



International Programs
International Student & Faculty Services
Oregon State University, 444 Snell Hall, Corvallis, Oregon 97331-1642
T 541-737-3006 | F 541-737-6482 | <http://oregonstate.edu/international>

SUMMER 2008 CHECK-IN & ARRIVAL DETAILS

Dear Student:

The staff in International Student & Faculty Services would like to congratulate you on your admission to Oregon State University (OSU)! The following letter contains important information you will need to know in preparation for your journey to OSU. **Please read it carefully.**

SUMMER ADMIT INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CHECK-IN: International Student Check-in is **REQUIRED** for all international students who are newly admitted to OSU (this includes transfer students). **Please make sure you contact us within 30 days of your I-20 or DS-2019 start date** (listed on item #5 of the I-20 or item #3 of the DS-2019).

As a student admitted to begin OSU in Summer term, you are required to check-in with International Student & Faculty Services upon your arrival to the US. To schedule a "Student Check-in" appointment with an international student advisor, contact our front desk by phone at 541-737-3006 or by e-mail at intl.advisor@oregonstate.edu. Whether you contact us by phone or email, please identify yourself as a "**Summer New Student Check-In**" so that we can make the appropriate appointment.

You will need to bring copies of the following documents for you and your dependents to your appointment:

- 1) Your I-20 or DS-2019 form showing the port of entry stamp
- 2) ID page in your passport showing name and current expiration date
- 3) Your US visa
- 4) Front and back of your I-94 Arrival/Departure Document (usually stapled in your passport once you arrive in the US)
- 5) Previous I-20s and DS-2019s (if you are transferring from another US school)

Prior to attending the check-in with our office, we suggest that you review the information at the following link:
<http://oregonstate.edu/international/atosu/sites/default/files/MaintainingStatus.pdf>

Since the Check-in Session is intended to only cover basic information to help you during summer term, we *strongly encourage* you to attend the orientation program prior to the start of fall term. **Please reserve the week of September 22-26, 2008 for OSU CONNECT, OSU's comprehensive fall orientation program.** This orientation program will go into more depth about the campus, and give you an opportunity to meet other new students. For more information, please check the website at <http://oregonstate.edu/soar/connect/>

You may register for Fall 2008 Orientation online at
http://oregonstate.edu/admissions/international/orientation_registration.php

If your plans change, you may re-submit information via this form.

BASIC VISA INFORMATION: Once you have been admitted to Oregon State University, you should receive a Certificate of Eligibility (I-20 or DS-2019) issued for your studies at OSU. The I-20 allows you to apply for an F-1 visa and the DS-2019 is for a J-1 visa. It is advisable to contact the U.S. embassy or consulate nearest you (or refer to their website) to find out what documents will be required to apply for the F-1 or J-1 visa. You can also access information about the visa application process and approximate waiting times at http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1286.html (F-1 visa) or <http://www.ice.gov/sevis/students/index.htm> (J-1 visa) and http://travel.state.gov/visa/tempvisitors_wait.php. You should be prepared for possible long delays in obtaining a visa. If you are unable to obtain a visa prior to the start of summer term, please contact the Office of Admissions at OSU and request to defer your admission to a future term. Since you are planning to pursue a program of study, you should not enter the U.S. on a tourist visa (B-2). In most cases, USCIS will not approve a change of status from B-2 to F-1 or J-1 within the U.S. If you enter the U.S. on a dependent visa (F-2 or J-2), you should meet with an international student advisor to discuss the limitations of your visa type regarding employment and registering for classes.

SEVIS FEE INFORMATION: International students applying for an F-1 nonimmigrant visa will need to pay a \$100 SEVIS fee prior to the visa interview at the U.S. consulate. This fee is in addition to the visa application fee. Please note that continuing students transferring from another U.S. institution and dependents applying for an F-2 or J-2 visa do not need to pay the SEVIS fee. Canadian students should pay the SEVIS fee and present the receipt at the port of entry.

There are Three SEVIS Fee Payment Options:

1. Payment in US dollars by credit card (if paid via the internet),
2. Payment in US dollars by check or bank draft, drawn on a US bank (if payment is made through the mail), or
3. Western Union Quick Pay service.

The easiest and fastest way to pay the SEVIS fee is paying by credit card online. To do this, you will need to do the following:

1. Go to the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System: SEVIS I-901 Fee main internet page at <https://www.fmiffee.com/index.jhtml>. Read and follow the instructions carefully. Complete the Form I-901.
2. Obtain the SEVIS ID number from your I-20 form or DS-2019 form in order to complete the Form I-901. This number can be found above the bar code on the top right-hand side of your form. You will also need the F-1 OSU School Code (POO214F00002000) or the J-1 Exchange Visitor Program Number (P-1-00480 or P-1-05512). This number can be found on the DS-2019 in block number 2.
3. Pay the \$100 fee with either a credit or debit card.
4. Print your receipt.
5. Bring your receipt to your visa interview at the embassy or consulate. You must have your receipt for your visa interview.
6. Bring your receipt along with your I-20 or DS-2019 with you when you enter the US. You must have your receipt at the Port of Entry.

