Pre-Arrival Guide

for new international students

International Student Services
Room 2, Strong Hall, 1450 Jayhawk Boulevard, Lawrence, KS 66045
http://www.iss.ku.edu; 785-864-3617; iss@ku.edu
The Office of International Student Services (ISS) welcomes you to the University of Kansas. We are so happy that you have decided to join our diverse university community. Out of a total enrollment of almost 30,000 students, over 2,000 come from abroad. Representing more than 100 different nations and every region of the world, our international students play an integral role in the intellectual and cultural life of our campus.

ISS is here to help you make the most of your time at KU while advising you on issues related to your legal status. The office provides chances to meet and build friendships with US families and students and to promote cross-cultural exchanges through a variety of programs.

As an international student at KU, you serve in an important role as an ambassador for your country. This role, however, can only be fulfilled through reaching out to and engaging with your new community. It is through friendship and collegiality that we build bridges that last a lifetime. Our goal at ISS is to help you make KU a home and to provide you with the resources you need to succeed in all that you set out to do.

To that end, this guide is designed to help you prepare for your trip to Kansas. Please read the enclosed information carefully. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact our office.

Sincerely,

Charles Olcese, Director

Contact ISS:
1450 Jayhawk Blvd. Rm 2 Strong Hall
Lawrence, KS 66045
(785) 864-3617 • iss@ku.edu

Like us on Facebook!
(International Student Services at KU)
Pre-Arrival Checklist

Before you leave home:

General checklist
- Get your passport and visa (page 3)
- Arrange transportation to Lawrence in time for Orientation—Students are responsible for booking their own transportation to Kansas and Lawrence, and students must arrive in time for orientation to avoid paying late enrollment fees (pages 5, 8, 10)
- Find your nationality organization, if you have one, at http://www.ku.edu/organizations/
- Reserve housing as soon as possible (page 9)
- Plan for finances (page 12)
- Learn about Lawrence and KU (page 13)
- Pre-register for “YOU at KU” international student orientation (see last page)

Document Checklist
- Passport with visa (most students have an F-1 or J-1 visa)
- KU I-20 (F-1 students) or DS-2019 (J-1 students). If you do not have F or J status, bring documents that confirm your immigration status
- TOEFL or IELTS scores, SAT, ACT, GRE, or GMAT scores and original transcripts in English from previous schools as applicable
- If you attended a post-secondary institution outside the US, bring transcript, syllabi or course descriptions, in English for possible transfer credit
- Proof of financial support and SEVIS fee receipt if appropriate (page 3)
- If necessary, bring an international driver’s license and English translations of marriage & birth certificates

Health Checklist
- Get a medical examination & have your doctor fill out the health forms (pages 5-6)
- Get other medical check-ups. Have your eyes and teeth checked and any necessary treatment
- Bring any medication in its original package with the prescription in English translation
- Translate your medical, immunization, and dental records into English to bring with you
- Make arrangements for health insurance (page 6)

After you arrive, before you can enroll (you cannot enroll before you arrive)
- Upload Documents to i-Hawk before registration day (page 5)
- Complete all three required check-ins: International Student Services, the Applied English Center and Student Health Services (page 5)
- Meet with your academic advisor (page 7)
- Select your courses from the course timetable and learn about Enroll & Pay (page 8)
- Make sure all your enrollment holds are removed
- Enroll online or in the appropriate office (page 7)

After you enroll:
- Get your KUID card (page 11)
- Buy textbooks
- Pay tuition and fees through Enroll & Pay (page 8 & 12)
Visa
You must have a specific type of visa to enter the U.S. For most students, this will be either an F-1 or a J-1 visa. If you enter the U.S. with a tourist visa (B-1/B-2) or under a visa waiver program that your country has with the U.S., you cannot attend school.

Each embassy or consular post has their own visa application procedures and processing times, but in general, to apply you will need to submit your Form I-20 (for F-1) or Form DS-2019 (for J-1), along with your passport, proof of financial support, SEVIS fee receipt, photos, visa application fee, and the appropriate visa application forms.

You can find guidance on applying for your visa and the list of application forms required for your situation at the links listed below. Be sure to read the web page for the post where you will be applying for the specific instructions for that location.

