



**COMING  
TO OHIO  
UNIVERSITY**

**OHIOUSA**



**OHIO**  
UNIVERSITY

---

## Congratulations on your admission to Ohio University!

Congratulations on your admission to Ohio University! You may be wondering what to expect in your new life as a university student in the United States. You also may have a number of questions about travel, finances, and housing. The purpose of this brochure is to make your adjustment to living and studying at Ohio University easier. We have divided the information into five sections:

1. Before You Leave
2. Travel Arrangements
3. If You Are Bringing Your Family
4. After Your Arrival
5. What to Expect in Athens

---

### 1. Before You Leave

**Obtaining Your Visa.** When you receive your I-20 or DS-2019, please make sure that your name is as it appears in your passport and that your date of birth is correct. If any corrections are needed, please contact the office of undergraduate admissions ([www.ohio.edu/admissions/intl.cfm](http://www.ohio.edu/admissions/intl.cfm)) or graduate admissions ([www.ohio.edu/graduate/international](http://www.ohio.edu/graduate/international)). Information for parents can be found at [www.ohio.edu/parents](http://www.ohio.edu/parents).

Before you apply for your F-1 or J-1 visa, you will need to pay the SEVIS I-901 fee and obtain a receipt. This receipt is required for your visa interview. Information on how to make the payment is available at [www.ice.gov/sevis/i901/Index.htm](http://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901/Index.htm). You may make an appointment to apply for your visa before you pay the SEVIS fee as long as you have the SEVIS receipt with you when you go to the interview. Delays in scheduling visa interviews are possible, so we recommend that you check with the embassy or consulate as soon as possible.

When you go for your interview, make sure that you also take evidence of your funding, (for example, a bank letter from your sponsor, a bank letter showing personal funds, a scholarship letter from your government sponsor, and/or a scholarship award letter from Ohio University), your SEVIS receipt, and Ohio University's I-20 or DS-2019 or a sponsoring agency's DS-2019 specifying Ohio University. Without all of these documents, you may have difficulty getting your visa.

When you receive your visa, you will also be given a sealed envelope containing your completed I-20 or DS-2019 form. This envelope must remain sealed until you give it to the U.S. Immigration officer upon entering the United States. Visit our Web site at [www.ohio.edu/isfs](http://www.ohio.edu/isfs) for more information.

**Deciding What to Bring.** Current international students recommend that you bring few items with you to the United States. Airlines firmly limit both the amount and the type of things you can bring with you (go to <http://cebuonwheels.tripod.com/FAA%20Guidelines.htm> for U.S. Federal Aviation Administration guidelines). Don't forget to check with your airline for the weight limit. You will be able to find many necessities here at a reasonable cost.

---

## Personal Necessities

**Clothing.** If you will be staying a year or more, plan to bring or buy clothing for both warm and cold temperatures. In Celsius, the temperature range is 35C to -13C degrees.

Athens also receives a moderate amount of snow and rain. The greatest amount of snowfall occurs from November through March (an average of 13 cm per month), and the greatest amount of rain falls from April to August (an average of about 10 cm per month).

**Other Items.** In campus housing, all rooms come with dressers, desks, chairs, beds, mattresses, a microwave with small refrigerator, and wastebasket. You will need to buy towels, bed sheets, blankets, a clock, a desk lamp, a telephone, and other personal necessities after you arrive. If you live off campus, you may also need to buy some basic furniture in addition to the above items. NOTE: electronic items from home may not work without a converter.

**Hard-to-Find Items.** As with any foreign country, a few things you can obtain at home may not be available here, such as specific foods or spices you may be used to, native clothing and jewelry, musical instruments, dictionaries in non-English languages, and personal hygiene items and cosmetics that are special to your country. The best way to plan for what you will need to bring is to contact international students already enrolled here. Go to [www.ohio.edu/~isu](http://www.ohio.edu/~isu) for information on how to contact current students through the International Student Union and its member organizations.



**Mailing Belongings Ahead of Time.** Before you arrive on campus, you can send mail, baggage, or packages to the following address:

Your Name  
Office of International Student and Faculty Services  
Ohio University  
Baker University Center 348  
One Park Place  
Athens OH, U.S.A. 45701-2979

Write your name clearly on the outside and on a slip of paper inside each package you mail. Also write, “STUDENT, HOLD FOR ARRIVAL” on the outside of each package or box you mail.

