

Pre-Departure Information for Exchange Students

Fall 2023

****Due to the fluid situation of COVID-19, all arrival, orientation, and housing information is tentative and subject to change. We will update you if there are any changes in the information provided.****

Recommended date of arrival: Wednesday, August 16, 2023

Check-in/J-1 Student Orientation: Thursday, August 17-Saturday, August 19, 2023

First day of classes: Monday, August 21, 2023

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: www.wichita.edu/SEVIS.

How to Apply for a Visa

Most students will need to obtain a 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> 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: www.usembassy.gov/

Check out our Visa Interview Tips at www.wichita.edu/VisaTips

Airport Arrival Information

We offer FREE airport transportation from 8:00 A.M. to 11:00 P.M. from the Wichita airport called Dwight D. Eisenhower National Airport (code ICT). 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. More information about requesting airport pickup will be emailed to you at a later date.

Before you book your flight, if you have an arrival time after 5:00 P.M., check with housing before as 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 Hyatt Place at Wichita State University which is located on the WSU campus.

Hyatt Place at Wichita State University: www.hyatt.com/en-US/hotel/kansas/hyatt-place-at-wichita-state-university/ictzw?src=vanity_hyattplaceatwichtastateuniversity.com

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. Prior to arrival, you will receive an email with more information about check-in and orientation for J-1 program students.

Accommodations

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 choose to arrive before the housing contract start date you may be subject to additional nightly fees or you may have to find off-campus accommodations until the official move-in date.** Please contact the WSU Housing Office for specific costs (housing.wsu@wichita.edu).

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

Single private rooms are very limited in the residence halls and are generally not available. Please contact the WSU Housing Office directly if you have any questions regarding this.

Health Matters

Wichita State University requires that all J-1 students have medical insurance that meets the specifications as set by the Department of State.

You will automatically be charged for qualifying medical insurance when you register for classes (the cost is approximately US\$1,250 for one semester). If you already have medical insurance, you will need to submit an insurance waiver to ECI Services. Your proof of medical insurance coverage must contain the coverage amount and the coverage period. If you have adequate medical insurance coverage and are approved for a waiver, you will not be required to purchase a new insurance policy. A tuberculin (TB) blood test, requiring an initial payment of **approximately** US\$90, 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, you can get many of 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.

Before purchasing your own insurance plan, please send your plan to ECI Services at waiver@eciservices.com to ensure that it will be approved for a waiver.

For more details, please visit: Medical Insurance: <http://wichita.edu/MedicalInsurance>

TB Testing and Routine Medical Care: <http://wichita.edu/TBTesting>

Opening a Bank Account

After you arrive in Wichita, you may open a bank account. We have three popular banks nearby – Campus Credit Union is located in the Rhatigan Student Center at WSU, Bank of America has a branch next to our campus and Meritrust Bank has a branch near The Flats. 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. Opening a bank account is free.

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 (The Flats): \$5,785

Books: \$600

Medical Insurance: \$1,250

*See <http://www.wichita.edu/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>
- **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.
- **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.
- **Cash is not accepted at WSU** – If you bring cash with you, you will need to open a U.S. bank account, deposit your cash into it, and then do a bank transfer. Otherwise, if you have an overseas bank account and wish to use a cash machine (ATM) to withdraw a large amount of money, please obtain a free cashier's check from the Campus Credit Union in order to pay your tuition, fees, or housing.