] ESTIMATED AVERAGE COSTS FOR 12 MONTHS: [REDACTED] ESTIMATED FINANCING FOR 12 MONTHS: [REDACTED]

REMARKS: [REDACTED]

SCHOOL ATTENTION: [REDACTED]

STUDENT ATTESTATION: [REDACTED]

SIGNATURE OF: [REDACTED] DATE: [REDACTED]

I-20 Example

CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY FOR EXCHANGE VISITOR STATUS (J-1 NONIMMIGRANT)

Exchange Visitor: [REDACTED] Exchange Program: [REDACTED] Exchange Category: [REDACTED]

Exchange Visitor's Name: [REDACTED] City of Birth: [REDACTED] Country of Birth: [REDACTED]

High Potential Research Exchange Visitor: [REDACTED]

Exchange Visitor's Address: [REDACTED]

Exchange Visitor's Passport Number: [REDACTED] Expiration Date: [REDACTED]

Exchange Visitor's Date of Birth: [REDACTED]

Exchange Visitor's Sex: [REDACTED]

Exchange Visitor's Religion: [REDACTED]

Exchange Visitor's Marital Status: [REDACTED]

Exchange Visitor's Education: [REDACTED]

Exchange Visitor's Occupation: [REDACTED]

Exchange Visitor's Sponsor: [REDACTED]

Exchange Visitor's Sponsor's Address: [REDACTED]

Exchange Visitor's Sponsor's Signature: [REDACTED]

Exchange Visitor's Sponsor's Title: [REDACTED]

Exchange Visitor's Sponsor's Date: [REDACTED]

Exchange Visitor's Sponsor's Country: [REDACTED]

Exchange Visitor's Sponsor's Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Exchange Visitor's Sponsor's Fax Number: [REDACTED]

Exchange Visitor's Sponsor's Email Address: [REDACTED]

Exchange Visitor's Sponsor's Website: [REDACTED]

Exchange Visitor's Sponsor's Social Media: [REDACTED]

Exchange Visitor's Sponsor's Other Information: [REDACTED]

Exchange Visitor's Sponsor's Signature: [REDACTED]

Exchange Visitor's Sponsor's Title: [REDACTED]

Exchange Visitor's Sponsor's Date: [REDACTED]

Exchange Visitor's Sponsor's Country: [REDACTED]

Exchange Visitor's Sponsor's Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Exchange Visitor's Sponsor's Fax Number: [REDACTED]

Exchange Visitor's Sponsor's Email Address: [REDACTED]

Exchange Visitor's Sponsor's Website: [REDACTED]

Exchange Visitor's Sponsor's Social Media: [REDACTED]

Exchange Visitor's Sponsor's Other Information: [REDACTED]

DS-2019 Example

2. PAY THE SEVIS FEE AT WWW.FMJFEE.COM

New students must pay the SEVIS fee before applying for an entry visa or entering the United States. This fee is charged by the Department of Homeland Security, and it is not administered by UMN. You cannot pay the fee until you have your I-20 or DS-2019 document in your possession. To pay the fee, visit www.fmjfee.com.

3. COMPLETE THE VISA APPLICATION FORM (DS-160) AND SCHEDULE YOUR VISA INTERVIEW APPOINTMENT

You should plan to apply for a visa at the USA embassy/consulate that is closest to where you live. You can find the official list at www.usembassy.gov. This website also includes specific instructions for scheduling an appointment.

We recommend scheduling your appointment as soon as possible after you receive your I-20/DS-2019. To learn the estimated wait time for obtaining a visa at your local embassy, visit z.umn.edu/doswait.

When completing the visa application, write your legal name exactly as it is printed in your passport and provide complete and truthful information throughout the application. If you do not have housing reserved in the USA but you are asked to provide an address in the USA where you will stay, you can use ISSS's address (301 19th Ave South, Suite 190, Humphrey School, Minneapolis, MN 55455).

4. PREPARE DOCUMENTS FOR YOUR VISA INTERVIEW

Follow the instructions from the embassy regarding what to take to the appointment. Typically, you will be asked to provide the following documents:

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

5. PREPARE FOR YOUR VISA INTERVIEW

The visa interview will be a very brief meeting with a consular officer. Be prepared to explain why you want to study at UMN, how you are planning to pay for your stay, and what your plans might be after you graduate. Always answer truthfully! If you have questions or concerns before the visa interview, we recommend that you contact the EducationUSA office closest to you (a list is available at z.umn.edu/edusacenter).

Once you receive your visa, check the accuracy of the information on it. Contact the USA embassy or consulate if you find a mistake.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO KNOW

If You Have Dependents

Your spouse and children under age 21 are eligible to accompany you to the USA 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. Dependents are not required to pay the SEVIS fee.

For more, contact the UMN office responsible for your documents (review the back cover of this book for a list).

Note: F-2 visa holders are not permitted to work in the United States, and they cannot study full-time at a university or other post-secondary institution.