Visit <http://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901/index.htm> to obtain further information and view frequently asked questions about the Form I-901. If you have questions about your particular situation, please contact an OSU international student advisor at intl.advisor@oregonstate.edu.

ENTERING THE U.S.: As an initial F-1 or J-1 student, you will be allowed to enter the U.S. only within 30 days of the program start date listed on item #5 of the I-20 or item #3 of the DS-2019. To enter the U.S., you should have your original I-20 or DS-2019, a valid passport, a valid J-1 visa and evidence of financial resources. For information about how to prepare for arrival at a U.S. port of entry, visit http://www.ice.gov/sevis/factsheet/100104ent_stdnt_fs.htm and http://www.ice.gov/sevis/factsheet/100104ent_exchng_fs.htm

The Portland airport is located approximately 145 km from Corvallis. Hut Airport Shuttle makes daily trips from Portland International Airport to Corvallis. The one-way adult fare is \$48.00 (an additional surcharge for high fuel costs may apply). Although this may seem expensive, it is actually not excessive given the 98 mile (158 kilometer) drive from the airport. For more information, please contact Hut Airport Shuttle by phone at 1-888-257-0126, by fax at (503) 371-9450, by e-mail at office@hutshuttle.com or access their website at <http://www.hutshuttle.com/>.

SHORT-TERM HOUSING: Once you arrive in Corvallis, you will need temporary housing until you are able to move into a residence hall or off-campus housing. It is best to make reservations for short-term housing before you arrive. For more information, please visit our website at <http://oregonstate.edu/international/atosu/students/new#TemporaryHousing>.

Motels: Most motels in Corvallis are approximately 1-4 kilometers from campus. For a complete listing of Corvallis accommodations, refer to the Corvallis Convention and Visitors Bureau website at <http://www.visitcorvallis.com/lodging/index.html>. When you make a reservation, ask about possible weekly discounts and let them know you are an OSU student.

LONG-TERM HOUSING: If you have a contract for on-campus housing, you can move into your residence hall on the Sunday prior to the beginning of your first day of classes. You should receive an assignment letter from University Housing and Dining Services (UHDS) that will provide you with your hall and room assignment, as well as more detailed information about residence hall life. If you do not receive your assignment letter, email UHDS at UHDS@oregonstate.edu.

Please direct questions regarding on-campus housing and housing contracts to University Housing and Dining Services by telephone at (541) 737-4771, fax (541) 737-0686, or e-mail at UHDS@oregonstate.edu.

If you plan to live in off-campus housing, you should expect to spend several days locating and settling in to an apartment or room in a house. To help locate available housing, you can refer to advertisements in the Corvallis Gazette-

Times (the local newspaper that can be accessed at <http://www.gazettetimes.com/>), the Yellow Pages in the Corvallis phone directory, or the Renter's Guide available at the Memorial Union on campus. Rental listings are also posted in various places on campus. Additionally, you may find shared housing and places to rent listed on a website called "Craigslist" at <http://corvallis.craigslist.org/>. For more information, please visit our website at <http://oregonstate.edu/international/atosu/students/new/housing>

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 MMR documentation 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.

For more information about these requirements, please visit the website at <http://studenthealth.oregonstate.edu/patient-info/immunize-records>

HEALTH INSURANCE: Oregon State University requires all international students on F-1 and J-1 visas and their accompanying dependents to maintain medical insurance coverage throughout their stay in the United States. Because medical care in the U.S. is very expensive, purchasing good medical insurance is the only way to protect yourself and your dependents against the high costs of unexpected medical emergencies. You are also advised to purchase a short-term travel insurance policy to cover you during your travel to the U.S.

In most cases, students will need to enroll in the OSU International Student Health Insurance plan or the Graduate Assistant Employee Plan (available to graduate students who hold assistantships). Enrollment deadlines and details about both plans are available on the OSU Student Health Services web site: <http://studenthealth.oregonstate.edu/insurance/>.

Printed information will also be made available at orientation. In rare instances, students can waive the OSU insurance by filing a waiver request form and showing proof of equivalent or greater coverage with Student Health Services prior to the waiver deadline. Please consult with the OSU Student Health Insurance liaison by email (student.insurance@oregonstate.edu) or by telephone (541-737-7568) prior to purchasing alternate health insurance.

