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 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 in 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.
**Actions you must take before arriving**

1. **Apply for your student visa, if you are not already in the United States**

   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 SEVIS 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 starting 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 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 a U.S. consulate:

   - 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

2. A copy of your Ohio State notice of admission email

3. Be sure to check the 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. Canadian citizens should make sure to obtain an admission stamp (F-1 or J-1) on their 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.

- Plan to enter the U.S. on the F-1 or J-1 visa. Those entering the U.S. on the visa waiver program or on a B-2 tourist visa cannot change status in the U.S.

- 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 U.S. 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 Transfer Form describes how to obtain the I-20 or DS-2019 from Ohio State.
Actions you must take before arriving

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 your BuckeyeMail* account upon receipt of your acceptance fee.
- Housing for transfer students is not guaranteed and is dependent upon space availability.

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

* Haven’t activated your BuckeyeMail email account? Visit undergrad.osu.edu/how2buckeyemail.

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 will also be archived at go.osu.edu/Pre-arrival.

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 for Immigration Check-In, you will be notified of the time and location of your mandatory orientation.

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 or, if necessary.

At OIA Immigration Check-In, OIA will verify that required placement tests were completed.

- **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 prior to their arrival at orientation.osu.edu/placement.

Complete vaccination requirement

Ohio State requires verification that you are up to date on certain vaccines (immunizations). Complete information on the requirement can be found on the Student Health Services website (shc.osu.edu/services/vaccinations/vaccination-requirement).

- **The first step** is to enter the dates of your vaccinations into the My BuckMD website at shs.osu.edu/services/mybuckmd. You’ll need to log in with your Ohio State username and password.
- **The second step** is to fill out the vaccination form at shs.osu.edu/form and have it signed by your doctor. When the form is complete, you will need to scan it and upload it into the My BuckMD system.

If you’re not able to get, or verify that you have gotten, all of these vaccinations prior to arrival, you can receive them all at the Student Health Center once you’re here, and the cost would be covered by your Ohio State health insurance. Questions should be addressed to vaccination@osu.edu.

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 4 (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 (see below).

- 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](http://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](http://uhdcolumbus.com)) lists hotels in and around the university.

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**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 at Ohio State to comply with U.S. Immigration Regulations.**

Plan to check in with OIA advisors during the required Immigration Check-In dates listed below. You must bring your Student Record Form, 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 Immigration Check-In dates.

**OIA Immigration Check-In dates:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2017</td>
<td>January 3–6, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Autumn 2017</td>
<td>July 31–August 21, 2017</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.
- If you are required to take the math placement test and could not do so online, you will be scheduled for this test.
- Acquire your BuckID (Ohio State student identification card).

2. **Attend OIA’s orientation program**

All new students are required to attend OIA’s 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>OIA orientation</th>
<th>Classes begin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2017</td>
<td>January 6, 2017</td>
<td>January 11, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Autumn 2017</td>
<td>Determined by Immigration Check-In time*</td>
<td>August 22, 2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Your orientation date will be assigned based on your Immigration Check-In appointment. Visit [go.osu.edu/Orientation](http://go.osu.edu/Orientation) for details.

3. **Visit the Welcome Booth**

Ohio State will have welcome booths both at the John Glenn Columbus International Airport (CMH) and at the Ohio Union here 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 OIA welcome booth at the Ohio Union will serve as the meeting place to take advantage of shopping, arts and culture, food, sports, 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

Once you arrive in Columbus, you must arrange transportation to your temporary or permanent housing (read about securing early arrival housing in the “Make plans to arrive early” section on Page 3).

OIA provides a limited number of free taxi vouchers at the OIA Welcome Booth in the John Glenn Columbus International Airport (CMH) upon arrival. Prior to your departure, see: oia.osu.edu/pre-arrival-and-orientation/pre-arrival-information.

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.

**From the airport:** It’s easy to get a taxi from John Glenn Columbus International Airport to campus. At the airport, 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.