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 iss@umn.edu and write "Visa Denial" in the subject line.

Administrative Processing and Security Clearance Checks

Some visa applicants are subject to additional screening that will delay the issuance of the visa. This is NOT always a final denial. Most applicants who are subject to administrative processing or a security clearance check will receive a visa within one to two months. It can take longer sometimes.

You cannot prevent additional screening or security clearance, and ISSS or your department cannot intervene to speed up the process.

ATTENTION CANADIAN CITIZENS

Canadian citizens can enter the United States in student status without obtaining an F-1 or J-1 entry visa in their passport. However, Canadian citizens must obtain an I-20 or DS-2019 and pay the SEVIS fee (page 6) before entering the United States.

Do NOT enter the United States in tourist status (B1/B2 or Visa Waiver). Individuals with these immigration statuses are not eligible to register for an academic course of study.

Upon entry, you must present to the USA Customs and Border Protection (CBP) 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 (page 6).

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 (page 8).

TRANSFER YOUR EXISTING VISA

You are considered a “Visa Status Transfer Student” if you currently 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. This includes students who are transferring to the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities from another UMN school. If this does not describe you, skip to page 10.

F-1 TRANSFER STUDENTS

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

1. Contact the international student advising office at your current institution and inform them of your intent to transfer to the University of Minnesota. An adviser at your current school will need to determine your **“transfer release date”** and schedule your SEVIS record to be transferred to the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities on that date.
2. **Undergraduate and professional degree students** must complete a Transfer Release form.
 - A. Use your UMN email and password to log into MyISSS (myiss.s.umn.edu).
 - B. Once logged in, click on “Admission” and select “Transfer Release Form.” You will need to enter your Transfer Release Date to submit this form, so you do not want to begin until you know this information.
 - C. If you are a **graduate student** and you indicated on your financial certification form that you are transferring your F-1 record to UMN-TC, the Graduate School will email you. You do not need to complete the form.
3. A University of Minnesota “Transfer Pending” I-20 record will be created within two weeks after the record from your previous school has been received. This is a TEMPORARY I-20 that will expire 15 days after the start of the semester.
4. After arriving at the UMN, scan and submit your documents through MyISSS (page 13) before attending your ISSS Check-In and Welcome Session (page 14).
5. Update your “Mailing Address” (your address in Minnesota) on myu.umn.edu. Directions are at z.umn.edu/issaddress.
6. Register full-time for courses.
7. 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). This is your official University of Minnesota I-20, and **you are required to pick up this document**. Failure to do so could put your F-1 status at risk.

IMPORTANT TO KNOW

Your I-20 **cannot** be processed until your SEVIS record has been transferred to the UMN on your transfer release date.

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, to determine a SEVIS transfer “effective date,” and to schedule your SEVIS record to transfer to the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities.
2. Use your UMN email and password to log into MyISSS (myissss.umn.edu).
3. From the MyISSS home page, click on “Admission” and select “DS-2019 Application for New J-1 Degree-Seeking Applicants.”
4. After arriving at the UMN, scan and submit your documents through MyISSS (page 13) before attending your ISSS Check-in and Welcome Session.
5. Update your “Mailing Address” (your Minnesota address) on **MyU**. Directions are available at z.umn.edu/issaddress.
6. Register full-time for classes.
7. Once you have completed the ISSS Check-in and Welcome Session and registered for classes, you must meet with a J adviser* at ISSS (190 Humphrey School) within 25 days to obtain your UMN DS-2019.

* Sponsored students should request to meet a Sponsored Student adviser.

WILL YOU TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF THE UNITED STATES DURING THIS PROCESS?

If you are currently on an F-1 or J-1 student visa and you are traveling outside the USA before starting your UMN studies, you need to obtain a temporary “transfer pending” I-20 or a new DS-2019 to re-enter the United States. This document will be automatically created after your record has been released to UMN by your previous institution.

If you cannot obtain your I-20/DS-2019 before departing the USA, you must arrange for it to be mailed to your overseas address. **You cannot use your previous institution’s documents to reenter the USA after your SEVIS record has been released to the UMN.**

You must also have a valid entry F-1 or J-1 visa in your passport. If it has not expired, you may use the F-1 entry visa from your previous educational institution to re-enter the USA. If you have a J-1 visa, contact an ISSS adviser.

PLAN YOUR ARRIVAL DATE

Undergraduate students starting in Fall 2019 are required to arrive at the UMN by Monday, August 19, 2019.

Graduate, Professional, and Non-Degree students should plan to arrive 10 days prior to the program start date on their I-20 or DS-2019.

Spring 2020 students should arrive in the USA 10 days before the program start date on their I-20 or DS-2019.

If you need to search for off-campus housing (page 20), we recommend arriving 3 weeks before classes start.

