SPRING 2016
Pre-Arrival Guide for
International Graduate Students
Bienvenue 欢迎加入北卡州大!
स्वागत
خوش آمدید
Добро пожаловать
Bienvenido

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

We have created this guide to help you transition to life at NC State.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JAN 4</td>
<td>Attend Orientation (Mandatory)</td>
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<tr>
<td>JAN 5</td>
<td>Mandatory OIS Check-In</td>
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<td></td>
<td>See pg. 6.</td>
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<tr>
<td>JAN 5</td>
<td>Information Fair</td>
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<td>2-4 P.M in the Duke Energy Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>JAN 6</td>
<td>First day of class</td>
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<tr>
<td>JAN 13</td>
<td>Deadline to pay tuition</td>
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<tr>
<td>JAN 20</td>
<td>Last day to drop classes without academic penalty*</td>
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</tbody>
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*You must notify OIS if you plan to drop below full-time status!

Academic, enrollment, and exam dates can be found on the [Registration & Records website](#). More information about university housing deadlines can be found 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.

☐ Contact your Small Pack Leaders with your questions. They are here to help you! See page 6.

☐ **Schedule an OIS check-in** appointment. *(Mandatory)*

☐ 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 15.

☐ Secure on-campus or off-campus housing. See pages 12-13.

☐ Contact your Academic Adviser and ensure that the “advising hold” on your account has been released.

☐ Register for courses via the MyPack Portal: `mypack.ncsu.edu`

**AFTER ARRIVAL**

☐ Review your electronic I-94 card as soon as you have computer access and make sure the information is correct. See page 9.

☐ Upon arrival, physically report to OIS for your check-in and SEVIS registration appointment. See page 6.

☐ *Pay your tuition before January 13th.* Failure to pay tuition will result in your classes being cancelled.

☐ Add a SEVIS local address on MyPack Portal (this is an immigration requirement).

☐ Review the student insurance plan and decide if you want to use Student Blue insurance or another insurance plan. See page 14.

☐ Apply for your student ID card upon arrival. The Wolfpack OneCard Student ID office is located in the Talley Student Union. Bring your passport when you go to get your ID Card! You need to be registered for classes first.

☐ Open a bank account.
**Small Pack Assignment**

All new international graduate students will be assigned to a Small Pack upon admission to NC State University. The purpose of these Small Packs 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. Your Small Pack consists of other new students whom you will be meeting at orientation. Please be sure to remember your pack number and Small Pack Leaders’ (SPL) names, as you will be divided into your Small Packs at Orientation. Two SPLs have been assigned to your group. If you do not receive an email from your SPL by the end of December, please email the Assistant Director for Programs Lauren_Ball@ncsu.edu.

**Please make sure you are checking your NC State account prior to arrival.** Graduate students will receive their Unity ID with their admission letter. To find the default password to access your NC State gmail account, please visit the Office of Information Technology website. Please do not hesitate to email your SPLs with questions you may have. They can answer most questions except ones pertaining to immigration or financial aid. For immigration or financial aid questions, please contact the OIS at ois@ncsu.edu and put “Immigration” or “Financial Aid” in the subject line.

**Temporary Housing**

Please secure a housing option before you arrive in Raleigh. For housing options see pages 12-13. If there is a gap between your arrival and the start day of your lease or if you wish to search for an apartment once you get to Raleigh, please visit the University Housing website for temporary guest housing options or visit our website for hotel options.

**Adding your Local SEVIS Address in the Student Information System**

As soon as you know your local address, even if it is temporary, please update the Student Information System. All students in F1 and J1 status must add their local SEVIS address information every semester in the NCSU Student Information System. Additionally, all students in F-1 status are required to update this information or will be considered legally out of status. Please visit our website to learn more.
First Things

International Student Orientation
At the beginning of the fall and spring semesters there is a mandatory orientation program for new international students. All new international students are required to attend. The Spring 2016 Orientation will be held on Monday, January 4th from 8:30am – 5:00pm in Withers Hall, Room 232. On-campus and off-campus representatives will be available to answer questions in person. This orientation is organized by OIS and the International Student Orientation Team. The orientation will address important information that will assist you during this transition and help you to understand the rights, responsibilities and restrictions of your visa status. It will also cover academics, taxes, employment, and other important topics.

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 Day, Information Fair, the Welcome Party and various events that OIS will hold throughout the semester and academic year (including OIS Programs and our annual Spring Carnival).

Graduate Student Orientation
The New Graduate Student Orientation can be accessed online between January 5 – 26 by logging into your Moodle account with your UNITY ID. This orientation is organized by The Graduate School and will address information specific to new graduate students arriving on campus. This orientation covers different material from OIS orientation. See the Graduate School website for more information and please contact the Graduate School with any questions about their orientation.