**NOTE: All postage must be prepaid.**

***How Much Money to Bring.*** You need to plan for two kinds of expenses: 1) small, immediate expenses you will have upon arrival; and 2) the larger expenses of your tuition, books, housing, and meals.

For immediate expenses you may have while traveling, such as meals, a place to stay in case of unexpected circumstances (i.e. bad weather delays, temporary housing when you arrive at the University, and other incidental expenses) we recommend that you bring at least \$500 in traveler’s checks. NOTE: If you bring large amounts of money to the U.S., you must file a report with U.S. Customs. Go to [www.customs.ustras.gov](http://www.customs.ustras.gov) for information.



Your I-20 or DS-2019 form states the total amount you will need for one academic year (9 months). You need to bring at least enough money to cover your first quarter’s expenses, and before leaving, make sure you know how to arrange for your second quarter’s expenses to be sent to you. Your first quarter’s expenses can be paid with traveler’s checks, or a bank draft, or you can arrange to wire money to Ohio University.

You will need to wire funds to the University at least three months prior to your arrival.

---

## ***Making Payments to Ohio University***

If you would like more information on the payment options below, please visit [www.ohio.edu/finance/bursar/paymentoptions.cfm](http://www.ohio.edu/finance/bursar/paymentoptions.cfm)

***eBill at Ohio University.*** Once you have registered for classes, you will receive your bill online. You do not need to pay your tuition and fees until you receive your bill. The Ohio University eBill system is convenient, easy to use, and secure. All students receive their bills online. Your eBill will detail the amount due (tuition, fees, residence hall, meal plan and other campus charges) and due date. You can view your eBill Account online and set up an authorized user to view your eBill as well.

***Wiring Money to the University.*** If possible, have your bank wire transfer your fees to the bursar of Ohio University through JPMorgan Chase Bank, NA; Bank ABA:021000021; Swift # CHASUS33;

Beneficiary Name: Ohio University; Beneficiary Acct.#: 480343099;  
Beneficiary Address: Room 010, Chubb Hall, Cashier's Office, Athens,  
OH 45701.

Please contact the Office of the Bursar at **740.593.4130** or go to **www.ohio.edu/finance/bursar** if you have questions. Your name and Ohio University I.D. number must appear on the wire. After you arrive, you can arrange to have the funds sent directly to you in the same way. If wire transfer is not possible, then ask your bank to issue a check drawn upon a branch bank in the United States.

***Advance Billing Option.*** It is possible to arrange to be billed in advance for your University fees, which could be to your advantage in foreign exchange. For more information, contact the Bursar's Office at **740.593.4130** or **bursar@ohio.edu**.

***Monthly Payment Plan.*** International students or their parents may also arrange to pay tuition, fees, and/or housing costs on a payment plan that utilizes nine monthly payments for fall, winter, and spring quarters. The first payment is due in early August and the final payment in May. The charge to participate in the monthly payment plan is a \$50 nonrefundable application fee. This plan is not a loan program, and there is no interest charge.

***CASHNet SMARTPAY.*** This is a service that allows you to pay your school charges by credit card. A 2.9% service fee is added to each payment that you make (1.5% for telephone charges). Once you have made your payment and provided your e-mail address, you will receive an electronic receipt. NOTE: only MASTERCARD credit cards are accepted by Ohio University.

---

## **Insurance and Health Records**

Since medical care is quite expensive in the United States, Ohio University requires all students to have health insurance. The insurance must be purchased through Ohio University, so please do not buy medical insurance at home. Only students whose government scholarship agencies provide acceptable health insurance will not be required to purchase Ohio University insurance. (The current cost of health insurance is indicated on the I-20 or DS-2019, but may change).

It is recommended that you bring a record of immunizations and medical records relating to any serious injury, operations, or illnesses that you have had. Hudson Health Center, the campus health clinic, provides free care for enrolled students. These records allow them to give you better assistance, should you need it.

If you plan to bring your family, you will be required to purchase family insurance coverage through the University. It is recommended that you bring immunization and medical records for each of your family members.

