Dear %name%,

Soon, you and many other students from all over the world will be experiencing new customs, trying new food, finding your way around campus, and settling into your new home here at Ohio University. Connecting to important services and staying in touch with family and friends at home will help you prepare to start the semester.

Based on frequent questions we received from past international students, we are providing lists of available cellular network providers, banks, and services available to you in your new community. You may wish to research your options and start setting up accounts before you arrive. Ohio University does not require a particular cellular network provider or bank, so you are not limited to the options in these lists.

International Student and Faculty Services (ISFS) does not recommend that you sign any contracts until your visa has been approved.

On Campus Student Organizations

Student organizations are an integral part of the OHIO community and offer rich, interdisciplinary opportunities for engaging with your peers outside of the classroom. Student organizations enrich the campus by enhancing the cultural, social, and intellectual life of the University community. To learn more about our 550+ student organizations, please visit BobcatConnect, the student organization platform.

Cellular network providers

International Student and Faculty Services (ISFS) has free SIM cards from Mint for all new students. You can email isfs@ohio.edu to request one or stop by during our limited hours (Tuesday and Friday from 9:30am – 11am) to pick one up. You can also choose from any of these network providers noted below.

- Verizon
- Sprint
- H20
- AT&T
- T-Mobile

Banks with offices in Athens

- Chase Bank
- First National Bank
- Hocking Valley Bank
- Ohio University Credit Union
- Peoples Bank
- WesBanco
For most banks, you will need your immigration documentation as well as your passport to open an account. Some banks request a social security number and/or an Ohio University student ID in addition. You can find further information on our website including a link to a document that outlines requirements for international students to open accounts.

When transferring money from home to your bank account here in the U.S., you should confirm the fees for wire transfers (fees can be as much as $45 per wire transfer depending on your bank). Ohio University partners with Flywire to enable you to pay student bills through the MyOHIO Student Center. Ohio University also provides other tuition payment options.

Community and health services

- State of Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (for state IDs and driver’s licenses)
- Social Security (for identification necessary to work in the United States)
- OhioHealth Campus Care (for student health care)

You can also e-mail us if you have specific questions.

After reviewing this email, remember to log into your iCats portal and complete the next eform in your pre-arrival checklist.

Sincerely,

International Student and Faculty Services