We’re excited about your arrival, and we want to make your transition as smooth as possible. Inside, you’ll find essential information for making arrangements to attend the University of Michigan.
PASSPORTS AND VISAS: STARTING THE PROCESS

Generally, international students must do two things to be eligible to enter the United States: **Obtain a passport from their government, and obtain a visa from a United States Consulate or Embassy.**

The University enrolls many students in various temporary (non-immigrant) visa statuses. The most common categories are Student (F-1) and Exchange Visitor (J-1, student category).

If you request the F-1 student status, we will issue you a Certificate of Eligibility (Form I-20). If you require the J-1 Exchange Visitor status, you should expect to receive the Certificate of Eligibility (Form DS-2019) either from the University or from another appropriate program sponsor.

CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY FOR STUDENT VISA

To obtain an F-1 or J-1 student visa, you must: Complete the Financial Resources Statement form ([admissions.umich.edu/frs](http://admissions.umich.edu/frs)) and return the form to credentials@umich.edu or fax to 734-936-0740, along with supporting documentation, soon after you’ve confirmed enrollment. Include your UMID on all materials.

After the information has been received, the Certificate of Eligibility (Form I-20 for the F-1 visa status, or DS-2019 for the J-1 visa status) will be issued.

GETTING YOUR VISA

To apply for either visa, you must first pay a SEVIS fee and get a receipt. Do this at [www.ice.gov/sevis/i901/index.htm](http://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901/index.htm). If your form says “Transfer Pending,” you are not subject to a SEVIS fee.

Next, make an appointment at the U.S. Consulate or Embassy. For more information visit [travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/general/wait-times.html](http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/general/wait-times.html).

At your appointment, take your passport, your Certificate of Eligibility (Form I-20 or DS-2019), your SEVIS fee receipt and supporting documentation (such as your letter of admission and proof of financial resources) with you. Canadian citizens please see the “Canadian Students” section on the next page.

ENTERING THE U.S

At the U.S. port of entry, you will need your passport, Forms I-20 or DS-2019 and financial documents. Make sure they are easily available to you; don’t leave them in your luggage.

If you enter the U.S. at an airport, you will receive an admission stamp in your passport and instructions for printing your record of arrival at [www.cbp.gov/i94](http://www.cbp.gov/i94). If you enter the U.S. at a land border, you will receive a small white I-94 card, which you should keep in your passport.

DON’T DELAY – APPLY NOW!

Visa processing may take significant time. Apply for your U.S. student visa as soon as possible after you have received your Certificate of Eligibility document from the University of Michigan.

You should plan to obtain your visa and arrive on campus in time to attend an orientation program. However, you are not permitted to enter the U.S. more than 30 days before the start date in item 5 of your Form I-20 or item 3 of your Form DS-2019.
CANADIAN STUDENTS

Canadian citizens do not need to apply for a visa, but must pay the SEVIS fee in advance, since it can’t be paid at the port of entry. There, you will be asked to present your Certificate of Eligibility (Form I-20 or DS-2019), your SEVIS fee receipt, evidence of Canadian citizenship, and evidence of adequate funding for your proposed program of study. When you enter the U.S., you will receive an admission stamp in your passport and instructions for printing your record of arrival at www.cbp.gov/i94, or if you enter at a land border, you will receive an I-94 card. Either the stamp or card will be your permit to stay in the U.S.

Please remember that Canadian citizens are subject to all F-1 or J-1 regulations. Also, like other international students, Canadian citizens must comply with University health insurance requirements.

STATUS INFORMATION

If you’re in B-1, B-2, or F-2 immigration status, it is a violation to enroll in an academic program at the university level.

If you’re planning to change status while in the U.S., please note it’s a lengthy process that could take 2-6 months.

F-1: internationalcenter.umich.edu/immig/fvisa/f_chngstatus.html
J-1: internationalcenter.umich.edu/immig/jvisa/j_chngstatus.html

Your other option is to leave the U.S. and re-enter in your new status. If you’re in a temporary visa category, such as A-2, E-2, G-3, H-4, L-2, etc., you’re bound by the regulations of that status and will not be sent a visa eligibility form unless you request one as preliminary to a change of status. Once you enroll, report any change in visa type by bringing documentation to the Registrar’s Office, 1207 LSA Building, 500 S. State Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1382, or B430 Lower Level, Pierpont Commons on North Campus. Prior to enrollment, notify the Admissions Office.

F-1 STATUS: THINGS TO REMEMBER

If you have been issued Certificates of Eligibility (Form I-20) by more than one school, be sure to use the I-20 issued by the school you plan to attend to obtain your student visa. Present that same I-20 to the U.S. border official.

You must pursue a full course of study, 12 credit hours for a full term and 6 credit hours for a half term, for 8 months of the calendar year.