• List of U.S. consular post websites: http://usembassy.state.gov
• Information about F-1 visas: http://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/2013/04/how-to-prepare-for-your-visa-appointment
• Information about J-1 visas: http://j1visa.state.gov/participants/how-to-apply/

Check your visa for accuracy (name, date of birth, visa type – such as F-1 or J-1) before you leave the consulate, and request a correction immediately if you find any errors.

Note: Canadian citizens do not need a visa, but they must present a valid passport, proof of finances, I-20 or DS-2019, and SEVIS fee receipt at the U.S. port of entry.

SEVIS Fee
SEVIS stands for Student and Exchange Visitor Information System. This system is used by the U.S. government to collect and maintain information about F and J status international students and their accompanying dependents during their stay in the U.S. All students who have an initial attendance I-20 Form (F-1 students) and most students who have a “begin a new program” DS-2019 Form (J-1 Students) must pay a SEVIS fee to the U.S. government before they can apply for a visa. Students currently studying in the U.S. usually do not have to pay the fee again. Find more information about the SEVIS Fee and I-901 form used to pay the fee at http://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901/index.htm and about SEVIS in general at http://www.ice.gov/sevis/students/.

Entering the United States
Immigration laws do not allow you to arrive in the U.S. more than 30 days before the report date listed on Form I-20 or Form DS-2019.

When entering the U.S., you will need to show your passport, visa, and KU I-20 (if F-1) or DS-2019 (if J-1). Your passport must be valid for at least 6 months after your arrival. Be ready to show proof of finances and your SEVIS fee receipt.

You will be fingerprinted, photographed, and an entry stamp will be placed in your passport. You may be asked to go to another line where they will look at your documents and ask additional questions. Do not be scared. This is normal and it may take 2-4 hours or longer to do. Allow enough time between flights. U.S. Customs may search your bag for unauthorized items. Your arrival will be registered electronically. Afterwards you can log into the Customs and Border Protection website at https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov to view and print a copy of your I-94, a document that verifies your legal entry. You will need information from your passport and your U.S. visa to access your record.

For more information about Port of Entry, immigration status & what you can bring to the US, visit http://www.cbp.gov/travel and http://www.ice.gov/sevis/students/.
Inside the United States

Transfer Students From Within the United States

All students in F-1 or J-1 status coming to KU from any school in the U.S. (high school, university, English language institute) are considered transfer students for immigration purposes. All transfers, both F-1 and J-1, will need to work with their previous school or program sponsor within 60 days (F-1) or 30 days (J-1) of finishing at the former school to establish a SEVIS transfer release date.

KU cannot issue an I-20 or DS-2019 until after the SEVIS transfer release date. F-1 transfer students must complete KU’s “Intent to Transfer to KU” E-Form. Instructions for accessing this form can be found here. J-1 transfer students must complete the physical (paper) “Intent to Transfer In Form,” which can be found online here. Submit the appropriate form as soon as possible. You cannot get a KU I-20 or DS-2019 or maintain legal status without following SEVIS transfer procedures. It is your responsibility to maintain F-1/J-1 student status and complete the transfer process.

Transfer students do not need to pay the SEVIS fee. If you are transferring from a U.S. institution and are traveling outside of the U.S. and your F-1 visa is still valid, you do not need a new visa to attend KU, but you should use your KU I-20 or DS-2019 to re-enter the U.S.

Arrival and Check-in

You should plan to arrive on or before the report date listed on your I-20 or DS-2019. If you are not an F-1 or J-1 student, please refer to the “Dates and Notes” sheet and check-in information sheet for posted arrival dates. Your arrival date can also be found here. Arriving later than your specified arrival date may not allow enough time to complete all necessary check-ins (page 5) and get enrolled (page 8) before classes start. This may result in a $150 late enrollment fee. If you will be a Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) or Graduate Research Assistant (GRA), be sure to be here in time for any other necessary orientations.

The International Student Services office (ISS) must report arrival and enrollment of international students to the U.S. Government. You must report to the ISS office no later than 15 days after the report date shown on your I-20 or DS-2019 to complete the mandatory check-in processes. We strongly suggest that you arrive on or before the report date listed on your I-20 or DS-2019.

