The Office of International Services (OIS) has created this guide to help you transition to life as an undergraduate student at NC State. This guide contains important information you will need as you prepare to travel to Raleigh, during your first semester on campus, and throughout your studies at NC State. This guide provides a glimpse into the programs and services offered to help international students succeed academically, professionally, and personally.

Throughout this guide you will find checklists that will lead you through the steps you need to take to ensure your trip to NC State is a smooth one. It is important that you carefully review all of the content in this guide and contact OIS with any questions you may have.

We look forward to meeting you soon. Welcome to the Wolfpack!

- The OIS Staff

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FIRST STEPS

☐ Pay the Student Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) fee. (p. 4)

☐ Obtain your visa and make sure your documents are ready for travel. (p. 4)

☐ Login to your NC State email account and MyPack Portal (see below).

☐ Submit your immunization records on HealthyPack Portal (p. 6)

☐ Enroll in or waive out of the Student Health Insurance Plan. (p. 8)

☐ Contact your academic advisor or to register for classes. (p. 9)

☐ Find a place to live. (p. 10-11)

☐ Mark your calendar for New Student Orientation Thursday or Friday, January 2nd or 3rd.

☐ Learn about the welcoming city of Raleigh and the culture of NC State.

☐ Review the New Student Checklist

Access your NC State Email Account & MyPack Portal

You will need your Unity ID and password to access a number of resources at NC State including your email account and MyPack Portal, NC State’s student information system. You can find your Unity ID in your NC State Admission letter. Your email address is YourUnityID@ncsu.edu. Your default password is the last four digits of your Campus ID number (printed on your Admission letter), followed by 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, your default password is 12340131. This password can only be used to create a new, secure password via the Unity Password Change Tool. You can then use your new password to access your NC State email and MyPack Portal. Contact the NC State Help Desk for any problems related to your Unity account.

All new undergraduate international students are invited to connect with the Culture to Culture Ambassador Program (CCAP). CCAP serves as an extra source of support for new international students, from before your arrival to NC State through the end of your first semester. CCAP Ambassadors are current NC State student leaders who make themselves available in a variety of ways, including social gatherings and one-on-one mentorship for those who request it. Connecting with CCAP will give you access to information and advice from peer mentors who are invested in your success, will help you make friends and build a social network, will connect you to valuable campus resources, and ultimately will help navigating this large campus feel more manageable. If you are interested in requesting a peer mentor, sign-up here. You will have the chance to meet your mentor on Friday, January 10th at the CCAP Mentor Meetup.
1 REVIEW YOUR DOCUMENTS

Is all of the information on your I-20 Form (for F-1 visas) or DS-2019 Form (for J-1 visas) correct?
If you believe there is an error (for example the name does not match your passport, your birthday is incorrect, or other), please contact OIS directly at ois@ncsu.edu. Once you have verified that the form is correct, sign on the signature line at the bottom of page 1 of the form in blue or black ink.

What is the expiration date on your passport?
Your passport needs to be valid at least 6 months into the future at all times during the visa application process and during your stay in the United States. If your passport expires in less than 6 months, you must renew it before you can obtain a visa or enter the United States. It might take a few weeks to obtain or renew your passport, so please plan accordingly.

2 PAY THE STUDENT EXCHANGE VISITOR INFORMATION SYSTEM (SEVIS) FEE

You must pay your SEVIS fee ($220 for J-1 students and $350 for F-1 students) with form I-901 at least three days before the date of your visa application. You need to print the confirmation of payment of this fee as you will need it for your visa application. For more information about the fee and how to pay, please visit the Study in the States website. The fee can be paid online on the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement I-901 fee web page.

3 APPLY FOR YOUR VISA

- You must have a visa to enter the U.S. (except for students from visa exempt countries, such as Canada).
- Apply for the F-1 visa (with I-20 form) or J-1 visa (with DS-2019 form) at the U.S. Consulate/Embassy.
- Complete the Form DS-160 visa application and pay the DS-160 fee ($160).

Please refer to the Embassy website for detailed information on which documents to bring, and when to visit for your visa interview. For a list of all Embassies, please visit www.usembassy.gov. You can also find information about visas and advice for the visa interview on the OIS website. You may have to prove your intent to return to your home country after completing your studies in the U.S. Your proof of intent to return could be in the form of a letter of employment, possession of property, or other strong ties to your home country.

Canadian Citizens are not required to obtain an F-1 or J-1 visa; however they are required to pay the I-901 SEVIS fee before requesting admission to the U.S. NOTE: this fee can not be paid at the Port of Entry. At the Port of Entry, Canadian citizens must present their I-20 or DS-2019 with their proof of I-901 SEVIS fee payment.

F-1 and J-1 Transfer Students who are currently in F-1 or J-1 status at another U.S. institution must take the following actions upon arrival at NC State to complete the SEVIS I-20 or DS-2019 transfer-in process:

1. Schedule an OIS Check-in appointment (see p. 12) and bring your NC State I-20 or DS-2019 (it may say initial or transfer pending), your previous school’s I-20 or DS-2019, valid passport with visa, and most recent I-94 record.

2. Log in to MyPack Portal with your Unity ID and password to complete the OIS Compliance Verification, update your SEVIS local (Raleigh) address, U.S. phone number, and emergency contact information. (p. 5)

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 after the start of the semester OIS will create a “Transfer Complete” I-20 or DS-2019 and notify you by email when it is ready to be picked up.
IMMIGRATION

IMPORTANT TRAVEL REMINDERS
- New international students are permitted to enter the U.S. up to 30 days before the program start date listed on their I-20 or DS-2019 form. **Do not plan to arrive in the United States more than 30 days before this date!**
- Plan to arrive by Thursday, January 2nd so you can attend the Orientation activities on January 2nd - 3rd.
- Make sure you have somewhere to stay for your first nights if you are arriving in Raleigh early. Temporary guest housing may be available through University Housing.