Students who follow these arrival date guidelines will be more prepared to begin their studies, as they will have sufficient time to do the following:

- Rest and recover from jet lag
- Remove registration holds (page 11)
- Submit their documents through MyISSS (page 13)
- Attend your ISSS Check-In and Welcome Session (page 14)
- Register for classes
- Take any necessary exams, such as a English proficiency test (page 15)
- Go to Graduate Assistantship training and complete paperwork for on-campus employment (if applicable, review the box for more)

ISSS also arranges programs for new international students before the start of the semester (review page 24). Past participants said these programs taught them important skills needed to succeed during their first semester and allowed them to make new friends and have fun while waiting for classes.

IF YOU HAVE A GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP

Most graduate assistantships start one week before the start of classes, but some departments have an earlier orientation.

You will be required to do the following before you can begin work:

- Attend your ISSS Check-in and Welcome Session and complete the other requirements for new international students (pages 12-14).
- Call 612-624-8647 to make an appointment to bring your documents and complete the necessary paperwork at the Office of Human Resources. This paperwork must be completed **on or before your first day** of employment. Review z.umn.edu/workdocs for more.

You should also travel to the Social Security Administration within 10 days to obtain a Social Security Number. Review z.umn.edu/ssniss for more information.

NOTE: Failure to begin working on your start date may result in a loss of salary and/or a portion of your tuition and health care benefits.

DID YOU KNOW?

You are allowed to arrive in the USA up to 30 days before the program start date listed on your I-20 or DS-2019.

You **must** enter the USA no later than the start date on your I-20/DS-2019. If you will be delayed, email issnew@umn.edu as soon as you are aware of the delay.

REMOVE REGISTRATION HOLDS

Registration holds prevent you from registering for classes. They are placed on your record because you need to complete a requirement.

Below are brief descriptions of the registration holds commonly placed on new international student records. Many international students have at least two holds on their record when they arrive at the UMN.

AI HOLD: “DETERMINE CURRENT VISA STATUS”

Office Placed By: International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS)

ISSS will remove this after you:

1. Complete the International Student Preparation Course (page 12),
2. Submit your documents on MyISSS (page 13), and
3. Attend your ISSS Check-In and Welcome Session (page 14).

Undergraduate students will also need to complete the New International Student Seminar (NISS) before registering for future semesters. ISSS will send more information after classes begin.

AZ HOLD: “ESL, ENGLISH/SECOND LANGUAGE”

Office Placed By: The Minnesota English Language Program (MELP)

To remove this, you may need to take an English proficiency test or register for a class. Review page 15 for more information about contacting MELP (z.umn.edu/melp).

CAUTION

You **will not** be allowed to register until all holds are removed from your record.

It is essential that you remove any holds **before your registration time**.

MJ/MG HOLD: “GRAD SCHOOL FINAL DEGREE/TRANSCRIPT”

Office Placed By: The Graduate School

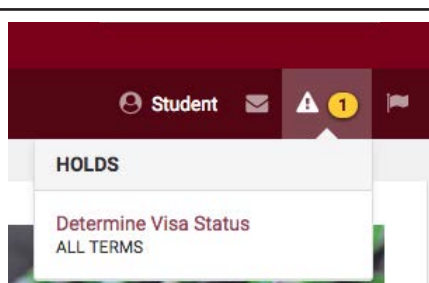
This hold indicates that the Graduate School needs a transcript or other record to complete your admission file. Learn more at www.grad.umn.edu/admissions.

FE AND SFI HOLDS (“FINANCIAL AID-INELIGIBLE PLAN AND NOT ELIGIBLE FOR PAYMENT PLAN”)

Non-degree students only

Non-degree students do not need to resolve the FE/SFI holds. They are for administrative purposes only, and they will not prevent you from registering at your appointed time.

Non-degree students should resolve any other holds that are on your record.



To review a list of your holds, go to MyU and click the “Holds” notification.

Review z.umn.edu/holdsremove for more information.

COMPLETE THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PREPARATION COURSE

All new international students are required to complete the International Student Preparation Course.

This course was developed specifically for new international students **like you** so that you can know what to expect as you prepare for your arrival to the University of Minnesota. You should complete this course as soon as possible as it will give you a better awareness of your visa status and resources available on-campus.

The International Student Preparation Course has helpful modules that address some of the questions most frequently asked by international students, including:

- What is International Student and Scholar Services, and how can you help me before and after I arrive at the University of Minnesota?
- What do I need to do BEFORE and AFTER I arrive?
- How do I register for classes?
- What it is like to study or teach in the USA?
- What do I need to know about employment in the USA?
- What do I need to travel?
- What resources does the campus have to support my cultural adjustment?

There is an AI “Determine Current Visa Status” Hold (page 11) on your student record. This hold will prevent you from registering for classes until you complete the International Student Preparation Course, submit your documents through MyISSS, and attend your ISSS Check-In and Welcome Session (page 14).

Review iss.umn.edu/new/online.html for information about how to begin.