---

## On-Campus Housing Requirements

***Undergraduate Students.*** If you are a first- or second-year undergraduate student with fewer than 90 credit hours or six quarters of attendance, you will be required to live and eat in University residence halls and dining rooms. **DO NOT SIGN AN OFF-CAMPUS LEASE WHEN YOU ARRIVE IN ATHENS.**

Exceptions for married students and those students 23 years of age and older may be available. Contact [housing@ohio.edu](mailto:housing@ohio.edu) for more information

Upperclass students (those with more than 90 credit hours or six quarters of attendance) may choose to live in on-campus housing or off-campus housing.

***Graduate Students.*** Graduate students may choose to live on or off campus. While most residence halls on campus house undergraduate students, some also provide a pleasant environment for graduate students. If you wish to live in a residence hall, contact [housing@ohio.edu](mailto:housing@ohio.edu). For information about living on campus and about the Wolfe Street Apartments, see [www.facilities.ohiou.edu/housing/ua](http://www.facilities.ohiou.edu/housing/ua). Most graduate students live off-campus in private housing. If you plan to live off campus, we recommend that you arrive at least two weeks before the arrival date on your I-20 or DS-2019 to arrange your housing.

***Ohio Program of Intensive English (OPIE) Students.*** If you are coming for English-only studies, you must follow the University regulations regarding housing for undergraduate students as explained above.

---

## Arranging For Housing

There are a variety of housing options for students to consider. A general overview is provided below.

***Campus Housing in the Residence Halls.*** You can choose a single, double, triple, or four-person occupancy residence hall room. A variety of food is available in the residence hall dining rooms, and special arrangements are made for the dietary needs of international students and others.

If you have questions about the meal plans available to you, visit [www.facilities.ohiou.edu/food](http://www.facilities.ohiou.edu/food) or e-mail [dining@ohio.edu](mailto:dining@ohio.edu). Please visit our Web site at [www.ohio.edu/housing](http://www.ohio.edu/housing) if you would like to receive information on campus housing. If you have additional questions, please contact [housing@ohio.edu](mailto:housing@ohio.edu). **NOTE: Once you sign the Housing/Food Service Contract, it is effective for the entire academic year, and cannot be cancelled.**

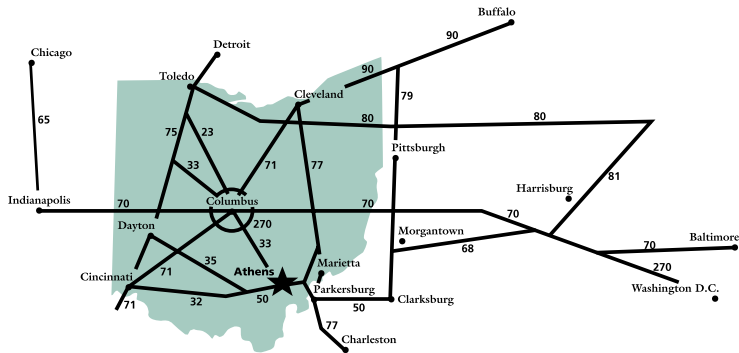
**Off-Campus Housing.** Athens offers many options, from uptown apartments, to neighborhood houses, to nice apartment complexes. Rent is typically charged per quarter (summer, fall, winter, spring). If you wish to live off-campus, you may visit [www.ohio.edu/isfs/arrival/housing.htm](http://www.ohio.edu/isfs/arrival/housing.htm) or e-mail [isfs@ohio.edu](mailto:isfs@ohio.edu) for information on local apartments and current housing advertisements. Some of the international student organizations assist students from their countries/regions with locating housing. A listing of the international student organizations can be found at [www.ohiou.edu/isfs/events/intOrgs.htm](http://www.ohiou.edu/isfs/events/intOrgs.htm). There are some housing options available within walking distance of the University, but please keep in mind that you may need to purchase a car if you decide to live further off-campus.

**Temporary Housing.** Limited temporary housing is available approximately one week before classes begin at a cost of \$25–\$60 per night. Please visit [www.ohio.edu/isfs/](http://www.ohio.edu/isfs/) for up-to-date information. Temporary housing is available to students only, so if your family will be accompanying you, refer to the “If You Are Bringing Your Family” section.

## 2. Travel Arrangements

### Regional Map

Numbers on map indicate highways.