1. IMMIGRATION REPORTING REQUIREMENT—PROVIDE CONTACT INFORMATION TO OIS

Immigration law requires that you report your Raleigh address, U.S. phone number, and the contact information for someone whom OIS can reach out to in the event of a serious health or safety emergency. You complete this reporting through MyPack. As regulated by federal privacy laws (FERPA) that protect students’ personal information, the emergency contact you provide will never be contacted by OIS or by NC State in regards to your academic standing (grades), student conduct, immigration, or legal status. Contact information must be added in MyPack before you check-in with OIS. And continue to update this information in MyPack, anytime it changes, until you finish your program at NC State.

We understand you may not have all of this information until you arrive in the U.S., but it is important that you provide OIS with this information before your OIS Check-in session.

2. COMPLETE COMPLIANCE VERIFICATION FORM

You must also complete the OIS Compliance Verification form in MyPack before your OIS Check-in. Log in to MyPack using your Unity ID and password. Click on Main Menu > 2. Student Self Service > 3. Campus Personal Information > OIS Compliance Verification > Save! > Repeat steps 1-3 to enter your SEVIS local (Raleigh) address, U.S. phone number, and emergency contact.

Please check your SEVIS local (Raleigh) address, U.S. phone number, and emergency contact information every semester make sure it is correct. All students are required to inform OIS by updating your SEVIS local address in MyPack Portal within 10 days of any change of your physical address to maintain your immigration status as an F-1 or J-1 student.
Prior to your arrival at NC State, you need to provide information about your health history and submit an immunization record to NC State’s Student Health Services. NC State requires all students to meet the North Carolina General Statute requirements for immunizations prior to studying at NC State. There are strict consequences for failure to meet these requirements such as having your courses dropped and/or having a hold placed on your account, which may prevent you from registering for classes. If you need to finish specific immunizations after arriving at NC State, you will have the opportunity to obtain needed vaccinations at the Student Health Center Immunization Clinic once you are on campus.

1 PREPARE YOUR IMMUNIZATION RECORDS
There are 2 ways to gather the information that is required to be submitted to NC State Student Health Center.

**Option 1 (Preferred):** Print and fill out the [immunization form](#) with a healthcare provider.

**Option 2:** Obtain your immunization record from a healthcare provider and make sure the records contain the information listed in the bullet points below. Your records must show that you have all of the immunizations listed in the [immunization form](#) and must be in English (or have been translated into English).

- Your Name, Date of Birth, and Campus ID # on all forms/documents
- Medical Provider’s name and the address of Administering Facility OR clinic stamp
- Month/Day/Year for MMR immunizations and Month/Day/Year of last DTP. **
- At least Month/Year for all other immunizations. **
- Official copies of lab results verifying immunity can be submitted in lieu of vaccination for the following: Measles, Mumps, and Rubella.

**NOTE:** If you need to get some of the immunizations for the first time (such as Hepatitis B), you may not have enough time to get all of the doses prior to your arrival in the U.S. You should start the doses in your home country and will be able to finish them upon arrival at NC State.

**For NC records, documentation must list the dates the doses were given in this format: MM/DD/YY.**

2 ENTER IMMUNIZATION DATES AND UPLOAD DOCUMENTS
In [HealthyPack Portal](#), enter the dates you received your immunizations and upload your documents:

- Choose ‘North Carolina State University’ from the drop down menu
- Log in to HealthyPack Portal with your Unity ID and password
- From the Immunization tab, enter dates for your immunizations and click ‘submit’
- From the Upload tab, upload the immunization documents you prepared

**Note:** when uploading documents, only JPEG and PDF file formats are accepted*

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*The Student Health Center can NOT accept health records via email. Uploading documents directly into HealthyPack Portal is the most secure and preferred method. Avoid submitting duplicate records. You will receive messages from Student Health in HealthyPack Portal (NOT in your email). It is important to check the ‘Messages’ tab in HealthyPack Portal periodically to know the status of your immunization compliance.*
Log in to HealthyPack Portal using the same credentials as MyPack Portal. Select the “forms” tab to complete your Health History and Tuberculosis (TB) Screening Forms. Print a copy and keep it for your records. You do NOT need to submit the copy to Student Health Services or OIS.

NOTE: Many international students will have to get a Tuberculosis (TB) Test after they arrive in the United States. Review the information below to determine if this applies to you.

- If you are from a country with a high risk for tuberculosis, you must have a tuberculosis test administered in the last 12 months.
- **NOTE:** The Student Health Center **does not** accept the results of PPD tests (Tuberculin skin test) or chest x-rays completed in medical facilities outside the United States. These types of test(s) must be completed after you arrive in the United States.
- PPD readings must state results in mm induration. A “nil” or “negative” result is not acceptable.
- TB blood tests from outside the United States **can** be accepted.
- If you need any Tuberculosis (TB) test(s) completed upon arrival, please call 919.515.2563 to make an appointment once you are on campus.
- If you receive a TB test at the Student Health Center and have health insurance coverage under the Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP), your health insurance policy will cover the cost of the test if administered after the effective insurance coverage start date.

If you have questions or concerns about your immunization records, please contact Student Health at immunizations@ncsu.edu.

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**IMMUNIZATION APPOINTMENTS**

Student Health Services will schedule immunizations appointments, specifically for new international students who are from “High Risk Countries,” to administer Tuberculosis (TB) tests, administer additional vaccinations if needed, and review your records for completion of the immunizations requirements.

Please call 1.919.515.2653 or visit Student Health Services to schedule an appointment.
What are my options?
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 Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP), administered by Student Blue. Students must enroll in the Student Health Insurance Plan or waive out by showing proof of a health insurance plan that meets a set of required criteria.

What are the benefits of using the Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP)?
Most health care services rendered by Student Health Service providers on campus, are covered 100% (no co-payment, no deductible). Prescriptions filled by Student Health Pharmacy are covered with a $15 co-payment per prescription or refill. Although the Student Blue policy does not cover dental care, Student Health Services offers a dental discount program.

