



Graduate and Professional Pre-Arrival Guide 2021

Congratulations on your admission to Washington University in St. Louis!

The Office for International Students and Scholars (OISS) is here to welcome you
and offer you any assistance you may require prior to your arrival in St. Louis

I-20 (Certificate of Eligibility)

Form I-20 is certification of your admission to Washington University as well as verification of your financial support and English proficiency. The I-20 includes information on your program of study as well as your start date and expected date of completion.

I-901 SEVIS Fee

The I-901 SEVIS Fee is required for all new F-1 international students. You can pay the SEVIS Fee and print the payment confirmation online at: <http://www.fmjfee.com>. You should bring the proof of payment to the consulate when you apply for the visa.

SEVIS Fee and Dependents

If you have dependents who plan to apply for an F-2 visa, they do not need to pay the SEVIS Fee.

Obtaining an F-1 Visa

You can use the enclosed I-20 and the I-901 SEVIS Fee receipt to obtain a new F-1 visa stamp.

In order to apply for a new F-1 entry visa, you should schedule an appointment with a U.S. embassy or consulate overseas. For a list of U.S. consulates: <http://www.usembassy.gov>.

If you already have a valid F-1 entry visa, you may use it to enter the U.S. as long as the visa had been previously used to attend another school in the U.S. It will not be a problem if the school or SEVIS ID on the visa is different than the information on the current I-20 from Washington University in St. Louis, as long as you have attended the school that is listed on the visa.

Required Documentation

To apply for a new visa, you will need a valid passport, Form I-20, I-901 SEVIS Fee Receipt, and proof that you have financial resources to pay for the first 12 months of your academic program, including tuition and living expenses.

The consulate website will provide details on completing the Form DS-160 and other information on fees and photo requirements.

More information about applying for the visa can be found on our website: <https://students.wustl.edu/obtaining-a-visa/>.

Canadian Citizens

Canadian citizens do not need to apply for an F-1 entry visa; however, Canadians must pay the SEVIS I-901 Fee prior to entering the U.S.

Transfer Students

If you are currently in the U.S. in F-1 status, you do not need to apply for a new visa unless your current F-1 entry visa has expired and you plan to travel outside of the U.S. prior to coming to Washington University.

Planning Your Arrival

YOU MUST ARRIVE ON TIME!

You *must* arrive no later than the Start Date listed in Section 5 of the enclosed I-20. This will allow you to participate in all mandatory orientation programs. You are advised to arrive 1-3 weeks in advance of the start date in order to find housing and make other arrangements.

PLEASE NOTE: If you are a new F-1 international student, you may not enter the United States more than 30 days prior to the start date on your I-20.

Checking in!

You are *required* to check in with OISS as soon as possible after your arrival in St. Louis. Please, do not check in before you are physically in the U.S. To check in, you will need to complete the OISS New International Student Check-In Form at <https://students.wustl.edu/oiss-check-in/>. You will need your I-20, passport and I-94 to complete the check-in process.

Housing

Transitional (Temporary) Housing

Over the summer, Washington University offers temporary on-campus housing at a reduced rate for international graduate and professional students. More information about availability, registration process, and dates for transitional housing will become available in May.



Off-Campus Housing

Off-campus housing is easy to find in the neighborhoods around campus. The University has two primary resources to help you find housing:

»*Quadrangle Housing*

Quadrangle is responsible for leasing Washington University-owned apartments located in the neighborhoods around campus.

314-935-9511 | <http://quadrangle.wustl.edu>

»*Apartment Referral Services (ARS)*

Apartment Referral Services helps connect students with property owners that have apartments for rent near campus. Their website includes an online apartment search and other helpful resources.

314-935-5092 | <http://ars.wustl.edu>

The WashU Housing Facebook group is also a good resource.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/washuhousing/>

Immunizations

You are required to provide proof of vaccinations for measles, mumps and rubella along with proof of a recent Tuberculosis test to the Habif Health and Wellness Center. For more information and to access the SHS student portal: <http://shs.wustl.edu>.

Health Insurance

Health care in the United States is very expensive. For this reason, Washington University requires all international students to purchase the Washington University-provided health insurance. You will be billed for the cost of the insurance. There are no exceptions or exemptions from this requirement, even for international students that already have health insurance.

Dependent Health Insurance

You should purchase health insurance for all F-2 dependents. The best way to purchase insurance is through the University provider. For more information on dependent health insurance: <http://shs.wustl.edu>.

Finances, On-Campus & Off-Campus Employment

Careful financial planning is imperative for the successful completion of your program of study. You should make sure that you have sufficient financial support. You will be expected to cover your financial obligations—tuition and otherwise—for every semester you are enrolled at Washington University. Please note: income earned in the United States, including stipends for assistantships and fellowships, may be subject to federal, state, and local taxes.

The bank transfer process can be complicated and delays can be lengthy. Check with your local bank for details to ensure that you have the funds ready when you need it.

In addition to paying for tuition, other fees, and living expenses, you may need to have enough funds to cover initial expenses if you are going to be living off campus:

Rental deposit & first month's rent:

\$900 - \$2,400

Utility deposits:

\$170 - \$340

Household furnishings:

\$350 - \$1,850

On-Campus and Off-Campus Employment

Opportunities for on-campus employment are very limited. You should not expect to be able to find an on-campus job unless it is part of your admissions offer (e.g. assistantship or fellowship).

You will *not* be eligible to work off-campus during the first academic year. Off-campus internships and other work experiences may be possible after the first year, but only with approval from the OISS.

Orientation

Our orientation programs cover topics such as immigration, cultural adjustment, and health insurance. These programs are *mandatory* for all international students.

You will receive information regarding OISS orientation for graduate international students either from your school or OISS.

Questions and Concerns

Below is a list of helpful contacts. The University is generally open Monday-Friday between the hours of 8:30-5:00 pm CST. E-mail is preferred if you are outside of the United States.

Visa Problems

Martha Lynn Turner

(+1) 314-935-5991 | mlturner@wustl.edu

Transitional (Temporary) Housing

Tiffanie Fleschert

(+1) 314-935-6680 | tfleschert@wustl.edu

Health Insurance and Immunizations

Aaron Daugherty

(+1) 314-935-6649 | aldaugherty@wustl.edu

Arrival and Off-Campus Housing Questions

OISS

(+1) 314-935-5910 | oiss@wustl.edu