

Office of International Students and Scholars (ISS)
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PRE-ARRIVAL BROCHURE

Please read all sections carefully.

Please note Section 3: The U.S. Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) Check-in is required by law and begins Sunday, August 16.

Section 1 Applying for a Student Visa

Your Form I-20 (for F-1 students) or Form DS-2019 (for J-1 students) is included in this mailing. If another agency will provide the Form I-20 or DS-2019 to you, or you have another visa type such as E, L, H or TN, you will not receive an immigration document from Purdue.

Students who have the Form I-20 or DS-2019 for "Initial Entry" to the U.S. must pay the SEVIS fee before their visa appointment. See the enclosed pamphlet "Applying for Your Student Visa" for details about paying the SEVIS fee and making an appointment for a student visa. You can view the pamphlet online at: <http://www.iss.purdue.edu/Resources/Docs/Orientation/ApplyingStudentVisa.pdf> After paying the SEVIS fee online, print out and take the SEVIS fee receipt and other required items listed in the pamphlet to a U.S. Embassy or U.S. Consulate closest to you to apply for an F-1 visa with Form I-20 or a J-1 visa with Form DS-2019.

Carry all documents on your person when you come to Purdue; do not place documents in luggage to be checked on the plane. You should also carry original financial documents as proof to support the funding listed on your Form I-20 or Form DS-2019. A United States immigration officer will review your documents when you enter the U.S. Before you leave the officer's counter, check to be sure you have a port-of-entry stamp on both the I-20 or DS-2019 and I-94 Arrival /Departure card with a notation F-1 D/S or J-1 D/S. (Dependent documents should be stamped & notated F-2 D/S or J-2 D/S.)

Section 2 Traveling to Purdue / Arrival Pick-up Service

Immigration law limits arrival into the U.S. to no earlier than 30 days prior to the Program Start Date listed on Form I-20 or Form DS-2019.

We encourage you to apply for and to participate in **Boiler Gold Rush (BGR)**, Purdue's highly regarded orientation program. Participation in BGR will require an August 15 arrival. Read more about BGR in Section 4, Part II. Non-BGR participants should arrive August, 15, 16, 17 or 18. Be certain your travel arrangements are made to **Lafayette, Indiana**, USA, since there are several cities named Lafayette across the United States.

If you fly into **Indianapolis, Indiana**, we recommend that you take the Lafayette Limo, a mini-van service, to Purdue campus. The Lafayette Limo leaves Indianapolis International Airport every two hours, from 6:30 a.m. until 10:30 p.m. Travel time from Indianapolis to Purdue is about 1½ hours.

If you plan to travel through **Chicago, Illinois**, you may either schedule a connecting flight to Indianapolis or reserve a seat on Express Air Coach, a mini-van service from Chicago's O'Hare Airport to Purdue's campus. Travel time from O'Hare to Purdue is about 2½ hours.

There is currently no direct bus, train, or mini-van service from Detroit, Michigan to the Purdue campus.

Location	Company	Phone Number	Website
Indianapolis	Lafayette Limo	765-497-3828	www.lafayettelimo.com
Chicago	Express Air Coach	765-743-3120	www.expressaircoach.com

The Purdue Memorial Union is the drop-off location for the Lafayette Limo, and the Purdue Airport is the drop-off location for the Express Air Coach. (The Purdue Airport is a training facility and does not have commercial flights.) Reservations are required to board either shuttle.

An ISS representative will meet every arrival of the Lafayette Limo and Express Air Coach to Purdue on the following days.

Date	Times
Saturday, August 15, 2009	8:00 a.m. to 12:00 midnight
Sunday, August 16, 2009	8:00 a.m. to 12:00 midnight
Monday, August 17, 2009	8:00 a.m. to 12:00 midnight
Tuesday, August 18, 2009	8:00 a.m. to 12:00 midnight

It is helpful to us if you make a pick-up reservation. If you would like an ISS representative to meet your shuttle and take you to your residence, complete and submit the following form online: <http://www.iss.purdue.edu/Admission/pickupform.cfm> This form must be submitted before August 3, 2009. Please Note: The ISS Office will NOT provide pick-up service for arrivals on days or times other than those listed above. You may, however, contact a student group for pick-up assistance or call a taxi service upon arrival. Student clubs are listed on the Office of the Dean of Students website: <http://www.purdue.edu/ODOS> City Cab: 765-447-1234; 4-Star Taxi: 765-742-8400

Pick-up service is available upon request if you arrive at Lafayette Greyhound Bus Station or Lafayette Amtrak Train Station on the days listed above.

