Whether you are a newly admitted freshman, transfer, graduate or non-degree exchange student, we want to welcome you to Oregon State University. The next 11 pages includes a variety of important information. Where relevant, please be sure to visit our Web site for the most up-to-date and detailed information.

Basic visa information

If you are a newly admitted international student currently outside the U.S., you should receive a Certificate of Eligibility (I-20 or DS-2019) that allows you to apply for either the F-1 student visa or the J-1 exchange visitor visa. Please refer to the Web site of the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate to learn more about the application procedures and approximate waiting times. You can find information at travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1268.html and travel.state.gov/visa/temp/wait/tempvisitors_wait.php. If you are unable to obtain a visa before the start of the term for which you have been admitted, contact OSU’s Office of Admissions (intladmit@oregonstate.edu) and ask to defer your admission to a future term.
For information about how to bring your spouse and/or children on a dependent visa, visit oregonstate.edu/international/atosu. Please note that F-2 visa holders are not allowed to work or pursue a degree program.

**SEVIS fee information**

The first step in the visa application process is payment of the SEVIS fee prior to the visa interview at the U.S. consulate. This fee is in addition to the visa application fee. 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 must pay the SEVIS fee and present the receipt at the port of entry; however, they do not need to apply for the visa stamp at a U.S. consulate.

To pay the SEVIS fee:

1. Obtain your I-20 or DS-2019 and note the SEVIS ID number found at the top right-hand side of your form. The OSU School Code is POO214F00002000 on the I-20 and P-1-00480 on the DS-2019.
2. Go to the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System: SEVIS I-901 Fee Web site at fmjfee.com/i901fee.
3. Complete the Form I-901 and pay the fee with either a credit card or debit card.
4. Print and bring your receipt to your visa interview at the U.S. embassy or consulate.
5. Bring your printed copy of the SEVIS fee payment with your other immigration documents to show upon entry to the U.S.

For more information about the Form I-901 form, visit ice.gov/sevis/i901/index.htm. If you have questions about your particular situation, please contact an OSU international student adviser 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. no earlier than 30 days before the program start date listed on item #5 of your I-20 or box #3 of your DS-2019. To enter the U.S., you should have your original I-20 or DS-2019, a valid passport, a valid F-1 or J-1 visa, proof of SEVIS fee payment and evidence of financial resources. Canadian citizens are exempt from the visa stamp requirement only. For information about preparing for arrival at a U.S. port of entry, visit ice.gov/sevis/factsheet/100104ent_stdtnt_fs.htm.

**Airport transportation**

Portland International Airport (PDX) is located about 145 km from Corvallis. Hut Airport Shuttle makes daily trips from Portland to Corvallis, with drop-offs at the OSU Memorial Union and Hilton Garden Inn near campus. The one-way student fare is $44 (fees may change). To make a reservation or for more information, contact Hut Airport Shuttle by phone at 1-888-257-0126 or by e-mail at office@hutshuttle.com, or visit their Web site at hutshuttle.com.
# Orientation

**Orientation is required for all international students who are newly admitted to OSU, including transfer students.** Fall term students should plan to arrive in Corvallis in time to attend OSU’s orientation program, known as CONNECT. The OSU CONNECT program introduces you to campus and community resources; provides an opportunity to take care of academic advising, registration, required tests and other business; prepares you for the academic term; and allows you to meet other students, staff and faculty through a variety of social activities, including a reception in honor of international students.

To learn more about OSU CONNECT (Sept. 21-25), visit [oregonstate.edu/newstudents](http://oregonstate.edu/newstudents).

The **International Student Orientation** provides information about F-1 or J-1 immigration regulations, including travel, employment, registration requirements and immigration transfers; health insurance requirements and OSU Student Health Services; the OSU academic system and registration process; cultural adjustment; and public safety. Refer to the Web site at [oregonstate.edu/international/atosu](http://oregonstate.edu/international/atosu) for detailed information regarding orientation dates, times and locations.

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Additional Events for Fall 2009:

**OSU CONNECT**  Sept. 21-25

**J-1 Student Session**  Sept. 22

In addition to attending the F-1 or J-1 international student orientation, you are required to come to an Immigration Document Check-In.

You need to bring the documents or copies of the documents listed below for yourself and your dependents:

- Your I-20 or DS-2019 form showing the port of entry stamp
- ID page in your passport showing name and current expiration date
- Your U.S. visa stamp
- The front and back of your I-94 Arrival/Departure Document (usually stapled in your passport once you arrive in U.S.)
- Previous I-20s or DS-2019s (if you are transferring from another U.S. school)

To cover the cost of orientation, a $30 orientation fee is automatically charged to your OSU student account. If you do not attend the International Student Orientation AND the Immigration Document Check-In, a hold is placed on your student records, which prevents you from registering for classes until you meet this requirement.

