

ADMISSION, VISA AND ARRIVAL INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS ON AN OSU EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The office of International Student and Faculty Services (ISFS) is delighted that you will be coming to OSU soon. The following information should provide you with a variety of topics to ensure that you understand the nature, objectives, and requirements of your J-1 Exchange Visitor Program; to ease your arrival, and to help you obtain the fullest benefit from your experience in the United States and at Oregon State University. As an Exchange Student, you will represent your home institution as you interact with faculty and students, contribute in your classes and become involved in campus activities. Your status as an Exchange Student carries with it many responsibilities. We look forward to your positive academic and cultural contributions during your time at OSU.

ISFS is a comprehensive international office serving international students. International student advisors are available by appointment to assist you with matters related to immigration regulations, personal and academic concerns, cultural adjustment issues, and general information about OSU and the Corvallis community. ISFS organizes a **New International Student Orientation session** each term that is **REQUIRED** for all international students who are newly admitted to OSU. During the orientation program, you will receive information about academic life at OSU, health insurance requirements, and regulations regarding your student visa.

- Plan to arrive in Corvallis in time to attend orientation. Check for further information to appear on the ISFS orientation web page at <http://oregonstate.edu/international/atosu/students/new/orientation>.

-Fall 2009 New International Student Orientation (J-1 Student Session): **September 22nd, 2009**

-Winter 2010 New International Student Orientation: **December 30th, 2010**

-Spring 2010 New International Student Orientation: **March 26th, 2010**

- Make sure to complete the online Intent to Attend and Orientation Registration form: http://oregonstate.edu/admissions/international/orientation_registration.php.
If your plans change, you may re-submit information via this form.

Applying For a J-1 Visa: You have been issued a **Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor (J-1) Status** (form DS-2019). This form enables you to apply for a J-1 visa. The Exchange Visitor Program, administered by the U.S. Department of State, promotes international educational and cultural exchange in order to develop mutual understanding between the people of the United States and other countries. Exchange Visitor programs exist in a variety of formats and permit visitors to come to this country for a wide range of activities, including participation in a student exchange program.

- For additional information about the Exchange Visitor Program, please read the Department of State's Welcome Brochure at http://exchanges.state.gov/jexchanges/docs/welcome_broch2008.pdf.
- You should apply for your J-1 visa at the US consulate or embassy which has jurisdiction over your place of residence. It is best to inquire about visa application procedures with the consulate or embassy several weeks before the start of your program. **It is important not to delay this process since it can take several weeks to obtain a visa.**
- Please see enclosed sheet with instructions for applying for your J-1 visa and paying the required SEVIS fee.

Two-Year Home Country Physical Presence Requirement: As an Exchange Visitor Program participant, you and your dependents may become subject to the two-year home country physical presence requirement. This requirement is intended to ensure that you will spend at least two years in your home country before coming back to the United States for a long-term stay. For the terms of the requirement, please see item 1 (a) on the back of the enclosed DS-2019 form. If you have questions about the requirement, please raise them with the consular officer when you apply for your visa, or direct them to International Student & Faculty Services after you arrive on campus.

Health Issues: Oregon State University (OSU) cares about the health and well-being of students and recognizes that staying healthy is vital to a successful academic experience. OSU has two primary health requirements:

- 1) To help ensure a healthy community, international students from certain countries will be required to be tested for tuberculosis (TB).
- 2) It is required that international students provide proof of immunity to rubeola (measles), rubella (German measles), and mumps (also called MMR) prior to attending classes. The documentation must have either:
 - complete documentation of 2 doses of MMR administered on or after the first birthday and 28 days apart, or
 - one dose of MMR received within the 30 days prior to attendance, which allows the student the first term on campus to receive the second dose. Please prepare for this in advance and bring the required documentation showing proof of vaccination (including any needed translation.) That documentation can be sent to Student Health Services via mail, email, or fax.

More information about these requirements can be found at <http://studenthealth.oregonstate.edu/patient-info/immunize-records>.

Health Insurance: As a J-1 visa holder, you are required to have health insurance for yourself and any dependents in J visa status for the duration of your program. The Exchange Visitor Program mandates that the health insurance meets certain federal requirements. In addition, the health insurance must meet minimum state and university requirements. Knowingly or willfully failing to maintain insurance that meets these standards may cause your J-1 program to be terminated.

- As an Oregon State University student, you should plan to enroll in the OSU Student Health Insurance. This insurance meets federal, state and university requirements. For information about the OSU Student Health Insurance please refer to the OSU Student Health Services web site: <http://studenthealth.oregonstate.edu/insurance/international>. In addition to enrolling in the OSU Student Health Insurance, you are encouraged to purchase a short-term insurance policy to cover you during your travel to the US and for the time prior to the start date of your first term of coverage.

In rare cases, students can petition to waive the OSU Student Health Insurance requirement by showing proof of equivalent or greater coverage with the Student Health Services prior to the waiver deadline.

Before you purchase alternate health insurance:

1. Make sure that your coverage meets the OSU minimum requirements at http://studenthealth.oregonstate.edu/sites/default/files/int_waiver_requirements_0809.pdf. Please find a copy of the waiver form online at http://studenthealth.oregonstate.edu/sites/default/files/int_waiver_form_0809.pdf for more information about document requirements.
2. Bring copies of your insurance policy in English and stating amounts in US Dollars.
3. If you have any questions, please contact Erin Palmer, Student Health Insurance Liaison at Erin.Palmer@oregonstate.edu or by phone at 541-737-7568.

