

Florida Atlantic University ~ Division of Student Affairs ~ International Student and Scholar Services

Email (all locations): iss@fau.edu Website: www.fau.edu/iss

Boca Raton Campus: 777 Glades Road, SU 214, Boca Raton, FL 33431 ~ Tel. (561) 297-3049 Fax: (561) 297-2446

MacArthur Campus: Diversity Services (SR 117), 5353 Parkside Dr., Jupiter, FL 33458 ~ Tel. (561)799-8585 Fax: (561) 799-8721

INFORMATION FOR NEWLY ADMITTED INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS in F-1 VISA STATUS

The International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) team is here to assist you in making a smooth transition to life as a student at Florida Atlantic University (FAU). Please read this pre-arrival guide and review all enclosed documents. For more detailed information visit our website at <http://www.fau.edu/iss>. If you do not have web access, please email or call our office to request materials in alternative format (via email or regular mail).

BEFORE YOU ENTER THE UNITED STATES

- **Review the enclosed form I-20 (3 pages) carefully. Sign page 1 after confirming that all information is accurate and after reading the information on page 2.**
- **Pay the SEVIS fee.** Newly admitted students who enter the U.S. for the first time in F-1 status must pay the SEVIS fee (\$200 USD) prior to applying for their visa. Payment information is available at www.fmjfee.gov.
- **Apply for the F-1 Visa.** If you are currently outside the U.S., you must visit the U.S. embassy/consulate in your home country to apply for the F-1 visa. You will have to present your I-20 issued by Florida Atlantic University (FAU), passport (valid at least six months into the future), FAU admission letter, and original financial documents to prove availability of funds for your education and living expenses. For complete information about the F-1 non-immigrant visa application visit http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1268.html and visit the website of the embassy/consulate where you plan to apply for the visa (<http://www.usembassy.gov>). Application procedures for the F-1 non-immigrant visa vary among consular posts. Please contact the consular office where you plan to obtain your visa for appointment, forms, fees, and other application details. **DO NOT ENTER THE U.S. using a B-1/B-2 tourist visa.** B-1/B-2 (tourist) visa holders are not allowed to enroll as degree seeking students.
*Note: Citizens of **Canada** do not need to apply for an F-1 visa at a U.S. Consulate, but they do need to obtain an I-20 and use it to enter the U.S. F-1 status is granted when entering the U.S. during the immigration and customs process.*
- **Make housing arrangements before arrival.** ISSS cannot make housing arrangements for you. On-campus housing is limited, and reserving space requires an application far in advance of the semester start date. For further housing information, call 561-297-2880 or visit the housing website at <http://www.fau.edu/student/housing>. Additional off-campus housing information is available at http://www.fau.edu/iss/prospective/Housing_Info.php.
- **Prepare for money matters.** You are expected to have sufficient funds for the period of studies as indicated on the I-20. For your initial arrival bring cash or travelers' checks to cover your initial expenses, medical insurance, tuition/fees, books and supplies, and initial housing arrangements. Individual financial needs vary greatly, but we recommend that you have at least U.S. \$3000 --\$4000 in cash or travelers' checks. Another good option is to arrange for a wire transfer of funds that can be immediately available. If you are a graduate student with an assistantship, it may take a month or longer after the beginning of the semester to receive your first payment from the university. Thus you will still need to have some funds available for initial expenses.
- **Bring medical and immunization records with you.** 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 (for an additional cost to you). <http://www.fau.edu/shs/additional/immunization.php>
- **Prepare for entry to the United States.** At the port of entry (i.e., Fort Lauderdale International Airport, Miami International Airport, etc.) you will need to present the following documents: passport with valid F-1 visa stamp,

FAU I-20, and Form I-94 (which you will receive on the airplane upon your arrival). Be prepared to answer questions about the purpose of your entry to the U.S., what you will be studying, etc.

AFTER YOU ENTER THE U.S.

All students are encouraged to arrive on campus prior to the start of any required orientations (usually 3-4 days in advance). Students who are currently abroad may enter the U.S. no earlier than 30 days prior to the program start date listed on the I-20, and no later than the start date listed on the I-20.

- **Graduate students with assistantships must arrive** in time to attend the Seminar for International Student Assistants (SITA). For more information <http://www.fau.edu/graduate/applyonline/international/sita.php> or email SITA.FAU@fau.edu. Graduate students with assistantship who do not have a social security number (SSN) must wait 7-10 days after entering the U.S. before applying for the SSN. Allow approximately one month to have the number issued.
- **Visit ISSS (<http://www.fau.edu/iss>) as soon as you arrive on campus** for the **mandatory Immigration Check-in process**, which must be completed within 10 days of arrival in the U.S.
- Hours of operation and holiday closings are posted on our website.

