Here’s what happens next!

This brochure is for students who have paid the acceptance fee and are ready for the next steps in the process of attending Ohio State. Please read this information carefully.

Contact Undergraduate Admissions (see Page 6 for contact information) to:

- Correct an error on an I-20 or DS-2019
- Ask questions about transferring college credit
- Arrange to begin in a different term: If you do not plan to attend Ohio State during the term for which you have been admitted, you may update your application to be considered for another term. You will need a new I-20/DS-2019 but you may not need a new F-1/J-1 visa if you already applied for one with Ohio State’s I-20/DS-2019. You must contact Undergraduate Admissions before the admission application deadline for the term for which you wish to be considered. A new application fee may be required.

Office of International Affairs (OIA)

Ohio State’s Office of International Affairs (OIA) serves international undergraduates in many ways, including helping new students transition to the university. You are required to check in with OIA after you arrive in Columbus (read more about Immigration Check-In on Page 3).

Staff at OIA are available to assist you now and throughout the academic year—see Page 6 for contact information and hours.

Nationality clubs

Nationality clubs are a great source of information and support for new students. They can provide assistance once you arrive in Columbus, helping you settle in and get involved with campus life. For a list of clubs, visit go.osu.edu/student-orgs.

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Actions you must take before arriving

1. **Check your BuckeyeMail account for email communication from OIA**

   Prior to your arrival, OIA will send weekly emails with important information to help prepare you for your arrival at Ohio State. These emails are also archived at go.osu.edu/Pre-arrival. Haven’t set up your BuckeyeMail email account? Visit undergrad.osu.edu/how2buckeyemail.

2. **Apply for your student visa**

   If you need a student visa (F-1 or J-1) to study at Ohio State and...

   You are currently attending an institution in the United States:

   Your International Student Transfer Form will be emailed to you. You will receive your visa eligibility document (I-20 for the F-1 visa and DS-2019 for the J-1 visa) from Ohio State after your SEVIS record is released from your previous school. If you will be traveling outside the United States prior to the start of classes, you must contact Ohio State’s Office of International Affairs (OIA) to receive your new document prior to re-entering the United States. If you are staying in the United States between programs, you may pick up your document when you attend check-in with OIA. Please follow the instructions on the SEVIS form to ensure you receive your visa eligibility document at the appropriate time. Read “Important visa issues” on this page.

   You are currently attending Ohio State in another program:

   You will receive your visa eligibility document (I-20 for the F-1 visa and DS-2019 for the J-1 visa) from Ohio State prior to the start of your new program. If you will be traveling outside the United States prior to the start of your new educational level, you must contact Ohio State’s Office of International Affairs (OIA) to receive your new document prior to re-entering the United States. You must also ensure that you receive the I-20 or DS-2019 for your new program within your 60-day grace period following the completion of your current program. Read “Important visa issues” on this page.

   You are currently attending school outside of the United States:

   You must make an appointment with the nearest U.S. consulate or embassy to apply for a visa. (Read “Important visa issues” on this page.) As listed below, you’ll need your visa eligibility document (I-20 for a F-1 visa or DS-2019 for a J-1 visa), which comes from Ohio State.

   To obtain a visa, take the following documents to your visa appointment:

   - Passport (must be valid for at least six months into the future)
   - I-20 (for F-1 visa) or DS-2019 (for J-1 visa)
   - Proof of financial support (private sponsor’s affidavit of support and bank statement, or support letter from academic department or letter from sponsoring agency or government)
   - Proof of additional funding for family members who will enter the U.S. on the F-2 or J-2 visa, and marriage or birth certificates of family members applying for the F-2 or J-2 visa (accompanying family members need their own I-20 or DS-2019 in order to get a visa and enter the United States)

   - Receipt for payment of the I-901 SEVIS fee; visit go.osu.edu/SEVISFee for details
   - A copy of your Ohio State notice of admission email
   - Be sure to check the embassy or consulate’s website for other documents that may be required

   **Note for Canadian citizens:** Canadian citizens do not need a U.S. visa. At the port of entry you will be asked to show your I-20 or DS-2019, Canadian passport, receipt of SEVIS payment and proof of financial support. Make sure to obtain an admission stamp (F-1 or J-1) on your passport at the port of entry.