CHECK-IN WITH OIS
After your arrival in Raleigh, you will need to check in, in person, with OIS. This is required by law. At the time of your Check-In, you will be provided with materials to help in your initial transition to Raleigh and NC State. Included among the available information is a Raleigh/campus map and a “To-Do” list, etc. Please bring your passport, SEVIS I-20 or DS-2019, I-94 card and local US address (even if temporary). If you have a dependent, we encourage you to bring him/her and their documents to Check-in too. Check-in takes about 1 hour and volunteers will be there to assist you. Check-In will be on January 5th in Daniels Hall, Room 434.

Schedule a Check-in Appointment

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 Small Pack, they are NOT required to attend the OIS Check-in.

INFORMATION FAIR
OIS will host the International Student Information Fair on Tuesday, January 5th from 2:00 pm until 4:00 pm in the Duke Energy Hall in Hunt Library. New and returning students are invited to come by for an opportunity to meet with campus offices and community groups pertaining to life as an international student at NC State. This is a great way to discover all the resources available to you! Participating groups include: International student organizations, Campus Libraries, University Transportation, various banks, etc. For more precise information on the event, please visit our Orientation Schedule page.
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 following 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: http://usembassy.state.gov. It also provides links to all U.S. Embassies and Consulates worldwide. Please keep in mind that 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 here. Once approved, the visa is stamped into your passport designating the school you will attend upon arrival in the U.S. Be aware that 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; they will be required to pay the SEVIS fee before requesting admission to the U.S. 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. Read more here.

F-1 and J-1 Transfer Students
If you are currently in F-1 or J-1 status at another US institution, you must take the following actions upon arrival at NC State to complete the SEVIS I-20 transfer-in process: Report to OIS for check-in on January 5th, 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. Please log in 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.
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.

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**Average Temperatures (in Celsius)**

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<th>Month</th>
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Raleigh has a pleasant climate. Spring and Fall are long and mild, and Winter is short and not very cold (relative to many parts of the U.S). Snow in the Winter is unusual. Summers are hot and very humid.
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) has begun a new I-94 process. International students and scholars may not be issued a paper I-94 when entering the US. International students and scholars will need to print their I-94 themselves by visiting the CBP I-94 Retrieval web page. Please print your new I-94 prior to attending the OIS check-in. We will need a copy of your I-94 to complete your check-in process. Also, if you have employment on campus such as a TA or RA your department will need the I-94 to complete your hiring paperwork. Please print multiple copies of the I-94 for these purposes. More information about the new I-94 process and which ports of entry will stop issuing paper I-94s can be found on the CBP web page.

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/fruits) and large shopping centers. A comprehensive ethnic grocery store list can be found 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.
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 or a Country Contact for advice on transportation.

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 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday only.

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

*If you have an emergency, call 911, NC State Public Safety, or OIS (during open office hours.)
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 9 credit hours for graduate studies 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. Students must check in on January 5th.
- 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 available here.
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 more community feeling.

You have many choices on campus including apartment-style buildings on campus such as Wolf Ridge, Wolf Village, ES King Village and Western Manor. (http://housing.ncsu.edu/view-apartments) 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 apply to live on campus, you must apply through MyPack Portal.

More instructions on the application process can be found here. Be careful, though. University housing is limited and therefore, available on a 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 | Campus Box 7315
Phone: 919-515-2440 | Fax: 919-831-3542
Email: housing@ncsu.edu | Website http://housing.ncsu.edu/

For information about living off campus, please visit our website.
Off-Campus Housing

To find an apartment before you arrive, it is recommended you consult websites, ask people in your department, consult with your Small Pack Leaders and ask students from your home country for advice on apartments. Many apartment complexes are close together so you can spend a day comparing your housing options.

Your Small Pack Leaders have a comprehensive list of on and off-campus residences. You may contact them for more information.


Off-campus housing options include: (a) rooms in private residences, (b) apartments which can be rented by oneself or shared by 2 to 4 students depending on the lease options of the apartment complex. It is reasonable to expect off-campus housing to cost between $250 to $800 per month, depending on the number of people sharing the expenses which include monthly rent and utilities (water, phone, electricity, gas). A security deposit (usually one month’s rent) is also required for most off-campus housing. In addition, utility companies (phone, electricity, etc.) may require an advance deposit to activate the service.

Signing a Lease

To rent an apartment off campus, you must sign a lease. A lease is a legally binding contract and is usually required for a period of 12 months. Leases obligate you to pay rent for each month of the term of the lease even if you move out of the apartment. Lawyers at Student Legal Services (Phone: 919-515-7091 or Fax: 919-515-6052) are willing to review the lease before you sign it to make sure everything is in proper order. More Information
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 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). Check the Student Blue website for more information.

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

Please note: Students on Teaching and Research Assistantships will be provided NC State health insurance through the Graduate Student Support Plan (GSSP) and will be waived out of the hard waiver plan automatically. For the Spring 2016 semester, GSSP insurance will be effective beginning 1/1/2016. More Info

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 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.

The GSSP plan for students on Teaching and Research Assistantships will continue to offer coverage for dependents.