ATTENTION UNDERGRADUATE TRANSFER STUDENTS

All undergraduate transfer students must complete **two** online courses: the International Student Preparation Course and the Transfer Student Online Orientation (see [checklist.umn.edu](https://iss.umn.edu)).

You must complete **both** of these items before attending your in-person Transfer Student Orientation and ISSS Check-In and Welcome Session. You may be delayed when registering if you do not complete both before arriving at orientation.

SUBMIT YOUR DOCUMENTS THROUGH MYISSS

After you arrive in the USA, you must scan and submit your documents using the “Document Check” form on MyISSS (myiss.umn.edu). These documents include:

- Your I-20 or DS-2019
- Passport biographical page
- F-1 or J-1 visa (except citizens of Canada)
- I-94 record of entry to the USA

Review iss.umn.edu/new/docs.html for the full list of the documents you will need to provide.

Please note:

- You must submit these documents before your ISSS Check-In and Welcome Session (page 14). You may be delayed in registering for classes if you have not done so.
- You will use your UMN email and password to log into MyISSS (if you have not initiated your email, review page 4 for directions).
- To avoid complications, ensure the text on your documents is legible, and make sure all of the complete document shows in the image.



ATTEND ISSS CHECK-IN AND WELCOME SESSION

Upon arrival, all new international students are required to attend an in-person ISSS Check-In and Welcome Session. At this session, ISSS staff will verify that you successfully submitted your documents through MyISSS and provide you with essential information about maintaining your visa status.

ISSS will temporarily or permanently remove the AI “Determine Current Visa Status” hold from your record once you have completed all three requirements.

Undergraduate Students will attend ISSS Check-In and Welcome Session during their New Student Orientation (Freshman or Transfer). If you have not selected your orientation date, review your New Student Checklist at checklist.umn.edu.

Graduate and Professional Degree Students will register for ISSS Check-In and Welcome Session while completing the online International Student Preparation Course (page 12). Your ISSS Check-In and Welcome Session will be separate from any other orientation you may attend. DO NOT register for ISSS Check-In and Welcome Session at a time that conflicts with other requirements.

Review communications you receive from other departments regarding their required and/or optional orientations.

Non-Degree Students will register for ISSS Check-In and Welcome Session while completing the online International Student Preparation Course (page 12). 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 undergraduate students will attend their ISSS Check-In and Welcome Session during their on-campus Freshman/Transfer Orientation (review checklist.umn.edu). All other sponsored students (Non-Degree, Graduate, and Professional School students) will register for ISSS Check-In and Welcome Session while completing the online International Student Preparation Course (page 12).

ISSS will host a Welcome Reception for sponsored students in September and January where you can network with your peers. Review your sponsored student materials for more information.

IMPORTANT

All new international students should complete the online International Student Preparation Course (page 12) as soon as possible.

Students who have not completed this requirement at least 24 hours before ISSS Check-In and Welcome Session may be asked to reschedule. This may result in the student being delayed in registering for classes.

DETERMINE IF YOU NEED TO TAKE AN ENGLISH PROFICIENCY TEST

Strong language skills are important for any student to be successful at the University of Minnesota, and we are committed to supporting students as they develop their skills while at the UMN.

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 when they arrive on campus. They may also be required to take a supportive English class during their first semester, in addition to their other coursework.

If you have an AZ hold on your student record (page 11) instructing you to go the Minnesota English Language Program, please arrive by the mandatory arrival date (page 10) so 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.

WANT TO IMPROVE YOUR ENGLISH?

If you are interested in enhancing your English skills before beginning your academic classes, the Minnesota English Language Program (MELP) offers an Intensive English Language Program during the summer.

The program features:

- Classes in academic English
- Friendly, experienced teachers
- Advising and support services designed for international students
- Access to the University's many resources and facilities
- On-campus housing available

MELP also offers American English courses during the school year for credit, including courses focused on:

- Grammar
- Pronunciation
- Reading and Writing
- Listening & Speaking.

To learn more, review z.umn.edu/melp or email esl@umn.edu.

Student Resources



Welcome to the University of Minnesota's website for multilingual students!
We offer English language help with...



Go to esl.umn.edu to review self-study materials, practice quizzes, tips, videos, and links to provide English language practice with speaking, vocabulary, reading, American culture, and more!

SUBMIT YOUR OFFICIAL AND COMPLETE ACADEMIC SECONDARY SCHOOL RECORD

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE-SEEKING STUDENTS ONLY

Successful completion of secondary school/high school graduation is a requirement for enrollment at the University of Minnesota.

To verify that you have met this enrollment requirement, you must submit official and complete academic documents from your secondary school(s) along with proof of high school graduation (i.e., graduation certificate or leaving exam results).

Official and complete academic record and proof of high school graduation may include exam results such as, but not limited to, IB, IGCSE, O/AS/A-level, HKDSE, SPM and CISCE/CBSE.

For country-specific requirements, visit z.umn.edu/adintldocs.