Staying Legal in Your Immigration Status

Each type of immigration status (F-1, J-1, etc.) has its own set of rules and regulations. It is the responsibility of all international students to know and understand the legal obligations for their status. The consequences of violating status can be very severe. Although most status types do allow enrollment, some categories such as B-1 and B-2 (tourist) usually cannot take classes. General information about maintaining legal status as an F-1 or J-1 student can be found at http://www.ice.gov/sevis/students/. If you have any questions about your status and staying legal, contact an advisor in the ISS office.
Upload Documents to I-Hawk

Upload Your Immigration Documents to iHawk
- First, you must set up your KU online ID.
- After you have activated your KU online ID, go to iHawk.
- Login (blue button) and complete ISS Check In Forms.
- Detailed instructions are on the KU ISS website under Newly Admitted: Before Arrival.

Mandatory Check-in Procedures

You must complete all three of the check-in procedures described below before you can enroll. Some of these procedures require individual appointments, while others are done through scheduled sessions that require prior sign up to attend.

Orientation is required for all international undergraduate students and all F or J status international graduate students. All of these check-ins will be taken care of during the orientation schedule.

International Student Services (ISS) http://www.iss.ku.edu/
ARRIVE (Arrival Registration Requirements for ISS Validation to Enroll) Check-In
Approximate completion time: 3-4 hours
There are several steps to this process, including reviewing your immigration documents, updating your personal data on a computer, and receiving important information about staying in legal status while studying in the U.S. Bring your passport, visa, I-20 (F-1 status) or DS-2019 (J-1 status), I-94 (will either be a small card issued at the port of entry, or an electronic document found at https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov) if you have one, and any other documents that verify your immigration status. If you are in a dependent status, you should likewise bring evidence of the status for the person from whom your status is derived. Also, have your local address, international address, and emergency contact information with you.
There is a $35 charge to complete the ISS ARRIVE check-in. All students will have this $35 fee billed to their student account upon completion of their ISS ARRIVE Check-in.

Applied English Center (AEC) http://www.aec.ku.edu/
Approximate completion time: 2 hours if testing is required
All international students must have their English proficiency evaluated by the AEC. Bring your original TOEFL, IELTS scores, or an original diploma from an English-based institution, if you have them. If testing is required, you must register for the test by 3 p.m. the business day before a test date. You need to be in the U.S. for 24 hours before you can take the AEC test. It may take up to two weekdays to get your test results.

Watkins Health Services (WHS) http://www.studenthealth.ku.edu/
Approximate completion time: 1 hour
When you come for your WHS check-in, bring your completed Health History and Immunization forms. You can find these forms in your admission packet, or under the “Watkins Health Services” heading when you click on the “Forms and Policies” tab on the WHS web address shown above. If you are obtaining your Health History form online, you will need to print out the “worksheet” version and fill it out. You should ignore the instructions about submitting the form online; as an international student, you must submit the paper forms in person. See the facing page for information about the required vaccinations and screenings that will be completed during your appointment.
Mandatory Health Insurance

International students who are enrolled at KU with an F-1, F-2, or J-1 immigration status are required to have health insurance. The State of Kansas offers a competitively-priced health insurance plan that meets the coverage requirements. You will be automatically billed for this coverage with your tuition. Most international students take the automatic KU insurance, but students who have an alternative insurance plan may request a waiver of the KU plan if their insurance documentation shows it meets the State of Kansas Requirements. Please read the requirements carefully before leaving your country. J-1 students are required to have continuous coverage for themselves and their dependents. All F-1 and J-1 students can add the insurance for their dependents. For more information, email issinsurance@ku.edu. Learn more about our insurance requirements, the automatic billing process, the KU health insurance plan, and how to apply to use a different plan: http://www.iss.ku.edu/insurance.

KU Watkins Health Services Center  http://www.studenthealth.ku.edu

Watkins Health Services (WHS) is located on campus, and provides high quality, affordable, medical care to KU students through a team of dedicated professionals. WHS providers are experienced in the healthcare needs of international students. Their services include a 24-hour nurse helpline. Learn more about KU’s Watkins Health Services.

