

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, DP 49, Boca Raton, FL 33431 ~ Tel. +1 (561) 297-3049 Fax: +1 (561) 297-2446

Davie Campus: 3200 College Avenue, Davie, FL 33314 ~ Tel. +1 (954)- 236-1218 Fax: +1 (954) 236-1123

MacArthur Campus: 5353 Parkside Dr., Jupiter, FL 33458 ~ Tel. +1 (561)799-8686 Fax: +1 (561) 799-8721

INFORMATION FOR NEWLY ADMITTED INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS WITH 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 of the 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 an alternative format (via [email](#) or regular mail).

BEFORE YOU ENTER THE UNITED STATES

- **Review the enclosed I-20 form (3 pages) carefully. Sign page 1 ONLY 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.
- **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://www.ice.gov/sevis/students> 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/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 available in cash or traveler checks for your initial expenses. 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/info_forms/immunizations.php
- **Prepare for entry to the United States.** At the port of entry 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. You can enter the U.S. using your F-1 visa no earlier than 30 days before the beginning of the semester.

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](#)); this is offered for students who start in the fall semester only. If you have questions please 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.

IMMIGRATION ORIENTATION & CHECK-IN

1. **Immigration check-in** is mandatory for all students new to FAU, and current FAU students who are changing educational levels (i.e., bachelor's to master's). Please sign up on line for the check-in process before you arrive: http://www.fau.edu/iss/prospective/Orientation_Checkin.php. When you arrive at the Florida Atlantic University to start your program, you need to come to the International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) as soon as possible. ISSS is located at [777 Glades Road, Building DP 49, Boca Raton, FL 33431](#) and our hours of operation are Monday – Friday
 - All international students coming to FAU are responsible for maintaining legal non-immigrant status and valid insurance coverage. When checking in, you must read, sign and submit the [Acknowledgment of Responsibility](#) form to the ISSS office.
 - All new F-1 students must present the following documents to ISSS at the time of check-in:
 - Valid Passport with F-1 visa stamp (or Change of Status approval notice)
 - I-20 issued by FAU (note: transfer students must bring copies of I-20 forms issued at previous institutions)
 - I-94 form (you will be able to download the I-94 form at the time of your check-in)
 - [SEVIS Fee Receipt](#).
2. All incoming F-1 students (new and transfer) must attend a mandatory **Immigration Orientation** *prior* to the beginning of the program. In order to sign up for the Immigration Orientation session, students must register on line.
3. Students are in addition required to attend the university-wide orientation ([undergraduate freshman](#) or [transfer or graduate](#)). You may also have to attend an orientation in your department. As a new student to FAU, you will have to attend a variety of orientation sessions and other meetings before you begin classes.

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.

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

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): <http://www.fau.edu/orientation/>
- Graduate Students: <http://www.fau.edu/graduate/current-students/orientation.php>

- 4. 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:

- a) 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/fees_insurance/ins-international.php](http://www.fau.edu/shs/fees_insurance/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.
- b) Students who wish to use an outside plan must submit an Alternate Insurance Compliance Form to the Student Health Services signed by the insurance company, the link is below:
<http://www.fau.edu/shs/images/alternate-insurance-form.pdf>. Students can email the completed form to insurance@fau.edu to find out if the information provided meets FAU insurance requirement.

- 5. Provide a local address** within 10 days from arriving in the U.S. ISSS office will need to report the address in order to notify SEVIS about your enrollment!
- 6. Provide immunization records** and medical information to Student Health Services* -- required before you can enroll in courses (http://www.fau.edu/shs/info_forms/immunizations.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.
- 7. Clear any remaining holds** preventing registration.* Once you are admitted to FAU, you will receive login account information and access to the MyFAU portal.
- 8. 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 CONTACTS

<i>Undergraduate Admissions</i>	http://www.fau.edu/admissions/ admissions@fau.edu or 561-297-2627
<i>Graduate Admissions</i>	http://www.fau.edu/graduate/graduatecollege@fau.edu or 561-297-2428
<i>Registrar's Office</i>	http://www.fau.edu/registrar/registrar@fau.edu or 561-297-3050
<i>Housing and Residential Life</i>	On-campus Housing : http://www.fau.edu/housing/housing@fau.edu or 561-297-2880 Additional Housing Information: http://www.fau.edu/iss/prospective/Housing_Info.php
<i>Student Health Services and Medical Insurance</i>	http://www.fau.edu/shs/ http://www.fau.edu/shs/fees_insurance/ins-international.php http://www.fau.edu/shs/about/contact_us.php or 561-297-3515
<i>Immunizations</i>	http://www.fau.edu/shs/info_forms/immunizations.php or 561-297-0048

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 to create an account and become a “fan” of: [International Students @ FAU](https://www.facebook.com/InternationalStudents@FAU)



Also, visit www.fau.edu 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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