

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

The International Student Services (ISS) 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 the enclosed documents. For more detailed information, please visit our website at <http://www.fau.edu/international>. If you do not have web access, please email or call our office to request materials in an alternative format.

BEFORE YOU ENTERING THE UNITED STATES

Review your I-20 form (3 pages) carefully. Sign page 1 ONLY after confirming that all information is accurate and after reading the information on page 3.

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 at <https://fmjfee.com> before applying for their visa. Please save the copy of your I-901 SEVIS fee receipt.

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 the 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 appointments, 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.

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. ISS 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. Before 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). Visit http://www.fau.edu/shs/info_forms/immunizations.php for more details.

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 additional supporting documents if recommended by the ISS office. When you enter the U.S. border, you will receive an I-94 electronic form, the departure/arrival record. 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 ENTERING THE UNITED STATES

All students are encouraged to arrive on campus prior to the start of any required orientations (usually 3-4 days in advance), or earlier to assure living accommodations. 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 should not arrive later than the present term add/drop date listed on the FAU academic calendar (<https://www.fau.edu/registrar/registration/calendar.php>).

Graduate students with assistantships must arrive in time to attend the Seminar for International Student Assistants (<https://www.fau.edu/international/internationalassistants.php>) - 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 assistantships 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.

Attend the mandatory Immigration Orientation and Check-In Sessions.

IMMIGRATION ORIENTATION & CHECK-IN

Both International (Immigration) Orientation and Check-In are mandatory. All incoming F-1 students (new and transferring from other U.S. institutions) must attend immigration orientation and check-in, and current FAU students who are changing educational levels (i.e., bachelor's to master's) are only required to attend immigration check-in. Please sign up online for the International (Immigration) Orientation & Check-In to reserve your spot: http://www.fau.edu/iss/prospective/Orientation_Checkin.php before your arrival. The mandatory International Orientation is in person and the Immigration Check-in is virtual, however, you must be in the country to attend Immigration Check-in as you will be required to submit documents that you may only obtain when entering the U.S. (e.g. I-94, etc.) ISS is located at 777 Glades Road, Davis Gladys Pavilion DP-49, Boca Raton, FL 33431, and our hours of operation are Monday - Friday from 8 AM to 5 PM.

Immigration Orientation and Check-in are mandatory. If the dates conflict with other programs you must attend, please contact ISS in advance to make alternative arrangements. Orientation dates will be posted on the [ISS website](#).

- All international students coming to FAU are responsible for maintaining legal non-immigrant status and valid insurance coverage. When signing up online for the International (Immigration) Orientation & Check-In, you will be asked to read, sign, and submit the Acknowledgment of Responsibility Form to the ISS office.
- All new F-1 students must present the following documents to ISS at the time of check-in:
 - Valid Passport with F-1 visa stamp (or Change of Status approval notice)
 - Signed I-20 issued by FAU (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 (retrieved online from <https://fmjfee.com>)

Students are in addition required to attend the university-wide orientation. As a new student to FAU, you will have to attend a variety of orientation sessions before you begin classes (depending on your category, you will need to attend one of the following: First Year SOAR, Transfer SOAR, Graduate Student Orientation, departmental orientation, etc.) 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>

BEFORE REGISTERING FOR CLASSES

Purchase required medical insurance*. All international F and J visa holders must have medical insurance in compliance with the Florida Board of Governors Regulation 6.009 and FAU Regulation 4.009. International students in F and J visa status will be enrolled automatically in the FAU-sponsored Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP), and the insurance premium (cost) will appear as a financial charge on the student’s account.

Students may comply with the health insurance requirement by either:

- Students will automatically be enrolled within the school’s health insurance and billed to their FAU account, **or**
- Waive the university plan* by submitting proof of an acceptable alternate medical insurance during the waiver portal submission timeline. Waiver must be approved to qualify:
<https://www.fau.edu/shs/insurance/international.php>

*Students are responsible to submit a new waiver for each academic year (prior to the start of fall term).

Please note that FAU ISS does not oversee the student health insurance process (including waiver).

Please direct questions concerning the FAU student health insurance to Gallagher Student Health & Special Risk at [833-468-9571](tel:833-468-9571) or www.gallagherstudent.com/FAU.

For any other questions please contact FAU Student Health Services (SHS): http://fau.edu/shs/about/contact_us.php

Provide a local address within 10 days from arriving in the U.S. ISS office will need to report the address to notify SEVIS and to activate your SEVIS record!

Provide immunization records and medical information to Student Health Services*. This is required before you can enroll in courses (<https://www.fau.edu/shs/immunization/>). You can submit this information before you arrive at 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*. It is recommended to consult with your advisor regarding course selection/registration and register for classes.

For the () items, you may be able to resolve those items prior to arriving in the U.S. or at FAU. Always check with the ISS office for any questions and guidance.*

| IMPORTANT CONTACTS | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Undergraduate Admissions | http://www.fau.edu/admissions/ admissions@fau.edu 561-297-2627 |
| Graduate Admissions | http://www.fau.edu/graduate/ graduatecollege@fau.edu 561-297-2428 |
| Registrar’s Office | http://www.fau.edu/registrar/ registrar@fau.edu 561-297-3050 |

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| Housing and Residential Life | On-campus Housing: http://www.fau.edu/housing/ housing@fau.edu 561-297-2880 Additional Housing Information: http://www.fau.edu/iss/prospective/Housing_Info.php |
| Student Health Services and Medical Insurance | http://www.fau.edu/shs/ https://www.fau.edu/shs/immunization/insurance.php http://www.fau.edu/shs/about/contact_us.php 561-297-3515 |
| Immunizations | http://www.fau.edu/shs/info_forms/immunizations.php |

Let's stay connected!

New Students can connect to ISS by using two social media platforms: Facebook and Instagram. Students will receive announcements about FAU social activities, campus events, and local community events. Students will need to create an account before following and like the ISS accounts.

Follow us 😊



Facebook | Instagram

International_Students@FAU | fauinternationalservices

Also, visit Florida Atlantic University's main website at 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!

ISS Contact Information

Email: iss@fau.edu | Website: www.fau.edu/iss

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 777 Glades Road, DP-49, Boca Raton, FL 33431
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