The Office of International Services is pleased to welcome you to NC State!

We have created this guide to help you transition to life as undergraduate student at NC State.
Attend MANDATORY New Student Orientation

Deadline to pay tuition for new international students.

Last day to drop classes without academic penalty

Academic, enrollment, and exam dates can be found on the Registration & Records website. More information about university housing deadlines can be found at on the University Housing Website.
BEFORE ARRIVAL

- Pay the SEVIS fee, obtain your visa stamp, and make sure all your travel documents are in order.
- Visit the Wolfpack World blog to learn more about being a student at NC State and living in Raleigh.
- Communicate with your CCAP Ambassadors and group members. See page 5.
- Bring certified copies of your medical history and immunization records from your home country with you. All records must be translated into English. Failure to submit these records will result in you being dropped from courses. See page 17.
- Secure on-campus or off-campus housing.
- Communicate with your academic advisor to register for courses. Registration is done via MyPack Portal. Register or view your enrollment on: mypack.ncsu.edu
- Access your NC State email account.
- Register for New Student Orientation.

AFTER ARRIVAL

- Review your electronic I-94 as soon as you have computer access and make sure the information is correct.
- Attend OIS check-in on Monday, January 4th. This is required for your F-1/J-1 status.
- Add a SEVIS local address on MyPack Portal (this is an immigration requirement).
- Attend MANDATORY New Student Orientation January 5th, 2016
- Review the student insurance plan and decide if you want to use Student Blue insurance or another insurance plan.
- Open a bank account. Purchase books and course materials.
- Apply for your student ID card upon arrival. This can be done in the Talley Student Union. Bring your passport when you go to get your ID Card! You need to be registered for classes first.
- Pay your tuition no later than January 13th, 2016 otherwise your classes will be cancelled.
Culture to Culture Ambassador Program (CCAP)

All new undergraduate international students are automatically a part of the Culture to Ambassador Program (CCAP). The purpose of this program is to provide a more personalized orientation experience for you, to help you meet new friends and to provide a resource to assist you with your questions. CCAP will be helpful to you prior to your arrival in the U.S., on orientation days, and during your first semester at NC State. “Ambassadors” are current NC State students (international and American) who are available to answer your questions, provide advice, and welcome you to NC State. Your CCAP group also consists of other new international students whom you will be meeting at orientation. Your Ambassadors will contact you soon to introduce themselves. If you do not receive an email from your Ambassadors by December 18th, please email ois@ncsu.edu.

Your Ambassadors will be communicating with you through your NCSU email address. Visit the Office of Information Technology (OIT) website for more information about NCSU email accounts. Please do not hesitate to email your Ambassadors with questions you may have. They can answer most questions except ones pertaining to immigration. For immigration questions, please contact the OIS at ois@ncsu.edu and put “Immigration” in the subject line.

New International Undergraduate Student Blog

Check out the CCAP Wolfpack World blog to find out what is going on at NC State and in the city of Raleigh! Posts cover topics about what it is like to be a student at NC State, including "Living on campus vs. off campus" and "How to Live with a Roommate."
Valid Passport
A passport is an internationally recognized travel document that verifies your identity and nationality. A valid passport is required to enter and leave the United States. Before being able to obtain a visa you will need to have a passport valid for at least 6 months. Take into consideration that you might need a few weeks to obtain or renew your passport, please plan accordingly.

Obtaining your visa
The U.S. Embassy website provides information on when, how and what to provide when applying for the F-1 or J-1 visa at the U.S. Consulate or Embassy. It also provides links to all U.S. Embassies and Consulates worldwide. To be granted a nonimmigrant visa, it may be necessary to prove your intent to return to your home country after completing your studies in the U.S. This may be in the form of a letter of continued employment, potential employment, possession of property, or other strong ties to your home country. You can find additional information on the OIS website. Once approved, the visa is stamped into your passport designating the school you will attend upon arrival in the U.S.

If you are under 18 years of age, you may be required to submit additional documentation including parental authorization. Refer to the USA embassy in your country for specific questions about the process.

Canadian Citizens
Canadian citizens are not required to obtain an F-1 or J-1 visa stamp in their passport; they will be required to pay the SEVIS fee before requesting admission to the U.S. in F-1 or J-1 status. Please note that this fee cannot be paid at the Port of Entry. At the Port of Entry, Canadian citizens must present their I-20 with the proof of SEVIS fee payment to be admitted in F-1 or J-1 status. Read More about the fee at SEVIS I-901 Fee Processing website.

F-1 and J-1 Transfer Students
If you are currently in F-1 or J-1 status at another U.S. institution, you must take the following actions upon arrival at NC State to complete the SEVIS I-20 transfer-in process: Report to OIS to check-in on January 4th, 2016. Bring your current NC State I-20, your prior school’s I-20, your passport with I-94 printout and your most recent visa. Please also update NC State’s MyPack Portal with your local Raleigh address. Log into the MyPack Portal with your Unity ID and password.