   **Important visa issues**

   - In addition to the documentation listed in the previous column, you will need to demonstrate to the U.S. consular officer that you have a home address that you do not intend to abandon, that you have substantial ties to your home country and that you will return there when you’ve completed your studies.

   - The J-1 visa often has a two-year home residency requirement. This requirement means that the visa holder must return to his or her home country for two years before becoming eligible to change status to H-1B or permanent resident.

   - Be sure to enter the United States on the F-1 or J-1 visa. Those entering on the visa waiver program or on a B-2 tourist visa cannot change status in the United States.

   - Apply for your F-1 or J-1 visa using the I-20 or DS-2019 for the university in which you intend to enroll. If you have been admitted to and received an I-20 or DS-2019 from a university other than Ohio State, please be aware that if you apply for the visa and enter the United States on that school’s documents, you will be required to attend that school.

   Information on U.S. consulate policies, procedures, requirements and visa wait times can be found at the U.S. Department of State website: travel.state.gov.

   If you have questions about obtaining your student visa, please contact OIA (see contact information on Page 6).

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**Are you coming from another U.S. school?**

If you are an F-1 or J-1 student enrolled at another U.S. high school, college or university, you are required to follow the SEVIS transfer process. Complete the International Student Transfer Form, which you will receive via email, and submit it to the international student advisor at your current institution prior to your last day of enrollment. Your advisor will release your SEVIS record to Ohio State. The International Student Transfer Form describes how to obtain the I-20 or DS-2019 from Ohio State.
3 Arrange for housing

All unmarried, full-time students within a year of high school are required to live in the residence halls for their first two years, unless they will be living locally with family.

Housing information is emailed to students’ BuckeyeMail accounts in the order acceptance fees are received. After receiving this information, apply for housing online as soon as possible. On-campus housing space fills quickly. In some cases, housing may not be available for students who do not return the contract in a timely manner.

- Transfer students who graduated from secondary school in 2017 are required to live on campus; housing for all other transfer students is not guaranteed and is dependent upon space availability.

Contact Housing for details (see contact information on Page 6).

On-campus housing

Traditional residence halls

A few notes about residence halls:

- Each room is furnished and includes a small microwave oven and refrigerator (woks, electric burners, rice cookers and other small appliances may not be used in the rooms). Some residence halls have limited shared kitchen cooking space.

- A variety of meal plans and types of food are available in the university dining halls.

- Most undergraduate students in residence halls have one to three roommates.

- Housing fees include all utilities, including internet connections.

- The entire campus—including residence halls—is tobacco-free.

Learning community residence hall

International House is a special residence hall where undergraduate international and domestic students live together. Residents participate in educational and social programs. To learn about I-House, visit housing.osu.edu and click on Learning Communities.

Off-campus housing

Off-Campus and Commuter Student Services provides resources and information for students wishing to live off campus, including apartment/roommate searches, general lease information and legal referrals. Visit offcampus.osu.edu or contact this office directly (see contact information on Page 6).

4 Make plans to arrive early

OIA recommends that you arrive in Columbus at least two to three weeks before classes begin. Plan to remain in Columbus during that time so you can take care of university business (see the checklist on Page 6).

Early arrival housing

University Housing will make arrangements for you to move into your autumn semester housing assignment as early as August 3 (for other terms, a limited number of spaces may be available).

- If you have signed a housing contract, use the link sent to you with your housing assignment to make arrangements for arrival. You also have the option of arranging host housing or booking a hotel.

- If you have not signed a contract with University Housing, you will not have access to early-arrival housing in the residence halls. You must arrange for host housing or book a hotel.

Host housing

Your nationality club may be able to help with temporary housing. For a list of clubs, visit go.osu.edu/student-orgs.

Hotels

Area hotel rates range from $70–$140 per night for a single person room. Check rates online before making a reservation, and call the hotel to ask about special discounts for Ohio State students. The University Hospitality District (uhdcolumbus.com) lists hotels in and around the university.

5 Register for mandatory Immigration Check-In and Orientation

Immigration Check-In and Orientation are required for all new international students. Register for an Immigration Check-In time by visiting go.osu.edu/Pre-arrival and following the instructions. Once you have registered, you will receive an email confirmation with additional details.

6 Take required placement tests

To ensure appropriate placement in Ohio State courses, most new international students are required to take placement tests in ESL and/or math online prior to arriving on campus.