To be considered official, documents must:

- Be the original or an attested copy. **Scanned or electronic copies are not considered official.**
- Be mailed in a sealed, stamped envelope directly from the school, college, or university.
- Have been issued within the past year.
- Be in the original language and include (if they are not in English) a certified true English translation.

Arrange to have your documents submitted directly to the Office of Admissions at:

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

IMPORTANT

School records for undergraduate degree-seeking students must be submitted by **August 1** for those starting in the fall or **January 15** for students enrolling in spring.

LEARN ABOUT HEALTH INSURANCE AND HEALTH CARE

Medical expenses in the United States are extremely high. In fact, one day in the hospital in the USA can cost well over \$10,000, even for routine care. Because of this, it is important to understand your health insurance and where to go for health care.

All international students (and their dependents) must purchase the University-sponsored Student Health Benefit Plan (SHBP) unless they are eligible for a waiver (for more about waivers, review z.umn.edu/shbpwaiver). You will automatically be enrolled in the SHBP after you register for courses.

Students holding a qualifying graduate assistantship will be eligible to enroll in the Graduate Assistantship Plan (GAHP) as an alternative to the SHBP.

Do not purchase alternative insurance from a private insurance company for yourself or your dependents.

Email the Office of Student Health Benefits at umshbo@umn.edu if you have questions about the SHBP or the GAHP.

Additional information can be found at shb.umn.edu.

DEPENDENT INSURANCE

International students are required to enroll any dependents (spouse or children) who are in the United States in F-2 or J-2 status in the Student Health Benefit Plan. Dependents are not enrolled automatically in the plan. An enrollment form should be completed and returned to the Office of Student Health Benefits within 30 days of their arrival. Go to shb.umn.edu to obtain this enrollment form.

PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS

Bring copies of your medical records and a list of medications with you to the USA if you have a health condition that requires ongoing care (diabetes, heart problems, asthma, depression, etc.). This will help prevent interruptions in care.

IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

Minnesota law requires all students to be immunized against measles, mumps, rubella, tetanus, and diphtheria. Review the immunization requirements and complete the online or printable immunization record available at z.umn.edu/immunizationreq.

You may choose to obtain vaccinations in your home country or once you arrive. If you are unable to get vaccinated before arriving in the United States, you can get vaccinations at Boynton Health or at another clinic. Immunizations are covered by the student insurance plans.

If you do not complete the vaccination form before the start of classes, a registration hold will be placed on your record for the following semester.

PLAN YOUR FINANCES

Your I-20 or DS-2019 is a legal document that reflects the estimated expenses for tuition, fees, insurance, supplies, and living expenses. When you completed the financial certification form, you indicated that you have sufficient funding to cover those expenses.

The University and the USA government hold you responsible for the information you provided on the form. If you do not have the funds to cover these costs, you should defer your enrollment until you obtain adequate funding.

BRING FUNDS FOR YOUR IMMEDIATE EXPENSES

When planning for arrival, prepare to bring sufficient funds to pay your immediate expenses, such as a security deposit and two months' rent, phone and electricity charges, and, possibly, the purchase of warm clothing.

We recommend that you open a bank account in the USA soon after your arrival (review z.umn.edu/intlbanking for more). There are several different banks located near the University of Minnesota campus. When choosing a bank, ask if money can be transferred into the account from overseas if you plan to have money transferred to pay tuition, fees, mandatory health insurance, and ongoing living expenses.

If you choose to bring large amounts of money, we recommend carrying traveler's checks rather than cash (review page 22 for information if you and/or those traveling with you will bring more than \$10,000 USD in cash or checks). Do not put money in your checked baggage; you should carry it at all times.

KNOW YOUR EMPLOYMENT OPTIONS

Visa regulations vary about when/how international students can work in the U.S. More information is available in the International Student Preparation Course.

On-Campus Employment

J-1 students whose DS-2019 forms are issued by the UMN and all F-1 students may work on-campus for up to 20 hours a week during an academic year.

NOTE: All new UMN employees must complete paperwork and provide documents on or before their first day of their employment. Review the information at z.umn.edu/form19.

Off-Campus Employment

Off-campus employment is prohibited for F-1 students during their first academic year in the United States. J-1 students need to receive approval from their J-1 sponsor prior to starting employment in the U.S.

PLEASE NOTE

On-campus student jobs are great opportunities to gain skills and experience. They can provide partial support, but they do not pay enough to cover a student's living expenses.

UNDERSTAND YOUR ASSISTANTSHIP OR FELLOWSHIP

If you are a graduate student with an assistantship, your first paycheck will most likely not be issued until a month after the start of your assistantship. Therefore, you should bring funds to cover your initial expenses.

Your assistantship or fellowship may not cover all your expenses, so plan your budget and calculate how much additional money you may need for the rest of the year. The total value of your appointment or fellowship may be subject to a deduction of, as much as, 28 percent to cover taxes on the value of your tuition waiver.