**From other locations:** Call 614-444-4444 or 614-777-7777 for taxi service. Ask for the fare amount in advance. Taxi drivers expect a 10–15 percent tip.

#### 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 2016–2017 academic year are estimated at:

- **Spouse** $9,193
- **Each child (under 13 years old)** $4,597

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

**Please be aware that...**

- Student fees are typically due one week (seven calendar days) before the first day of classes each term unless otherwise noted on your Statement of Account. Fees are paid each term; you may not pay fees for the entire year at one time.
- There are limitations on the types of employment F-1 and J-1 students may accept while studying in the United States. You will learn more about your eligibility to work on and off campus when you check in with OIA. Keep in mind that before begin-

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**Packing for Columbus**

### Columbus weather

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Temperatures</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</td>
<td>Night: 60–75 F / 16–21 C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 20</td>
<td></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</td>
<td>Night: 20–50 F / -7–10 C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to December 20</td>
<td></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></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Day: 45–75 F / 7–23 C</td>
<td>Mild and rainy—carrying 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 vaccinations 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

Due to the high cost of health care in the United States, 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. 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. For details, visit shi.osu.edu.

As part of tuition and fees, students pay $2,754 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 2016–2017 academic year; plan for a 5 to 10 percent annual increase for all costs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coverage</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spouse or child</td>
<td>$2,754</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spouse and child</td>
<td>$5,508</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spouse and children</td>
<td>$8,262</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Checklist

Before arriving

☐ Pay your I-901 SEVIS Fee at FMJfee.com.
☐ Apply for your F-1 or J-1 student visa. Canadian citizens do not need a U.S. visa.
☐ Register with OIA for an Immigration Check-In appointment and orientation program. You must attend the orientation that corresponds with your Immigration Check-In appointment.
☐ Plan to arrive early. We recommend 2–3 weeks prior to classes.
☐ Make arrangements for early-arrival and permanent housing.
☐ Complete the Student Health Services International Student Vaccination Requirement: shs.osu.edu/services/vaccinations/vaccination-requirement
☐ Take required placement tests online in ESL and/or math.
☐ Make flight arrangements to Columbus, Ohio (CMH).
☐ Make arrangements for transportation from the airport.
☐ Purchase interim student health insurance available through Ohio State’s Student Health Insurance Program for coverage from the time you arrive through the start of classes.

Arriving in Columbus

☐ Visit the Ohio State Welcome Booth at the Columbus airport.
☐ While there, pick up a free taxi voucher (limited availability).
☐ Arrange transportation to campus.
☐ Arrive at your residence hall, off-campus apartment or temporary accommodation. Contact housing@osu.edu with questions.

Arriving at Ohio State

☐ Immigration Check-In with the Office of International Affairs. You must bring the following items with you:
  - Student Record Form
  - Passport
  - I-94 – After arriving in the United States you will be able to print this form at CBP.gov/i94.
  - I-20/DS-2019 – If you are transferring to Ohio State from another U.S. institution, you will receive your new Ohio State I-20 at Immigration Check-In. Your SEVIS ID Number (N00……..) will remain the same if you are transferring the same immigration record.
☐ Receive welcome packet of resources and learn more about:
  - Obtaining your BuckID (Ohio State student identification card).
  - Opening a bank account
  - Purchasing mobile telephone service
  - What to expect at orientation
  - Welcome events
☐ Review the assigned orientation program details and learn more about registering for classes, paying tuition and fees, transferring academic credit (if applicable), cultural adjustment and academic expectations.
☐ Attend meetings, orientations and scheduling appointments required by your college/department.
☐ Attend an International Student Resource Fair.

Helpful contact information

Off-Campus and Commuter Student Services
Ohio Union
1739 N. High St.
Columbus, OH 43210 USA
614-292-0100
Fax: 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
614-292-6101
Fax: 614-292-4725
Email: iss@osu.edu
oia.osu.edu

Undergraduate Admissions
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
614-292-8266
Fax: 614-292-6906
Email: housing@osu.edu
housing.osu.edu

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

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

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