- ESL placement tests: Go to esl.ehe.osu.edu/home/testing to read more about the ESL Composition (ESLC) program, including placement requirements.

- Math placement test: If you are asked to take the math placement test, you will be given instructions to complete the test online. If possible, students should complete the test at orientation.osu.edu/placement prior to their arrival.
Actions you must take after arriving

Check-in and orientation are required for all new international students. Most students can complete check-in, orientation, testing and class registration within two weeks.

1 Immigration Check-In with OIA

All international students must check in with OIA when they arrive on campus. Instructions will be sent via email about how to register online for a check-in date and time. **You are required to visit OIA not more than one week after your arrival in the United States to comply with U.S. immigration regulations.**

Plan to check in with OIA immigration coordinators during the required Immigration Check-In dates listed below. You must bring your Student Record Form (oia.osu.edu/pdf/StudentRecord-Form.pdf), passport, I-94 and I-20/DS-2019 to Immigration Check-In. Students will receive a series of pre-arrival informational emails 8–10 weeks prior to the start of the term.

**OIA Immigration Check-In dates:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2018</td>
<td>January 2–5, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Autumn 2018</td>
<td>July 30–August 20, 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Immigration Check-In activities:**

- An OIA immigration coordinator will review your passport and immigration documents.
- If you are transferring to Ohio State from another U.S. institution, you will receive your new Ohio State I-20.
- Receive confirmation of your Orientation dates and location.
- Receive information about pre-semester programs, trips and workshops offered by OIA.

2 Attend International Student Orientation

All new students are required to attend a three-day orientation program that addresses topics such as:

- Cultural adjustment
- Campus safety
- University procedures
- Immigration regulations
- Academic standards and expectations
- Tuition and fee payment
- Campus involvement
- Health services and insurance

Ohio State staff members from a variety of offices participate in orientation to introduce themselves to you and share information about the services their departments provide. Orientation activities provide students with an opportunity to take a campus tour and get to know new and current international students.

**Orientation dates:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Orientation</th>
<th>Classes begin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2018</td>
<td>January 5, 2018</td>
<td>January 8, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Autumn 2018</td>
<td>Multiple dates</td>
<td>August 21, 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Visit go.osu.edu/Pre-arrival for learn more about orientation.

3 Visit the Welcome Booth

Ohio State will have welcome booths at the John Glenn Columbus International Airport (CMH) and at the Ohio Union on campus before classes begin.

During your first weeks at Ohio State, there will be events to help you acclimate to Ohio State and Columbus. The Welcome Booth at the Ohio Union will serve as the meeting place to take advantage of shopping, arts and culture, food, sports, and Ohio State and campus resources. Orientation leaders will also be available at the booth to answer questions and provide information.
Arriving in Columbus

When to arrive
Federal regulations require that F-1 and J-1 students arrive no more than 30 days before the start date on the I-20 or DS-2019. We recommend you arrive in Columbus at least two to three weeks before classes begin, and remain in Columbus during that time so you can take care of university business. See Page 4 for OIA Immigration Check-In dates.

Getting to campus from the airport
Ohio State provides a limited number of free transportation vouchers at the Ohio State Welcome Booth in the John Glenn Columbus International Airport (CMH) upon arrival.

It’s easy and safe to take a taxi from the airport to campus. Follow the ground transportation sign near the baggage claim area. Taxis and vans will be parked near the door. The fare to Ohio State is approximately $25–$30 (ask about the cost in advance). Taxi drivers expect a 10–15 percent tip.

Another transportation option to consider is to use ridesharing applications like Uber or Lyft.

Your nationality club may also be able to help with airport pick-up or other local transportation. For a list of clubs, search the directory at go.osu.edu/student-orgs.

Prior to your departure, learn more at go.osu.edu/Pre-arrival.

Living expenses
The cost of tuition, fees and other living expenses is listed on the I-20 (cost for one year) or the DS-2019 (cost for the entire program of study). Students should plan for a 5–10 percent annual increase for all costs.

Additional living expenses for family members for the 2017–2018 academic year are estimated at:

| Spouse     | $9,583   |
| Each child (under 13 years old)* | $4,791   |

*For children over 13 years old, the living expenses match those of spouses.

Please be aware that...