Once you have decided to attend OSU, please complete the online “Intent to Attend OSU and Orientation Registration Form” at your earliest convenience.

[oregonstate.edu/admissions/international/orientation_registration.php](oregonstate.edu/admissions/international/orientation_registration.php)

We also invite you to join our Facebook community, New2OSU-International09-10. Be sure to visit our International Welcome Center once you arrive at OSU. Learn more at [oregonstate.edu/international/atosu/students/new](oregonstate.edu/international/atosu/students/new)
**Health issues**

Oregon State University 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 for international students:

1. Tuberculosis (TB) testing (exceptions made for certain countries).
2. Immunization documentation for measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) prior to attending classes. The documentation must have either:
   - Complete records of two 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 in 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). This documentation can be sent to Student Health Services via mail, e-mail or fax.

For more information about these requirements or to send documentation, visit [studenthealth.oregonstate.edu/patient-info/immunize-records](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. and during your initial month in the U.S.

In most cases, students need to enroll in either 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 (including the estimated cost per term) are available on the OSU Student Health Services Web site at [studenthealth.oregonstate.edu/insurance](http://studenthealth.oregonstate.edu/insurance).

Printed information is also available at the F-1 and J-1 international student session. In rare instances, students can be relieved of the OSU insurance requirement 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 the OSU Student Health Insurance liaison by e-mail at [student.insurance@oregonstate.edu](mailto:student.insurance@oregonstate.edu) or by telephone at 1-541-737-7568 before buying alternate health insurance.

The Associated Students of Oregon State University (ASOSU) may offer subsidies for students’ health insurance costs. For more information, visit [asosu.oregonstate.edu/services/subsidies/index.php](http://asosu.oregonstate.edu/services/subsidies/index.php).
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. Your options include:

- **Three-day home stay**: If you are interested in staying with a Corvallis family for your first three nights, complete a home stay application and return it to ISFS. Applications and deadlines can be found online at [oregonstate.edu/international/atosu](http://oregonstate.edu/international/atosu). For the fall term, we must receive the form by Aug. 1 to match you with a home stay family.

- **Motels**: Most motels in Corvallis are about 1-4 kilometers from campus. For a complete listing of Corvallis accommodations, refer to the Corvallis Convention and Visitors Bureau Web site at [visitcorvallis.com](http://visitcorvallis.com). When you make a reservation, ask about 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 generally move into your residence hall or cooperative house the Sunday before orientation. West Hall is designed to engage both international and U.S. students who are interested in learning about the world community. Student programs and events are focused on foreign languages, cultural studies, study abroad and connections with campus international programs. When requested, University Housing and Dining Services (UHDS) staff make an intentional effort to assign international students to West Hall with an American roommate. You should receive a letter from UHDS with your hall and room assignment. Please direct all questions about on-campus housing to UHDS by telephone at 1-541-737-4771 or e-mail at UHDS@oregonstate.edu. Visit their Web site at [oregonstate.edu/uhds](http://oregonstate.edu/uhds).

If you plan to live in off-campus housing, you should expect to spend several days locating an apartment or room in a house. To help find available housing, refer to:

- YourCampusRent.com for apartments and/or roommates ([osu-corvallis.yourcampusrent.com](http://osu-corvallis.yourcampusrent.com))
- Corvallis Gazette-Times, the local newspaper ([gazettetimes.com](http://gazettetimes.com))
- The Corvallis phone directory
- The Renter’s Guide available at the Memorial Union on the OSU campus.

Rental listings are also posted in various places on campus. You can find more information about all housing options at [oregonstate.edu/international/atosu](http://oregonstate.edu/international/atosu). OSU students can ride Corvallis buses free with student ID.
Registering for classes

New international students generally register for classes after they arrive on the OSU campus and attend the New International Student Orientation. Some departments require that you meet with an academic adviser before registering for your first term. Please note that if you wait to register for classes until after the first day of the term, you will incur a late registration fee of $50.

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-baccalaureate and nondegree undergraduates) must be enrolled for and complete a minimum of 12 credits each term. Graduate students (master’s, doctorate and nondegree 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 during the academic year (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 adviser. Students in the Conditional Admissions Program (CAP) must follow the registration requirements of the program.

Registration handbook for 2009-10

After you successfully register for your first term at OSU, you will receive an electronic or print statement showing the cost of tuition and fees for the term, including health insurance premium charges. Payment of tuition and fees can be made by credit card, bank draft, traveler’s checks or bank wire to OSU’s Business Affairs Office and should be paid within 30 days of the beginning of classes. Please note that credit card payments involve a $40 surcharge. Any unpaid balance remaining after the first of each month is subject to an interest charge of one percent per month.