Review page 10 for more information about what you must do to begin your assistantship or fellowship on time.

PAY YOUR TUITION WITH FLYWIRE

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

To do this, go to the “My Finances” tab of MyU (www.myu.umn.edu) and select “International Payment” when making your payment.

You will need to create an account with Flywire, so have your student ID and information available. Learn more at z.umn.edu/intlpay.

ATTENTION SPONSORED STUDENTS

If your financial sponsor (home country government, USA government, international organization, employer, bank, etc.) needs to be billed by the UMN, you must email a billing authorization, financial guarantee, or financial support letter to isssspon@umn.edu before the beginning of the semester. You must also provide an updated letter to ISSS each year if your funding is renewed on an annual basis.

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)
- The address to where the UMN must send your bill
- The name of a contact person
- Any limitations or exclusions on the funding (for example, a specific degree or major)
- The signature of your sponsor

The University **cannot** send an invoice to the sponsor until we receive this letter. The University does not accept wire transfers on behalf of individual students outside the Third-Party payment process.

FIND TEMPORARY AND PERMANENT HOUSING

RESERVE TEMPORARY HOUSING, IF NECESSARY

For Fall 2019, new international students can stay in the International Early Arrival Housing from July 29 to August 23, 2019. At only \$30 a night, this temporary on-campus housing is an affordable option for new students needing somewhere to stay before they can move into their permanent on- or off-campus housing.

Please note:

- Only students can stay in International Early Arrival Housing; students traveling with family need to find another housing option.
- Students who will live on-campus during the school year will be required to move into their assigned housing on August 22 or 23, 2019.
- Students who will live off-campus during the school year will be required to move out of the temporary housing by 6:00 p.m. on August 23, 2019. No exceptions will be made, so ask if you will be able to move into your permanent housing on August 23. You may need to find another temporary housing option until September 1.

Visit housing.umn.edu/international to make a reservation in the International Early Arrival Housing.

There are no temporary housing options available for students arriving in the spring. Students needing temporary housing options for spring should consider the options listed at housing.umn.edu/international.

EXPLORE THE ON-CAMPUS HOUSING OPTIONS AT [HOUSING.UMN.EDU](https://housing.umn.edu)

All new first-year undergraduate students are guaranteed housing if you confirm your enrollment and apply for housing by May 1, 2019.

Housing assignments are done in the order received, so apply as soon as possible. The online housing application requires that you pay a fee with a major credit card. Email housing@umn.edu if you have any questions.

Transfer, graduate, and professional students: You need to apply for housing online. **You will only be considered for on-campus housing after first-year undergraduates receive rooms.** Be prepared to find off-campus housing.

There are a limited number (approximately 200) of guaranteed spaces for **undergraduate transfer** students. Priority is given to students who select (and are admitted to) one of the transfer Living Learning Communities.

Non-degree student housing is reserved by your program coordinator. Do not complete the online application.

Married/partner housing is available, but it is in high demand. Find more at housing.umn.edu/family.

DID YOU KNOW?

There are over 30 Living Learning Communities (LLC) on-campus where you can live with students who share your interests. One of these is the Global Gopher Community for international and U.S. students (page 25). Learn more at housing.umn.edu/llcs.

RESEARCH OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING

Start researching your housing options early (we recommend starting at least 4 to 6 months before your arrival). You may be asked to sign a lease at least 2 months before you can move in.

Learn more about housing at z.umn.edu/housingint or z.umn.edu/offcampus2.

UNDERSTAND YOUR LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES WHEN RENTING OFF-CAMPUS

You should visit an apartment in-person before signing a lease (a legal contract that you agree to rent a place for a specific time period); however, this may not always be possible. Research the manager and/or company that owns the property thoroughly before signing a lease.

Many apartments use a 12-month lease. Please review the information at z.umn.edu/tenantguide to learn more about the rights of tenants.

ATTEND A PRE-DEPARTURE ORIENTATION

ATTEND AN EDUCATIONUSA 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 USA, succeeding at a USA university, and the logistical issues involved with moving and entering the country. For details, visit educationusa.state.gov/find-event.

ATTEND THE UMN'S UNDERGRADUATE PRE-DEPARTURE ORIENTATION IN CHINA (OPTIONAL)

The University of Minnesota's China Office offers two Pre-Departure Orientations for new undergraduate students in May each year. These sessions, hosted in Beijing and Shanghai, provide information that is specific to the University of Minnesota. For details, please visit china.umn.edu.

DO NOT MISS ISSS'S PROGRAMS FOR NEW INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

ISSS has great activities before the start of classes to welcome international students to campus. Review page 24 for more information about Global Gopher Events and our other programs that will prepare you to succeed academically and personally at the UMN.