An enrolled F-1 student may accept on-campus employment for up to 20 hours per week during the academic year and full-time during vacation periods.

Immediate family members (spouse, children under 21 years old) may obtain F-2 dependent visas, but may not be employed. Dependents may not enroll in a college or a university; only part-time recreational or avocational study is allowed.

If you’ve attended another U.S. educational institution before attending U-M, you must complete an F-1 immigration transfer. Please notify an International Student Advisor at your current school and ask him/her to complete the “transfer-in form” at admissions.umich.edu/f1form and email to credentials@umich.edu. Remember your immigration transfer is not complete until you have attended your Mandatory Check-In and your advisor has entered a “transfer completed” notation on your Certificate of Eligibility Form.

J-1 STATUS: THINGS TO REMEMBER

If you are in the sub-category of “student,” you must pursue a full course of study, 12 credit hours for a full term and 6 credit hours for a half term, for 8 months of the calendar year.

You are not eligible for a J-1 student visa if you have private, personal, or family funding. You must have substantially public funding to be eligible for a J-1 visa.

A J-1 student may accept on-campus employment for up to 20 hours per week during the academic year and full-time during vacation periods with the approval of the J-1 sponsor. If your J-1 program sponsor is the University of Michigan, use the On-Campus Employment Authorization Form: internationalcenter.umich.edu/immig/forms/J1_OnCampusEmploy.pdf to request written approval from the International Center. Otherwise, contact your J-1 program sponsor.

Immediate family members (spouse and/or children) of a J-1 exchange visitor may obtain J-2 dependent visas. A spouse may apply to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for permission to work, as long as the income from this employment won’t be used to support the exchange visitor.

As a J-1 student, you may be subject to the two-year home-country physical presence (foreign residence) requirement. More information is available at: travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/study-exchange/exchange.html

Permission to transfer your SEVIS DS-2019 between academic institutions must be sought through your current program sponsor.

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CANADIAN STUDENTS

Canadian citizens do not need to apply for a visa, but must pay the SEVIS fee in advance, since it can’t be paid at the port of entry. There, you will be asked to present your Certificate of Eligibility (Form I-20 or DS-2019), your SEVIS fee receipt, evidence of Canadian citizenship, and evidence of adequate funding for your proposed program of study. When you enter the U.S., you will receive an admission stamp in your passport and instructions for printing your record of arrival at www.cbp.gov/i94, or if you enter at a land border, you will receive an I-94 card. Either the stamp or card will be your permit to stay in the U.S.

Please remember that Canadian citizens are subject to all F-1 or J-1 regulations. Also, like other international students, Canadian citizens must comply with University health insurance requirements.
GETTING TO ANN ARBOR

When you arrive at Detroit Metro Airport, you can take a taxi or an airport shuttle or airport limousine to Ann Arbor. An airport bus called AirRide is also available for $15 (www.myairride.com). Taxis, shuttles and airport limousines will stop upon request at any University residence hall or at the International Center. Airport shuttle reservations can often be made online. Taxis do not require reservations.

Airport transportation information, including a link to a list of airport shuttle services, is available at: visitannarbor.org/about-ann-arbor/transportation

FALL ARRIVAL
If you have pre-registered for International Undergraduate Student Orientation, go directly to your residence hall. It is not necessary to visit the International Center since staff will be at orientation.

Arriving before your housing contract begins:
• Make arrangements to stay in U-M temporary housing (housing.umich.edu) or in a hotel.
• During the month of August, the International Center provides an International Undergraduate Orientation, which includes the student signing up for the required International Student/Scholar Check-In. Students not attending this orientation will need to visit the International Center to arrange for their mandatory check-in on the first business day after their arrival. The Center also offers a variety of special orientation workshops and social events for new international students. The orientation and workshop schedule is available in late May or early June 2015 at: internationalcenter.umich.edu/events/orientation_intro.html

The International Center’s International Student Associations’ webpage, internationalcenter.umich.edu/intlstudents/orgs.html, links to information about a variety of international student organizations.

UNIVERSITY HOUSING
Beginning in early April, housing applications will be emailed as enrollment deposits are received. Between June and August, residence hall contracts will become available online. You will receive an email sent to your University of Michigan email account when the contract is ready. Your contract will indicate your exact move-in date.

Students who move into their residence hall for orientation are charged a fee for all days prior to the official contract start day. Charges, which include meals, will be placed on your student account. Need to find a hotel? Find more information at visitannarbor.org/accommodations.

Regular meal service begins in the residence halls after orientation.

Fall: Temporary Housing becomes available in August; give yourself time to investigate opportunities. Check the University Housing website for dates at housing.umich.edu.

Winter students should note the Housing Information Office will be closed from December 24, 2014 through January 2, 2015. It’s best not to arrive early, but if you do, it may be necessary for you to stay in a hotel.

