Welcome!

We are pleased that you have chosen to pursue your academic career at Kent State University and the staff of the Office of Global Education is eager to help you succeed with your educational goals.

To immediately assist you, our Welcome Guide contains key information intended to help you better prepare for your arrival to Northeast Ohio and your initial weeks at Kent State. For your convenience and reference, our Guide provides useful information and planning tips covering the following topics:

- Your upcoming VISA interview
- Your pre-departure arrangements
- Local airports and available transportation to campus
- International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS)
- Important immigration information
- Life on the Kent State campus and in the City of Kent
- On- and off-campus housing
- Health insurance and immunization requirements
- International student orientation

But this Welcome Guide is only the first of several communications, which you will receive over the next few weeks intended to help you prepare for your academic career at Kent State University. Be sure to set up your FlashLine email account and check it frequently in the weeks ahead. And please read all communications you receive from us.

Contact Information

Email and Skype are the preferred means of communication with the Office of Global Education.

Email: isss@kent.edu
Telephone: +1-330-672-7980
Fax: +1-330-672-4025
Skype: Please email a Skype contact request to the above email address and we will contact you.

Mailing Address:
Office of Global Education
International Student and Scholar Services
106 Van Campen Hall
625 Loop Road
Kent State University
Kent, OH 44242-0001 USA
The staff and advisors of the Office of Global Education (OGE) want to welcome you to Kent State University. You may already know some of us through our Department of International Admissions. OGE is your initial point of contact on campus and we'll be here to assist you throughout your academic career at Kent State.

The Office of Global Education (OGE) is located in Van Campen Hall on the Kent State Campus (625 Loop Road). The office houses International Admissions, International Student & Scholar Services, and Education Abroad. The Office of Global Education is responsible for processing international admissions, advising international students and scholars, and overseeing all education abroad initiatives and international partnerships.

Once you arrive on campus, your main point of contact and assistance will be our Department of International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS), which is prepared to help you with a variety of academic-, cultural-, and Visa-related issues. You can learn more about ISSS, its staff and the many issues we can help you with on page 5.

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Please Note: To more easily access the links provided in the Welcome Guide, you can access a digital version (PDF) at:
www.kent.edu/globaleducation/welcome-guide
Your Home Away from Home
Alongside its internationally-ranked academics, Kent State also offers its students a myriad of social and recreational activities while maintaining a safe, secure campus. At Kent State, you will find many opportunities to have fun, make friends and discover new interests.

Life at Kent State includes:
• More than 400 student clubs and organizations.
• 1000-plus on-campus social programs, activities and events
• A 153,000 square-foot student recreational and wellness center
• A medical center

Kent Through the Seasons
Kent State experiences all four of the seasons – Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. Average temperatures range from 1°C in January to 29°C in July.

Points of Interest
1. Library
2. Student Center
3. MACC Center
4. Science Mall
5. Liquid Crystal Institute
6. DeWeese Health Center
7. Student Recreation and Wellness Center (out of frame)
8. Ice Arena
10. Athletic Fields
11. Schwarz Center
12. Residence Halls
13. Downtown Kent

For an interactive map of the Kent State campus, visit: [www.kent.edu/maps](http://www.kent.edu/maps)

For an introductory tour of the Kent Campus, view one of our three videos in English, Chinese or Arabic by visiting our YouTube page: [www.youtube.com/user/KentStateGlobalEd](http://www.youtube.com/user/KentStateGlobalEd)

The City of Kent
The City of Kent is a traditional American city located in Northeast Ohio in the nation’s Midwest Region. Founded in 1805, Kent now boasts a population of approximately 30,000 residents. The city is located on the Cuyahoga River. The downtown area is within walking distance of Kent State’s campus and is filled with many small shops, restaurants, musical venues, theaters, and other attractions.
During your academic studies at Kent State, you will have access to a dedicated team of advisors in the department of International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS). These international student and scholar advisors will help you with your adjustment to life in the United States and provide you with accurate immigration advice so that you maintain your student status while you are studying with us.

Please Note: The advisors in International Student and Scholar Services are not the same as your academic advisor. You should also meet with your academic advisor to discuss any academic issues, problems, or questions (including changing your major).