ARRIVE IN THE USA

PREPARE FOR INSPECTION AT YOUR PORT OF ENTRY

You will need to present the following documents to a Customs and Border Protection officer when you arrive in the USA. Keep these documents close to you during your travel. **Do not pack them into your luggage**, as you will not be allowed to retrieve your luggage until you have gone through immigration.

- Your passport and entry visa
- I-20 or DS-2019 document
- Form 6059, “Customs Declaration” (given to you as you arrive)

You may also be asked to provide additional documents, such as proof of financial support and/or UMN admission.

When completing your paperwork, always spell your name *exactly* as it appears in your passport and visa.

GET YOUR I-94 TRAVEL RECORD

An I-94 is a record of your travel to the United States. You should check the accuracy of your I-94 after you arrive in the USA, and you should keep a copy for your records. This will be one of the documents you must submit through MyISSS (page 13).

- If you arrive via air or sea, your I-94 will be recorded electronically, and you can access and print your electronic I-94 arrival record after inspection at i94.cbp.dhs.gov/i94.
- If you arrive via a land border, you may be given a paper Form I-94 record. To save time at the border, apply for a land border I-94 arrival record seven (or fewer) days before your arrival at i94.cbp.dhs.gov/i94.

For more, review z.umn.edu/cbpintvisitors.

WILL YOU AND YOUR FAMILY BRING MORE THAN \$10,000 USD IN CASH OR CHECKS WHEN YOU ENTER THE USA?

You will be required to file a report with USA Customs when you enter the country if you bring cash or checks with you to the USA that are worth \$10,000 USD or more (USD or the foreign equivalent). The USA government allows you to carry any amount of currency or other monetary instruments into the United States, but the funds may be confiscated by the USA government if you fail to report amounts of \$10,000 or more.

If traveling with family members, including your parents, your family must file a family declaration if you, collectively, bring \$10,000 or more into the USA. This declaration will list all of the funds being brought into the USA.

TRANSPORTATION TO CAMPUS FROM THE AIRPORT

RIDE THE GOPHER CHAUFFEUR (AVAILABLE AUGUST 9 - AUGUST 25)

For those arriving in Fall 2019:

The UMN's Gopher Chauffeur gives students free rides from the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport to the University of Minnesota campus and several nearby hotels. The van departs hourly between 10:20 a.m. and 9:20 p.m.

The Gopher Chauffeur is not available for the spring semester.



Visit z.umn.edu/airportrides to learn more about the Gopher Chauffeur and submit an online reservation (this is strongly preferred, but not required).

OTHER TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS

There are many ways to get to the University of Minnesota campus from the Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport.

Below is basic information, and more information is available at z.umn.edu/msptranspo.

- **Light Rail Transit:** The Blue Line leaves the airport every 10 minutes during peak hours and every 10 to 15 minutes at other times of the day. Tickets are sold at ticket machines at the rail station.
- **Buses:** City bus service is provided by Metro Transit. For bus fare and route information, call the 24-hour automated system at 612-341-4287.
- **Shuttles:** SuperShuttle is a shared shuttle that costs approximately \$20 per person. If you have more than 3 pieces of luggage you will be charged an extra fee. Bus, van, and limousine service can be scheduled.
- **Taxis:** Taxi service is available for approximately \$40-\$50. A \$6.25 fare will be displayed on the Taxicab meter when you start your trip. This fee includes a \$2.50 "flag drop" fee and a \$3.75 airport access fee. Use taxis and shuttle services that have the name of the company clearly marked.
- **App-based Ride Services:** Uber, Lyft, or another app-based ride services pick up on Level 2 of the Green Parking Ramp, above the Ground Transportation Center.

International student organizations may also offer to assist you with transportation from the airport. Contacts are available at gopherlink.umn.edu.

ATTEND THE ISSS NEW STUDENT PROGRAMS (OPTIONAL)

ISSS organizes programs and events where international students can make new friends and gain leadership skills.

Some of these programs start before classes begin, so sign up now!

INTERNATIONAL BUDDY PROGRAM (IBP)

The International Buddy Program wants to 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 to be your mentor.

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!

Registration opens in summer for fall and December for spring

Undergraduate and non-degree students only

iss.umn.edu/programs/Interbuddyibp@umn.edu

ISUCCESS: GLOBAL GOPHER ACADEMY (INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SUCCESS ACADEMY)

The Global Gopher Academy is a customized pre-academic program that will give you an early start to your new life at the University of Minnesota. You will have time to experience an American classroom, learn strategies for bridging cultural challenges, and prepare to succeed academically and personally at the University of Minnesota.

Dates: August 12-17, 2019

We do not offer iSuccess in the spring

Registration and confirmation fee are required

iss.umn.edu/programs/iSuccess
isuccess@umn.edu

GLOBAL GOPHER EVENTS

Start your UMN experience in the best possible way with Global Gopher Events! This is a special opportunity for you to meet other new international students, prepare for classes, discover the University's amazing services, and get advice from experienced international student leaders.