More detailed information about the Student Blue plan’s benefits and coverage can be found on Student Blue’s website.

How do I enroll in the Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP)?
Once you have made the decision to use the Student Blue plan, you must enroll in the plan through the Student Blue Portal as soon as possible to ensure your coverage will be active starting January 1, 2020.

Be careful about scheduling health care appointments before your insurance coverage begins, otherwise you may be responsible for paying the full cost of the health care services.

What if I choose not to use the Student Health Insurance Plan?
You must submit your waiver request electronically through the Student Blue portal no later than January 31, 2020, otherwise your account will be charged accordingly for the plan. The Student Blue Portal to waive out of the Student Health Insurance Plan is now open. Because of visa regulations, your preferred plan must meet the minimum requirements in order to be considered for a waiver. If you do not submit a waiver, your account will be charged accordingly for the Student Health Insurance Plan.

When does my health insurance coverage begin?
Health insurance coverage for the Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) begins on January 1, 2020.

What about insurance for dependents?
The Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) does not offer health insurance coverage for dependents. Alternative health insurance plans for both F-2 and J-2 dependents are listed on the OIS website.

Dependents on J-2 visas are required to maintain active health insurance coverage for the entire duration of their DS-2019. Failure to maintain health insurance may result in termination of both the J-1 and J-2 visa holders’ immigration status.
When should I register for classes?
Some courses may be in high demand so you should register as early as possible once you are connected with your Academic Advisor.

Take Placement Tests.
Certain courses may require you to take a placement test now (online) before you’re able to register. Learn more here.

Who is my Academic Advisor?
An Academic Advisor is a faculty or staff member who works with students in your major or program to assist you in choosing classes each semester. Contact your Academic Advisor for questions regarding specific courses. They can help you choose and register for courses. NOTE: Certain programs pre-register students for their courses. Your Academic Advisor can inform you if you have been pre-registered for courses.

If you are unsure of who your Advisor is, go to the ‘Planning & Enrollment’ tab in MyPack, then select ‘Advisors.’ If you have not yet been assigned an advisor, you may contact the Academic Advising Coordinator for your major. A list of Advising Coordinators and their email addresses can be found on the Student Services website. When you contact your Academic Advisor let them know you are an international student, so they will assist you with the registration process via email before you arrive on campus.

How do I register for classes?
Login to MyPack Portal using your Unity ID and password. If you do not know your Unity ID and password, see page 3 for more details. After you login to MyPack Portal, go to Student HomePage, then Planning & Enrollment, then Enrollment Wizard. From there, you can visit Add to Cart and then Class Search. More information about the Enrollment Wizard, including a detailed video tutorial, can be found on the Student Services website. If you have an “advising hold” on your account, you will not be able to register for classes until you contact your Academic Advisor.

Where can I purchase textbooks for my classes?
Once you are registered for classes, you can find your list of required textbooks in MyPack Portal. Follow the instructions on the NC State Bookstore’s website to access your list of required textbooks. Textbooks can be purchased at the bookstore in the Talley Student Union on Main Campus.

Classes begin on Monday, January 6th.
The final day to add a class without permission from the instructor is Friday, January 10th. Review the Academic Calendar for other important dates.
As a first year international undergraduate student, you get to live on campus! There are many advantages to living on campus during your first year, such as greater proximity to academic and wellness resources, student organizations and activities, dining halls, and more! We recognize that the concept of living on-campus or living in a campus community may be unfamiliar to new international students. The OIS On-Campus Housing web page provides some common terms used for campus living as well as information that will assist you in choosing on campus housing that best fits your needs. Please keep in mind that you should submit your housing application as soon as possible as housing assignments are made on a first come, first served basis. Instructions can be found on University Housing’s website. Please Note: First-year students are required to live on campus. However, some students may be exempt from the requirement. Please review the University Housing website if you would like information on exemptions.

There are some important things to consider when choosing the housing option that is best for you including type of residence, preferred number of roommates, location, programs offered, and break housing during holidays and university closures. See the table on the next page for an overview of your housing options.

Once you decide on your preferred housing option, it is recommended that you submit your application as soon as possible so that you are given preference for your top choices.

Please Note: If you want to live in a Living & Learning Village, you will need to submit a Village application after submitting your housing application.

**TYPE OF RESIDENCE**

There are three options for the type of living arrangement or community at NC State:

**Residence Halls:** Residence halls are fully furnished student housing buildings owned by the university. NC State has 20 residence halls located throughout campus with an array of amenities and floor plans. More details about each of the different residence halls can be found on University Housing’s website. Rooms in residence halls are shared (you will have a roommate of the same sex). Halls come in a variety of different living arrangements. You will need to decide which of these living arrangements is preferable to you.

**Living and Learning Villages:** Living and Learning Villages are close-knit communities built around common interests that engage students both inside and outside the classroom. There are 16 different villages with different themes, ranging from personal wellness to global learning. Depending on where the village is located, the living arrangements could be either hall-style, suite-style, hotel-style, or apartment-style. Most Villages are located in residence halls. Read more about Living and Learning Villages on University Housing’s website.

**Apartments:** On-campus apartments are available at Wolf Village. Each apartment has four individual bedrooms and a shared kitchen/living room.