An international student and scholar advisor can help you with the following and much more:

- Updating your Form I-20 or DS-2019
- Issuing a travel signature before you travel internationally
- Assisting you with cultural adjustment
- Answering your questions about life in the United States
- Helping you apply for certain immigration benefits
- Giving you expert immigration advice

The ISSS website – [www.kent.edu/isss](http://www.kent.edu/isss) -- is also a valuable source of information. It provides you with step-by-step instructions and helpful information covering a variety of issues. To avoid unnecessary time and confusion, we recommend that you familiarize with the all of the material available on our Guides and Forms page: [www.kent.edu/globaleducation/guides-and-forms](http://www.kent.edu/globaleducation/guides-and-forms)

**International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS)**

**Student Advising**

We recommend that you schedule an appointment in advance with an ISSS advisor, but we can also accommodate walk-in advising depending on our workload at the time. Specific times will be provided to you during International Student Orientation (see page 11). For more information about our advising times and to schedule an appointment, visit: [www.kent.edu/globaleducation/office-and-advising-hours](http://www.kent.edu/globaleducation/office-and-advising-hours)

**Contact Information**

**Office Hours:** Monday through Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

**Phone:** +1-330-672-7980

**Fax:** +1-330-672-4025

**E-mail:** isss@kent.edu

**Mailing Address:** 106 Van Campen Hall, 625 Loop Road Kent, OH 44242-0001

**Social Media**

- **Facebook:** facebook.com/KentISSS
- **Twitter:** twitter.com/kentstateisss
- **Flickr:** flickr.com/photos/kentstateglobal/
- **YouTube:** youtube.com/user/KentStateGlobalEd

“Hello” from the staff of the Office of Global Education
Your I-20, SEVIS Fee and Visa Interview

Along with this Welcome Guide, your I-20 is also included in your admission packet. If not, please contact us immediately!

Your first step is to make an appointment for a visa interview at your local U.S. Embassy or Consulate.

Before you apply for a visa, you must pay a one-time fee called the SEVIS fee. SEVIS is the student database that the university uses to maintain your student record. Your SEVIS ID is the number in the top right-hand corner of your I-20 or DS-2019 that begins with “N00.” Visit www.fmjfee.com and follow the instructions.

Print your receipt at the end and take it with you to your visa interview. The fee must be paid at least three (3) business days prior to the scheduled date of your interview.

Your local U.S. Embassy or Consulate can provide you with a specific list of the documents that will be required during your visa interview, but in general, be prepared to have:

- An current (unexpired) passport, valid for at least the next six months
- Your I-20 or DS-2019 signed by you on page 1
- Your admission letter from Kent State University
- Proof of financial support for one year of study that matches what is listed on your I-20 or DS-2019

Additional information about applying for a visa can be found at: www.kent.edu/globaleducation/applying-visa
Stay in touch
ISSS will periodically need to contact you to request information or to advise you of an upcoming deadline. We will always contact you through your Kent State email account. Add isss@kent.edu to your Safe Senders list and check your account frequently. And if we request information of you, please respond in a timely manner—never delay. Besides, we always like to hear from you!

One regular piece of communication is our Weekly International Student E-Newsletter. It’s packed with useful information, updates, upcoming events and other regular features. Don’t miss a single issue!

Maintain a full-time class workload
Your visa designates you as a full-time student. Therefore, you must maintain a full-time status at all times.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Status</th>
<th>Minimum Full-Time Credit Hours Required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESL</td>
<td>17*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The 17 hours is a university requirement and supersedes the visa requirement of 12 hours.

You may only count one online course (3 credit hours) toward this full-time requirement.

Do not accept an internship or job without authorization
You are allowed to work on-campus for up to 20 hours per week while school is in session. However, if you want to work off-campus, you need to obtain authorization from ISSS. If you meet all necessary requirements, we’ll issue you either a Curricular Practical Training (CPT) or Optional Practical Training (OPT) form. Please note that working without authorization is illegal.

Essential Immigration Information

You are required to follow a number of responsibilities that you need to follow in order to maintain your student status. We anticipate that you will have questions about your status from time to time. Therefore, our international student and scholar advisors are available to help familiarize you with essential immigration regulations and to give you useful advice based on your situation. However, please always keep the following general guidelines in mind to avoid loss of status.

Stay in touch
ISSS will periodically need to contact you to request information or to advise you of an upcoming deadline. We will always contact you through your Kent State email account. Add isss@kent.edu to your Safe Senders list and check your account frequently. And if we request information of you, please respond in a timely manner—never delay. Besides, we always like to hear from you!

One regular piece of communication is our Weekly International Student E-Newsletter. It’s packed with useful information, updates, upcoming events and other regular features. Don’t miss a single issue!

