Welcome!

On behalf of International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS), congratulations on your admission to the University of Minnesota (UMN)!

Beth Isensee (ISSS’s Assistant Director for Student Engagement and Intercultural Initiatives) and Florence Wee (a current UMN international student) want to welcome you to campus and share important action items to get you started on your journey to the UMN.

We created this document so you can know what you need to do to prepare for coming to the University of Minnesota. You should be aware that this document only includes information about the requirements and actions you need to take related to your status as an international student. You will need to do other items before arriving at the University of Minnesota, but your college and other offices will send that information to you.

What You Need To Do Right Now

As outlined in the welcome video, there are many steps to take before your arrival to campus. Here are the things you should be focusing on now that you have your I-20 or DS-2019:

- **Review Your I-20 or DS-2019**
  
  This is an important document so it is essential that the information is correct and current. You need to carefully check the accuracy of and familiarize yourself with the information on your I-20 or DS-2019. If you find errors or have questions about your immigration document, contact isssnew@umn.edu.

- **Apply for Visa, if you need to**

  If you do not currently have a valid visa, you must apply for one. Visit our website to find out the necessary steps to apply for a visa.

- **Choose an Arrival Date**

  Choosing the date you will arrive in Minnesota is an important part of your journey to get to the UMN. We have compiled information on the ISSS website for you to consider when selecting this date including the earliest and latest you can arrive.
Before You Arrive

You will also need to complete the following items before your arrival to the UMN. We recommend completing the required International Student Preparation Course first, as the course will have more details about the topics you will need to know as you prepare for your arrival.

**REQUIRED: Complete the International Student Preparation Course**

International Student and Scholar Services developed this course specifically for new international students. Former international students have shared how difficult it is to remember all of the new information they received at the start of the semester. This course is an overview of all of the information you will need as you start your journey to the UMN. You are required to complete this course before you can register for classes.

**Research Your Housing Options**

It is recommended that you start thinking about your housing options prior to your arrival at the UMN. There are many considerations when planning your housing. For example, some things you may need to consider are housing deadlines if you plan on living on-campus or housing availability and lease agreements if you are planning on living off-campus. This is not an extensive list so it is important that you review the information on our website and in the required International Student Preparation Course before making your decision.

**Learn About Health Insurance & Health Services**

The healthcare system and insurance in the USA may be different from the healthcare in your country. We work closely with Boynton Health Services (the University of Minnesota's on-campus healthcare provider) to support international students with their health concerns. You can find more information on our website, Boynton Health's website, and in the required International Student Preparation Course.
Once You Arrive at the UMN (in the U.S.)

You will not be able to complete the following action items until after your arrival in the USA or at the UMN, but we want you to be aware of all of your ISSS New Student Requirements and the welcome events hosted by ISSS. You will receive additional email communications about these requirements and events as we get closer to the beginning of the semester.

☐ **REQUIRED:** Complete your ISSS Check-In

After you arrive in the USA (or are issued a UMN ‘Transfer Pending’ I-20, for transfer students) you must submit your immigration documents to ISSS and complete an ISSS Check-In and Welcome Online Session. You can find out more information by visiting our new student website.

☐ **Global Gopher Events**

Global Gopher Events is an optional program designed to welcome new international students to campus. While it is not required, we strongly encourage you to attend as you will have the opportunity to learn about on-campus resources, connect with student organizations, and meet other students and ISSS staff. Find out more about the events and how to register on our website.

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**Want to find out more information about additional resources?**

Visit our website and complete the required International Student Preparation Course!

**Questions? Concerns?**

ISSS is here to help support you as you begin your journey to the University of Minnesota. Connect with an ISSS staff member by emailing isssnew@umn.edu with any of your questions or concerns.