**ROOMMATES**

Many residence halls and apartments will require you to have a roommate. University Housing will find a roommate for you using a roommate questionnaire.
**UNIVERSITY HOUSING**

### Type of Residence

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<th>Optional Living &amp; Learning Villages</th>
<th>University Breaks</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Residence Hall – Hall-Style:</strong> All rooms are open to an interior hallway. Halls can be either co-ed or all male/female.</td>
<td>Alexander Hall Bagwell Hall Becton Hall Berry Hall Gold Hall Owen Hall Syme Hall Tucker Hall Turlington Hall Welch Hall</td>
<td>Residence halls are spread throughout campus. Many are close to the Talley Student Union or dining halls.</td>
<td>Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Residence Hall – Suite-Style:</strong> A suite of four rooms lies off an interior hallway. Suites are either all male or all female and you will share a bedroom with a roommate and a bathroom with your suite.</td>
<td>Bowen Hall Bragaw Hall Carroll Hall Lee Hall Metcalf Hall Sullivan Hall Watauga Hall Wood Hall</td>
<td>Residence halls are spread throughout campus. Many are close to the Talley Student Union or dining halls.</td>
<td>Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Residence Hall – Hotel-Style:</strong> All rooms open up to the outside. In this residence hall style, you will probably share a bedroom and bathroom with a roommate.</td>
<td>Avent Ferry North Hall</td>
<td>Residence halls are spread throughout campus. Many are close to the Talley Student Union or dining halls.</td>
<td>Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Apartments:</strong> Offer more privacy, as residents have their own bedroom. Each apartment has four bedrooms and a shared full kitchen/living room. Although students have access to kitchens, first-year students are required to purchase a campus meal plan.</td>
<td>Wolf Village Apartments Wolf Ridge Apartments</td>
<td>Apartment complexes are farther away from the center of campus, but are on a bus route.</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Break Housing and University Closures

At NC State, residence halls close for certain university breaks when classes are not in session. Students living in residence halls will need to make arrangements for a place to stay during the listed school breaks. Some students choose to travel home during breaks. Other students stay with friends or family members, participate in campus-organized trips, travel independently, or rent guests rooms on campus.
Register for Orientation

Attend an OIS Check-in. Details available on OIS website.

Complete the OIS Compliance Verification Form and enter your contact information in MyPack Portal. (p. 5)

Finalize your travel plans and review page 14 so you know what to expect when you arrive at the Port of Entry (the first city in which you arrive in the United States). Raleigh-Durham (RDU) International Airport is the closest to NC State.

Start packing! Wondering what you need to bring? Check out page 13 for tips.

Contact your bank to make sure your ATM card will work in the United States.

Register for a GoPass to ride GoRaleigh and GoTriangle buses for free! (p. 27)

Enroll or waive out of the Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) if you have not already done so

All F-1 and J-1 students are required by law to check in with OIS after they arrive at NC State.

The OIS Check-in session is separate from the mandatory New Student Orientation. Check-in is required by law to maintain your immigration status. You must check in, in person, and provide the following original documents:

- Passport with visa. Your passport must be valid at least 6 months into the future at all times during your study in the U.S.
- Original I-20 or DS-2019 (copies can not be accepted).
- A printed copy of your I-94 record (not your travel history) Available online AFTER you arrive in the U.S.
- Confirm your SEVIS local (Raleigh) address, your U.S. phone number, and emergency contact in MyPack Portal BEFORE your Check-in session. See page 5 for details.

You will not be able to complete the Check-in session requirements until you have provided OIS with all of your original documents and contact information. OIS will scan your documents and will return them to you at the end of the Check-in session. Because Check-in is required by law, you must attend the entire duration of the check-in session - approximately 1.5 hours.

Register for a Spring 2020 Check-In

Dependent Check-in: If you are bringing a dependent with you, we encourage you to bring them to the OIS Check-in with their documents. OIS provides a separate Check-in for F-2 and J-2 dependents with information specific to their transition to the NC State community. Dependent Check-in is required for J-2 visa holders. Dependent Check-in can be scheduled on the OIS website.

IEP Students who recently completed the Intensive English Program are required to attend an OIS Check-in and the New Student Orientation on January 2 or 3.
Deciding what to pack when moving to a new country can be overwhelming but do not worry, there are plenty of shopping centers within walking distance of campus and many others easily accessible by bus where you can purchase most items you will need during your time at NC State. If you are craving a taste of home after you arrive, you might be surprised to find there are plenty international grocery stores and restaurants in the Raleigh, Durham, and Chapel Hill area, often referred to as “The Triangle.”

Here are a few tips when you are considering what to bring:

CLOTHING: Students (and even some professors) tend to dress informally in the U.S. Students often wear jeans, shorts, t-shirts, and sweatshirts around campus and in class. The weather can be very hot and humid in the summer with occasional thunderstorms, so you may want to bring an umbrella and a good rain coat to stay dry. Winter weather in Raleigh is fairly mild (we may have snow once or twice a year), but you will need a warm coat for cold days and the rare snowstorm. You may also want to bring a formal outfit for special events, on-campus career fairs, and job interviews.

ELECTRICAL ITEMS: The U.S. uses 120v electrical current. Many small electrical items like hair dryers and electric razors are inexpensive in the U.S. so you may want to purchase those items after you arrive. Plug adapters can be used for electrical items you may prefer to bring from home, such as laptops and cell phones.

LINENS, TOWELS, AND TOILETRIES: You should bring at least one set of linens and towels, as well as enough toiletries, to last for several days in case you are not able to go to a store for a few days after you arrive. Bed linens, pillows, blankets, towels, and toiletries can be purchased inexpensively at local stores.

MEDICAL ITEMS: If you plan to bring any prescription medications, they must be labeled and in their original container. The name on the container must match the name on your passport to avoid any problems entering the U.S. Also bring a copy of any prescription you will need, using the generic name of the medication in English.

MONEY: Contact your bank to make sure your ATM card will work in the U.S. before you leave. Be sure to ask your bank about their policy for foreign transaction fees. Make sure you have immediate access to enough funds to cover housing and tuition upon your arrival in the U.S.

Visa and Mastercard are the most widely accepted types of credit cards in the U.S. Discover and American Express are also accepted by some businesses. It is recommended that you bring at least $1,000 in hard currency to cover immediate expenses during your first several weeks in Raleigh. You can change your money at local banks close to campus. There may be a conversion fee, but it will likely be less than the fees to exchange money at the airport.
TRAVELING TO THE U.S.

THE PORT OF ENTRY is the first city in which you arrive in the United States. You will be asked to show your immigration documents to be given permission to enter the country.