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

You can read more about the Student Blue Health Plan enrollment and benefits here.
Immunization Records
NC State requires that you complete your immunization requirements before you arrive to NC State University. Upon acceptance, all international students have 30 days to submit copies of their immunization records and complete the Health History form online. Carefully review the requirements here. After reviewing, please click on the HealthWeb link and complete the Health History form. Next, submit official hard copies of your immunization records. The record must have a health care provider’s signature, address and clinic stamp:

Student Health Services (SHS)
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. Note: if you are on GSSP, your health insurance might not start until January 1, 2016. Be sure you schedule your visit to the Health Center accordingly. All international students from HIGH RISK countries are required to complete TB Questionnaire forms and fax them to Student Health Services.

Campus Recreation
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. To learn more about recreational facilities, visit their website.
Course Registration

As a new graduate degree student cleared for admission for the Spring 2016 semester, you will need to complete the following checklist to register for classes. The final deadline for Spring 2016 course registration is January 12th. However, it is in a student’s best interest to register as early as possible to secure a seat in your preferred classes.

1. Contact your academic advisor.

A list of the Directors of Graduate Programs and their emails can be found here.

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

Since you may not be able to come to campus before the start of the Fall semester, your advisor will work with you to ensure you can register for courses prior to your arrival on campus. Each college has a different process for advising prior to course registration. Your department and/or advisor will inform you of the policies and procedures for this process when you contact them. Your advisor will release the “advising hold” on your account once you finalize a plan, so you may register for classes.


Once the “advising hold” has been released, you can register through the MyPack Portal using your valid “unity” 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 (919) 515-HELP (4357) or help@ncsu.edu.

Contact your academic advisor if you have questions or concerns about your class selection. Ask your advisor about what your college’s requirements are for an in-person meeting once you arrive on campus. Although you will attend the Office of International Services orientation session, many colleges require you to attend a college-based meeting to obtain college-specific information.

Additional Resources

Departmental Ambassadors are current American or international graduate students in your department. If you have a question about your department, courses, NC State, etc., you can find your Departmental Ambassador’s email address on the OIS website. (Note: Not every department has a Departmental Ambassador.)

The SPEAK test is for international teaching assistants. Departments will register individual students for this test. Students should contact their respective departments for their exact time and place of testing.

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.
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 this 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.

Financial Aid and Assistantships

International graduate students may receive aid in the form of teaching assistantships or research assistantships. Only individual departments may award assistantships. OIS is not involved in the process of awarding assistantships. For information on assistantships, contact the Director of Graduate Programs (DGP) for your department. A full listing of DGP’s is available here.

On-campus Employment

There are many types of on-campus employment at NC State. Unfortunately, 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.

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 Form I-20 or SEVIS Form DS-2019 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.
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
* Ethnic Restaurants

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

**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, 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.

**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.

**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 Wolfl ine 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
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 in 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.
General Raleigh and NC State 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
NCSU Sporting Events | NCSU Crafts Center | NCSU Union Activities Board

2015 Local Ongoing Events

First Friday – A free self-guided tour of downtown’s cutting edge cultural hot spots. Local art galleries, art studios, alternative art venues, and museums stay open late the first Friday of every month to welcome thousands of art-seeking enthusiasts downtown.

Food Truck Rodeos – A 1/2 mile (.80km) of Food Trucks and Restaurants spread out over 11 city blocks on Fayetteville Street in downtown Raleigh. These are great opportunities to try local food!

Theatre in the Park – Theatre In The Park, located in scenic Pullen Park right next to NC State’s main campus, is internationally acclaimed for its outstanding theatrical achievements. Tickets – $16

2015-2016 Local Events – Spring Semester

12/5: [Winterfest] – Downtown Raleigh – Fayetteville St.
2/6: [Krispy Kreme Challenge] – NC State’s Main Campus – Downtown Raleigh
3/12: [Saint Patrick’s Day Parade and Festival] – Downtown Raleigh – Fayetteville St.
4/10: [Rock ‘n’ Roll Raleigh Marathon] – Downtown Raleigh
4/30: [Cary Spring Daze Arts and Crafts Festival] – Fred G. Bond Metro Park
5/7: [Meet in the Street Festival] – 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, check out page 7 of the spouse guide here.

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 [here](#).

**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 NC State Arts 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 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.

**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.

**Follow OIS on Facebook & Twitter!**
In addition to the ongoing programs listed on this page, the OIS schedules several special events throughout the year. Although we send information about these events via email, our social media sites are a good way to stay in touch with what’s happening at the OIS.
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.
For a list of Country Contacts on campus, please see here.

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 (printed on your Graduate School Admission Letter), 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 (919-515-3035, oit.ncsu.edu/) 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 Student Disability Office at NC State.

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 this 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 this 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 this site.

For more information about the Disability Services offered at NC State University, please visit http://dso.dasa.ncsu.edu/
HELPFUL LINKS & CONTACT INFO

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)
NC State Graduate School
Union Activities Board
Student Organizations & Clubs
Wolfline Bus System

RALEIGH AREA RESOURCES
CAT City Bus System
TTA Regional Bus System
NC Driver’s License
Ethnic 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
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.