Within 10 days of the start of the semester OIS will confirm your full-time enrollment and “register” your SEVIS record. You must be enrolled full-time in order for OIS to complete this process. Within 30 days of the start of the semester OIS will create a “transfer complete” I-20 and notify you by e-mail of its availability.

Change of Status
If you are already in the U.S. in another nonimmigrant status and if you intend to apply for a change of status to F-1, please contact us as soon as possible at 919-515-2961 or ois@ncsu.edu. It can take four to six months for a change of visa status to be processed by USCIS and you will have no employment authorization while you are waiting and may or may not be eligible to enroll.
Housing and Move-in Dates
Make sure you know where you are going to live before you arrive!

You may choose to live on-campus or off campus during your first year at NC State. See page 8 for more information about what it means to live on campus, the benefits of living on campus, and how to apply. If you want to live on campus, apply early. Spaces may fill up.

Students who receive on-campus housing assignments will be able to move into their residence halls beginning January 3rd at Noon.

Plan your move-in date for January 3rd, so you can get a good night’s rest before the mandatory check-in and orientation which begin on January 4th.

If you prefer the off-campus living option, your CCAP Ambassadors can provide you with some ideas for off-campus housing that are near campus.

When booking your airline tickets, please plan carefully! Make sure you have made housing arrangements for your first night in Raleigh and the following days, especially if you are arriving prior to the opening of university residence halls. If you are living off-campus, make sure you know the address where you need to go, the date you can move in, how to pick-up your key, and whether or not the utilities will be turned on.
On-Campus Housing

On-campus housing is owned by the university. Because of this, on-campus housing is managed by NC State. The cost of on campus housing is usually comparable to off-campus housing and comes with several benefits. University housing is located on major city and university bus routes making transportation to campus and beyond convenient for students. These areas are also serviced by campus police and the campus fire department. University housing also provides programming for their residents that helps people connect with their neighbors and encourages a stronger sense of community.

You have many choices of residences on campus. There are apartment-style buildings such as Wolf Ridge, Wolf Village, ES King Village and Western Manor. There are also Living and Learning Villages, which are on-campus residential communities that bring together students with similar interests. There is even a community called the Global Village that is focused on increasing cross-cultural exchange between American students and internationals. To read more about your on-campus housing options, visit the University Housing website.

To apply to live on campus, you must apply through MyPack Portal.

More instructions on the application process can on the University Housing website.

Be careful, though. University housing is limited and therefore, available on first come, first served basis. It is really important that you apply before the deadline. If you have applied for on-campus housing and have been informed of your assignment, go to the appropriate service desk for your residence hall to pick up your key. Please contact University Housing at 919-515-2440 or housing@ncsu.edu for more exact information about the dates and times you may check in to your residence hall. To apply for or confirm your on-campus housing, please contact the University Housing office at:

1112 Pullen Hall  Tel: 919-515-2440
Campus Box 7315  Fax: 919-831-3542
NC State University  Email: housing@ncsu.edu
Raleigh, NC 27695  Website: http://housing.ncsu.edu/

For information about living off-campus, please the OIS Housing & Utilities website.
Global Village

Global Village (GV) is a living and learning housing option at NC State that is devoted to introducing international students to American culture, exposing American students to other cultures, and making the entire community aware of global issues. The Global Village consists of two on-campus residence halls, Alexander Hall and Carroll Hall. Each hall strives to maintain a balance of 50% international and 50% U.S. students. The U.S. students must submit a special application to live in GV and many of them are former participants in overseas exchange programs. In each residence hall of Global Village, there are many social and cultural activities with an international theme, and most students find living there to be a very enjoyable part of their experience at NC State.

Global Village program features:

- The pairing of international students and American students as roommates
- A faculty-led programming series on global and cultural issues, through a partnership with the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHASS).
- Discussion programs and excursions focusing on international and global awareness.

To apply to live in NC State’s Global Village, you must use the MyPack Portal. If you are interested, apply as soon as possible! Spaces fill up quickly.

More instructions on the application process can be found here.
Course Registration
As a new undergraduate degree student, you will need to complete the following checklist to register for classes. **Classes begin on Wednesday, January 6th.**

1. Contact your academic advisor.

An academic advisor is a faculty or staff member in your college/major who assists you in choosing and registering for classes each semester. You should contact your academic advisor for questions regarding specific courses and/or how to register. If you are unsure of who your advisor is, you may contact the advising coordinator for your major. You can view the Coordinators of Advising for individual colleges/majors [here](#).

When you contact your advisor let them know that you are an international student, so they will assist you with the advising and registration process via email before you arrive on campus.

Ask your academic advisor about what your college’s requirements are for an in-person meeting once you arrive on campus. Although you will check-in with OIS and attend the New Student Orientation, some colleges require you to attend a college-focused meeting to obtain information specific to your major.

2. Work with your academic advisor to choose courses for the semester.

Each college has a different process for academic advising and course registration. Your department and/or advisor will inform you of this process when you contact them. Your academic advisor will release the “advising hold” on your account once you finalize a plan, so you may register for classes.