You will need to carry the following documents with you in your carry-on bag, NOT in your checked bags:
- Your valid passport with your F-1 or J-1 visa.
- Original I-20 or DS-2019 form.
- The supporting documentation you showed to United States Embassy to obtain your visa.

YOU HAVE ARRIVED is a short video produced by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) that explains what to expect at the Port of Entry. **NOTE:** International students are not eligible to use the Global Entry system.

YOUR I-94 ARRIVAL RECORD will be created by Customs and Border Protection (CBP) when you enter the U.S. The I-94 is an electronic record of arrival, so you will not receive an actual copy of it at the Port of Entry. As soon as possible after you arrive in the U.S., you will need to retrieve and print your I-94 record from the CBP website. Carefully review the I-94 to be sure the information is correct. **NOTE:** Your I-94 record may not be accessible until 48 hours after your arrival. If your record is not found or if there are any discrepancies, notify OIS.

**You will need to print a copy of your I-94 to bring to OIS Check-in.** Print a copy to keep for your records, as well as a copy to give to your employer if you decide to work on campus.

EMERGENCIES: **911** is the emergency services number in the United States. Calling 911 from anywhere in the U.S. will connect you to an operator who can send the local police, fire department, or ambulance services to you depending on the emergency.

If you have an emergency while traveling and need to reach OIS, call 1.919.515.2961 during regular office hours: Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. EST. If outside of these hours, contact NC State’s University Police at 1.919.515.3000. University Police will contact and connect you with the OIS staff member on call for emergencies.

RALEIGH-DURHAM AIRPORT INFORMATION DESK
If you need assistance locating your baggage or transportation when you arrive at RDU, please visit the information desk located in the baggage claim area of both terminals. The RDU information desks are staffed 5:30 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. every day. Their staff will be happy to assist you.

SHARED TRANSPORTATION (SHUTTLE) SERVICES
The cost of using shared transportation to get to NC State starts at around $20, but may vary depending on your drop-off location and the number of passengers.

TAXIS
A taxi ride from RDU to NC State is around $30-$35. There are several taxi companies in the Raleigh area that service the airport. Taxis can be found on the lower level of the airport directly outside of baggage claim.

GOTRIANGLE RALEIGH-AIRPORT RTC #100 BUSES
can be used for transportation from the RDU Airport directly to NC State’s main campus (Hillsborough St. & Brooks Ave.). A single, one-way trip from RDU to NC State will cost $2.25, which must be paid in exact cash. After arriving on campus you can take the Wolfline buses (free), or the GoRaleigh buses ($1.25 for a one-way fare) to nearby on-campus housing and apartment complexes.

DIRECTIONS TO NC STATE UNIVERSITY
If you choose to take a taxi or shuttle from the RDU Airport to campus, **make sure you ask the driver to take you to NC State University in Raleigh**, not the University of North Carolina - that’s a different university in Chapel Hill, about 40 minutes from NC State!

TRANSPORTATION FROM OTHER PORTS OF ENTRY
If you arrive at another Port of Entry outside of Raleigh, Amtrak train and Greyhound bus services are available to Raleigh from various Ports of Entry into the U.S. The nearest Amtrak train and Greyhound bus stations are located in downtown Raleigh, 5-10 minutes by taxi from the university. Please note that basic safety precautions need to be taken when at train and bus stations. Pay close attention to your money and personal belongings.
GETTING SETTLED

☐ Let your family know when you have arrived safely!

☐ Get some rest, and then explore! Check out the area around your housing to find your classrooms, dining options, the Talley Student Union, and closest bus stop.

☐ Order your GoPass to start riding GoRaleigh/CAT (city) and GoTriangle (regional) buses. (p. 27)

☐ Open a bank account. (p. 16)

☐ Choose a mobile phone plan. There are several phone companies to choose from including AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile, Verizon, and more. Most companies offer month-to-month plans without a contract.

☐ Attend an OIS Check-in session. Visit the OIS website for more details. *Attendance required by law to maintain F-1 or J-1 status*

☐ Contact Student Health Services to schedule an appointment to have your immunization record reviewed for completion. You will be able to complete the TB test requirement at your immunization appointment. (p. 7)

☐ Meet CCAP Ambassadors and fellow new students at the CCAP social event on the evening of January 2nd. You will receive an email from OIS with more details.

☐ Attend the mandatory New Student Orientation on Thursday, January 2nd or Friday, January 3rd.

☐ Pay your tuition no later than Tuesday, January 14th. Failure to pay before the deadline will result in your classes being canceled! (p. 19)
NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION
JANUARY 2nd or 3rd | Talley

All new undergraduate students at NC State, including transfer and former IEP students, are required to attend the Spring 2020 New Student Orientation. New Student Orientation is organized by New Student Programs (NSP) and OIS. At orientation, you will meet fellow new students, returning NC State student mentors, faculty and staff from across campus, and academic advisors from your major. Orientation will cover important topics such as your academic success, cultural transitions, campus resources and more. Registration and more details about orientation can be found on New Student Programs’ website.

Transfer students: Your orientation begins at 8:30am on Thursday, January 2.

First year students: Your orientation begins at 8:30am on Friday, January 3.

OIS will meet with you during your orientation day. You’ll also have an opportunity during the first week of class to reconnect with new international students and meet our Coordinator for International Student Success.

ORIENTATION MOBILE GUIDE

GET A MOBILE ORIENTATION GUIDE FOR YOUR PHONE OR TABLET! Download the NC State University Guides app from the Apple App or Google Play stores. Once downloaded, open the app and find ‘Spring 2020 New Students’

NOTE: A mandatory orientation fee of $205 will be assessed to all new F-1 and J-1 international undergraduate students. This fee covers early move-in fees, holiday break programming, Orientation, OIS Information Fair, Welcome Party, ongoing OIS Programs, and other events OIS will hold for international students throughout the semester and academic year. The fee will billed directly to you by the Cashier’s Office; please do not send payment to OIS.
ADDITIONAL EVENTS

3 NEW STUDENT PIZZA PARTY!
JANUARY 2nd | Holmes Hall
5 - 7pm

Come relax after move-in or orientation and get to know your fellow new international students. Join us for free pizza, good conversations, and a celebration of you joining the Pack! We’ll also have student volunteers walk with you to Target if you need to go shopping for room essentials!