Tuition, fees and payment information

Employment

Students on an F-1 visa are eligible to work on campus up to 20 hours per week while the term is in session and full-time (40 hours per week) between terms and during annual (summer) vacations. Students on a J-1 visa may also work on campus once they receive an authorization letter from ISFS. Students who receive an offer for on-campus employment must apply for a Social Security number card. Off-campus employment requires authorization and is approved only under specific conditions. Always consult an international student adviser before accepting any off-campus employment. Dependents on a F-2 visa are not eligible for employment.

Social Security number

Students who receive an offer for on-campus employment must apply for a Social Security number at the local Social Security Administration office in Albany, Oregon (about 18 km from Corvallis). Once you have a written offer of employment, you must request a Social Security number letter from ISFS. Before requesting this letter, you need to register full-time for the fall term. Additional information about applying for a Social Security number is provided during orientation and is available in ISFS or at oregonstate.edu/international/atosu.
Special notes:

**Conditional Admission Program (CAP) for students who have not yet met OSU’s language requirements:** Be sure to thoroughly read the enclosed letter from the CAP Coordinator that describes an additional orientation, tuition and fees and important dates. If you have any questions, contact the CAP Coordinator at intl.advisor@oregonstate.edu.

**SEVIS 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 programs) are considered transfer students and need to complete an immigration transfer to OSU within the first two weeks of class. **Failure to complete this process within the first two weeks could result in a violation of your F-1 or J-1 status.**

**F-1 Students:** To initiate your immigration transfer, you must request that your current school release your F-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 ISFS to assist with the visa transfer. You can contact the J-1 coordinator by e-mail at intl.advisor@oregonstate.edu or by telephone at 1-541-737-3006.

**J-1 Students:** To initiate your immigration transfer, you must 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 ISFS to assist with the visa transfer. You can contact the J-1 coordinator by e-mail at intl.advisor@oregonstate.edu or by telephone at 1-541-737-3006.

For both visa types, if you plan to travel outside the U.S. before beginning your first term at OSU, you should initiate your transfer as soon as possible and notify the appropriate contacts listed above. Please indicate that you will need the OSU I-20 or DS-2019 for re-entry purposes. **Important:** Do not use your previous school’s I-20 or DS-2019 for re-entry into the U.S.

**Undergraduate academic transfers**

Newly admitted undergraduate students who have earned postsecondary credit are encouraged to submit the electronic Intent to Attend form (see page 4) as soon as possible. Once you’ve submitted your form, OSU’s Office of Admissions will begin the review of your transcripts for credit transfer. Students are generally notified of their advance standing via e-mail within four to eight weeks.
International Student and Faculty Services (ISFS)

International Student and Faculty Services (ISFS) offers important services for you and your family during your time at OSU. Besides advising you on visa and immigration regulations, we can assist with personal and academic concerns, cultural adjustment issues and general information about OSU and the Corvallis community. International student advisers are available by appointment Monday through Friday. For additional information about ISFS and arrival preparation, visit oregonstate.edu/international/atosu.

International Degree and Education Abroad (IDEA)/OUS Study Abroad

IDEA and OUS Study Abroad are located on the fourth floor of Snell Hall and offer advising and program development for students and faculty who wish to study, conduct research or participate in internships abroad. International exchange students, in particular, are assisted by these two offices. International as well as U.S. students (especially undergraduates) have the opportunity to study, intern or conduct research in more than 50 countries if related to their academic goals. IDEA oversees the International Degree Program, which is open to all undergraduate students in combination with a primary major.

Crossroads International

Crossroads International is a volunteer community organization that encourages global understanding through friendship between international students and local residents from Corvallis and the surrounding area. Crossroads offers a variety of programs to help you adjust to the community. During the academic year, you may spend time with an American family through the Friendship Hosts program, attend the monthly Worldview series or attend International Film Festivals in February. Women who come to the U.S. on dependent visas may be interested in practicing English at the Crossroads Conversation School. Contact the Crossroad’s coordinator in ISFS at intl.advisor@oregonstate.edu or visit oregonstate.edu/international/crossroads for more information on any of Crossroads’ programs.

International Students of OSU (ISOSU)

International Students of OSU (ISOSU) is a dynamic student organization that serves as the umbrella to the many cultural and regional student groups on campus. ISOSU provides a wide range of international program opportunities to the campus community and Corvallis, and it offers a great way to connect with other international students and U.S. students interested in learning about other cultures. Visit the Web at oregonstate.edu/groups/isosu.
Important dates to remember (fall only)

Aug. 1 Three-Day Home Stay application deadline
Sept. 1 F-1 or J-1 International Student online orientation registration deadline: oregonstate.edu/admissions/international/orientation_registration.php
Sept. 19 Residence halls officially open
Sept. 21-25 OSU CONNECT
Sept. 21 F-1 International student orientation
Sept. 23 Immigration document check-in
Sept. 23 International student welcome reception (evening)
Sept. 28 First day of classes for fall term
Oct. 2 F-1 immigration transfer deadline

We look forward to meeting you during orientation! Have a safe trip to Corvallis!