Pre-Departure Information for Exchange Students
Fall 2018

Recommended date of arrival: Thursday, August 16, 2018
Check-in/Exchange Student Orientation: Friday, August 17-Saturday, August 18, 2018
First day of classes: Monday, August 20, 2018

SEVIS Fee Information
The U.S. Department of Homeland Security requires that all J-1 applicants pay a nonrefundable US$180 SEVIS Fee at least three days before they apply for a visa. You can find more information about the SEVIS Fee by visiting: [http://www.wichita.edu/SEVIS](http://www.wichita.edu/SEVIS).

How to Apply for a Visa
Most students will need to obtain an J-1 visa (exchange visitor visa) at the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate before coming to Wichita. Depending on the country, obtaining a visa can range from being quite easy to very difficult. To apply for an exchange visitor visa, you must submit the following to the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate:

1) Form DS-160 (completed online)
2) Nonrefundable US$160 visa application fee
3) Receipt* that you paid the US$180 nonrefundable SEVIS fee.
   *Make sure to keep the receipt and bring it with you to the U.S.
4) A passport valid for at least 6 months (plus any old passports you may have).
5) A current Form DS-2019 from Wichita State University (or other program sponsor, such as ISEP).
6) A 2x2 photo (Visit: [http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/general/photos.html](http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/general/photos.html) for details)
7) Evidence of sufficient funds to study in the U.S. including a bank statement
8) U.S. Visa requirements differ from country to country, find visa information for your country by visiting: [http://www.usembassy.gov/](http://www.usembassy.gov/)

Check out our Visa Interview Tips at [http://www.wichita.edu/VisaTips](http://www.wichita.edu/VisaTips)
Airport Arrival Information

We offer FREE airport transportation from 8:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M. from the Wichita airport called Dwight D. Eisenhower National Airport (code ICT). If you would like a free ride from the airport, fill out the form at: http://www.wichita.edu/arrival. We only provide rides from Wichita Dwight D. Eisenhower National Airport and will not provide pickups from any other airport. You can choose to take a taxi to the University, taxi fare is approximately US$25.

If you arrive after 10:00 P.M., you may have to stay in a hotel for one night at your own expense. There are many hotels near the airport which cost approximately US$55 - US$75 per night. If you have to spend the night in a hotel, we recommend you stay at the Wesley Inn, Regency Inn, Howard Johnson, Motel 6, or Scotsman Inn. These hotels are clean and affordable.

A special Wichita State University Welcome Table for international students will be set up in the lobby of the airport. The table will be staffed from late afternoon until about 10:00 P.M. throughout the week before classes start. Please visit our Welcome Table to pick up a gift bag of helpful items and treats. The students who are working at the table can answer many of the questions you may have. If the table is not staffed when you arrive, information will be left on the table.

If you have a lot of luggage to bring with you to Wichita, you can ship some items to the University before you leave your country. If you decide to send any boxes or packages to Wichita before you arrive, please send them to the following address:

[YOUR NAME]
c/o Office of International Education
Wichita State University
1845 Fairmount Street
Wichita, Kansas 67260-0122 USA

When You Arrive on Campus

All University offices are open Monday – Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm. Offices are closed on Saturdays and Sundays. Bring your passport, DS-2019 form, and proof of medical insurance (if you have medical insurance from your country). Prior to arrival, you will receive an email with more information about check-in and orientation.

Accommodations

After you arrive in Wichita, we will assist you in moving into one of WSU’s housing facilities – The Flats or Shocker Hall. We recommend that you make a housing reservation before coming to Wichita. Exchange students will be required to arrive prior to the official move-in date for housing in order to attend the mandatory orientation. Given this, they will need to plan for a few extra days for housing fees and should contact the WSU Housing Office for specific costs. Please see the housing contract for the official move-in date and check the pre-departure information for the arrival date for exchange students. If you are living in The Flats or Shocker
Hall, you must email housing.wsu@wichita.edu to let them know when you plan to move into your room so they can prepare it as an early arrival.

For more information about on-campus housing or if you have questions about living in one of the University’s residence halls, please visit: http://www.wichita.edu/housing

**Health Matters**

All J-1 students are required to have medical insurance that meets the following minimum specifications as set by the Department of State:

**MINIMUM COVERAGE REQUIREMENTS**
- Medical Benefits of at least $100,000 per accident or illness **AND**
- Repatriation of Remains in the amount of $25,000 **AND**
- Expenses associated with the medical evacuation of the exchange visitor to his or her home country in the amount of $50,000 **AND**
- A deductible not to exceed $500 per accident or illness **AND**
- Any policy, plan, or contract secured to fill the above requirements must, at a minimum, be:
  - Underwritten by an insurance corporation having an A.M. Best rating of "A-" or above; a McGraw Hill Financial/Standard & Poor’s Claims paying Ability rating of "A-" or above; a Weiss Research, Inc. rating of "B+" or above; a Fitch Ratings, Inc. rating of "A-" or above; or a Moody’s Investor Services rating of "A3" or above; OR
  - Backed by the full faith and credit of the government of the exchange visitor’s home country.

You will automatically be charged for qualifying medical insurance when you register for classes (the cost is approximately US $710 for one semester). If you already have medical insurance, please bring proof of insurance with you. Your proof of medical insurance coverage must contain the coverage amount and the coverage period. If you have adequate medical insurance coverage, you will not be required to purchase a new insurance policy. A tuberculin (TB) blood test, requiring an initial payment of US$80, is required for all new students and is given by WSU’s Student Health Service. Please bring your vaccination records with you to the U.S. If you need any vaccinations when you arrive, your student health insurance will cover them and you can get them at Student Health. We recommend that you take care of any existing medical or dental problems at home since student medical insurance does not cover routine dental work or eye examinations.

For more details, please visit: Medical Insurance: [http://wichita.edu/MedicalInsurance](http://wichita.edu/MedicalInsurance)

TB Testing and Routine Medical Care: [http://wichita.edu/TBTesting](http://wichita.edu/TBTesting)

**Opening a Bank Account**

After you arrive in Wichita, you may open a bank account. We have two popular banks nearby - Commerce Bank has a branch in the Rhatigan Student Center at WSU and Bank of America has a branch next to our campus. You may also become a member and open an account at the Campus Credit Union. In order to open an account, you will need to show your passport and proof of your address in Wichita (such as your housing contract or apartment rental contract). You will automatically receive an ATM card so you can get cash quickly and easily.
Cost of Your Exchange Program

Upon your arrival in Wichita, you will be expected to pay for your housing and meals, books, and medical insurance. You will not be allowed to attend classes or live in a university residence hall without making arrangements to pay all of the above items. Please note that the estimate below can change at any time.

Estimated Cost (per semester):

Housing & Meals: $4,600
Books: $600
Medical Insurance: $710

*See [http://www.wichita.edu/thisis/home/?u=housing](http://www.wichita.edu/thisis/home/?u=housing) for exact costs based on residence hall and meal plans.

Payment Options

- **Electronic bank transfer** - Wichita State University has partnered with Flywire to streamline the process of international wire transfers. Please visit our website for more information: [http://www.wichita.edu/pay](http://www.wichita.edu/pay)

- **Cash, Check, Bank Draft, Money Order, or Traveler’s Checks** - If you bring a check or bank draft with you to Wichita, it is very important that the check be made payable to “Wichita State University” (and not to you). Your check should include the address of the bank in the U.S. for collections. If the check is made payable to you, you will not be able to use the money for some time after the check is deposited (which will delay your registration).

- **Credit Card** - If you use a credit card to pay for your medical insurance or housing, you will be charged a 2.75% service fee to use the credit card.