4 IMMUNIZATION APPOINTMENTS
Student Health Center

Student Health Center will offer immunization appointments specifically for new students from High Risk Countries to administer Tuberculosis (TB) tests, administer additional vaccinations if needed, and review your medical records for completion of the requirements. Call 1.919.515.2536 for questions or to make an appointment. You may also submit questions online through secure messaging in the HealthyPack portal.

5 INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SUCCESS LUNCH | JANUARY 10th
12:30 - 1:30pm | Talley 3221

You’ve almost made it through the first week of classes! Come connect with fellow new international undergrads for a quick lunch (free!), debrief of how things are going, and making a success plan for the semester ahead. This is also your chance to meet Tony Shurer, NC State’s Coordinator for International Student Success!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I register for Orientation?
Follow the instructions listed on New Student Programs website. For questions about registration, please email orientation@ncsu.edu.

Where can I stay during Orientation?
New international students can move in to their University Housing on January 2nd after 3pm. If you plan to arrive earlier than January 2nd, University Housing has temporary guest housing you can apply to stay in until your on-campus housing is available. Guest housing has limited availability, so you must make your reservation early. Many of the hotels close to NC State offer discounted rates for NC State students and their family members.

Can my parents attend Orientation?
Parents are not eligible to attend the New Student Orientation, however they are encouraged to attend the Family Orientation on January 2nd or 3rd organized by New Student Programs.

CCAP MENTOR MEETUP & OIS WELCOME PARTY | JANUARY 10th
5:00pm Talley 3221 | Mentor Meetup
6:00pm Witherspoon | OIS Welcome Party

Did you sign up for a CCAP Mentor? Plan to meet your mentor Friday night, then walk together to the OIS Welcome Party. No mentor? No problem - join us directly at Witherspoon! All new international students are invited for a night of fun and friendship and TRIVIAAAA! More details will be announced at Orientation. We hope to see you there!
MAINTAINING STATUS

MAINTAIN FULL-TIME ENROLLMENT

F-1 and J-1 students must maintain continuous full-time enrollment during the fall and spring semesters to maintain their lawful non-immigrant status. The minimum requirement for undergraduate students is 12 credit hours per 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 DS-2019 form before they begin employment. All off-campus employment for F-1 and J-1 students requires advance written employment authorization. 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 risk their visa status. The university is required by law to terminate the SEVIS record of any student who engages in illegal employment.

MAINTAIN A VALID I-20 OR DS-2019

The I-20 form for F-1 students and the DS-2019 form for J-1 students specify a date by which the program of study will be completed. If you need an extension of your program beyond the date listed on the I-20 or DS-2019 form, you must apply for the extension at least one month prior to the expiration date listed on your I-20 or DS-2019 form.

REVIEW YOUR RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

It is very important for non-immigrant students to understand their legal rights and responsibilities as well as the requirements for maintaining their lawful status. Please consult an OIS advisor 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 I-20 or DS-2019 and in your OIS Check-in session.

STUDENTS’ RESPONSIBILITIES

- Immediately upon arrival, students must physically report to OIS for Check-in to have their SEVIS record registered. See page 12 for more details.
- Enroll for and attend classes full-time (12 credit hours)
- Maintain full-time enrollment and make normal academic progress towards completion of program.
- Do not engage in unauthorized employment.
- Keep your passport valid for at least six months into the future at all times during your study in the U.S.
- Report any changes of your physical address in MyPack within 10 days of the change.
- Check your SEVIS local (Raleigh) address, U.S. phone number, and emergency contact every semester to make sure it is correct.
- File timely requests for program extension, change of status, transfer, Optional Practical Training (OPT), Curricular Practical Training (CPT), 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 NC State University’s **Code of Student Conduct**.
FINANCES & EMPLOYMENT

TUITION AND FEES
Tuition for new international students can be paid after arrival, but must be paid by January 14th for the Spring 2020 semester. This deadline is an extended deadline set up by the University Cashier’s Office specifically to accommodate new international students who are at NC State for their first semester. It is recommended that you pay your tuition as early as possible. If you do not pay your tuition by the deadline, your classes will be canceled!

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

ON-CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT
There are many types of on-campus employment at NC State. However it is competitive and you have to contact each department individually after you arrive to learn about their job opportunities. Students often find employment at the NC State Libraries, University Dining, NC State Bookstores, ARTS NC State, University Recreation, and the Talley Student Union. You can not apply to work on campus before you arrive. Also, you may not begin on-campus employment more than 30 days before the first day of classes.

BANKING
You are strongly encouraged to open a bank account upon arrival in Raleigh. With a bank account, you will receive an ATM (debit) 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 accounts with low monthly charges for students, so be sure to ask about student accounts when you are comparing options. You will need your passport and I-20 or DS-2019 form when you open a bank account. If you plan to bring a large amount of money with you, you may also wish to open a savings account as they earn interest. Banks also offer additional services such as checks, loans, credit cards, and safe-deposit boxes at lower cost to students.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT SCAMS
OIS has been made aware of scams targeting international students in which the caller claims to work for a government agency (FBI, USCIS, IRS, even 911) and demands immediate payment due to a problem with the person’s immigration record or some other false violation.

These calls are COMPLETELY FALSE! If you receive a suspicious phone call, hang up and notify OIS and University Police immediately.

Red Flags to Identify Scams:
• No government agent will threaten arrest or deportation because of non-payment.
• No government agency will call you to demand immediate payment for “international fees” or taxes.
• No government agency will demand one type of payment; you will be given several options to pay, usually with a link to a secure government website. Check the web address to be sure it is legitimate.