Required Vaccination and Screening

Bring your health history and immunization record forms to the WHS check-in. You will be given a Tuberculosis (TB) screening and complete the following immunization requirements, if not previously completed:

- TWO vaccinations for Measles, Mumps and Rubella
- Meningococcal Meningitis Immunization or waiver

All newly-enrolled international students are required to complete the entire tuberculosis screening process. Failure to do so will result in disenrollment and subsequent notification to ISS that you are no longer enrolled. If you accept the State of Kansas health insurance coverage, the cost of your required TB test will be paid. Insurance purchased elsewhere may or may not pay for this test.

More information about immunization and screening record and requirements can be found at http://studenthealth.ku.edu/forms.
Before you enroll, meet with an academic advisor according to your current classification.

Undergraduate Students
The Undergraduate Advising Center (UAC)
Room 126, Strong Hall, http://www.advising.ku.edu

Any undergraduate without a major and eligible to take at least two KU classes will meet with an advisor in the Undergraduate Advising Center.

If you are planning to enter a professional school (Allied Health, Business, Journalism & Mass Communications, Education, Nursing, Pharmacy, or Social Welfare), you may meet with an advisor in the professional school or with an advisor at the UAC.

If you are already admitted to Architecture and Urban Design, Engineering, Fine Arts, or another professional program, look at your admission letter for information about advising.

Applied English Center Students
The Applied English Center (AEC)
Room 204, Lippincott Hall, http://www.aec.ku.edu/

Students admitted for only English language training will be advised by the Applied English Center.

For other students, the results of their AEC language proficiency exam will determine eligibility to enroll in regular KU classes. You may be advised by the AEC, your academic department, the UAC, or both, depending on results.

You will get information about advising and enrollment with your English proficiency results.

Study Abroad Students
The Office of Study Abroad
Room 108, Lippincott Hall, http://www.studyabroad.ku.edu/

Students who are attending KU through an exchange program with the Office of Study Abroad will be advised by that office.

Graduate Students
Graduate students should consult with their academic department regarding advising and course enrollment. A complete list of graduate academic programs and their contact information can be found at http://www.graduate.ku.edu/01-02_departments_list.shtml

KU Academic Accelerator Program (KUAAP)
KUAAP staff will advise students participating in this program.
Before you can enroll, the International Student Services (ISS) hold, Applied English Center (AEC) hold, and Student Health Services (SHS) hold must be removed from your record. If these or any other holds are on your record, the Enroll & Pay system will not allow you to enroll. (page 5)

Enrollment procedures

- After you complete your ISS, AEC, and SHS check-ins, you will need to meet with an academic advisor (page 7) to choose your classes. Visit http://www.classes.ku.edu/ for a list of courses.

- Once you choose your schedule, visit https://sa.ku.edu to enroll using the KU “Enroll & Pay” system. Log-in with your KU online ID (page 11). You will learn how to use the enrollment system by attending orientation, or at http://www2.ku.edu/~sakut/tutorials/studentguardian.shtml

Students taking AEC classes will enroll through the AEC. KUAAP students will enroll through the KUAAP.

Enrollment Requirement for International Students

F-1 and J-1 international students must be enrolled in a full course of study each Fall and Spring term. Generally, undergraduate students must be enrolled in at least 12 credit hours, and graduate students must be enrolled in at least 9 credit hours. In the Summer term, F-1 and J-1 international students do not have a minimum enrollment requirement unless it is the first or last term in the student’s program, or if the academic department requires a certain number of hours for the Summer term.

If, for any reason, you do not meet these requirements or are planning to drop below the minimum required hours, you must first speak with an ISS advisor and get approval, or you will risk falling out of status. You will get more information about this at the ISS check-in.

Ask the Registrar’s office about enrollment questions at kuregistrar@ku.edu or speak with your academic advisor.

Fee Payment & Late Fee

You will get an electronic bill on the 21st of the month after you enroll. Payment is due on the 15th of the following month. Students who enroll after classes start will have to pay a $150 late fee. View the deadlines at: http://www.registrar.ku.edu/calendar/index.shtml

You can check your account balance and pay bills through Enroll&Pay with your online ID. For a complete list of payment options, visit http://student-account-services.ku.edu/
Housing Options

On-Campus

The KU Department of Student Housing offers a variety of convenient living arrangements, including Residence halls, Scholarship halls, and on-campus apartments. To find the best on-campus living arrangement for your needs and to learn more about on-campus housing, go to http://www.housing.ku.edu.