3. Register for classes via the internet on MyPack Portal

Once the “advising hold” has been released, you can register and view your courses through the MyPack Portal using your "unity id" login and password. Information on how to determine your login and password can be found [here](#). If you are having difficulty logging in, you can contact the NC State Help Desk at [help@ncsu.edu](mailto:help@ncsu.edu).

**Please note:** certain academic programs pre-register students for their courses. Your academic advisor can inform you if you have been pre-registered for courses.

Buying Textbooks
Once registered for classes, you can find your list of required textbooks in MyPack Portal. The NC State [Bookstore website](http://bookstore.unc.edu) on how to access your list of required textbooks. Textbooks can be purchased at the NCSU Bookstore on Main Campus.

Professionalism
There are 7 main points to remember when getting your first job and preparing for interviews. Always arrive on time, dress appropriately for the workplace, be a team player, take responsibility for mistakes, be honest, only leave a job with appropriate notice, and practice good ethics in accepting job offers. These 7 points are taken from an article written by the OIS director, for more details regarding each point, read the [article here](#).

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Do not bring too many items from home that can easily be bought in the United States. There are many stores a short distance away from campus. Many foods from your country can be bought in Raleigh too! A list of ethnic grocery stores can be found on the OIS website.

**Clothing**

Students in the United States tend to dress informally. Jeans, t-shirts, shorts and sweatshirts are all very acceptable to wear around campus and in class. You may also want to bring more formal clothing for special events. A good raincoat or umbrella is necessary. You will also need a coat for cold weather. Heavy winter clothing is not necessary unless you plan to travel to colder areas of the country. It very rarely snows in North Carolina.

**Electrical Items**

The U.S. uses 110v electrical current. Many small electrical items like hair dryers and electric razors are inexpensive in the U.S. and you may wish to purchase those items when you arrive. If you bring a computer, or other electrical items, you may buy a simple plug adaptor in the U.S.

**Linens and Towels**

Bed linens, pillows, blankets, and towels can be purchased inexpensively in Raleigh. Past students have suggested bringing one set of linens and towels for the first days you are here then purchasing more if you need to.

**Medical Items**

Make sure that any prescription medications you bring with you are labeled and are in their original containers. Make sure the name on the containers matches the name on your passport to avoid any problems when you are entering the United States. Please bring a copy of any prescription you will need using the generic name of the medication in English.

**Money**

Make sure your ATM card will work in the U.S. before you leave! The Cirrus, Plus, Mastercard, and Visa systems are the most widely accepted.

We recommend you have access to enough funds to cover immediate expenses like tuition, and food. We recommend you have at least $300 in hard currency in case you need quick access to cash when you first arrive.

You can change your money at a local bank. There may be a conversion fee, but it will probably be less than the fee at the airport.
Be sure to print and carry this information with you when you travel to the U.S.

When I arrive in Raleigh, I need to go to this address:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Office of International Services (OIS)
North Carolina State University
Address: 320 Daniels Hall
         Campus Box 7222
         111 Lampe Dr.
         Raleigh, NC 27695-7222

Phone: 919-515-2961

*OIS hours are 8am – 5pm, Monday through Friday.
For after-hours emergencies contact campus police at 919-515-3000.

Additional information that I might need:
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
At the Airport
You will be asked to show your documents in the first city you arrive in in the United States to be given permission to enter the country.

Please carry with you (in your carry-on bag, NOT in your checked baggage):
-- Passport with F-1 or J-1 visa stamp
-- I-20 form or DS-2019 form
-- the supporting documentation that you showed to the United States Embassy to obtain the visa.

Customs and Border Protection (CBP) will issue you an electronic I-94 record when you enter the U.S. The I-94 is a record of your arrivals to the U.S. You will need to retrieve and print your I-94 after you enter the U.S. by visiting the CBP I-94 webpage (https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov) as soon as you have access to a computer with a printer. Please print your I-94 prior to the OIS check-in session if possible. You should print multiple copies of the I-94. You will need one to keep for your records, a copy for OIS, and a copy if you intend to work on-campus. More information about the I-94 process can be found on the CBP webpage (www.cbp.gov).

Your First Few Days in the US
Remember to call home and let your family know you arrived safely!

Be sure to bring enough toiletries with you to last several days upon arrival. You do not know how soon you may be able to go to a store to buy the basic necessities. However, do not bring too many items from home that can be easily bought in the United States (pots/pans, school supplies, food, etc.) Raleigh has many ethnic grocery stores, a Farmers Market (where you can buy local, fresh vegetables/fruit) and large shopping centers. A comprehensive ethnic grocery store list on the OIS website.

Travel to Raleigh
Raleigh is located in the state of North Carolina about 280 miles from Washington D.C., 400 miles from Atlanta, Georgia; 500 miles from New York City; and 800 miles from Chicago, Illinois. Amtrak train and Greyhound bus services are available to Raleigh from various ports of entry into the US. The nearest airport is Raleigh-Durham (RDU) International Airport.
ARRIVAL

The RDU Airport is about 15 miles away from the University. The nearest Amtrak train and Greyhound bus stations are in downtown Raleigh (about 5 minutes by taxi from the university). Please note that basic safety precautions need to be taken when at the Raleigh train and bus stations. Pay attention to your baggage, money and personal belongings.