Section 3 ISS “SEVIS Check-in” (Mandatory)

International Undergraduate Student “SEVIS Check-in” begins Sunday, August 16th and continues through Thursday, August 20.

SEVIS Check-in at your university is required by law for international students, scholars and visa holders. **You cannot obtain a Purdue photo ID card until you complete the SEVIS Check-in process.** Report to Stewart Center, room 306, on *one* of the days and times listed below. The entire process will take about 30 - 45 minutes. You must bring your passport, Form I-20 or Form DS-2019, I-94 arrival/ departure card and all immigration documents from previous schools if you are transferring from another U.S. institution. You will receive a detailed Orientation schedule and University information packet. Additional information about Advance Credit / Placement Exams, Academic Registration, Health Insurance, Social Security cards, Banking, Student Groups, and ISS Programs, including many welcome picnics and receptions, will be available at SEVIS Check-in.

Bring your documents to Stewart Center, room 306, for SEVIS Check-in during one of the following sessions, August 16 ~ August 20. SEVIS Check-in takes about 30 – 45 minutes. Note the ISS Orientation on August 21 and a special Check-in time and place on August 22.

Sunday Aug 16	Monday Aug 17	Tuesday Aug 18	Wednesday Aug 19	Thursday Aug 20	Friday Aug 21	Saturday Aug 22
	8:30 - 11 am	8:30 - 11 am	8:30 - 11 am		ISS Orientation	Schleman 136
12 pm - 4 pm	1 - 4 pm	1 - 4 pm	1 - 4 pm	1- 4 pm	9 am – 5 pm	8 am – 5 pm
	5:30 - 8:30 pm	5:30 - 8:30 pm			No Check-in	late arrivals only

*Students leaving another U.S. educational institution to attend Purdue must also complete the check-in process (including transfer procedures) with the ISS office during the first **two weeks** of their first semester at Purdue. Failure to do so may lead to loss of legal nonimmigrant status and interruption of studies.*

If you are transferring to Purdue from another educational institution in the U.S., you must notify your current institution that you will attend Purdue by requesting a SEVIS transfer. This will allow the other institution to release your SEVIS record to Purdue so that we can issue you a new “transfer pending” I-20 or DS-2019. You must then bring your immigration documents to Purdue’s SEVIS Check-in to complete the transfer process.

Section 4 Registering for Classes

I. Academic Advising

Degree-seeking students will work with an academic advisor in their academic unit (School/College). Each semester your advisor will help you select the courses for which you should register in order to meet requirements for graduation. You will enroll in a combination of required and elective subjects applicable to your degree program. Schools will hold registration sessions the week before classes begin; however, we encourage you to contact your School’s advising office for registration instructions before you arrive at Purdue for the most choices of classes.

For Advising Offices contact information and locations, see the link: <http://www.iss.purdue.edu/Resources/Docs/Orientation/AdvisingContacts.pdf>

You are encouraged to contact your Academic Advising Office before June 16 to schedule a phone or email appointment with your assigned counselor. Your academic advisor will give you an access code for your *MyPurdue* account and guidance regarding choosing and registering for classes.

Each student will register for their own class schedule, in real time, using their *MyPurdue* account.

NOTE: As an F-1 or J-1 student, you are required to enroll in and complete a minimum of 12 credit hours each semester.

II. Fall Welcome and Boiler Gold Rush (BGR)

Fall Welcome is Thursday, August 20. All new students are required to attend this academic-oriented program in which you will learn about your particular school or college and have an opportunity to meet with your advisor to finalize your class registration for the semester.

Boiler Gold Rush (BGR) is a five day, all-inclusive Orientation program for all new students beginning August 15 and 16. BGR is an optional program but is highly recommended for incoming international students, and the \$320 registration fee covers early move-in costs for campus housing and meals. Register online for Boiler Gold Rush at your *MyPurdue* portal.

Last year, over 5,000 new US and international students attended this FUN, intensive program packed with social and recreational activities designed to help you meet new friends and adjust to life as a Boilermaker. In teams of 12-15 with a student leader, you’ll learn about Purdue traditions, picnic with faculty and staff, see musical performances, explore campus, learn about university resources and clubs, meet our Big Ten athletic coaches, shop Lafayette for essentials (excursions are offered with discounts and freebies), hear guest speakers, enjoy a comedian, and more. You’ll know all the Boilermaker basics before classes begin.