Fall Dates: August 19-27, 2019

Spring Dates: To Be Announced

Registration Requested

iss.umn.edu/programs/ggumn

WANT TO KNOW MORE WAYS TO BE INVOLVED?

In addition to the programs organized by ISSS, there are more than 900 student groups at the University of Minnesota.

Joining a student group is a great way to meet students with similar interests (such as academics, volunteering, and sports), make new friends, and become a student leader. Visit gopherlink.umn.edu to review a full directory of student groups.

INTERNATIONAL AND CHINESE PARENT ORIENTATION PROGRAMS (IPOP AND CHIPOP)

International parents are encouraged to register for the International/Chinese Parent Orientation Programs. These programs are an opportunity for parents to ask questions directly to the staff who specialize in working with international students.

The International Parent Orientation Program is a half-day supplement to the two-day Parent Orientation offered by Orientation & Transition Experiences (previously called Orientation and First Year Programs). There is no additional charge.

Chinese-speaking international parents are invited to join a one-day Chinese International Parent Orientation Program. This orientation is delivered in Mandarin, and it addresses specific questions and concerns of Chinese parents.

iPoP and ChiPoP are organized by ISSS, the Parent and Family Program, and Orientation & Transition Experiences.

International Parent Orientation
Program: August 23

Chinese Parent Orientation Program:
Late August (email for exact date)

*We do not offer a parent orientation in
the spring*

iss.umn.edu/programs/parent
ipop@umn.edu

OTHER ISSS PROGRAMS

ISSS organizes programs for international students wishing to gain leadership experience and meet other students. Many of these programs will accept new students during your first semester. Review **iss.umn.edu/programs** for more.

Cultural/Social

- **Global Gopher Community:** Brings international and domestic students into a single housing community and creates global experience. Undergraduate students can choose this Living Learning Community when applying for housing.
- **Cross-Cultural Discussion Groups:** Gathers small groups of international and domestic students to explore cross-cultural issues and perspectives.
- **Small World Coffee Hour:** Invites all students to learn about new cultures in a relaxing social environment.

Leadership Opportunities

- **Cross-Cultural Leadership Retreat:** Creates a highly interactive, high-energy retreat that is a living laboratory of what it takes to work with people from different cultures.
- **Culture Corps Program:** Enables international students to share their unique perspectives inside and outside of the classroom.
- **International Student Ambassadors:** Provides leadership opportunities to undergraduate students as they share what life is like as a UMN international student.
- **MATCH (Minnesota Ambassadors Taking College Home):** Empowers international students to share their experience of studying at Minnesota with students when they are home.

INFORMATION FOR 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 or have questions about what constitutes a disability that requires an accommodation, you should contact 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 the Disability Resource Center 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: diversity.umn.edu/disability

SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER STUDENTS

International Student and Scholar Services, in collaboration with the Gender and Sexuality Center, provides specific support and resources for international LGBTQIA students.

LGBTQIA International programs, events, and activities address issues related to international gender and/or sexual minority identities and work to connect international LGBTQIA students with each other. Please contact the center at gsc@umn.edu.

In addition to these programs, ISSS and the GSC provide individual support and a safe space to discuss your feelings and concerns. To discuss further, contact Chirayu Dongre (dongr044@umn.edu/612-626-4797) or Nasreen Mohamed (moha0015@umn.edu/612-626-7100).



PROBLEMS WITH YOUR I-20 OR DS-2019?

If you need to change the information on your I-20 or DS-2019, contact the office/agency that issued it.

If you have an I-20, contact the following:

- Undergraduate Students: ***issnews@umn.edu***
- Graduate Students: ***gsquest@umn.edu***
- Professional Degree Students: Your college's admissions office

If you have a DS-2019, contact the following:

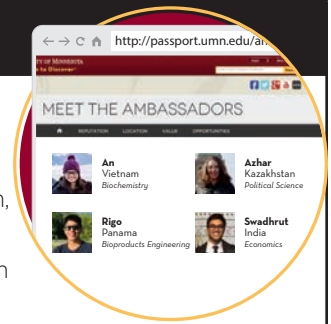
- Issued by the UMN: ***issjast@umn.edu***
- Issued by a different J-1 program (for example, Fulbright): Your placement office

WANT TO TALK TO A CURRENT INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA?

Our International Student Ambassadors are here to help!

Visit ***www.passport.umn.edu*** to review the blogs, photos, and videos made by our Ambassadors. They share about the student experience at the UMN and what it is like to transition, study, live, and achieve here.

Have a question? Email ***passport@umn.edu*** or follow them on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.



FOR ALL OTHER QUESTIONS ABOUT BEING A NEW INTERNATIONAL STUDENT, EMAIL ***ISSSNEW@UMN.EDU!***



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

International Student & Scholar Services

190 Humphrey School

301 - 19th Avenue South

Minneapolis, MN 55455 USA

Phone: +1-612-626-7100

iss@umn.edu

iss.umn.edu

Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram: ***@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.