Travel to NC State University

Besides taxis, there are shuttle services available from the airport to the university. Please inquire at the airport Information Center (near the baggage claim area) for assistance. A taxi ride to NC State from the airport is around $30-35. You may want to contact someone from your country’s student association for advice or assistance with transportation. To find a contact from your country, please visit the OIS Country Contacts website.

Directions to OIS

Ask the Taxi to bring you to “NC State University” (not University of North Carolina – that’s a different university in Chapel Hill!)

OIS is located in 320 Daniels Hall, 111 Lampe Drive. Daniels Hall is off of Hillsborough St (north-east campus between the Library and the Bell tower). OIS is open 8:00am - 5:00pm, Monday-Friday only.

NC State Public Safety (Police): 919-515-3000

*If you have an emergency, call Public Safety or OIS (during open office hours).

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**Taxi Companies***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RDU Airport Taxi Service</td>
<td>(919) 840-7277</td>
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<tr>
<td>rdutaxiinc.com</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accurate Taxi Service</td>
<td>(919) 781-1188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service American Cab Co.</td>
<td>(919) 850-9195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardinal Cab</td>
<td>(919) 820-3228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carolina Livery</td>
<td>(919) 957-1111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizen Airport Taxi</td>
<td>(919) 771-5282</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Express Taxi</td>
<td>(919) 233-6798</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G &amp; J Transportation</td>
<td>(919) 235-0997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R &amp; G Airport Shuttle</td>
<td>(919) 840-0262</td>
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<tr>
<td>Safety Taxi Co</td>
<td>(919) 807-1700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Transportation</td>
<td>(919) 244-4746</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tri City Taxi</td>
<td>(919) 821-0096</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triangle Yellow Cab Co</td>
<td>(919) 832-5811</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow Cab</td>
<td>(919) 875-1821</td>
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</tbody>
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*Each of these entities are private companies and are not associated with North Carolina State University; the contact is provided here only as information about travel possibilities, and any arrangements you choose to make are strictly between you (the student) and the entity. North Carolina State University does not endorse or recommend any of these entities.*

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New International Undergraduate Student Orientation

All new students at NC State are required to attend a New Student Orientation. As an international student in F-1 or J-1 status there are some additional regulatory requirements. To meet these requirements you will begin orientation on January 4th. New International Student Orientation starts with lunch at a campus dining hall with your CCAP Ambassadors and group members. The Spring 2016 Orientation will be January 4th & 5th, 2016. Your orientation is organized by the Office of International Services and the Office of New Student Programs. You are required to attend and will have the opportunity to meet your academic advisors from your college/department. The orientation will address important information that will assist you during your transition and help you to understand the opportunities and responsibilities you have as an international student at NC State. It will cover important topics such as academics, culture shock, campus resources, and much more!

Orientation Fee
A mandatory orientation fee of $115 (you will be billed directly by the Cashier’s Office; please do not send payment beforehand) will be assessed to all new F and J international students. This fee covers materials, orientation activities, and OIS events throughout the year (including Welcome Party and Spring Carnival).

Updating your Local Address in the Student Information System – MyPack Portal
As soon as you know your local address, even if it is temporary, please update the Student Information System under “SEVIS Local Address”. All students must update their local address information every semester or anytime your address changes in the MyPack Portal. All students in F-1 or J-1 status are required to update this information or will be considered legally out of status. For more information about this please review the OIS website for more information on updating your address information.

CHECK-IN WITH OIS
After lunch on January 4th, you will complete the mandatory check-in session with OIS. Check-in is required by law for all F-1 and J-1 students.

Please arrive on time and bring the following documents with you:
- I-20 (F-1 students) or DS-2019 (J-1 students)
- Valid passport with visa stamp
- I-94 print-out (See page 13)
- Address where you live in Raleigh

OIS will collect these documents for review and scanning and then return them to you.

ALL F-1 AND J-1 STUDENTS MUST CHECK-IN WITH OIS. While other non-immigrant visa holders should plan to attend the Orientation and will be assigned to a CCAP Group, they are NOT required to attend the OIS Check-in.

First Things
Waiver of NC State Student Health Insurance

If you do not wish to use the plan administered by Student Blue, you will need to show that you have another appropriate insurance policy within 30 days of the start of classes.

Because of visa regulations, international students need to demonstrate that their current insurance meets the below minimum requirements in order to be considered for a waiver:

For minimum health insurance requirements for J-1 and F-1 students, click here.

All waiver requests are submitted electronically through the NC State University portal with Student Blue (not OIS). The deadline to waive out of the Student Blue plan is February 1st. For more information about student health insurance, visit the Student Blue website.

If you fail to waive out of the student insurance plan by the deadline, your student account will be charged accordingly.