- You should plan to have sufficient funds in the form of traveler’s checks in U.S. dollars, as there may be a delay in clearing funds from overseas banks. Do not keep large amounts of money in the form of cash.
- Taxes are deducted from workers’ salaries, so the amount of money available to spend is lower than the amount indicated in a job offer.

Packing for Columbus

Columbus weather
Columbus experiences four distinct seasons. Here are typical temperature ranges:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
<th>What to expect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Day: 75–95 F / 24–34 C</td>
<td>Humid and hot; stormy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 21 to September 20</td>
<td>Night: 60–75 F / 16–21 C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>Day: 35–65 F / 2–18 C</td>
<td>Cool—temperatures change quickly; rainy and windy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 21 to December 20</td>
<td>Night: 20–50 F / -7–10 C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter</td>
<td>Day: 15–45 F / -9–9 C</td>
<td>A little snow; very cold; wear a heavy coat, hat and gloves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 21 to March 20</td>
<td>Night: 5–35 F / -15–2 C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Day: 45–75 F / 7–23 C</td>
<td>Mild and rainy—carry an umbrella!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 21 to June 20</td>
<td>Night: 30–50 F / -1–10 C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What to pack
Weather-appropriate clothes: As you can see from the chart above, you will need to be prepared for all kinds of weather. Humid summers require light clothing; the cold winds of winter call for a heavy coat. Of course, any type of clothing you need can be purchased in Columbus.

Medical information: Bring your medical information (with English translation) and information about any long-term health problems you may have (for example, prescription information, previous chest X-rays, etc.). Ohio State requires a health screening, which will happen at orientation. During your health screening you will need your completed vaccination requirement documentation. See Page 3, step 6 for details on how to complete your vaccination requirement.

Immigration documents: Make two copies of all your immigration documents (passport, I-20/DS-2019, proof of funding): one to leave at home and one to bring with you on the plane, along with the originals. Also bring on the plane the address of your destination (you can use the contact information for OIA on Page 6).

Don’t pack: fresh fruit, produce, meat, prepared food or spices. U.S. customs will not allow you to bring these items into the country.
Health insurance

All international students are required to purchase Ohio State’s student health insurance, unless their government purchases them an insurance policy that meets Ohio State’s minimum health insurance criteria (in which case a waiver must be filed with the Student Health Insurance office). Students with F-2 dependents are strongly encouraged to add these family members to their plan as dependents. J-1 and J-2 visa holders are required by the U.S. government to have insurance coverage that meets specific requirements, which are covered by the Ohio State student health insurance plan. For details, visit shi.osu.edu.

As part of tuition and fees, students pay $2,994 per academic year for Ohio State health insurance. This figure is included in the costs listed on the I-20 or DS-2019. For more information about the Ohio State student health insurance policy, visit shi.osu.edu.

There are additional yearly costs for Ohio State student health insurance coverage for family members. The rates below are estimated for the 2017–2018 academic year; plan for a 5 to 10 percent annual increase for all costs.

- Spouse or child: $2,994
- Spouse and child: $5,988
- Spouse and children: $8,982

For coverage before classes start, we recommend that you purchase interim insurance. For more information, go to shi.osu.edu/about-the-shi-benefits-plan/early-arrival-coverage.

Helpful contact information

Off-Campus and Commuter Student Services
Ohio Union
1739 N. High St.
Columbus, OH 43210 USA
1+614-292-0100
Fax: 1+614-292-4786
Email: offcampus@osu.edu
offcampus.osu.edu

Office of International Affairs (OIA)
Enarson Classroom Building
2009 Millikin Road
Columbus, OH 43210 USA
1+614-292-6101
Fax: 1+614-292-4725
Email: iss@osu.edu
oia.osu.edu

Walk-in hours:
Monday–Thursday
1–4 p.m.
Schedule an appointment with an immigration coordinator on
Fridays 1–4 p.m. at oia.osu.edu.

Undergraduate Admissions
Student Academic Services
Building, Rm. 621
281 W. Lane Ave.
Columbus, OH 43210 USA
1+614-292-3980
Email: int.undergrad@osu.edu
undergrad.osu.edu

University Housing
350 Morrill Tower
1910 Cannon Drive
Columbus, OH 43210 USA
1+614-292-8266
Fax: 1+614-292-6906
Email: housing@osu.edu
housing.osu.edu

Although updated at time of publication, all information is subject to change without notice.

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