If you do not submit a complete waiver application by the third week of your first term at OSU, you will be charged for the OSU Student Health Insurance.

OSU Health History Form:

- All incoming OSU students must complete the Health History Form. This can be found on the OSU website at <http://studenthealth.oregonstate.edu/patient-info/forms>.
- Return the completed form to Student Health Services (address listed on the form).

Entering the United States:

- After you have obtained the J-1 visa, you may enter the US no earlier than 30 days before your program start date listed on item #3 of your DS-2019 form.
- To enter the U.S. you will need your DS-2019 form, current passport with your J-1 visa, financial documentation, and OSU Letter of Admission. The immigration officer should indicate the date, port-of-entry, and your visa status on your DS-2019 form and return it to you with an I-94 Arrival/Departure Form (white card).

- You will receive a stamped I-94 Arrival/Departure Form (white card) from the port of entry official. Keep this and the DS-2019 form together with your passport. ***Do not lose these forms.*** These are your only proof of J-1 status. You will need them for such purposes as requesting work permission and applying to re-enter the US after temporary trips abroad during the period of validity of your DS-2019 form.

For additional information about arriving in the US, please visit http://www.ice.gov/sevis/factsheet/100104ent_exchng_fs.htm.

Registration at OSU:

You are coming to OSU under the patronage of an exchange agreement signed between OSU and your home institution. As stipulated in that agreement, student participants must be registered full-time during the participation as defined by Oregon State University. Every OSU Academic Department may have additional registration requirements, prerequisites, and orientation sessions; please be sure to check your department's website for further information: <http://oregonstate.edu/academics/>

OSU online registration is accessible through <http://infosu.oregonstate.edu/>. Select *Student Registration and Records*, and login. To register for classes, you will need your OSU identification number, a General Access PIN (GAP) number, and a Registration PIN number. Your OSU identification number is listed on your Letter of Admission. Do not include the dashes (-) when you enter the number online. Your General Access PIN (GAP) number is initially set as your date of birth, in the MMDDYY format. After you have logged in for the first time you will be asked to change your GAP to a new number known only to you. Your Registration PIN number will be emailed to you prior the start of your first term. *Some Academic Departments require that you meet with an Academic Advisor before registering for classes and will give you a Registration PIN number at that time.*

Some Academic Departments will have already registered you for your classes. You will see an online schedule prior to the start of the term at <http://infosu.oregonstate.edu/>. Select *Student Registration and Records*, login and select *Registration*, then *View Your Class Schedule*. Please do not try to adjust your schedule. If changes need to be made to your schedule, your Academic Department will work with you to address those prior to the start of classes.

- If you are not already registered for classes, you can start the registration process once you receive your Registration PIN number via email. To register online, go to <http://infosu.oregonstate.edu/>, select *Student Registration and Records* and login, then select *Registration*. **The schedule of classes can be found on the OSU website at <http://catalog.oregonstate.edu/Default.aspx?section=ClassListing>.**

Credit Requirements: You must register for and complete a minimum of 12 credits if you are an undergraduate student, or 9 credits if you are a graduate student, each academic term in order to maintain your full-time status. No more than 3 credits of distance education (E-Campus) classes can count toward full-time enrollment per term. This is a requirement of your J-1 visa. While the number of courses you need to complete for your home campus requirements may be more or less than this amount, you must always maintain this minimum level of credits for immigration purposes. **The maximum number of course credits covered by your exchange program is 16 per term.** If you want to take more than 16 credits per term, you will be charged an additional fee, ranging from approximately \$527 to \$620 per credit, and you will be personally responsible for paying that additional cost. The cost of E-Campus classes is not covered by your exchange program. You will be personally responsible for paying their additional cost if you choose to take any E-Campus courses.

Academic Advising: We recommend that all exchange students meet with an academic advisor in their home country to devise a study plan before departing for Oregon. Once you arrive at OSU, you will be able to meet with an OSU academic advisor in your department. Careful planning of your course schedule is essential.

Tuition Waiver: Your tuition is covered by a tuition waiver scholarship provided to you as a participant on an exchange program at Oregon State University. Please note that in most cases the tuition waiver does not cover special fees associated with some courses. You may be required to pay student fees, which amount to approximately \$622 per term, or \$1866 per academic year. Please note that all university student fees are due at the time of registration. Summer term tuition is not covered by the terms of the exchange agreement. For more specific information about tuition waiver and fees, please contact your OSU exchange coordinator.

- On-Campus Housing:** If you wish to live in an OSU residence hall (dormitory), you must complete the online application/contract at <http://oregonstate.edu/uhsd/apply/>. Please refer to the web page <http://oregonstate.edu/uhsd/> to gain valuable information regarding housing and dining options at Oregon State University.

- Off-Campus Housing:** If you plan to live off-campus, you should expect to spend several days locating and settling in to an apartment or room in a house. The web page for the local newspaper is <http://www.gazettetimes.com>. It advertises available apartments in Corvallis under the **Classifieds** section.