Department of Student Housing
Mail: 422 W. 11th Street, Suite DSH
Lawrence, KS 66045
Phone: 785-864-4560
Fax: 785-864-5048
E-mail: housing@ku.edu

Off-Campus

When searching for off-campus housing, you may look for a room, studio, apartment or house. The following gives you some idea about the range of monthly rent in Lawrence: $310-$450 for a studio; $350-$660 for a one bedroom apartment and $495-$785 for a two bedroom apartment.

Utilities may be extra. You may find information at these web sites:
http://www2.ljworld.com/marketplace/classifieds/
http://www.apartments.lawrence.com
http://www.hawkchalk.com/housing/
http://www.trulia.com/for_rent/Lawrence,KS/map_v/type:rental_prices_affordability
http://www.trulia.com/voices/guides/

Naismith Hall is a private residence hall located close to campus
http://www.livenaismith.com/

Hotel Information

Lawrence has a wide variety of hotels and motels. Rates can vary greatly. For more information on Lawrence hotels, please go to http://explorelawrence.com/explore/stay/. Sharing a room with another student will lower your cost. Mention that you are a new KU International student and you may receive a discount.

Early Mailing Address
If you need to send mail to Kansas before you get here, address it to the ISS office. We will hold your mail until you pick it up. Unfortunately, we cannot store packages.
Address your mail as below:

YOUR NAME
The University of Kansas
c/o ISS
1450 Jayhawk Blvd.
Room 2, Strong Hall
Lawrence, KS 66045 USA
Transportation

Getting to Lawrence

If you are flying, you should book a flight to Kansas City International Airport (Code: MCI). The drive from the airport to Lawrence takes about one hour. **You should arrange for your ride to Lawrence before you arrive in Kansas City.** You may choose one of the options below or you may make your own arrangements with friends or a student organization, ride in a taxi, or even rent a car.

Transportation from airport

**Shuttle Services and Taxis**

Visit the ISS Website (page 14) and click on “Newly Admitted: Before Arrival” and then select “Airport Transportation Options” to find updated information about different shuttle services who can take you to Lawrence from the airport.

**Taxis can be found at the airport but are very expensive.**

You may want to share with several people to reduce the cost.

Prices may increase late at night.

**Before entering a taxi or shuttle, establish the cost with the driver.**

It’s polite to tip a driver 15% of the charge.

**Volunteer Pick-up**

If you would like a Lawrence family to meet you at the airport and bring you to Lawrence, free of charge, reserve a seat online at [http://www.iss.ku.edu/prearrival/getting-to-ku.shtml](http://www.iss.ku.edu/prearrival/getting-to-ku.shtml) **This option is limited and not available in the summer term**

*Please Note that the Volunteer Pick-Up Program is run by a Christian religious organization*

**Other Options**

Some of our international student groups may help with transportation needs (see cultural/ethnic organizations at [http://www.ku.edu/students/organizations/](http://www.ku.edu/students/organizations/))

Transportation in Lawrence

*The campus bus system, KU on Wheels, operates Monday-Friday each semester. Check the web site for other services that KU on Wheels offers at [http://www.kuonwheels.ku.edu/](http://www.kuonwheels.ku.edu/). Riding the bus is free with KU ID card (page 11). There is no service on weekends or holidays.***

*The Lawrence bus, called the “T,” is also free with KU ID card. There is no service on Sundays or holidays. Visit [http://www.lawrencetransit.org/](http://www.lawrencetransit.org/).*
What is a KU ID number, a KU ID Card and a KU Online ID?

- Your **KU ID Number** is your student identification number that was assigned to you upon admission. This is a seven-digit number that you will use often during your time at KU.

- Your **KU Card** is a photo identification card that you will get after you enroll. Details about the KU Card are outlined below. The **KU Card** is the official Identification for students, faculty, staff, and other members of the KU community.

- Your **KU Online ID** is different than your KU ID Number. Your online ID gives you access to computers, online library services and the Enroll & Pay system (visit [http://iss.ku.edu/create-online-id](http://iss.ku.edu/create-online-id) for instructions on how to set up your KU Online ID).

