

Prepare to Enter the United States –

Pre-Arrival Information for International Students and Scholars

International Services
Center for Global Engagement
Gladys Davis Pavilion DP-49
777 Glades Road
Boca Raton, FL 33431
iss@fau.edu
www.fau.edu/iss



Congratulations and welcome to Florida Atlantic University!

We are so excited to have you join the FAU community. Once you have been accepted to FAU as a degree seeking or exchange student, you have several steps to complete. This pre-arrival guide will list these steps and offer suggestions to make your arrival into the U.S. and to FAU as smooth as possible.

After completing the presentation, we will be asking you a few questions to ensure that you have a clear understanding of the steps you must complete before you arrive at FAU.

Let's begin...

But before we begin...

The International Services team sends you FAU Owl greetings!!



The FAU campus is a sanctuary to burrowing owls. The owls came here because there are not many predators near the small airport located close to the FAU campus. This feisty bird, traditionally associated with wisdom and determination, serves as the University's mascot!

Table of contents:

- International Services Information - Before you arrive in the U.S.

- Immigration Document
- SEVIS fee and Visa Application Process
- Housing
- Money Matters
- Medical Records (Immunization)
- Ready for Travel

- When you enter the U.S.

- Port of Entry
- Arrival at FAU

- After you arrive in the U.S.

- Mandatory Check-in with International Services
- Mandatory Immigration Orientation
- Medical Insurance
- Holds
- Registering for Classes
- Education Abroad Orientation (only for Exchange/Cooperative students)

- Additional Resources



FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY



**International Services
Center for Global Engagement**

Florida Atlantic University
Gladys Davis Pavilion DP-49
777 Glades Road
Boca Raton, FL 33431

Website: www.fau.edu/international
Email: iss@fau.edu
Phone: 561-297-3049
Fax: 561-297-2446



Hours of Operation

Monday – Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Making Waves



Immigration Documents : I-20 or DS-2019

An I-20 or DS-2019 is issued by the school you will attend and it is a document that will allow you to obtain an F or J visa, and to study at Florida Atlantic University.

If you apply for an F-1 visa, you will receive a form I-20

If you apply for a J-1 visa, you will receive a form DS-2019

Incoming students are responsible for the costs associated with obtaining the documents required to receive their U.S. non-immigrant visa.

Do not make a visa appointment until you have received your Immigration Document (I-20 or DS-2019)

Note: some consular posts will consider expediting visa appointments for F and J visa applicants. Please check with the consulate where you plan to apply for the visa.

Making Waves

SEVIS Fee and Visa Application Process

If you are a newly admitted international student entering the U.S. on an F-1 or J-1 visa, you **must pay the SEVIS I-901 Fee**

- when you receive your I-20 or DS-2019 go to <https://www.fmjfee.com> to pay the **SEVIS I-901 Fee** online or to get information about other payment options
- print your receipt as proof of payment; you will be required to present it when you apply for your visa, and at the airport when you arrive to the U.S.

Obtain a Student Visa

Schedule an appointment at the U.S. Embassy or Consulate in your home country to apply for an F-1 or J-1 visa. You will need to present the following documents:

- I-20 or DS-2019 issued by FAU
- Passport valid for at least 6 months into the future
- Financial Documents to prove sufficient funds to support your education
- Proof of payment of SEVIS I-901 Fee
- See your local [U.S. Embassy or Consulate](http://www.usembassy.gov) (<http://www.usembassy.gov>)

Housing

We encourage you to make housing arrangements prior to your arrival. International Services will not be able to make housing arrangements for you.

On-campus

Apply in advance before the semester start date; check the Housing web site for more information <http://www.fau.edu/housing/> or call 561-297-2880

Off-campus

If you choose to live off-campus, do your research in advance and plan to arrive to Florida early so you can visit apartments for rent, purchase furniture (if needed), etc. Even though you are always part of the FAU community and permitted to use the services provided to all FAU students, you are still responsible for transportation to the campus. To check off campus options please click on [FAU off-campus housing](#) website. These services are free of charge to FAU students. Some additional resources outside of the university include:

http://www.trulia.com/for_rent/Boca_Raton,FL

Temporary Housing

International students with on-campus housing assignments who arrive earlier than the formal starting date may check in earlier for additional cost of \$30/night. The number of days when housing is available before the starting date varies each semester depending on availability. You can also stay at the local hotel. Here is a link to find local hotels in Boca Raton location:

[Search for Boca Raton Hotels](#)

Money Matters

You are expected to have sufficient funds for the period of your studies at FAU as you have shown on your Financial Certification Form

For your initial arrival bring cash, prepaid debit card, or traveler's checks to cover your initial expenses which may include but are not limited to:

- medical insurance
- tuition/fees
- books and supplies
- payment for on-campus housing or off campus rent

We suggest you have **at least \$6000-\$7000** available to use immediately.

If you are planning to use a credit card issued in your country, please notify the credit card company that you are planning to use the card for transactions in the U.S.

Note: When renting an apartment, you may be required to pay a security deposit plus your first and last months' rent.

For more guidelines about living in the United States please check:
https://www.internationalstudent.com/study_usa/way-of-life/)

The logo 'Making Waves' is written in a cursive, handwritten-style font. The letters are dark blue or black, and the overall style is elegant and flowing.

Medical Records

Bring medical and immunization records with you if you have not submitted them prior to arrival. Florida State Law requires all students to be immunized against *Measles and Rubella*. Prior to registration you will have to provide medical certificates in English showing you received the required immunizations, or you will have to receive immunizations upon arriving at FAU.



Please check the immunization information by clicking on this link:
http://www.fau.edu/shs/info_forms/immunizations.php

Ready for Travel?