Students admitted to Spring and Summer terms should have no difficulty locating lodging immediately.

OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING
Off-campus housing listings are available at: offcampushousing.umich.edu

WINTER, SPRING, AND SUMMER ARRIVAL
If you arrive during University business hours, you have the choice of either going:
• directly to your residence hall
• to a hotel if you arrive before your contract begins, or
• to the International Center, located in the Student Activities Building, at 515 East Jefferson Street, Ann Arbor, MI.

If you do not arrive during University business hours, go directly to your residence hall or to a hotel if you arrive before your contract begins. If you are arriving for Winter term, please remember that most University offices, including the Housing Information Office, will be closed December 24, 2014 through January 2, 2015. The International Center will close at 5:00 p.m. on December 23, 2014 and will re-open at 8:00 a.m. on January 2, 2015.

HOW’S THE WEATHER?
Weather in Ann Arbor varies throughout the year. Average summer temperatures vary from 15° to 28°C (58° to 82°F). During the winter, average temperatures vary from about -15° to 3°C (5° to 37°F). All buildings have central heating.

Questions can be directed to housing@umich.edu or 734-763-3164.
WE CAN HELP

THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER
The International Center ([www.internationalcenter.umich.edu](http://www.internationalcenter.umich.edu)) provides support services, general information, programs, and advice about visa and immigration issues, employment, cross-cultural issues, health insurance, and other practical concerns. Contact the Center by phone at 734-764-9310 or by email at icenter@umich.edu.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE SUPPORT

THE SWEETLAND CENTER FOR WRITING provides a wide range of support services for international undergraduate students throughout the year, offering writing courses for academic credit, free workshops and one-on-one tutoring. For more information, visit: [lsa.umich.edu/sweetland/undergraduate/internationalstudentsupport](http://lsa.umich.edu/sweetland/undergraduate/internationalstudentsupport)

THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE INSTITUTE (ELI) offers a pre-sessional, seven-week, intensive English for Academic Purposes program for students already admitted for the fall term. Learn more at: [lsa.umich.edu/eli/summerprograms](http://lsa.umich.edu/eli/summerprograms)

FALL TERM
During the month of August, the International Center offers special orientation workshops and social events for new international students. International undergraduate students are invited to attend these workshops and social events, in addition to International Undergraduate Orientation, if they would like to do so. The workshop schedule will be available at: [internationalcenter.umich.edu/events/orientation_intro.html](http://internationalcenter.umich.edu/events/orientation_intro.html) in late May or early June 2015. The International Center’s International Student Associations’ webpage, [internationalcenter.umich.edu/intlstudents/orgs.html](http://internationalcenter.umich.edu/intlstudents/orgs.html), also links to information about a variety of international student organizations.

WINTER TERM
International students arriving for Winter term will complete an “International Student/Scholar Check-In” as part of the International Student Orientation. This is conducted by the Office of New Student Programs and the International Center.

SPRING AND SUMMER TERMS
International students arriving for Spring or Summer term are required to visit the International Center on the first business day after their arrival to sign up for “International Student/Scholar Check-In.” Check-in dates, times, and locations will be posted at: [internationalcenter.umich.edu/events/student-checkin.html](http://internationalcenter.umich.edu/events/student-checkin.html)

International Undergraduate Student Orientation details and registration materials will be mailed in June 2015.
**COSTS & INSURANCE**

**SPONSORED STUDENTS**
Please mail or bring your sponsor’s letter of authorization for billing to Student Financial Services and Teller Services, 2226 Student Activities Building, 515 East Jefferson Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1316, U.S.A. Please reference your term of entry and your student identification number (UMID).

**PAYING TUITION AND ON-CAMPUS HOUSING**
Billing due date for tuition and on-campus housing costs can be found at: [www.finance.umich.edu/finops/student/billing/duedates](http://www.finance.umich.edu/finops/student/billing/duedates)

A late fee is assessed if payment is not made by the due date. If your government requires certification of your estimated expenses before authorizing U.S. dollar exchange, you may request the necessary documentation by filling out the Standard Letter Request Form [internationalcenter.umich.edu/standard-letter-request.php](http://internationalcenter.umich.edu/standard-letter-request.php) and submitting it to the International Center.

**PENALTIES FOR NONPAYMENT OF BILLS**
Unpaid University bills can result in the loss of the ability to register and a hold on the release of an individual’s transcript and diploma certificate.

**MONEY**
If you bring more than $10,000 into the U.S. (this includes traveler’s checks), you must report it to U.S. Customs and Border Patrol to avoid severe penalties. It is also good practice to carry limited funds in your purse/wallet in case it is lost or stolen.
For more information visit: [www.cbp.gov/travel/international-visitors/kbyg/money](http://www.cbp.gov/travel/international-visitors/kbyg/money)

**REQUIRED FINAL CREDENTIALS**
- Students who have been admitted and intend to enroll in the University are required to have a final official secondary school transcript showing graduation submitted directly to [ecredentials@umich.edu](mailto:ecredentials@umich.edu) as soon as it becomes available. If your school does not list a graduation date on the final transcript, a letter or certificate from the school certifying graduation and the date should also be submitted.