How do you get your KU Card?

- Go to the KU Card Center on the 4th Floor of the Kansas Union on orientation registration day (note, you may only pick up your KU ID Card on orientation registration day if you have pre-registered for orientation prior to the pre-registration deadline).

- Bring a government-issued photo ID (driver’s license, passport, military ID or State ID). The name on the ID must match your name on university student records.

- Bring your class schedule (if available)

- $10 will be charged to your student account to cover the cost of the card.

**The KU Card is used for the following and more:**

- Library check-out
- Entering residence halls, the student recreation center, and other university buildings
- Tickets for University events (Lied Center performances, Athletics, etc.)
- Riding the KU and City Bus
- Intramural sports programs
- Student Health Services
- Legal Services
- Free newspapers
- Meal plan and dining dollars
- Beak 'Em Bucks (photocopying, printing, laundry, & food)

**PLEASE NOTE** - You do **not** need your KU card to complete any of the check-in procedures, enroll or move into KU housing. You cannot get your KU ID Card prior to enrollment if you have not pre-registered for orientation prior to the pre-registration deadline.
Money and Financial Information

Exchanging Money

Before you leave your country, you should plan for your finances.

You can purchase traveler’s checks in U.S. Dollars from your bank and take them with you to Lawrence. Be sure to keep them safe and write down the check numbers, in case they get lost.

After you arrive in the U.S. and set up a bank account, you may also have your money electronically wired to a local bank. You should arrange to have enough money to cover your first month’s expenses AND your first semester tuition, books, insurance and housing.

DO NOT under-estimate the amount of money needed.
DO NOT carry a large amount of cash. It is difficult to exchange money from your currency to dollars and there may be a fee. Bring your money in U.S. dollar traveler’s checks, have it electronically wired to your new U.S. account, or get a bank card to withdraw cash from your account through an automatic teller machine (ATM).

Banking in the US

Upon arrival in Lawrence you will want to open a bank account with a local bank.
Lawrence has many banking options.
Commerce Bank has a location in the KU Memorial Union. However, you should research your banking options and choose the bank that best suits your needs. When choosing a bank you may want to consider: branch locations, monthly fees, international money transfer fees, and account options.

Sample Costs in Lawrence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Can of Coke</td>
<td>$.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32-load laundry detergent</td>
<td>$7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gallon of milk</td>
<td>$3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loaf of bread</td>
<td>$3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cup of coffee</td>
<td>$2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pizza (8 slices)</td>
<td>$10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paying for KU

The deadline to pay your tuition and fees will depend on when you enroll. KU posts electronic bills to your Enroll&Pay account on the 21st of each month and payments are due on the 15th of the following month. If you do not pay by the 15th, you will be charged more money.

Payment Options

• Online by E-check
• Online by Master Card or Discover card (you will be charged 2.25%)*
• Online at peerTransfer.com
• By mail with a check from a U.S. bank (write KUID# on check)**
• In person by check (include KUID#), money order or cash**

* KU does not accept Visa
** Include your eBill coupon from Enroll & Pay (page 8)

KU has an installment plan. For more information contact the Student Account Services office (1-785-864-3322 or student-account-services@ku.edu). Scholarships and other aid can be directed there and will be credited to your account.
KU and Lawrence Community

Lawrence

Lawrence is a community of about 90,000 people and has been called one of the greatest “College Towns” in the U.S., with a vibrant and unique downtown. The shopping scene in Lawrence has small specialty shops and large department stores. Students can take a break from their studies to stroll down historic Massachusetts Street (Mass Street) to enjoy the sidewalk cafes or hear music from street musicians or local music venues. Read more about Lawrence, including directions for traveling at http://www.visitlawrence.com.

Weather in Kansas

Kansas is in the middle of the U.S. with four distinct seasons. Temperatures during spring (March to May) are mild; summer can be hot (June to September) 29° to 43°C (85° to 110°F); the fall season ranges from mild to cold; winter can be frigid typically between -17° and 0°C (0° to 32°F) and you should expect snow and ice. Plan your clothing for changing seasons, but you can buy more after you arrive. You should also plan on bringing an umbrella.

