Greetings from the Office of Foreign Student & Scholar Services!

We extend a warm welcome to you and look forward to your arrival. Our office is responsible for the general welfare of all international students at The University of Montana. From the moment you arrive we will be here to support you in all areas of campus life by providing direct support services, consultation and liaison to you. This brochure consists of very important information to help you prepare for your move and your first days at The University of Montana. Please read it very carefully to prepare for your journey.

Many of the services we offer are designed to help you integrate into the University and Missoula community. We look forward to having you be a part of our programs!

Missoula International Friendship Program is a wonderful opportunity for you to get to know community residents who want to share friendship and all that Missoula has to offer. Many life-long friendships have been made through this program.

UM Global Partners Program provides a personal friend called a Global Partner to help you during your first semester on campus. Global Partners are experienced UM students who have volunteered to help you adjust to life on campus, in the Missoula community and to American culture in general.

International Student Association & Nationality Clubs offer social, cultural and recreational activities to all students. Through formal and informal meetings, discussions and special events these groups promote international understanding throughout the University.

The International House, also known as the I-House is a center for international activities and programs on the campus. It is a place for you to relax and interact with other students and community members, and a place to host special holiday gatherings and cultural festivals.

- While traveling, carry all important documents, money, bank drafts and traveler’s checks with you. Do not place them in a checked suitcase.

- Advance Shipment of Belongings: Please do not send baggage in advance of your arrival, as the University does not have adequate storage facilities. However, if it becomes necessary, you may mail baggage and parcels in your name, in care of (c/o) Campus Mail Services, The University of Montana, Missoula, MT 59812, U.S.A., and mark them “STUDENT, HOLD FOR ARRIVAL.” After you arrive, you must pick them up personally at Campus Mail Services.

- If you do not know what your local address will be, you may have letters mailed to you in care of the Foreign Student & Scholar Services’ address. However, do not have baggage sent to the office.

- Baggage During Travel: Place tags or labels on all your suitcases and hand luggage with your name and following address: Foreign Student & Scholar Services, Lommasson 219, The University of Montana, Missoula, MT 59812, U.S.A., Tel: 406.243.2226. Include a copy of the address inside the suitcase, in case the outer tag is lost or destroyed. If a piece of your luggage is lost, file a claim immediately at the airline’s desk at the airport.
Transportation to Missoula

Air: Missoula International Airport is about 10 minutes from campus and is served by the following airlines: Delta, United, Horizon (Alaska) and Allegiant. The airport code for Missoula is MSO. For more information about flying into Missoula, visit www.flymissoula.com.

Bus: There are two bus lines that have daily stops in Missoula – Greyhound Lines and Rimrock Stage. Reservations and information can be found on their websites at www.greyhound.com and www.rimrocktrailways.com.

Transportation to the University

Free transportation from the airport or bus station is available if we are notified in advance. The enclosed letter lists the recommended arrival dates and information about arranging pickup.

If you arrive on a day that is not listed, you will need to make your own arrangements for transportation. There are several taxi services available for you to choose from:

Yellow Cab: 406.543.6644 or www.yellowcabmissoula.com
Missoula Green Taxi: 406.728.8294 or www.missoulagreentaxi.com
Airport Shuttler: 406.543.9416

Hotels in Missoula

If you arrive before the Residence Halls official opening day or need temporary accommodations for other reasons, the following is a list of hotels and motels within walking distance of the campus:

Campus Inn: www.campusinnmissoula.com
Comfort Inn: www.comfortinn.com
Holiday Inn at the Park: www.holidayinn.com
Doubletree Hotel Edgewater: www.doubletree.com
Hutchins Hostel: www.hutchinshostel.com

