Pre-Arrival Checklist
For New International F-1 Students

WELCOME! We are excited to have you at Southern Methodist University. To get ready for the transition to campus life, the International Student and Scholar Services team has prepared a helpful checklist. Complete the items below before your arrival to campus.

- **Verify information on I-20/DS2019 is accurate**
  Contact ISSS immediately at isss@smu.edu if you see any errors.

- **Pay SEVIS fee**
  https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/paying-your-i-901-sevis-fee

- **Apply for New Visa (F or J)**
  https://www.usembassy.gov/
  Prepare for your visa interview and take the following documents with you:
  - SEVIS Fee Receipt
  - Letter of Admission
  - Form I20/DS-2019
  - Passport
  - Proof of funding and/or educational sponsorship documents reflected on I-20
  More information can be found at www.smu.edu/isss

- **Attend New Student Orientation**
  - **Undergraduate Students:** You must register for AARO (Academic Advising, Registration, Orientation) via my.SMU. AARO is scheduled for: January 11, 2019
  - **Graduate Students:** Please check your email for any notice from your department or visit their website for any orientation related information. This varies across departments.

- **Register for Health Insurance & Immunizations**
  Take care of this step to ensure there are no holds on your account at the time you register for classes.
  http://www.smu.edu/StudentAffairs/HealthCenter/Insurance

- **Plan for housing and meal plan options**
  - **Undergraduate Students:**
    http://www.smu.edu/studentaffairs/housing
    For students living on-campus meal plans are required
  - **Graduate Students:** Start researching local housing options to see what best fits your needs.

- **Prepare for payment of tuition**
  https://www.smu.edu/EnrollmentServices/Bursar

- **Booking Your Flight**
  When booking your flight allow enough time to arrive before any scheduled orientation session. Students are allowed to enter the U.S. up to 30 days prior to the program start date listed on the form I20 or DS-2019. Be sure to enter the U.S. with your F-1 or J-1 student visa; **do not** enter the U.S. with a tourist visa.

- **Complete the International Student Compliance Course**
  A printed copy of your passing score is **required** for document check-in. Failure to complete this will result in delays in your ability to register for classes.
  Log-in using your SMU ID Number and password.

- **Upload a photo for your SMU ID Card**
  https://www.smu.edu/BusinessFinance/CampusServices/ParkingAndIDCardServices/ID-Card-Services

- **Follow SMU International Student & Scholar Services on Facebook and Instagram.**
  Join our Facebook group **SMU International Mustangs** to interact with other new students.

For questions, please email isss@smu.edu
Attend Orientation

- **Undergraduate Students:** AARO will take place on **January 11, 2019**
- **Graduate Students:** Check with your department

Complete Mandatory Document Check-In

Bring your immigration documents including your signed Form I20, F-1 Visa, passport, I-94, and copy of your compliance quiz.

**Lyle School of Engineering Check-In:** will take place during orientation on January 9th, 2019

**All Other Colleges:**

- **Blanton Building, Room 110**
  - January 14th from 10am
  - January 16th at 2pm
  - January 22nd at 10am
  *attendance is required at only ONE session

Ensure that you meet the health requirements for incoming students.

Review and elect health insurance plan.

[https://www.smu.edu/StudentAffairs/HealthCenter/FrontDesk/HealthHistory](https://www.smu.edu/StudentAffairs/HealthCenter/FrontDesk/HealthHistory)

[http://www.smu.edu/StudentAffairs/HealthCenter/Insurance](http://www.smu.edu/StudentAffairs/HealthCenter/Insurance)

Update your U.S. residence address and U.S. phone number in your My.SMU account.

Department of Homeland Security requires you to update your U.S. local address and phone number **within 10 days** of any change.

Manage your holds—You cannot register for classes until holds are removed. Access your Student Center from your My.SMU account and holds will be listed at the top of the right hand side of the screen. [https://my.smu.edu/](https://my.smu.edu/)

Register for Classes

- **Undergraduate Students:** Course registration will take place at International AARO (orientation).
- **Graduate Students:** Contact your department for course registration procedures. Class registration typically occurs during your orientation.

Upload a photo for your SMU ID

Complete this step to ensure your ID is made on time.

- **Undergraduates:** You will receive your SMU ID during your housing check-in.
- **Graduates:** After you have registered for classes you will be eligible to pickup your ID.

[https://www.smu.edu/BusinessFinance/CampusServices/ParkingAndIDCardServices/ID-Card-Services](https://www.smu.edu/BusinessFinance/CampusServices/ParkingAndIDCardServices/ID-Card-Services)

Pay your tuition and fees through the Bursar’s Office

[https://www.smu.edu/EnrollmentServices/Bursar](https://www.smu.edu/EnrollmentServices/Bursar)

Review Transportation Options: SMU shuttle, parking services and transportation alternatives such as DART. [parking.smu.edu](http://parking.smu.edu)

Attend the Spring Welcome Event on Thursday, January 24th!

Visit the International Student and Scholar Services Event Calendar and Facebook page to learn more!

[https://www.smu.edu/international/isss/EventCalendar](https://www.smu.edu/international/isss/EventCalendar)

Login to your Connect.SMU account to stay up-to-date with other campus happenings.

[https://smu.campuslabs.com/engage/](https://smu.campuslabs.com/engage/)

Review the International Student Handbook for information on campus resources and living in the U.S. [www.smu.edu/isss](http://www.smu.edu/isss)

For questions, please email **isson@smu.edu**