Purchase Health Insurance

NC State University, along with all public colleges and universities in the State of North Carolina, is a participant in the system-wide hard waiver health insurance plan administered by Student Blue, Inc. All International Students are required to maintain health insurance throughout the duration of the I-20/DS-2019. To do so, the student must either purchase Student Blue -- the University mandatory hard waiver plan -- or waive out of the Student Blue plan by showing proof of an alternative plan that meets a set of required criteria. For international students this new system-wide requirement has many benefits which include rates that are 38% lower than in previous years, better benefits, and easy overlap with NC State's Student Health Services. International students can read a plan overview and read up-to-date information as applicable to international students on the OIS website.

As of Fall 2015, Student Blue will no longer offer coverage options for dependents. Please review and prepare for these changes in advance of the start of Fall semester to make sure you are maintaining continual coverage for yourself and your dependents.

Note: The Student Blue policy does not cover dental care, however Student Health Services offers a dental discount program.

If you are under 18 years old, please have your parents complete a Parental Consent for Treatment form and fax it to Student Health Services prior to your arrival.
HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Immunization Records
We strongly recommend that you complete your immunization requirements before you arrive at NC State University.

Upon acceptance, all international students are required to complete the Immunization, Medical History and TB Questionnaire forms online. Carefully review the requirements on the Student Health Center’s website. After reviewing, please click on the HealthWeb link and complete the forms. Next, submit official hard copies of your immunization records with doctor signature and clinic stamp OR doctor signature and clinic letterhead immediately to:

Student Health Services
2815 Cates Avenue
Campus Box 7304
Raleigh, NC 27695-7304
OR Fax: 1-888-972-4149

Make sure all records are officially translated into English.

The deadline for this submission is 30 days after the first day of classes. In addition, Tuberculosis (TB) tests must be completed by students from HIGH RISK Countries in the United States. TB tests administered overseas cannot be accepted. You will have the opportunity to complete the TB test requirement through NC State’s Student Health Center upon your arrival. If your immunizations are not cleared in time, your classes will be cancelled.

Campus Recreation & Carmichael Gymnasium
If you enjoy sports and working out, you will enjoy the Carmichael Gym facility and programs! You can join intramural sports teams, aerobic classes, club sports, Outdoor Adventures, and join other student clubs on campus that specialize in sporting fields (Ski Club, Sailing, etc.).

All students have access to the facilities of the Carmichael Gymnasium with their All-Campus (Student ID) card. Carmichael has extensive facilities for student use, including handball courts, squash courts, weight rooms, an aerobics studio, a golf room, a fencing room, basketball and volleyball courts, an indoor jogging track, a dance studio, a gymnastics area, a rock climbing wall, swimming pools, a sauna, a steam room, an archery range, tennis courts, etc.

The Carmichael Gymnasium provides exercise clothes and towels and lockers for daily use. Lockers can be rented for entire semesters. The gym also has equipment available for free daily use like tennis racquets and balls, basketballs, etc.

Students in past semesters have also taken advantage of the many fitness classes offered in the fitness center. Some examples of the fitness classes are the TRX Suspension Training class, cycling classes, yoga and Pilates classes.

Student Health Services International Immunization Requirements
North Carolina public law requires that you submit proof of your immunizations to the Student Health Center within 30 days of your acceptance at NC State University.

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services answers questions about college and university immunization requirements.

If a student does not provide proof of immunization, North Carolina public law requires NC State University to drop him or her from all classes. The re-enrollment fee is $150.

Appointments are required. To schedule an appointment call 919-515-7107 or book your appointment online through HealthWeb.
FINANCES

Tuition and Fees
Tuition for new international students can be paid after arrival, but **must be paid before** January 13th (for the Spring 2016 semester). This deadline is an extended deadline set up by the Cashier’s Office specifically meant to accommodate new international students who are at NC State for their first semester. However, we recommend paying your tuition as early as possible. **If you do not pay your tuition by the deadline, your classes may be cancelled.**

International students can now pay their tuition via wire transfer! Visit Cashier’s Office website for more details.

Students are billed for tuition and fees by the Cashier’s Office. Please visit their website for information on payment methods. **OIS does not handle student accounts. If you have a question about your account or payment, please contact the Cashier’s Office at studentaccounts@ncsu.edu.**

On-campus Employment
There are many types of on-campus employment at NC State. It is competitive, and you have to contact each department/unit individually after you arrive to learn about their employment opportunities. You cannot apply to work on campus before you arrive. In the past, international students have found success looking for employment at the library, University Dining, the campus bookstore, Campus Recreation, Carmichael Gym, and the Talley Student Center. Please check the Career Development Center’s website for a list of departments that frequently hire students.

**PLEASE NOTE: Every visa type has different employment restrictions and processes.** For more information on the process of obtaining employment authorization from OIS, please visit our website. International students who work without authorization – that is, they work more hours than permitted by law, or without written permission if it is necessary, or the employment is otherwise not permissible – will usually find themselves in very big trouble, since the University is required by law to terminate the SEVIS record of any student who engages in illegal employment.