The closest airport to Athens is Port Columbus Airport in Columbus, Ohio (CMH). It is about 120 kilometers (75 miles) from Athens and Ohio University. You will then need to make a reservation for transportation from Columbus to Athens. See the information below about the airport shuttle sponsored by Ohio University. NOTE: Because a taxi will cost \$150 or more, we recommend that you do not take a taxi from Columbus to Athens

**Travel from Airport to Ohio University.** Transportation from the Port Columbus Airport to Athens is available to new students at the beginning of each quarter. Please check our Web site or e-mail [isfs@ohio.edu](mailto:isfs@ohio.edu) for the latest information before you make travel plans: [www.ohio.edu/isfs](http://www.ohio.edu/isfs).

---

### 3. If You Are Bringing Your Family

**Family Housing.** If your family will be coming with you, it will be easiest to have a confirmed lease agreement before you arrive. The University's Wolfe Street Apartments has a small number of apartments available for families. See [www.facilities.ohiou.edu/housing/ua/index.php](http://www.facilities.ohiou.edu/housing/ua/index.php). You also can send an e-mail to [universityapartments@ohio.edu](mailto:universityapartments@ohio.edu) for information.

We recommend that you come to Athens by yourself to make your housing arrangements. Then you can send for your family once these arrangements have been made. If you are able to make housing arrangements ahead of time and plan to bring your family with you right away:

- Make sure that your family members are represented correctly on your I-20 or DS-2019 so that they can get the appropriate F-2 or J-2 visas. If your family is not listed on your visa document, e-mail [isfs@ohio.edu](mailto:isfs@ohio.edu) to arrange for a new one to be issued. Please bring your spouse/children to the Office of International Student and Faculty Services (Baker University Center 348) to meet with an advisor soon after your arrival.
- You will be required to purchase Ohio University health insurance for your spouse and/or children when you arrive. The cost of this coverage is currently about \$2,000 per year for your spouse and about \$1,200 per year for your child or children (The cost may increase each year).

- If you have children between the ages of 5 and 16, Ohio law requires they attend primary/secondary school. You will need to bring copies of their birth certificates and school records, as well as immunizations and health records. Each child will be required to see a physician for an examination after arrival in Athens in order to enroll in school. Free English language classes are given to children enrolled in the Athens Public Schools.
- Adjustment to living in the United States can be challenging for the family of an international student. International Student and Faculty Services can help! Please bring your spouse and/or children to the office to meet with an advisor and to receive information about programs and services available in the Athens community.

---

### 4. After Your Arrival

If you have already planned for housing, you should, arrive in Athens at least two days before the date given on your I-20 or DS-2019 form. If you have no housing, you should arrive up to two weeks early. This will give you time to organize your belongings and adjust to your new environment and time zone before orientation begins.

***\*\*Register at the Office of International Student and Faculty Services.*** Once you have arrived on campus and have arranged your housing, the first place you should go is the Office of International Student and Faculty Services in Baker University Center, room 348. The

office is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and extra hours on the Saturday and Sunday of Orientation Week of each quarter. The international student advisors will copy your passport and I-20 or DS-2019, give you information about orientation, and answer any immediate questions that you may have.

**Orientation.** Before you can register for classes, you are required to attend the international orientation program. This program provides information on academic policies and student services resources. It also gives you the opportunity to meet and socialize with other students. The orientation staff includes current graduate and undergraduate students who can advise you on living in Athens and answer your questions.

When you register at the Office of International Student & Faculty Services, the advisors will give you a schedule that lists the day, time, and location of the orientation program. **A nonrefundable fee of \$100 will be charged to all students for orientation.** A \$30 fee will be charged for English testing, if required.

These fees will be on your bill; you do not need to pay them immediately.

**Language Proficiency Testing.** The language of instruction at Ohio University is English. Therefore, proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, and understanding English is essential.

Undergraduate international applicants who are non-native speakers of English, including exchange students, do not have to take the TOEFL test when they arrive at Ohio University if they have:

- submitted satisfactory English language test scores (e.g., TOEFL or IELTS, taken within 12 months of the date of submission) sent from the testing agency or
- completed three/four years in a U.S. high school with three years of high school English classes with a grade of B or better or
- submitted an ACT composite score of 21 or
- submitted an SAT composite score of 990 with a score of 540 In Critical Reading

Students with lower exam scores can still be admitted to Ohio University, but will be required to attend classes in the Ohio Program of Intensive English (OPIE) until the required level of English proficiency is attained.

For additional information about English language testing, undergraduate students may contact the Ohio Program of Intensive English at **740.593.4575** or **www.ohio.edu/opie**.