The BGR schedule allows international students to attend the required ISS Orientation Program on August 21. You will also be able to attend a SEVIS Check-in session on August 16 (12 – 4 pm), August 17 or 18 (5:30 - 8:30 pm), or August 20 (1 - 4 pm).

**** Register online for Boiler Gold Rush at your MyPurdue portal. ****

III. Paying Your Tuition / Confirming Your Registration

Tuition, fees and campus housing invoices will be sent to your @purdue.edu email account and are available online at *MyPurdue*. You may pay tuition, fees and campus housing via wire transfer, certified check or electronically online with Mastercard, Discover or American Express credit card (Visa is not accepted at the Bursar office). It's fast, easy and secure!

Even if your amount due for tuition, fees and campus housing on the invoice is \$0.00 you must confirm your registration electronically by going to *MyPurdue*. Select the "Finances" tab and click on "Registration Status/Enrollment Confirmation". No paper invoices will be sent.

Payment options are available by visiting <http://www.purdue.edu/bursar/faqs.htm> Search Keywords "pay my fees."

IV. Purdue ID Card

You cannot obtain a student photo ID card until you complete the SEVIS Check-in Process. After SEVIS Check-in, take your SEVIS Compliance Print-out to the Purdue Memorial Union (PMU), Room 130 to have your photo taken. Your ID card will be ready within a few minutes. Your student ID will allow you to use many university facilities including the university libraries, the recreational gymnasium, and most food services. In addition, your ID card can be used as a "debit card" at many campus locations and to ride the City Bus System for free. Your PUID card is an important piece of identification both on campus and in the surrounding community. **Be sure to obtain your PUID card!**

V. Advance Credit/ Transfer Credit Evaluation

Advance or transfer credit may be possible at Purdue for university-level study either in the U.S. or in another country, for A-Levels, for International Baccalaureate, or by Purdue examinations.

To allow you to register for appropriate classes at Purdue, every effort is made to complete evaluations of all transcripts and examinations received prior to your arrival on campus. A report will be mailed to you soon after your offer of admission. You may also view your credit evaluation on your *MyPurdue* Account by logging into Self Service Banner, click on the Student Tab then click on Student Record. Click on Academic Transcript and then click submit. Finally, click on Transfer Credit. Your Academic Advising Office will also receive this information.

No credit will be added to your permanent Purdue record until a final official transcript or attested copy of your Examination Certificate has been received by ISS. You must request that your university or Examination Board send these documents to the Office of International Students and Scholars with an official certified English translation (as applicable) OR you must bring an original or attested copy of your final transcript or examination certificate with you to ISS with an official English translation. Also bring official course descriptions from your university for each course completed or examination passed. Documents received for evaluation after your arrival will be evaluated as soon as possible.

All final transcripts or certificates must be submitted for credit evaluation before the end of your first term at Purdue. No credit will be granted for documents presented after the first term unless prior special arrangements have been made with your admission counselor.

If you wish to attempt to establish advance credit by taking Purdue examinations, your academic advisor can arrange for you to take placement examinations in math, sciences, foreign languages, and other academic areas to meet some degree requirements.

VI. Social Security Number (SSN) **

**Only registered students with proof of employment such as an assistantship letter or hourly on-campus employment may apply for a Social Security Number. A Social Security representative will be on campus to take applications during SEVIS Check-in at Stewart Center.

Section 5 ISS Orientation Program (Required)

Friday, August 21st 9:00 a.m. ~ 5:00 p.m. Class of '50 Lecture Hall (see enclosed map)

ISS Orientation includes required SEVIS regulations, employment and insurance information sessions on Friday, August 21, from 9 – 11:30 a.m. in the Class of '50 Building. An optional lunch will be provided. Optional afternoon break-out sessions will cover important topics designed to help students adjust to life at Purdue and in the U.S. A detailed schedule with locations for afternoon sessions will be available at SEVIS Check-In.

Section 6 Housing

Whether you decide to live on-campus or off-campus, you will want to finalize your housing arrangements before your arrival. To live on-campus in university residence halls, you must apply for housing online at <http://www.housing.purdue.edu> **May 1st is the priority deadline for preferred residence hall selection.** Please review this site for FAQ and information on arrival, housing options and meal plans.

University residences undergraduate housing will be open for early-arrival occupancy beginning at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 15. Early arrival fees will be charged from Saturday, August 15, through Thursday, August 20. For those attending Boiler Gold Rush, your housing and meals are covered by the BGR registration fee.