TRANSFER STUDENTS: F-1 and J-1 visa holders coming to OSU from another U.S. college, university or language school (including OSU's English Language Institute), will be considered a "transfer student" and will need to complete an immigration transfer to OSU within the first two weeks of class. **Failure to complete this process within the first 2 weeks of starting classes could result in a violation of your F-1 or J-1 status.**

F-1 Students: To initiate your immigration transfer, you will need to request that your current school "release" your F-1 record in the Student Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS). You must request the "release" no later than 60 days following completion of your program of study or end of your authorization for Optional Practical Training (OPT). If you will remain in the U.S. while transferring from your current school to OSU, please contact Chris Pena in International Student & Faculty Services (by email at Christopher.Pena@oregonstate.edu or by telephone at 541-737-3006) to determine the issuance date of your OSU I-20.

If you plan to travel outside the U.S. prior to beginning your first term at OSU, please initiate your transfer as soon as possible and notify Chris Pena (using the Transfer In Form provided by Admissions). Please indicate that you will need the OSU I-20 for re-entry purposes. **Important:** Do **not** use your previous school's I-20 for re-entry to the U.S.

J-1 Students: To initiate your immigration transfer, you will need to request that your current school "release" your J-1 record in the Student Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) to the OSU Program. J-1 visa holders coming to OSU from another U.S. college, university or language school, should contact International Student & Faculty Services for immigration transfer processing. You can contact ISFS by email at intl.advisor@oregonstate.edu or by telephone at 541-737-3006.

REGISTRATION: As a newly admitted international student for summer term, you are required to register full-time for this summer term (12 credits for undergraduate students and 9 credits for graduate students). All students on an F-1 or J-1 visa are required to register full-time each academic term throughout their degree program. Undergraduate students (bachelor's, post-bac and non-degree undergraduates) must be enrolled for and complete a minimum of 12 credits each term during the academic year. Graduate students (master's, doctorate, non-degree graduates) must register for and complete a minimum of 9 credits each term. Graduate students who have a graduate assistantship are required to register for 12 credits (some departments require more). Audits and withdrawals do not count toward full-time enrollment. Students who want to drop below a full-course of study must first obtain approval from an International Student Advisor.

EMPLOYMENT: Students on an F-1 and J-1 visa are eligible to work ON-CAMPUS up to 20 hours per week. If you have a J-1 visa, you will need to first obtain permission from your program sponsor (listed on your DS-2019) before you begin employment. Students who receive an offer for on-campus employment will need to apply for a social security card. Information about social security cards will be given during the orientation program, and is also available in International Student & Faculty Services. OFF-CAMPUS employment requires authorization and is approvable only under specific conditions. **Always consult an international student advisor before accepting any OFF-CAMPUS employment.** Students or spouses on an F-2 visa are not eligible for any employment. Students or spouses on a J-2 visa may work only with authorization from the USCIS.

SOCIAL SECURITY CARDS: Students who receive an offer for on-campus employment will need to apply for a social security card at the local social security office located in Albany, OR (approximately 12 miles from Corvallis). Once you have a written offer of employment, you will need to request a "social security letter" from International Student & Faculty Services. Prior to requesting this letter, you will need to register full-time for fall term. If you have not yet attended the immigration document check-in (September 20) you will need to bring copies of your immigration documents to International Student & Faculty Services at the time you request your letter (please refer to page 1 of this letter for a list of the necessary documents). Additional information about applying for a social security card will be provided during orientation and is available in International Student & Faculty Services or at <http://oregonstate.edu/international/atosu/sites/default/files/SocialSecurity.pdf>

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT & FACULTY SERVICES: International Student & Faculty Services (ISFS), located on the fourth floor of Snell Hall across from the library, offers important services for you and your family throughout your stay at OSU. In addition to advising you on visa and immigration regulations, we can also assist you with personal and academic concerns, cultural adjustment issues, and general information about OSU and the Corvallis community. International student advisors are available by appointment Monday through Friday. Come see us!

CROSSROADS INTERNATIONAL: Crossroads International, a volunteer community organization that encourages global understanding through friendship between international students and local residents, is also located in ISFS. Crossroads offers a variety of programs to help you adjust to your new community. You may choose to practice English with a conversation partner, spend time with an American family through the **Friendship Home** program, or attend events such as the monthly **Worldview Series**. Women may be interested in practicing English as the Crossroads Conversation School. This is especially appealing for F-2 spouses who may not work or study while in the U.S. Contact Dawn Moyer at ISFS (dawn.moyer@oregonstate.edu) for more information on any of Crossroads' programs.

We are looking forward to meeting you during your New Student Check-in appointment. Have a safe trip to Corvallis!

Sincerely,

Rachael Weber

Rachael Weber
International Student Advisor