Advise us anytime you plan to travel
Before travelling outside of the United States, you will need to obtain a travel signature on page two of your I-20 or page one of your DS-2019 (that is less than one year old) in order to return to the U.S. Valid travel signatures can only be issued by advisors within the Office of Global Education.

International travel also requires that your passport and visa be up-to-date (unexpired). You should always confer with ISSS before you travel so that we can check your documents to ensure that they are in order and that you are able to travel.
Medical Insurance Requirement
All international students taking at least one credit hour are required to have health insurance that is comparable to the coverage provided with the Kent State University sponsored Student Health Insurance Plan. The bursar’s office will automatically post the Fall Premium on the student accounts. This charge will be viewable to students.

Any international student may request a waiver of this fee if:
- The student provides proof of full sponsorship by a government agency including health insurance, OR
- The student provides proof of health insurance provided by a United States employer.

For assistance contact:
University Health Services Insurance and Billing
- By Phone: +1-330.672.8251
- By email: insbilling@kent.edu

Immunization and Medical History Forms
Upon your arrival on the Kent State campus, you are required to complete the following two medical forms and submit them to the university at the DeWeese Health Center located at 1500 Eastway Drive on the Kent State campus.

- **Immunization Form.** Obtain the form for completion and processing at: [www.kent.edu/uhs/mandatory-immunizations](http://www.kent.edu/uhs/mandatory-immunizations)
- **Medical History Form.** Obtain the form for completion and processing at: [www.kent.edu/uhs/medical-history-form](http://www.kent.edu/uhs/medical-history-form)

For more information:
- Online: [www.kent.edu/UHS/immunizations](http://www.kent.edu/UHS/immunizations)
- By Email: immunizations@kent.edu
Local Airports, Transportation and Your Arrival on Campus

Local Airport Options
Most students choose to fly into Cleveland-Hopkins International Airport (airport code: CLE). Cleveland-Hopkins is approximately 50 minutes by car from Kent. A smaller, regional airport, Akron-Canton Airport (airport code CAK), is closer – approximately 30 minutes by car or taxi from Kent – but has fewer available international flights.

- CLE: [www.clevelandairport.com/](http://www.clevelandairport.com/)
- CAK: [www.akroncantonairport.com/](http://www.akroncantonairport.com/)

Local Taxi Services
Both airports feature a taxi stand in the baggage claim area that you can use to reserve a taxi to take you to Kent. Local taxis accept cash (U.S. currency) and many also accept credit cards. If you arrive late at night and no one is at the taxi stand, you can use a phone in the baggage claim area to call a taxi.

- Cleveland: Yellow Cab Company at (216) 623-1500.
- Akron: Akron-Canton Transport at (330) 808-2159

If you are arriving at CAK, you can also make a reservation with Akron Canton Transport ahead of time online at: [www.acataxi.com](http://www.acataxi.com)

From Cleveland Hopkins Airport, you may also use the Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (RTA), a public transportation service, to transport you to Kent State. Please allow approximately four hours travel time. Book your trip in advance online at: [www.riderta.com](http://www.riderta.com)

Airport Pickups
The Office of Global Education also schedules airport pickups for new students and family members at both the Cleveland-Hopkins International Airport and the Akron Canton International Airport. The pickup costs $20 per person. To check the pick-up dates for the upcoming semester and to schedule ride, visit: [www.kent.edu/globaleducation/airportsarrivals](http://www.kent.edu/globaleducation/airportsarrivals)

Required Arrival Date
You must arrive on or before your Program Start Date:

- Fall 2017: August 20.
- Spring 2018: January 10

You may arrive in the United States up to thirty days before your Program Start Date.

**CAUTION:** Students who arrive AFTER their Program Start Date risk being denied entry to the United States.

Checking In
Immediately upon your arrival on the Kent State campus, check in with the residence hall or apartment complex where you will be living to confirm your placement and to let the staff know that you have arrived.

Next, you are required to register with the Office of Global Education, which is located in 106 Van Campen Hall. Our hours are between 8am-5pm Monday-Friday. Please bring your passport, visa, and I-20/DS-2019 form.
On and Off Campus Housing

- Are you 20 years old or older?
- Are you at least a junior (do you have at least 60 credit hours)?
- Are you married?

If you answered NO to all of the questions above, you are required to live on campus in one of our residence halls (until you meet one of the above conditions).

If you answered YES to at least one of the questions above, you have the option of living off-campus.

Living On Campus
If you plan to live on-campus, please complete a housing application. The application as well as information about residence hall and room options can be found on the KSU Residence Services website: [www.kent.edu/housing](http://www.kent.edu/housing).