Tips to Avoid Scams:
• Never provide any personal, financial, immigration, or other sensitive information over the phone, even if the caller already seems to know a lot about you.
• Do not share personal details on social media, LinkedIn, or other websites. Remove your phone number and address from any posted resume or work history. Leave only your email address.
• Carefully review the information on the OIS website for additional details about scams and more tips on what to do if you receive a suspicious phone call.

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 proper authorization or work more than the number of hours allowed per week, may have their SEVIS record terminated and be required to depart the United States.
NC State is recognized as a top institution driving innovation and supporting economic prosperity. With access to world-class faculty who are top experts in their fields, state-of-the-art laboratories, and a collaborative research community on Centennial Campus, NC State students have countless opportunities to **Think and Do the extraordinary!** NC State consistently ranks among the top 10 for key technology transfer metrics among U.S. universities without a medical school (see below). NC State was also ranked the best university in the United States and #8 in the world to learn code by CodinGame. Check out the [NC State Statistics and Strengths website](#) for more information about NC State rankings.

**NC State Libraries**

- **Fast Facts**
  - 5 Locations across Campus
  - 2,300,000 Visitors / Year
  - 5,100,000 Print Volumes
  - 1,003,000+ E-Books
  - 91,000 Serial Subscriptions
  - Alt-Textbook Project - Free or low-cost alternatives to expensive textbooks

- **State-of-the-Art Facilities**
  - Makerspaces with 3D printers
  - Digital Media Creation Labs
  - Free Workshops - Research, Visualization, Makerspaces, Digital Media, and more
  - Technology Lending Services
  - Large-scale, high-definition visualization spaces

**University Tutorial Center**
- Free Tutoring
- Academic Consulting
- Writing Consultations
- Supplemental Instruction
- Writing & Speaking Services

**Undergrad. Research**
- 284 students received $206,392 in the 2016-2017 academic year
- Faculty Mentorships
- Research Symposia

**Career Development Center**
- Cooperative Education Program
- Professional Development Workshops
- Internship & Job Search Assistance
- Resume Reviews & Practice Interviews
- On-Campus Career Fairs
NC State was the first institution in the nation to complete the Healthier Campus Initiative, encouraging healthier options among the more than 40,000 students, faculty, and staff on campus.

University Dining offers a wide range of healthy options to satisfy a variety of dietary needs, including vegetarian and vegan. In 2016, NC State was listed in the Top 50 Best College Dining Experiences.

NC State’s Student Health Center was ranked #1 in student health services in North Carolina by the Princeton Review. As part of tuition and fees, the health fee at NC State covers routine visits with highly qualified professionals.

4 Interfaith Prayer & Meditation Rooms can be found in central locations throughout campus - providing safe, semi-private spaces for spiritual and religious activities.

60+ student organizations that support students of a variety of spiritual and religious beliefs.

International Tea Time - NC State’s Counseling Center offers a weekly space for international students to meet peers, learn about different cultures, relax and support each other. All students are welcome to attend.

NC State has numerous student organizations for diverse academic, social, and cultural interests. 700+ student organizations 80+ cultural or international focus 20+ represent specific cultures

If you enjoy sports and working out, you will enjoy University Recreation’s facilities and fitness programs! Students have access to the Carmichael Gymnasium and Recreation Center, the aquatic center, and more than 100 weekly group fitness classes for free with their Wolfpack One Card.

Students can also join intramural sports teams, club sports, and other student organizations for a variety of interests such as skiing, sailing, and more.

The Outdoor Adventures program reaches far beyond the limits of NC State to give students an opportunity to participate in a variety of affordable outdoor trips across the state. Some examples of adventure trips include rock climbing, kayaking, mountain biking, and backpacking.

The Outdoor Adventures program also offers a variety of outdoor equipment rentals and bicycle rentals through the WolfWheels bike program.
Although your studies are very important, we encourage you to take some time to have fun while you are at NC State! You will find there are numerous ways to get involved on campus and in the community. The university offers more than 700 student organizations, a variety of intramural sports, as well as a Crafts Center, Theatre, and Dance program for those interested in the arts. Getting involved on campus is more than just having fun, it is an opportunity to develop valuable communication and leadership skills that will contribute to your success in both your academic and professional careers.

**NC STATE STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS**

With more than 700 student organizations, NC State offers numerous opportunities to get involved and gain valuable experience outside of the classroom. You will find a variety of student organizations for social, ethnic, religious, artistic, professional, and academic interests. Want to meet people from all over the world? Check out the Global Pack student organization!

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENT GROUPS**

Several national and regional associations can be found at NC State. They promote cultural and educational learning opportunities for the university community and can sometimes help you locate housing and connect to other valuable resources. You are encouraged to make connections with an appropriate association and become involved as a representative of your country and culture. More information about international student organizations can be found on the Get Involved website and on the OIS website.

**ARTS NC STATE**

If you enjoy the arts, there are many events you can attend and participate in including theatre, dance, and musical performances. All students are welcome to participate in these events regardless of major! Check out the University Theatre’s website to learn more about how to get involved, or to find more information about upcoming events. NC State also has a Crafts Center on campus where students can take non-credit bearing courses in ceramics, photography, painting, drawing, woodworking, and more. Classes fill up quickly so register early!
INTRAMURAL AND CLUB SPORTS

If you enjoy playing sports, NC State has 70 intramural and club sports teams you can join. Intramural teams only play other NC State students, while club sports teams compete against other universities at the local, state, and national levels. Intramural and club sports are a great way to have fun and meet new friends. You can even organize your own group of friends and make a new team. University Recreation organizes intramural and club sports teams including Soccer, Cricket, Basketball, and even Quidditch! For a complete list of sports offered and to sign up, check out the intramural sports and club sports websites.