Banking
You are strongly encouraged to open a checking account upon arrival in Raleigh. With a checking account, you will receive a checkbook and usually an ATM card, which allows you to withdraw cash from your account 24-hours a day. Services and fees vary but most banks in the area offer special “Student Accounts” with minimal or very low monthly charges. Be sure to ask about student accounts when you visit the banks (there are several within walking distance of campus) and have your passport and SEVIS I-20 Form or SEVIS DS-2019 Form, with you when you open the account. If you will be bringing a large amount of money with you at one time, you may also wish to open a savings account. Savings accounts earn interest. Banks also offer additional services such as loans, credit cards, and safe-deposit boxes at lower cost to students.
Maintain Enrollment:
F-1 and J-1 students must maintain continuous full-time enrollment during the fall and spring semesters to maintain their lawful nonimmigrant status. The minimum requirement is 12 credit hours for undergraduate students each semester.

Work only when authorized:
F-1 and J-1 students are allowed to work a maximum of 20 hours per week on campus while school is in session. (Note: J-1 students must have on-campus employment authorization in writing from the organization which issued the SEVIS DS-2019 before they begin such employment). All off-campus employment for F-1 and J-1 students requires advance written employment authorization.

Always have a valid I-20 or DS-2019:
The SEVIS I-20 (for F-1 students) and the SEVIS DS-2019 (for J-1 students) specify a date by which the program of study will be completed. An extension of program beyond the date mentioned on the I-20 or DS-2019 should be applied for prior to that expiration date.

Review your rights and responsibilities:
It is very important for nonimmigrant students to understand their legal rights and responsibilities as well as the requirements for maintaining their lawful status. Please consult an advisor in our office with any questions. Immigration information by any other source (friends, OIS volunteers, etc.) is not valid. More information and procedures are explained in detail on the second page of the I-20 or DS-2019 and during New International Student Orientation and Check-in.

Student's responsibilities
- Immediately upon arrival, students must physically report to OIS for check-in to have their SEVIS records registered. Check-in will be done on January 4th as part of the 2-day orientation.
- Enroll for and attend classes.
- Maintain full-time enrollment and make normal academic progress towards completion of program.
- Do not engage in unauthorized employment.
- Keep passport valid for at least six months into the future.
- Report any changes of address to OIS within 10 days of the change.
- File timely requests for extension of stay, change of status, transfer, Optional Practical Training, and other benefits.
- Obey all State and Federal laws including laws regulating domestic disputes, child endangerment, sexual assault, driving while under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances, etc.
- Read and obey the NC State University Student Code of Conduct.
LIVING IN RALEIGH

In Raleigh, there is something for everyone. There are world class museums, open-air amphitheaters, historic sites, professional theater companies, award-winning restaurants, professional sports, and vibrant festivals.

Use websites, newspapers and talk to other students to learn about what’s going on.

Here are some helpful sites:
- **Go Live, Work, Play Raleigh** – Downtown Raleigh Guide
- **Indy Week** – Weekly guide to local art, music, and events.
- **Visit Raleigh Tourism Website** – Things to do, museums, restaurants, and events.

**Restaurants**
There are so many great restaurants in Raleigh; you will not find the time to try them all! Use these websites to find your way to great restaurants:
- **Visit Raleigh Guide**
- **Triangle City Search**
- **Indy Week Dining Guide**
- **International Restaurants**

If you want personal recommendations, ask someone at OIS – we would love to tell you where we like to eat!

**Dining on Campus**
On campus, there are various fast food restaurants at the Talley Student Center or Atrium (Library). If you are interested in healthier food options (fresh fruits, vegetables, etc.), you can choose to eat at the Dining Halls on campus. You can pay each time you eat, or you can purchase a Meal Plan. For more information on campus dining and meal plans, visit the [University Dining website](#).

**Cell Phones**
There are many cell phone companies so ask friends and classmates which plans are most advantageous for students and for your calling destination. Some companies include: **Verizon**, **AT&T**, **Sprint**, and **T-Mobile**.

Most companies want you to sign a 1-2 year contract (especially if you want a free/cheap phone) and want you to have a Social Security number. If you don’t want to sign a contract or don’t have a Social Security number, you can buy “pre-paid” phone plans and pay for the phone.

**U.S. Telephone**
**For emergencies in the U.S. the emergency assistance number is 911.**

If there is an emergency and you need to quickly reach someone outside of the country, you can contact the international operator at #00. This service may be a bit expensive but convenient in the case of an emergency.
Shopping
There are grocery stores within walking distance of campus, and many a short bus ride away. A list of ethnic grocery stores can be found on OIS’ website here. There is also a shopping mall that is easily accessible by bus (Crabtree Valley Mall).

Raleigh Public Transportation
There is a university bus line called the “Wolfline” that is free. The Capital Area Transit bus is the city bus line and students can ride for free after obtaining a GoPass from the University Transportation office.

There are several CAT routes from the NC State campus to most parts of Raleigh. There is also a TTA bus route that goes from the campus area to some of the international grocery stores. Without a car, this will probably be your primary mode of transportation. If you want to view the bus route, you can go online or you can pick up a Wolfline map in OIS, Talley Student Center or the Transportation Office. You can even track the bus route online so that you do not miss your bus to class!