- **Where to arrive?**

Miami International Airport (MIA)

(<http://www.Miami-airport.com>), please check the available transportation from Miami Airport to the main FAU campus in Boca Raton [here](#).

Fort Lauderdale Airport (FLL) (<http://www.broward.org/airport/Pages/Default.aspx>).

Ground transportation from the Fort Lauderdale airport can be found [here](#).

Palm Beach Airport (PBI) (<http://www.pbia.org/>). Ground transportation from the Palm Beach Airport can be found [here](#).

Note: please consider that FAU has several campuses. Make sure you determine which [FAU Campus](#) you plan to arrive.

- **When to arrive?**

You should arrive **before** the semester begins **but not earlier than 30 days** prior to the start of classes.

Graduate students who will participate in a Teaching Assistantship are required to enter the U.S. as early as it is permitted to attend [SITA training](#)

The logo 'Making Waves' is written in a cursive, handwritten-style font.

Arriving at a U.S. Port of Entry (Immigration and Customs)

You will be required to present the following documents to the Immigration Officer :

- Passport with F-1 (or J-1) Visa Stamp
- FAU I-20 (or DS-2019)
- Copy of receipt of [SEVIS I-901 Fee Receipt](#)

It is recommended to also bring:

- Evidence of financial resources
- Contact Information for FAU International Services

Make sure your passport is stamped F-1 (or J-1) visa and “D/S” (duration of status) instead of a specific expiration date

You MUST NOT enter the U.S. using a B1/B2 visa or W-T (visa waiver)

Having Trouble at the Point of Entry (POE)?

Ask the POE officer to call the school:

Contact the International Services Office during business hours

Tel: 561.297.3049

If outside of business hours: contact the FAU police non-emergency line: 561.297.3500 and ask to be routed to the Dean of Students or the Director of International Services.



Making Waves

Mandatory Immigration CHECK-IN

You will use our automated form to submit your most up-to-date personal information, and in addition you will sign the Responsibility Form

Note: at the time you come to the IS office for CHECK-IN, have your local residence address ready to enter.

You will bring the following documents to International Services at the time of CHECK-IN:

- Valid Passport with your valid F1/J1 visa stamp
- [I-901 SEVIS Fee Receipt](#)
- Signed I-20 (or DS-2019)
- I-94 form - you will be able to [download the I-94](#) form at the time of your CHECK-IN

Mandatory Immigration Orientation

Immigration Orientation is MANDATORY for all international students in addition to the university-wide academic orientation (J-1 students do not attend the university-wide academic orientation).

Click [here](#) now to sign up for Mandatory IMMIGRATION ORIENTATION

Depending on the level of your education, you are required to attend university wide orientation. Make sure you review below web sites to check the schedules for academic orientations:

- [Orientation for Undergraduate Freshman and Transfer students](#)
- [Orientation for Graduate students](#)

Medical Insurance

F-1 and J-1 students are required to have medical insurance that meets state-mandated coverage guidelines. Students have two options:

- Purchase the FAU insurance plan. You need to contact [Insurance for Students](#), Inc. or Student Health Services office directly ([click here](#)) (J-1 students will receive insurance information directly from Education Abroad).
- Purchase an outside plan. In this case the insurance company must complete the [Alternate Insurance Compliance Form](#) and confirm that the policy meets all requirements listed on the form

Note: failure to purchase the insurance will result in placing a hold on your account which will prevent you from registering for classes

Other Holds On Your FAU Account

Before you are able to register for classes, there are some holds on your account and you will need to take an action in order to remove them.

These are the most common holds that international students will need to clear:

- International Student Office Hold
- Medical Insurance Hold
- Orientation and Advising for transfer/freshman students
- Immunization
- Statement of Responsibility
- FAU Alert

Please review the guide on [How to remove your other FAU holds](#)

Register for Classes!

All International Students **MUST** be registered **FULL TIME** or will fall out of status and become ineligible for immigration benefits.

Undergraduate (Bachelor's Degree)

- FALL and SPRING semesters: Full Time = minimum total twelve (12) undergraduate credit hours
- SUMMER semester
 - *If Summer 1 & 2 are your **FIRST** semester: Full Time = minimum twelve (12) credit hours
 - *If Summer 3 is your **FIRST** semester: Full Time = minimum six (6) credit hours

Note: in any of the above full time status cases (either for Graduate or Undergraduate students, only three (3) credit hours can be online classes

Graduate (Masters and/or Doctoral Degree)

- FALL and SPRING semesters: Full Time = minimum nine (9) graduate credit hours
- SUMMER semester
 - * If Summer 1 & 2 is your **FIRST** semester: Full Time = minimum six (6) graduate credit hours
 - * If Summer 3 is your **FIRST** semester: Full Time = minimum three (3) graduate credit hours

*Note: Summer is **OPTIONAL** (no class requirements) for most **continuing** students*

Additional Resources

- Study in the States – [Getting to the United States](#)
- Education USA - [Prepare for your departure](#)
- Study in the States – [I-901 Fee Payment Tutorial](#)
- Prepare for College in the States – [BLOG](#)
- Study Guide to the States <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/guide-to-studying-in-the-states>
- Follow/Like us on:

 [Facebook](#),  [Instagram](#) and  [Snapchat!](#)

Now we invite you to take a short quiz from the material you have learned in the pre-arrival orientation.

It is a multiple choice 10 question test and only one answer is correct for each question. The system will allow you to submit after you have answered all questions correctly. You can use this Power Point for your reference while you are taking the quiz.

We can't wait to see you soon! 😊

Truly yours,

International Services Team
Starting left: Jenny, Sharon, Edyta,
Qingqing and Myrtha



Making Waves