Pre-arrival Information
July 19, 2024
Deadlines to Submit Documents for I-20

• For students who do not have F-1 visa: Deadline for submitting I-20 request and the required documents for Fall 2024 entry has already passed.

• Late requests will be processed in a case by case basis.

• As F-1 visa applications takes time (depends on the countries), students may consider the option to defer admission to the next semester.

• Contact the ISS office at isss@fau.edu directly to see if we can make an exception depending on the Visa appointment Wait Time

• For students who are transferring from another U.S. institution or already has a F-1 visa: we are still accepting and processing I-20 request.
The Earliest Admission Date for Fall 2024

- Students can enter the U.S. as early as 30 days before the program start date.
- Fall 2024 starts on August 17, 2024 and the earliest admission date to the U.S. is July 18, 2024.
Students are Expected to Arrive One Week Early Before the Semester

- You are required to attend the following sessions (federally mandated for all international students).
- Detail: https://www.fau.edu/global/international/orientation-checkin/

Immigration Orientation and Immigration Check-in (must be inside of the U.S.)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>FALL 2024 SCHEDULE</td>
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<td>*Choose one date to attend.</td>
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| (1) Tuesday, August 13, 2024 |  • Orientation - 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm  
  • Resources Fair - 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
  • Location: College of Business BU120 (Map)  
  *Sign in begins at 12:30 pm. No late entry allowed. |
| (2) Wednesday, August 14, 2024 |  • Orientation - 10:00 am - 12:00 pm  
  • Resources Fair - 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm  
  • Location: College of Business BU120 (Map)  
  *Sign in begins at 9:30 am. No late entry allowed. |

Meeting Link:
- Via Zoom: https://fau-edu.zoom.us/j/88954348526?pwd=YWQ1eVFhREd4dGlub1YT1pXZVpHdz09
- Passcode: Iss497
Last Day to Arrive for Fall 2024

- **Fall Entry** students are not permitted to arrive later than **Thursday, August 22, 2024** (the day before the class add/drop deadline).

- Students must be registered in SEVIS (the government database) before the SEVIS registration deadline; otherwise, F-1 status will be terminated.
  - In order to be registered in SEVIS (done by the ISS team), student must first:
    - Attend mandatory immigration orientation
    - Complete mandatory immigration check-in and get approved
    - Enroll in full-time course load
    - No more than 3 credit hours of fully online classes
    - View enrollment requirements here: [https://www.fau.edu/global/international/current/enrollment/](https://www.fau.edu/global/international/current/enrollment/)
Before Arriving to the U.S. (Part 1)

- Obtain your I-20 and F-1 visa.
- Complete all items on the checklist in your OwlDone Portal (for Undergraduate students ONLY).
- Clear all the registration holds that prevent you from registering for classes, such as:
  - Register for mandatory immigration orientation and check-in
  - Submit immunization record
  - More
  - Please watch our previous Q&A session on Onboarding: How to Remove Holds, Register for Classes, and More
- Register for classes
  - The last day to add/drop classes is August 23 but the classes are filled up very quickly
  - Contact your academic advisor to consult the classes you need for your program.
  - Find your academic advisor on the FAU Advising Resources page.
Before Arriving to the U.S. (Part 2)

- Make your travel arrangements: book flight tickets, plan for transportation, and more
  - Travel and Transportation Guide (How to get to FAU from three main airports in south FL)
  - Remember that you are expected to arrive one week before the classes begin.
  - FAU does not provide airport pick up.

- Make your housing arrangements:
  - **On-campus Housing**
    - Priority for on campus housing is given to undergraduate students, but graduate students can still submit an interest form.
    - Check the [FAU Housing](#) website.
    - $100 non-refundable application fee is required.
  - **Off-campus Housing**
    - [Off-campus Housing Resources & Guide](#)
  - **Temporary Housing** (such as hotels and Airbnb)
  - Please watch our previous Q&A session on [Housing & Transportation](#)
Before Arriving to the U.S. (Part 3)

- Prepare your travel/immigration documents:
  - Transportation details and tickets
  - Passport with valid F-1 or J-1 Visa stamp
  - FAU I-20
  - SEVIS Fee payment receipt
  - Proof of enrollment (recommended)
  - Proof of funding (recommended)
  - Other documents to help you answer questions about the purpose of your entry to the U.S., what you will be studying, etc
  - For more information about how to prepare for your entry into the United States,
  - visit: https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/getting-to-the-united-states
Before Arriving to the U.S. (Part 4)

● Prepare your cash fund for arrival
  ○ You should plan to arrive in the U.S. with at least USD $5,000-$7,000 cash, whether through traveler’s checks or by wire transfer, to pay for your initial expenses.
  ○ If you are using a private student loan in which the funds are disbursed directly to the university (e.g. Prodigy Finance or MPower), the funds cannot be disbursed without an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) or Social Security Number (SSN). It takes several weeks to obtain an ITIN or SSN. Email studygroup@fau.edu for more information about private student loans and the ITIN process.
After Arriving to the U.S.

- Attend mandatory immigration orientation and check-in. See details again at: [https://www.fau.edu/global/international/orientation-checkin/](https://www.fau.edu/global/international/orientation-checkin/)

- Attend other required orientation (such as SOAR for freshman and Graduate assistant orientation).

- Submit your official transcript (Applies to students admitted via Study Group. May apply to other students. Can be done pre- or post-arrival).

- Request your Owl Card (Student ID card)
  - The Owl Card is used to access various services and retail options at FAU. All students are required to obtain one, as it serves as your official photo identification, debit card, Owl Bucks card, library card, residence hall building key, meal card for those who have meal plans, and your ticket to many FAU events, including sporting events. You will need to present your OWL card to receive the benefits of the many services offered at FAU.
  - Complete the [online form](https://www.fau.edu/global/international/orientation-checkin/) to request your Owl Card.
After Arriving to the U.S. (More)

• Settle down and get familiar with your community.
• Join campus tour to get to know your school.
• Meet with your academic advisor (if needed).
• Open bank account.
• Set up U.S. phone number.
• Any other that may applies to you.

Visit our Pre-arrival Information page for more information:
https://www.fau.edu/global/international/new-student/index.php
# Summary of Some of the Important Dates

- **FAU Academic Calendar:** [https://www.fau.edu/registrar/calendar/](https://www.fau.edu/registrar/calendar/)

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<tr>
<td>Registration Opens</td>
<td>Monday, March 25</td>
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| Semester Begin | Saturday, August 17  
  *(The first day of your class depends on your class schedules. Most classes start on Monday/Tuesday.)* |
| Last Day to Drop/Add | Friday, August 23 |
| Last Day to Pay without Late Fees | Monday, August 26  
  *Pay at least 3-5 business days early if paying by Flywire* |
| Semester Ends | Wednesday, December 11 |
SAFE TRAVELS
Q & A