**Graduate Students.** Graduate international applicants who are non-native speakers of English, including exchange students, do not have to take the TOEFL test when they arrive at Ohio University if they have:

- submitted satisfactory English language test scores (e.g., TOEFL or IELTS, taken within two years of the date of submission) sent from the testing agency or
- have received a bachelor's or advanced degree from an accredited institution of higher education in the United States or a foreign college or university accredited by a regional U.S. accrediting organization (where English is the language of instruction) within the past two years or
- have completed at least three years of full-time study at a governmentally-accredited institution of higher learning where English is the primary language of instruction within the past two years.

Individual academic programs may require any applicant (even those qualifying for an exemption) to demonstrate proficiency as part of an application or require on-campus English proficiency testing.

Graduate students will be informed by their academic departments of any testing requirements. Students who will be teaching classes or laboratory sections whose native language is not English are required to demonstrate English proficiency prior to assuming instructional duties by passing the SPEAK test (score of 230) upon arrival.

For additional information about English language testing, graduate students may contact the Office of Graduate Studies at **740.593.2800** or [graduate@ohio.edu](mailto:graduate@ohio.edu).

**Health Testing.** During your first quarter of study, you will be required to take a two-part tuberculosis skin test, given about four days apart. Testing is done on Tuesdays mornings and readings are done on Friday mornings at Hudson Health Center.

**NOTE: You must complete both parts of the skin test before you can register for classes for your second quarter of study.**

---

## 5. What to Expect in Athens

**What Athens Is Like.** Athens is a small city of about 21,000 people with a rich history of welcoming international students and a vibrant international community. Since 1885, when the first international student enrolled at Ohio University, Athens has



provided a safe and friendly educational experience amid the area's beautiful natural surroundings and welcoming college-town setting.

The campus is small enough that most students walk or bicycle to class. It is organized so that campus classrooms, the residence halls, and the town are all within a 15-minute walk of each other.

***What the People Are Like.*** Of course you can expect to encounter differences. It is all part of the experience of living in a new place. As a student at Ohio University, you will meet students from Ohio, from other parts of the U.S., and from many other countries. Although it is impossible to generalize about the students you will meet, the majority of Ohio University students are undergraduates between the ages of 17 and 25. Many of these students have no previous international experience and do not speak a second language, so your presence here will create the opportunity for you and students from the U.S. to learn from each other.

Students and faculty members often have a less formal relationship than in many countries. In the classroom, students are often asked to discuss study material, respond to questions, and express personal opinions. Faculty members are generally very friendly and approachable and provide students with academic guidance and support.

---

## We Look Forward to Your Arrival

Again, we congratulate you on your admission to Ohio University. We hope your stay will be rewarding. If you have further questions before you depart, please contact one of the following offices:

**Undergraduate Students:**  
*Office of International Student  
and Faculty Services*  
Ohio University  
Baker University Center 348  
Athens OH, USA, 45701-2979  
Telephone: 740.593.4330  
Fax: 740.593.4328  
E-mail: [isfs@ohio.edu](mailto:isfs@ohio.edu)  
<http://www.ohio.edu/isfs/>

**Undergraduate Students:**  
*Undergraduate Admissions*  
Ohio University  
Chubb Hall 120  
Athens OH, USA, 45701-2979  
Telephone: 740.593.4110  
Fax: 740.593.0560  
E-mail: [admissions@ohio.edu](mailto:admissions@ohio.edu)  
[http://www.ohio.edu/  
admissions/intl.cfm](http://www.ohio.edu/admissions/intl.cfm)

**Graduate Students:**  
*Graduate Studies Office*  
Ohio University  
McKee House  
Athens OH, USA, 45701-2979  
Telephone: 740.593.2800  
Fax: 740.593.4625  
E-mail: [graduate@ohio.edu](mailto:graduate@ohio.edu)  
[http://www.ohio.edu/  
graduate/international/](http://www.ohio.edu/graduate/international/)

*Ohio Program of Intensive English*  
Ohio University  
Gordy Hall 155  
Athens OH, USA, 45701-2979  
Telephone: 740.593.4575  
Fax: 740.593.4577  
E-mail: [opie@ohio.edu](mailto:opie@ohio.edu)  
<http://www.ohiou.edu/opie>



OHIO  
UNIVERSITY

The information in this brochure is subject to change without notice.