Living Off Campus
If you meet one of the above conditions and would prefer to live off campus, visit [www.apartments.com](http://www.apartments.com) to search for off-campus housing.

Please note that off-campus housing in the City of Kent fills up quickly. As an option, you can search for apartments in nearby cities including Stow, Cuyahoga Falls, Tallmadge, Ravenna and Streetsboro, which have apartments less than 20 minutes from the university. However, if you do choose to live in a surrounding city, you will need to ensure you have transportation to and from campus.

One transportation option is the local PARTA Bus Service, which operates on campus and within the surrounding Kent/Ravenna area. For bus schedules and routes, visit: [www.partaonline.org/ride-parta/](http://www.partaonline.org/ride-parta/)

Arriving Early
If you are arriving in Kent before you can move in to your dorm or apartment, you may apply for temporary housing at the University for $35/day. Contact Kent State Residence Services at: [housing@kent.edu](mailto:housing@kent.edu)

Kent State features 25 residence halls, 13 learning-living communities – including our International Village – and more than 20 on-campus restaurants, dining halls and coffee carts.
Your First Big Kent Events:  
International Student Orientation Sessions

Getting Off to a Good Start  
Making the transition to a new country as well as life as an international student can be a daunting, intimidating task. You have much to learn and much you need to know to ensure your successful transition. Therefore, we have organized THREE orientation sessions – a formal onsite presentation, an interactive online program, and a helpful resource fair – each designed to help you succeed at Kent State. And because there is much you need to learn about Kent State and your responsibilities as an international student, we’ve made all three sessions mandatory!

1. Onsite International Student Orientation  
After arriving at Kent State and a week before classes begin, you will attend our Onsite International Student Orientation. To register for onsite orientation and to check times and dates, visit: www.kent.edu/globaleducation/orientation

- **Fall Semester 2017**: Monday, August 21, Kent Student Center Ballroom
- **Spring Semester 2018**: Thursday, January 11, Kent Student Center Ballroom

During Onsite Orientation, you will:
- Meet the staff of the Office of Global Education
- Attend informational sessions to help you understand your responsibilities as an F-1 or J-1 student.
- Get acquainted with important locations, buildings, offices and dining areas on campus.
- Learn about how to apply for on-campus employment.
- Discover how to buy a cell phone, and other practical information.
- Meet students from all over the world and make new friends. You will feel comfortable and ready to begin your studies upon completion of Orientation.

2. Online International Student Orientation  
Online Orientation is a fun, instructive and interactive program that teaches you about important immigration information as well as the many university resources available to you. You can find more information at: www.kent.edu/globaleducation/online-international-student-orientation

Following your registration for the Onsite Orientation (see previous), you will receive an email with instructions about how to access and completed the Online Orientation, including your deadline for completion. All new students must complete Online Orientation.

3. International Student Resource Fair  
Following Onsite Orientation, international students are also required to attend the International Student Resource Fair. Numerous KSU offices, colleges and support services will be on hand to answer your questions and to match you with helpful resources.
Prepare Yourself for a Trip of a Lifetime

In many ways, pursuing your academic career at Kent State University as the prelude to your professional life will be an adventure of a lifetime. So you need to prepare yourself properly. The following are a few helpful tips and suggestions from the OGE staff to help you get off to a good start.

**Arrive early.** By arriving early, you will allow yourself time to get over your jetlag and adjust to the local time so you will feel rested for your first few hectic days of orientation and classes. You are allowed to enter the United States up to thirty days before your Program Start Date. We recommend arriving a week before classes begin.

**Finalize living arrangements.** Make sure you have housing and eating arrangements in place before you arrive.

**Read all pre-departure communications.** This Welcome Guide is only the first of several communications from our office that will help you prepare for your studies at Kent State University. Make sure you check your email account frequently and immediately read any communications from the Office of Global Education or International Student and Scholar Services that you receive.

**Set up your KSU FlashLine account.**

**Bring your immigration documents.** Check in at the Office of Global Education immediately upon your arrival. We will scan in copies of your passport, U.S. visa, and I-20 or DS-2019 and ask you to provide your local address.

**Refer to this guide frequently.** This Guide contains extremely useful information to help you feel informed and prepared. Keep it for reference and read through it several times, especially the Essential Immigration Regulations section on page 7.

**Don't be afraid to ask questions.** ISSS is here to help you. Contact isss@kent.edu if you have a question or need reassurance about a particular concern. We are well trained and have the expertise necessary to answer your