Driving in the U.S.
If you plan to stay in North Carolina for more than 60 days and would like to drive here during your stay, you must apply for a NC Driver’s License. For the first 60 days after your arrival, you may drive in the state with a license issued by a government agency from your home state or country. After the first 60 days, local law enforcement will expect you to have a valid NC Driver’s License if you are driving in the state.

North Carolina does NOT recognize the “International Driver’s License.”

For tips on buying a car, click here.

Car Insurance in the U.S.
Past international students have recommended that you bring a certified letter from your car insurance company confirming your driving record in your home country. Such a letter might reduce high car insurance rates from American companies. Purchasing car insurance is a law for all North Carolina drivers.

For more information about driving in NC, visit the Division of Motor Vehicles website.

Post Office – Sending/Receiving Mail
To learn about the ways to mail a package through the United Postal Services, visit their website. The closest post office to NC State is on Cameron Village. There are other letter/package couriers you can use, such as DHL, FedEx, etc. To mail a letter in the United States, the postage is $0.49 cents. OIS can be a temporary receiver of packages if you do not have a permanent place your first few days/weeks in Raleigh. Please make sure your name is somewhere on the package:

Your Name
c/o Office of International Services
111 Lampe Drive, 320 Daniels Hall
Campus Box 7222
Raleigh, NC 27695-7222

To mail a letter in the United States, you can drop the mail off at the post office itself but it may be more convenient to use the mailboxes at your apartment complex or put your stamped mail in the large, blue postal mailboxes on various street corners. Postal workers will pick up your mail and deliver it to your apartment complex every day except Sundays and federal holidays.
City of Raleigh Resources

Go Live, Work, Play Raleigh – Downtown Raleigh Guide
Indy Week – Weekly guide to local art, music, and events.
Visit Raleigh Tourism Website – Things to do, museums, restaurants, and events.

One Day Tour of Raleigh | Museums in Raleigh | Raleigh Recreation | Pullen Arts Center

NC State University Resources

NCSU Sporting Events | NCSU Crafts Center | NCSU Union Activities Board

SPRING 2016 Local Festivals

11/28-1/3: NCChineseLanternFestival – Cary’s Booth Amphitheatre
12/5: Winterfest – Downtown Raleigh – Fayetteville St.
2/6: KrispyKremeChallenge – NC State’s Main Campus – Downtown Raleigh
3/12: SaintPatrick’sDayParadeandFestival – Downtown Raleigh – Fayetteville St.
4/10: Rock’n RollRaleighMarathon – Downtown Raleigh
4/30: CarySpringDazeArtsandCraftsFestival – Fred G. Bond Metro Park
5/7: MeetintheStreetFestival – Downtown Wake Forest
Scams
NEVER give your name and credit card number, bank account numbers, passport number, social security number, or passwords to anyone over the phone! Scammers can use this information to steal your identity. No credible organization will ever contact you and ask for this information over the phone or email, no matter what the person claims. For more information, check out the OIS post on scams.

Safety Escort Services
In conjunction with University Housing, the University Police Department provides a safety escort service to protect students, faculty and staff on campus between the hours of 10 pm and 4 am, as long as weather is safe for operation. In the hours prior to 10 pm, the police department encourages anyone travelling on campus to walk in well lighted areas with groups of people or to use the Wolfline Bus Service. Visit the campus police site for more information.

General Tips
1. For help in an Emergency: Dial 911
2. Campus Police responds to emergencies that occur on campus, call 919-515-3000
For more safety tips, visit University Housing's Campus Safety page.

Student Legal Services
University Student Legal Services provides various services including landlord/tenant disputes, criminal & traffic citations, expungements, uncontested divorces, power of attorney, property damage, consumer issues, lease reviews, insurance disputes, name changes, immigration, and free notary services. For detailed information, click here.
We encourage you to take advantage of all the fun activities NC State has to offer. There are many opportunities to meet other students, attend sporting events, and explore Raleigh. Below are a few ideas to get you started!

**Clubs**
At NC State there is a club for almost every interest or hobby. There are several animal related clubs, a robotics club, anime club, and even a sailing club! There are also many international student associations, where you can meet other students from your country studying at NC State. A list of all student organizations can be found on NC State’s Get Involved website.

**Arts**
If you enjoy the arts, there are many events you can attend including theatre, dance, and musical performances. Tickets for these events are only $5 with your student ID. You can check out upcoming events and find information about purchasing tickets on the ARTS NC STATE website.

**Sports**

**How to get student tickets**
NC State students are able to get free admission to all university sporting events. Tickets for football and men’s basketball must be reserved using the online student ticketing center. Tickets for all other sporting events are free at the door with your student ID.