IMMIGRATION CHECK-IN and IMMIGRATION ORIENTATION

- Immigration check-in is **mandatory** for all students new to FAU (freshman, transfer, graduate), and current FAU students who are changing educational levels (i.e., bachelor's to master's)
 - **All new F-1 students must present the following documents to ISSS at the time of check-in:** Valid Passport; F-1 visa stamp or Change of Status approval notice; I-94 card; and FAU I-20. Transfer students must also bring a copy of the I-20 issued by their previous institution.
 - I-94 card (which you will receive on the airplane upon your arrival).
 - I-20 issued by FAU (note: transfer students must bring copies of I-20 forms issued at previous institutions).
 - **Students who are already in the U.S.** and are transferring from another institution, continuing at FAU in a different program level (i.e., bachelor's to master's, etc.), or changing status from another visa category to F-1 must also complete the check-in process.
 - **Students who are already in the U.S., wish to gain F-1 status, and did not receive an I-20 from FAU** must contact the ISSS Office immediately to determine whether a change of status is required.
- Attend **Immigration Orientation, required university-wide orientation (undergraduate or graduate) as well as departmental orientation sessions.** As a new student to FAU, you will have to attend a variety of orientation sessions and other meetings before you begin classes.

All incoming F-1 students (new and transfer) must attend **immigration orientation**. The dates and times are listed below. Please check your email often for communication from the ISSS office. If you would like to correspond with a member of the ISSS staff regarding orientation, email iss@fau.edu

Immigration Orientation is mandatory. If the dates conflict with other programs you must attend, please contact ISSS in advance to make alternative arrangements. Orientation dates will be posted on the ISSS website starting in March.

Check with the appropriate office below and with your academic department regarding additional information sessions and orientation programs that you may be required to attend:

- Undergraduate Students (freshman and transfer): www.fau.edu/orientation
- Graduate Students: <http://wise.fau.edu/graduate/orientation>

- **Purchase required medical insurance.*** F-1 students are required to have medical insurance that meets state-mandated coverage guidelines. You may choose to purchase medical insurance prior to arrival at FAU as long as you make sure that your insurance plan meets FAU requirements.

Students must comply with the insurance requirement prior to class registration – no exceptions!

Students have two options:

- 1) To purchase the FAU insurance plan, contact Insurance for Students, Inc. at www.insuranceforstudents.com or contact Student Health Services <http://www.fau.edu/shs/additional/ins-international.php>. Compliance with the insurance requirement must be verified prior to registering for courses. An insurance representative will be available at the Student Health Services (SHS) office at the beginning of the semester.
 - 2) Students who wish to use an outside plan must present the Alternate Insurance Compliance Form (http://www.fau.edu/shs/additional/Alternate_Insurance_Form_2010_2011.pdf) – signed by the insurance company. Students can email insurance@fau.edu to find out if the information provided meets FAU insurance requirement.
- **Provide a local address** within 10 days from arriving in the U.S.
 - **Provide immunization records** and medical information to Student Health Services* -- required before you can enroll in courses (<http://www.fau.edu/shs/additional/immunization.php>). You can submit this information prior to your arrival to FAU. Students who cannot provide immunization records can receive the immunization vaccines at FAU for an additional cost.
 - **Clear any remaining holds** preventing registration.* Once you are admitted to FAU, you will receive login account information and access to the MyFAU portal.
 - **Consult with your academic/faculty advisor*** regarding course selection/registration and **register for classes.***

In many cases, you will be able to resolve some of the items marked with an asterisk () prior to arriving in the U.S. or at FAU. In some cases, you will have to wait until you arrive here.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION AT FAU

Undergraduate Admissions	http://www.fau.edu/admissions/ 561-297-2627 or eklimcza@fau.edu
Graduate Admissions	http://wise.fau.edu/graduate/applyintl.php arlingto@fau.edu or 561-297-2428 bbeberga@fau.edu or 561-297-0056
Registrar's Office	http://www.fau.edu/registrar/ 561-297-3050 or registrar@fau.edu
Housing and Residential Life	http://www.fau.edu/housing/ 561-297-2880 or housing@fau.edu
Student Health Services Medical Insurance	http://www.fau.edu/shs/ 561-297- 3515 or insurance@fau.edu http://www.fau.edu/shs/additional/ins-international.php
Immunizations	561-297-0048 http://www.fau.edu/shs/additional/immunization.php

Immigration Orientation Sessions

Boca Raton Campus

August 17, 2011 (Wednesday)	Time: 10:00 to 12:00 pm	Location: BU 203
August 19, 2011 (Friday)	Time: 4:30 to 6:30 pm	Location: Nations Multi-Purpose Room

Davie Campus

August 16, 2011 (Tuesday)	Time: 2:00 to 3:00 pm	Location: LA 225
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Jupiter Campus

August 17, 2011 (Wednesday)	Time: To be determined	Location: to be assigned
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Until you arrive on campus....Stay connected



New Students can connect to ISSS by joining our Facebook community to receive announcements about FAU social activities, campus events and local community events. Log on to [Facebook www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) to create an account and become a “fan” of:

[International Students @ FAU](#)



Also, visit www.fau.com to access videos, sports events, Youtube, calendars, twitter and more.....Learn what life is like on campus and the JOY of being an FAU student. It is a fun and friendly online environment and a great way to learn about your new school!

Contact Information

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