WINTER WELCOME WEEK (WWW)

JANUARY 2nd - 12th

Winter Welcome Week is a time for new students to get acquainted with the Wolfpack community and learn more about NC State. Through WWW events all over campus, you will be introduced to university traditions as well as the numerous ways to get involved and build your community of new friends at NC State.
OIS PROGRAMS

OIS sponsors numerous unique and exciting programs designed to foster cross-cultural exchange within the campus and Triangle communities. OIS Programs range in time commitment to fit any student’s schedule. Each program provides opportunities to interact with Americans outside of the classroom and learn firsthand about American culture. Together, they promote a more fulfilling experience at NC State. International students and their families members are encouraged to participate and take advantage of OIS programs during their time at NC State.

CULTURE CORPS is a unique program at NC State University that sends international students, scholars, and dependents out into the Raleigh community to share information about their cultures. Through their participation in presentations, demonstrations, display tables at festivals, etc., internationals are able to serve as ambassadors for their countries. Learn more and sign up on the OIS website.

ISSERV - INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS & SCHOLARS ENGAGED IN REACHING OUT & VOLUNTEERING is a program designed to encourage NC State’s international students, scholars, and dependents to volunteer in the Raleigh community. By volunteering, internationals interact with community members and learn more about American culture while also sharing their own culture. Learn more and sign up on the OIS website.
BREAKING BREAD is a meal-hosting program that offers an opportunity for international students, scholars, and their family members to spend time inside a local family’s home and interact with Americans on a cultural level. Hosts are matched with international guests to share a meal at a time and date convenient for everyone. If you would like to participate, please complete the Breaking Bread application.

IMOM - International Moms or Mates is a group for spouses of international students and scholars at NC State University. Meetings are held every Wednesday from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at the E.S. King Village Commons building. IMOM is a great place to make friends from all over the world! For more information, visit the IMOM website. No registration is required and children are welcome! Childcare is provided for children 5 years of age and under.

ENGLISH CONVERSATION CLUB is a relaxed place to practice English language listening and speaking skills. International students are paired with native English speaking volunteers to practice English in small, informal group discussions. English Conversation Club (ECC) meets three times a week with meetings on Main Campus and Centennial Campus. Specific meeting times and locations can be found on the ECC website. No application or registration is required for ECC. Students can choose to attend any meeting that works with their schedule.
CAMPUS SAFETY

The NC State Police Department is responsible for maintaining a safe and pleasant environment in which to live and learn. Concerned with the protection of life and property, Campus Police officers enforce both the laws of the state of North Carolina and regulations of the university. Emergency blue light telephones have been placed around campus for your safety. These phones are distinctly marked with a red phone box attached to a white pole with a bright blue light bulb on top. When activated, you will be in immediate voice contact with a Campus Police Officer. The officer will receive a digital readout pinpointing your exact location.

Emergency Number: Always dial 911 for emergencies. To reach the Campus Police directly call 919.515.3000.

Safety Escort Service: The NC State Police Department provides a safety escort service to protect students, faculty, and staff on campus between the hours of 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. as long as weather is safe for operation. In the hours prior to 10 p.m., the police department encourages anyone traveling on campus to walk in well lighted areas with groups of people or to use the Wolfline bus service.

To request a Safety Escort, call 1.919.515.3000. A security guard will meet you at your location and will provide a safety escort to anywhere on campus including outer areas such as, but not limited to the Vet School, the Avent Ferry Complex, and Centennial Campus during the 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. time period.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

If you have any special needs for accommodation in terms of physical access, or you have a learning disability or other circumstance 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 about disability accommodation and resources please contact an OIS staff member or the Disability Resource 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 phone. 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 Disability Resource website to learn more about Text Access at NC State.

Assistive Listening Devices (ALD): For persons with hearing aids or who have difficulty hearing, the Disability Services Office can provide assistance for your use during class. Visit the Disability Resource Office’s website to learn more about the use of ALD on campus.

Accessible Classrooms & Buildings On Campus: NC State upholds strict regulations regarding building and classroom accessibility. More information can be found on the Disability Resource Office’s website.
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AND GOPASSES FOR STUDENTS

The NC State bus line, called the Wolfline, is free for anyone in the community. After obtaining a GoPass from University Transportation for a $5 fee, students can also ride the GoRaleigh/CAT (city) buses and GoTriangle (regional) buses for free. Without a GoPass, the cost of one-way fare is $2.25 for GoTriangle buses and $1.25 for GoRaleigh/CAT buses.

To track buses in real-time you can check the Transloc website or download the TransLoc Rider app.

NOTE: You must complete the registration form to receive a GoPass. University Transportation can not mail the GoPass to an international address. If you do not have a permanent Raleigh address, you may have your GoPass mailed to a friend in Raleigh (be sure to ask for their permission first!) or pick it up at the University Transportation office after you arrive. Your GoPass will be delivered to the address you provide 2 weeks after completing the registration form.

DRIVING IN NORTH CAROLINA AND THE UNITED STATES

If you plan to drive in the U.S., you are permitted to drive with a valid license issued by a government agency from your home state or country for up to 60 days after your arrival date. After 60 days, you are required by law to have a North Carolina Driver’s License if you wish to continue driving in the U.S. A list of documents needed to apply for a North Carolina Driver’s License can be found on the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) website. For more information about driving in NC, visit the OIS website and the DMV’s website.

PURCHASING A CAR AND CAR INSURANCE

If you plan to purchase a used car in the U.S., carefully review the important used car information on NC State’s Student Legal Services website. It is required by law for all North Carolina drivers to purchase car insurance.

It is 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.

If you do not plan to purchase a vehicle and will not need car insurance you may still apply for a license, but a restriction will be placed on your driver’s license. This restriction limits you to only driving “fleet vehicles” and rental cars.

To remove this restriction, you will have to pay a $13 duplicate fee and present proof of financial liability.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS - DRIVING IN THE UNITED STATES

- New international students can not apply for a driver’s license until 10 business days after you have completed the OIS Check-in process.
- When driving in the United States, you must have a valid driver’s license with you at all times.
- The “International Driver’s License” is not valid in the state of North Carolina, however it may be a helpful English translation of a license issued from your home country if it is not in English.
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.