To see the weather, visit http://www.weather.com and search Lawrence, KS.

Getting Involved

All incoming international students are required to attend “YOU at KU,” the international student orientation. This is a great way to meet friends right away, and to receive important information about being successful at KU. Orientation takes place at the beginning of each Fall, Spring, and Summer semester (August, January, and June). You can find more information about “YOU at KU” at http://www.iss.ku.edu/prearrival/orientation.shtml

The International Student Association (ISA) sponsors many activities throughout the year, and you will have chances to share your country and culture. Please bring cultural items from your country if you are interested in participating. You can become familiar with KU’s student activities and organizations through http://www.ku.edu/students/organizations.shtml

ISS organizes a variety of events including the Thanksgiving Homestay Program, Lawrence Friendship Family Program, and more. Ask about getting involved with these programs when you arrive or check out the web page at: http://www.iss.ku.edu/programs/

There are hundreds of other campus organizations focusing on all kinds of special interests. If you can’t find one that you like you can even start one of your own. Check out all of the possibilities on the Student Involvement and Leadership Center webpage at http://silc.ku.edu.

Electrical Devices and Appliances in the United States

The electrical current used for small appliances in the US is 100-115 volts, 60 cycles. Adapters/transformers may be needed for appliances that you bring from your country.
KU Website & Communication

Click on KU Directory, then click on the letter that the office or service that you are looking for begins with. For example, you would click on “I” for International Student Services. A new page will then open with all offices and services that begin with that letter. Find the one you are looking for and click on it.

The ISS website contains a lot of helpful information on coming to KU, Immigration questions, Orientation, Health Insurance, and much more. You can find it by clicking on “I” in the alphabet search on KU’s main website, and then clicking on “International Student Services”, or by going to http://www.iss.ku.edu/

KU Website

The University of Kansas website is full of great information. Explore the KU website (www.ku.edu) to learn more about KU and find answers to many questions. To the left are some tips on how to start. Have Fun!

Use this Search Bar to look for specific keywords or people at KU.

Communication Technologies at KU

Internet: You will be able to access the Internet at KU in campus computer labs or on your own laptop via Wireless internet. To make use of this, you must have a KU Online ID (page 11). If you will live on campus, you will be able to sign up for Apogee, the KU internet service for the University of Kansas housing. You can find more information at: https://www.myresnet.com/

Telephone: Unfortunately, there are no public or pay phones on the KU campus. There are also no landline connections in the on-campus residence halls. To talk to your family and friends at home and in the United States on the phone you will need to purchase a cell phone or use an online phone service such as Skype. There are many different cell phone providers available in Lawrence, and you will be able to purchase a cell phone after you arrive at KU.
ISS hosts “YOU at KU”, a pre-semester week-long comprehensive orientation program, each January, June and August. Participating in this program is a wonderful opportunity to learn about KU programs and services, explore the Lawrence community, make new friends, and receive personalized assistance completing the essential mandatory check-in processes in order to enroll.

### Special Topics

- Introduction of KU staff
- American classroom etiquette
- Tips for student success
- U.S. culture, customs and social expectations
- Advice for adapting to your new environment
- Academic programs
- Transfer credit explanation
- Applied English Center & language proficiency
- Health care & safety concerns
- Banking in the U.S.
- Maintaining your immigration status
- Campus clubs & organizations
- Legal issues & tenant laws
- Becoming a KU Jayhawk!

### Ready! Set! Go!

- Complete all check-in procedures
- Receive a welcome packet with helpful resources
- Explore campus and Lawrence
- Get assistance with finding Housing
- Get help with bank accounts
- Understand academics and enrollment
- Meet with an academic advisor and select courses
- Take shopping shuttles to get things you need
- Get to know helpful KU staff
- Meet other KU students from all over the world
- Enjoy meals in multiple KU dining locations
- Experience a night out in downtown Lawrence
- Have an exciting, informative and effective first week at KU!

Pre-Registration for Orientation will be emailed to the email address that you used when applying to the university. To find more information, visit http://www.iss.ku.edu/prearrival/orientation.shtml

Questions? E-mail issorientation@ku.edu

More Information about life in Kansas and in the U.S. can be found in the KU International Student Handbook, which can be found here.