- Students who have taken British Advanced Level or Singapore H Level exams should submit officially certified copies of exam results or certificates.

- Any Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate exam results should be submitted by the testing agency.

- Students transferring from post-secondary colleges or universities must have an official final transcript submitted.

- For specific requirements by country, refer to: [admissions.umich.edu/international-requirements-by-country](http://admissions.umich.edu/international-requirements-by-country)

- All transcripts and exam certificates not issued in English must be accompanied by an official English translation.

**HOW ARE MEDICAL COSTS COVERED?**
Health care costs in the U.S. are very high, so it is important to have health insurance.

**STUDENTS WITH U-M ISSUED I-20 OR DS-2019 FORMS:**
The University requires you to have adequate health insurance; you and any F-2 or J-2 dependents will be automatically enrolled in the International Health Insurance Plan. Your insurance coverage will begin on your program start date (Item 5 of your I-20 or Item 3 of your DS-2019).
If you already have health insurance that meets the University’s minimum requirements, you may apply for a waiver of the insurance requirement after you complete your orientation and check-in. If your waiver request is denied, you will have to remain enrolled in the International Health Insurance Plan.

Minimum insurance requirements:
[iinternationalcenter.umich.edu/healthins/waiver.html](http://internationalcenter.umich.edu/healthins/waiver.html)

International Insurance Plan annual cost: $1,401 for an individual student. Costs change each September and are posted at: [internationalcenter.umich.edu/healthins/rates.html](http://internationalcenter.umich.edu/healthins/rates.html)

**ALL OTHER STUDENTS:**
The University strongly recommends but does not require insurance. If you don’t have your own health insurance, you can choose to enroll in the “domestic” student insurance plan [www.uhs.umich.edu/dship](http://www.uhs.umich.edu/dship). U.S. citizens, U.S. permanent residents and other students who do not have a U-M issued I-20 or DS-2019 are not eligible for the international insurance plan but are eligible for U-M’s “domestic” insurance.
We know international students want to learn more about American life and higher education. Our International Orientation Programs can help you adapt to your new life in Michigan. They include information on education, immigration regulations, health care and health insurance, campus safety and a wealth of other services.

Please visit onsp.umich.edu/orientation/internationals to view dates and other important steps to take before coming to campus.

You will register for your first semester classes at orientation.

**FALL ARRIVAL**

You are required to participate in the International Undergraduate Student Orientation, the Summer Orientation, or the Fall Orientation. International Undergraduate Student Orientation details and registration materials will be mailed in June 2015.

You will receive additional information about housing and arrival information in the spring. **If you are flying to Michigan, we recommend that you do not purchase a plane ticket before you receive your arrival information.**
ACADEMIC CALENDAR

WINTER TERM, 2015

Residence Halls Move-In January 4
Winter Orientation January 5 - 6
Classes Begin January 7
Martin Luther King, Jr Day (Holiday) January 19
Vacation Begins February 28
Classes Resume March 9
University Honors Convocation March 15
Classes End April 21
Examinations April 23 - 30
Commencement April 30 - May 3

SPRING/SUMMER TERM, 2015

Check the housing website (housing.umich.edu) for specific move-in dates for Summer Orientation, and additional information. Questions can be directed to housing@umich.edu or (734) 763-3164.

Residence Halls Move-In (Spring) May 3 Summer Freshman Orientation June 28
Spring Orientation May 4 Summer Transfer Orientation June 30
Spring Classes Begin May 5 Summer Half Term Begins July 1
Memorial Day (Holiday) May 25 Independence Day (Holiday) July 4
Spring Classes End June 22 Classes End August 18
Examinations June 25 - 26 Examinations August 20 - 21
Full and Summer Half Terms End August 21

 FALL TERM, 2015

Residence Halls Move-In (LSA International Transfer Orientation Participants only) August 26
LSA International Transfer Orientation August 27 - September 4
Residence Halls Move-In (International Undergraduate Orientation Participants only) August 30
International Undergraduate Student Orientation August 31 - September 4
Residence Halls Move-In (Final Fall Orientation Participants only) September 1
Final Fall Orientation September 2 - 4
Classes Begin September 8
Fall Study Break October 19 - 20
Thanksgiving Break November 25
Classes Resume November 30
Classes End December 14
Examinations December 16 - 18, 21 - 23
Commencement December 20

University offices are open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday except for Monday, September 7 (Labor Day holiday), when most University offices are closed. Questions can be directed to housing.umich.edu, housing@umich.edu or (734) 763-3164.