**Intramurals**
If you enjoy playing sports, there are many casual intramural teams you can be a part of. Intramural teams only play other NC State students, not students from other universities. Students involved in intramural events are there to have fun and it can be a great way to meet new friends. You can even organize your own group of friends and make a new team. University Recreation offers intramural sports like Soccer, American Flag Football, Volleyball, Basketball, Ultimate Frisbee and Kickball. For more information and to sign up, check out the University Recreation’s website.
The Office of International Services has several programs to help international students meet Americans and vice versa. If you are interested in learning more about American culture or teaching others about your own culture, you may want to join these programs. You can find more information, including applications on the OIS Programs website.

**Breaking Bread**
Breaking Bread gives international students the chance to have a meal with an American family at their home. This is a fun way to learn more about America and have a nice home-cooked meal! If you are interested you must turn in an application to OIS.

**English Conversation Club**
English Conversation Club is a fun place to practice your English with American students and teachers. It is a great place to learn idioms and slang that you may not learn in class. To see this semester’s meeting times, see the OIS website.

**IMOM**
im.O.M. (International Moms or Mates) is a group for spouses of international students and scholars at NC State University. More information is provided during check-in. Students and scholars are encouraged to schedule a separate check-in appointment for their spouses. Please call (919) 515-2961 to schedule a spouse check-in. All spouses are advised to bring their travel documents with them to the check-in (I-20/DS-2019, passport, and I-94 card printout).

**ISSERV**
ISSERV connects international students with service projects at NCSU and in the Raleigh community. It is a great way to meet new people with interests similar to yours! You can volunteer individually or with a group. Application required.

**Cultural Crossroads**
Cultural Crossroads is a great way to discuss issues that matter! Every week a new discussion about cultural diversity and how to navigate university life. No registration required. Follow the entire series or attend the discussions that interest you the most!

**Culture Corps**
Culture Corps lets you share your country and culture with others at NC State and in the surrounding community. Culture Corps members often give presentations in school classrooms or for community organizations. It's a great way to practice your English and your presentation skills. Application required.
International Student Associations
Several national and regional associations are active on the NC State campus. They promote cultural and educational learning opportunities for the larger university community and can sometimes help you with locating housing or airport pickup. You are encouraged to make connections with an appropriate association and become involved as a representative of your country and culture. You can find a list of all student associations on the Get Involved website.

For a list of Country Contacts on campus, please visit the OIS Country Contacts page.

Computer Access
Your NC State email (Unity) account and password are established as soon as you are academically accepted to NCSU. You can access it from overseas if you know your unity ID and password. New students receive their Unity ID and initial password upon acceptance to NC State.

Your password is the last four digits of your Campus ID number (ask your Coordinator of Advising), plus the four digits of your birth month and day. For example, if your Campus ID number ends in 1234 and your birthday is January 31, then your initial password is 12340131. Contact the Office of Information Technology (919-515-30350 to identify your password or if you have any problems accessing your email.

If you plan to use an email other than the NC State address, you must update your address through MyPack Portal under “Campus Personal Information.”

Special Accommodations
If you have any special needs for accommodation in terms of physical access, or you have a learning disability, or other circumstance or issue that requires our special attention, please let us know. You may be able to benefit from some of the campus resources dedicated to helping all students succeed. For further information please contact an OIS staff member or the Disability Services Office (DSO).

Speech-to-Speech (STS): This service, provides communication assistants (CAs) for people with difficulty being understood by the public on the telephone. The Speech-to-Speech access number for North Carolina is 1-877-735-8261.

Text Access: Text access translates auditory information into text to be read on a computer or other display device. Visit the DSO website to learn more about Text Access at NCSU.

Assistive Listening Devices: For persons with hearing aids or who have difficulty hearing, the Disability Services Office can provide ALDs for your use during class. Visit the DSO website to learn more about ALD use on campus.

Accessible Classrooms & Buildings on campus: NCSU upholds strict regulations regarding building and classroom accessibility. For more information visit the DSO website.

For more information about the Disability Services offered at NC State University, please visit their website.
### UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

- NC State University
- Virtual Campus Tour
- Departmental Ambassadors
- OIS Country Contacts
- University Housing
- University Cashier’s Office
- Student Health Center
- Student Health Insurance
- Registration & Records
  - (Course Registration)
- Union Activities Board
- Student Organizations & Clubs
- New Student Orientation
- Wolfline Bus System

### RALEIGH AREA RESOURCES

- CAT City Bus System
- TTA Regional Bus System
- NC Driver’s License
- International Restaurants
- Specialty Grocery Stores
- Local Banks

### NEW & USED TEXTBOOKS

- Amazon
- Chegg
- Ebay
- AddALL
- Overstock

### OIS Contact Information

Office of International Services
320 Daniels Hall, 111 Lampe Drive
Campus Box 7222
Raleigh, NC 27695-7222

Phone: 919-515-2961
Fax: 919-515-1402

Email: ois@ncsu.edu

Website | Facebook | YouTube | Twitter
#wolfpackworld
Internationalservices.ncsu.edu

NC State University is dedicated to equality of opportunity. The university does not condone discrimination against students, employees, or applicants in any form. NC State commits itself to positive action to secure equal opportunity regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, sex, age, or disability. In addition, NC State welcomes all persons without regard to sexual orientation.