INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The Office of International Affairs (OIA) welcomes more than 2,000 new international students to the Ohio State campus every year and helps them make a smooth transition to the university community and to life in Columbus. By guiding students through the immigration process, and providing them with opportunities to participate in social, cultural, and educational programs, OIA helps international students achieve a balanced and successful start to their new life in the United States.

Office of International Affairs

■ *oia.osu.edu*

The Office of International Affairs (OIA) engages Ohio State students and faculty in international educational and research experiences; facilitates the integration of international students and scholars into Ohio State's world of knowledge; fosters excellence in the study of languages, international security, and the history of arts and cultures and their societies; and provides access to Ohio State's academic expertise for the benefit of communities throughout the world.

Through its International Students and Scholars unit, the Office of International Affairs (OIA) provides advising and assistance with the following:

- Immigration regulations and paperwork
- Social and cultural adjustment
- Personal and financial concerns

Advising is available Monday through Friday from 1 to 4 p.m. at Oxley Hall, room 100. For more information, please visit *oia.osu.edu*.

Office of International Affairs
International Students and Scholars
100 Oxley Hall
1712 Neil Ave.
Columbus, OH 43210
(614) 292-6101
oia.osu.edu
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International student staff

Gifty Ako-Adounvo, director, International Students and Scholars
Kimberly Anthony, immigration coordinator
Obrad Budic, SEVIS policy analyst and compliance officer
Nidhi Kak, systems analyst
Alycia Keller, immigration coordinator
Miriam King, office associate
Dorie Kirwin, receptionist
Megan McCarthy, immigration coordinator
Caroline Omolesky, immigration coordinator
Cheryl Walter, immigration coordinator

New Student Checklist

Things To Do Before Classes Begin

1. Complete OIA Check-in and Orientation

At check-in, OIA staff will be available to meet with you, review your immigration documents, discuss important immigration regulations, and answer any questions you may have. Orientation will introduce you to Ohio State and Columbus, allow you to meet other new students, and will also cover important and helpful topics such as campus resources, safety, and health information. Both programs are required for new international students at Ohio State.

2. Complete each of the tasks on Check-in Schedule

At check-in, all new international students are given a personalized Check-In Schedule. This schedule provides a comprehensive summary of check-in requirements that includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Attend immigration session
- Complete health screening
- Confirm housing arrangements
- Get BuckID (student identification card)
- Activate Ohio State e-mail account
- Take required placement tests
- Register for classes
- Update current address information at *buckeyelink.osu.edu*
- Pay tuition and fees

Please let the OIA check-in staff know if you have questions or concerns about completing any of these required tasks.

Housing

■ *urds.osu.edu/housing*; *offcampus.osu.edu*

For all types of housing, you will need to provide your own pillows, sheets, blankets, towels, dishes, silverware, and pots and pans.

On-Campus Housing

For information about Ohio State's residence halls and family housing, please reference the "Beyond the Classroom" section of this guide.

Off-Campus Housing

For information about private houses, apartments, rooms:

Neighborhood Services and Collaboration
Off-Campus and Commuter Student Engagement
3106 Ohio Union
1739 N. High St.
(614) 292-0100
offcampus.osu.edu

When choosing an apartment, consider the following:

- Furnished or unfurnished
- Private or shared kitchen and bathroom
- Availability of laundry facilities
- Lease length. Many landlords require that you rent the apartment for a minimum number of months.
- Deposit. In addition to the first month's rent, a deposit is usually required, which is returned to you if you leave the apartment in good condition.
- Utilities. Gas, electricity, and water may be paid by you or by the landlord.
- Safety is an important concern, so before signing the lease, check with friends, nationality club members, or Neighborhood Services and Collaboration to ask if the apartment is in a safe area.

Off-campus housing websites

universityvillage.com
roommateclick.com
move.com

Apartment listings

thelantern.com
dispatch.com
columbus.craigslist.org

Student Legal Services

South Campus Gateway
20 E. 11th Ave.
(614) 247-5853
studentlegal@osu.edu

Student Legal Services (SLS) provides free legal services, including a lease review, to students who have paid the SLS fee. Representatives will discuss the details of the lease with you and explain the terms of the lease.

Setting Up Utility Services

Telephone service

For residence halls: You will be given information in the residence halls about how to sign up for service.

For off-campus apartments: Contact AT&T (local service) at 1-800-288-2020 or visit *att.com*. (The company can also provide the numbers for long-distance service companies.) For long-distance service, you may use calling cards.

Water service

Columbus Division of Water, (614) 645-8276

Gas service

Columbia Gas, 1-800-344-4077

Cable service

Time Warner Cable, (614) 481-5050; WOW Cable, 1-866-496-9669

Electric service

American Electric Power, 1-800-672-2231

Cell (mobile) phones and phone cards

Phone cards can be purchased at any U.S. post office, bookstores, pharmacy stores (including the CVS pharmacy on Neil Avenue, one block south of the Office of International Affairs), and most grocery stores. They can be used to make local, long-distance, or international calls. You will pay a set amount of money for a card, which represents a certain number of minutes of telephone time. You can call the company on the card to find out how many minutes of international calling the card purchases. If you do not have a Social Security number, cell phone prepaid service plans are available with a deposit of $400 to $800.

Customer service numbers:

- AT&T: 1-800-331-0500
- Sprint: 1-888-211-472
- Verizon Wireless: 1-800-922-0204
- T-Mobile: 1-800-T-MOBILE

See the Columbus phone book for a complete listing of these services.

Academics

■ *buckeyelink.osu.edu*

Class Registration

Undergraduate students

Class registration will take place after new international student check-in. If you have received transfer credit for courses taken at another college, have all courses that have transferred to Ohio State as general credit evaluated by the transfer credit coordinators of the appropriate departments. (You have received a list of the coordinators with your transfer credit evaluation.) Take copies of the final evaluations with you when you register for classes.

Graduate students

Call or visit your academic department for an appointment with your academic advisor. Your advisor will either enter your course requests for you or will send you to the Graduate School (250 University Hall) to receive registration materials so you can enter your course requests yourself.

- Hire a tutor. Some departments and even residence halls offer tutoring services for free. If you need help with writing, you can go to the Writing Center (475 Mendenhall Lab or 460 Thompson Library) or hire (pay for) a tutor. More information about academic support programs is available in the academics section of this Resource Guide.
- Take time to enjoy your life. International students often feel a great deal of pressure to succeed or excel in classes. However, it is not possible to succeed if you feel too much stress or anxiety. Try to spend time meeting new friends and enjoying sports, movies, and other activities at Ohio State or in Columbus.

Academic Conduct

Americans value originality and individual achievement. These values are reflected in the rules of academic honesty, and students are evaluated academically based only on their original work. What constitutes academic honesty varies from culture to culture, and it is important to understand the rules of academic conduct at Ohio State.

Consequences

Failure to adhere to the Code of Academic Conduct has serious impli-