

OISS Pre-Arrival Webinar: Immigration Basics

Wednesday, May 26, 2021 | 8:30am – 9:00am Eastern Time

Webinar Recording: https://mediaspace.msu.edu/media/Immigration+BasicsA+Pre-Arrival+Overview/1_p5xecxem

Questions & Answers Summary

Arrival Dates

1. What is the earliest date I can enter the US?

The earliest entry date for new students with an 'initial' form I-20 is listed on page 1 of the form I-20; students can enter no more than 30 days prior to the 'program start date'. Certain students may be subject to travel restrictions and should plan travel with these restrictions and the 'National Interest Exemption' in mind; effective August 1 F-1 students from

2. Is it possible to arrive after the start of classes?

If you are not able to arrive by the start of classes (for most programs this date is September 1) you should reach out to OISS to discuss updating your Form I-20. New initial students are required to enroll in at least one in person or hybrid course during the Fall 2021 semester and late arrivals may negatively impact students' ability to maintain status. OISS staff can assist with updating the Form I-20 to allow for arrival in a future semester.

3. What happens if I can't get a visa by the start of classes?

If you are impacted by embassy closures or experience other issues getting a visa for the Fall 2021 semester, please reach out to OISS to ensure that your Form I-20 is updated with an appropriate program start date for a future semester.

Form I-20

1. What if my name is incorrect on my form I-20? Should this be corrected?

The name on your Form I-20 should match the way your name is listed on your passport. Please reach out to OISS if you identify errors on the Form I-20.

2. What if I have a double major? Should I update my I-20?

Once students arrive in the United States OISS staff can assist with adding a second major to the form I-20.

3. What if I have updated my major? Should I get a new I-20?

The major listed on the form I-20 should match your chosen major. Email oiss@msu.edu to let OISS staff know that you require an updated major.

COVID-19

1. Is vaccination required?

At this time vaccination for COVID-19 is not mandatory, but the campus is making every effort to ensure that students have an opportunity to be vaccinated, and vaccination is encouraged. Because vaccination is not required, there are no specific requirements about the type or formula of vaccine students receive. You can always find the most updated information about vaccination and information related to COVID-19 at this website: <https://msu.edu/together-we-will/>

2. Is quarantine required?

At this time quarantine is not required by MSU campus. Students who wish to quarantine prior to the August 23 move in date should plan to do so in a hotel or other off campus setting. You can always find the most updated information about quarantine and information related to COVID-19 at this website: <https://msu.edu/together-we-will/>

3. Do I need to show any special documentation related to COVID-19 for arrival to the US?

The CDC requires travelers to the United States to present a negative COVID-19 test taken within 3 days of the date of travel. You can find information about this requirement here:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/covid-19-information1.html#:~:text=The%20Centers%20of%20Disease%20Control,within%20the%20last%2090%20days>. Your airline can also be a resource to discuss this requirement.

Information about documentation related to travel and entry may vary by location. You can find the most updated information about travel requirements to enter the United States at the website of your local US embassy or consular location.

Other Topics

1. What date can MSU students move into accommodations?

International Students can begin arriving on campus on Monday, August 23, 2021. If you need to arrive earlier than August 23, you will need to make arrangements with a hotel. At this time, we do not know if students arriving from outside the U.S. will need to quarantine upon arrival. As that information is decided, we will communicate directly with impacted students. Please continue to check the Together We Will site for updated travel information: <https://msu.edu/together-we-will/travel/>

Students arriving on August 23 will be charged the daily housing rate for their room type, and they will be able to pay for individual meals at the dining halls prior to their dining plans beginning. Linen packets consisting of towels, sheets and pillows will be available by request, free of charge. Please continue to check your MSU email for updates from Live On and Eat at State. You may also reach out to Live On for additional information: <https://liveon.msu.edu/ContactUs>

2. Do I have to present information about MSU course modality at my visa interview?

Students with new 'initial' status will be required to enroll in at least one hybrid or in-person course to maintain immigration status during the first semester of study. This letter from the Director of OISS provides information about the plans for MSU to provide options that allow students to maintain immigration status: https://oiss.isp.msu.edu/files/1016/1600/3468/Fall_2021_travel_memo.pdf

3. Can my parents travel with me?

If your parents have valid documentation allowing them to travel to the United States and are not impacted by travel bans, they may travel with you to campus. Parents are not eligible for dependent status and those without appropriate visa or eligibility for visa waiver will need to apply at a US embassy or consulate for tourist or other status that is appropriate to their individual situation.

Visitors to campus can select from a variety of local hotels. The [Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center](#) and the [Candlewood Suites Hotel at the Henry Center of MSU](#) are located on campus.

Many other hotels are located in the East Lansing and Lansing area. A list of recommended hotels and inns (including rates) is provided by the MSU Office of the Controller:

http://ctrl.msu.edu/COTravelNEW/Hotels_MSULocal.aspx

4. Can you provide information about filling out the immunization forms online?

Information about immunizations is collected by the Olin Health center following guidance given by the Office of the University Physician. Students should reach out directly to Olin with any questions about completing the immunization forms. Frequently asked questions about the immunization form can be found here: <https://uphys.msu.edu/attachments/immunization-self-report-form-frequently-asked-questions-faqs>

5. I'll be taking some 2021 summer courses. I was suggested by SES Program to opt out of the Summer Health Insurance. I've made a request in oiss portal. So, how will I get to know if I'm granted one?

Any time you submit an electronic form through MyOISS you will get an approval communication when it has been reviewed and approved by an OISS staff member. Students who are studying from outside the United States may be eligible for a waiver of the health insurance fees and should complete the request for waiver of health insurance located in the MyOISS system; contact oiss@msu.edu with questions.

6. How do I know who my OISS adviser is?

OISS advisers are assigned based on the month students were born in. You can find information about how to contact your OISS adviser on this webpage: <https://oiss.isp.msu.edu/about/oiss-advising-team/>

7. Can international students get part-time jobs on campus? Do I apply before or after arriving on campus?

Students who establish and maintain status are eligible for part-time (less than 20 hours per week) of on campus employment. Students must have established and be maintaining status to be eligible for

employment. More information about employment eligibility and limits on employment can be found in the INSO D2L course, and will be provided in the next immigration information session on 08/12/2021.