If you choose to live off-campus, you will need to make your own arrangements prior to arrival or your options will be very limited. To begin your off campus housing search, go to the Office of the Dean of Students webpage: <http://www.purdue.edu/ODOS> and click on "Off Campus Housing."

If you have questions regarding on-campus housing options, contact the following office:

Smalley Center: Telephone: (765) 494-1000 Web Address: www.housing.purdue.edu FAX: (765) 494-0718
Email: HFSWeb@purdue.edu

Section 7 Health Insurance (Mandatory)

Purdue University requires all international students to purchase the University-sponsored health insurance plan *unless* the student falls into one of the following three categories:

Category # 1 – Government-sponsored students whose home government purchases insurance for students and does not just supply funds to purchase an insurance plan of their choice.

Category # 2 - Students employed by a US-based employer or the dependent of a US-based employee with employer-based health insurance.

Category # 3 - Students who are participants in an official study abroad exchange program (J-1 exchange students).

Please note: international graduate students with benefit-eligible graduate staff appointments (benefit-eligible TA or RA positions) will continue to have the Purdue University Graduate Staff Health Insurance option.

Individual and private insurance companies will no longer qualify for a waiver. For those in the categories described above who may be eligible for the waiver, supporting documents must be submitted by the stated deadline each semester. **Please note: Failure to enroll in the Student Health Insurance Plan or to submit a waiver by the compliance deadline will result in loss of the waiver option and cancellation of classes.**

If you are in one of the three categories eligible for a waiver, please note the minimum criteria for granting a waiver are as follows:

- * 1. Medical benefits of at least \$50,000 per accident or illness.
- * 2. Repatriation of remains in the amount of \$7,500.
- * 3. Medical evacuation coverage in the amount of \$10,000.
- * 4. An annual deductible per year not to exceed \$500 per illness (per person).
- 5. The insurance carrier must carry and maintain one of the following ratings:
 - a. A.M. Best Rating of "A-" or better.
 - b. Insurance Solvency Intl, Ltd. (ISI) rating of "A-" or better.
 - c. Standard and Poor's Claims paying ability rating of "A-" or better.
 - d. Weiss Research, Inc. rating of "B+" or better.
 - e. Backed by the full faith and credit of the home government.

**Amounts must be in US dollars (\$) and are the minimal amounts required at the time a waiver request is reviewed at the University.

Again, the waiver option is only available to individuals in one of the three categories noted above. There is no monetary profit for the University if a student purchases the University plan. The benefit is ensuring that all international students have an adequate health insurance plan and are protected from huge financial burdens.

For more information please contact the Student Insurance Representative at the Purdue University Student Health Center (PUSH), Room 340. Telephone: 765-496-3998, FAX: 765-496-2524 or visit the PUSH website at: <https://www.purdue.edu/push/>

Section 8 Finances

Be certain you arrive at Purdue with sufficient U.S. dollars or access to funds to meet your living expenses for the first month. If you live off-campus, some landlords will require you to pay both the first and the last month's rent in advance, as well as a security deposit. Plan ahead to avoid problems! However, do not carry large amounts of cash with you. You may purchase U.S. traveler's checks, which can be cashed at most banks and stores in the U.S. **Do not place your cash, credit cards or traveler's checks in your checked luggage.** If your luggage should be misdirected or lost, you should have your money (and documents) with you. Wearing a money belt or pouch that can be kept out of sight under your clothing is recommended.

If you bring your own currency, please exchange it to US dollars upon arrival at the airport because there is no bank that is able to immediately exchange currency in Lafayette, Indiana.

Section 9 West Lafayette/Lafayette Information

For Information about Purdue and the surrounding community, including lists of area hotels, restaurants, religious institutions, events, and even information about climate and weather, you may visit the following web sites: <http://www.city.west-lafayette.in.us>, <http://www.city.lafayette.in.us/> or <http://www.lafayette-online.com/>

Section 10 Pre-paid International Long Distance Calling Plan

ISS has partnered with MobileSphere to provide competitive, high quality residential and long distance international calling options for students from abroad. Please investigate this option at the following site: <http://www.iss.purdue.edu/mobilesphere/>

On behalf of the entire Office of International Students and Scholars (ISS), congratulations on your admission to Purdue University. We are honored that you have chosen to continue your education at Purdue.

We are here to serve you!