Pre-Departure Checklist

☐ Checked that my surname and first names in my passport and I-20 or DS-2019 are the same.
☐ Paid the SEVIS fee.
☐ Obtained F-1 Student Visa.
☐ Completed travel arrangements.
☐ Completed and sent the Personal Data Sheet to FSSS.
☐ Completed application for housing through Residence Life or make other arrangements.
☐ Sent the Pre-Registration Immunization Requirements Form to Curry Health Center.
☐ Insure that the necessary funds are available for at least one semester’s expenses.
☐ Obtained proof of health insurance policy in English if not enrolling in the University’s health insurance plan.
☐ Obtained course descriptions for transfer credit in case academic advisors need to examine them.
☐ Gave family and friends the address of Foreign Student & Scholar Services.
The University of Montana
Lommasson Center 219
Missoula, Montana 59812, U.S.A.
Tel: 406.243.2226    Fax: 406.243.6115
E-Mail: fsss@umontana.edu

Arrival Dates

Plan to arrive several days in advance of the first day of classes to attend a mandatory orientation. The enclosed letter lists arrival dates and information about arranging airport pickup. Pickup service from the Missoula airport or bus station to the University will be available 24 hours a day if you give us advanced notice by submitting a completed Personal Data Sheet.

University Academic Calendar

Fall Semester .......... Begins in late August
Spring Semester ...... Begins in mid to late January
Summer Session ...... Begins in mid to late May
**Visas: Step-by-step**

All international students must have a valid passport to enter the United States as a student.

1. The SEVIS I-901 fee is required for all F-1 and J-1 visa students. Paying your SEVIS I-901 fee is very important. Without this fee, you will not be eligible to apply for a visa. To pay the fee, go to: www.fmjfee.com

2. After paying the I-901 fee and getting a receipt, you can apply for a visa at the U.S. embassy or consulate before you leave for the United States.
   a. If you are applying for an F-1 Student visa you will need your Form I-20, a statement of financial support and your valid country passport, as well as proof you paid the SEVIS fee.
   b. If you are applying for a J-1 Student visa then you will need your DS-2019, statement of financial support and your valid country passport, as well as proof you paid the SEVIS fee.
   c. At the U.S. port of entry you must present a valid passport, valid U.S. visa (Canadian citizens are exempt from having a visa), the form I-20 or DS-2019, a financial statement and a receipt of the SEVIS fee payment. You will then be issued Form I-94 (usually stapled in your passport) which is a very important document to possess while in the U.S.

3. Before you leave for the United States, it is a good idea to familiarize yourself with the different kinds of documents you might need. It is always a good idea to carry your original documents on your person at all times. Do not put them in your checked baggage.

4. You may enter the U.S. up to 30 days before the official program start date listed on your I-20 or DS-2019. You must report to The University of Montana by the program start date. If you cannot enter the U.S. for the term listed on your Form I-20/DS-2019 or if you will be late by a few days, contact us immediately at fsss@umontana.edu or 406.243.2226.

5. For tips on how to prepare for the Visa interview, go to www.umt.edu/fsss and click on “Prospective Students”.

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**Finances and Banking**

During your travels it is not wise to carry large amounts of cash. You should only carry enough cash to cover your travel expenses until you arrive on the campus ($200- $500).

You should also plan to bring enough money with you to cover your first semester’s expenses. You will need approximately $15,000 USD per semester for tuition and fees, housing and meals, book and supplies as well as other personal expenses. The safest way to bring this large amount of money is in U.S. dollar traveler’s checks, bank drafts or by credit card. The University of Montana accepts Visa and MasterCard only.

“PeerTransfer” is The University Montana’s preferred method of secure wire transfers that also allows you to avoid sizable banking fees and unnecessary delays in posting to your account. For more information about PeerTransfer, go to: http://peertransfer.com. To make your payment, go to: https://peertransfer.com/umt

**Graduate Students**

If you have been offered a graduate teaching or research assistantship you should bring at least $500 to cover your initial living expenses, since the first payday is not until September 1 for the fall semester or February 1 for the spring semester. However, fee waivers for the tuition portion of an assistantship are available at the time of registration and fee payment.

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**FYI**

**U.S. currency comes in two forms:** paper and coin. U.S. paper money, known as dollars, comes in denominations of $1, $5, $10, $20, $50 and $100. The most common coins are the one-cent or “penny”, five-cent or “nickel”, ten-cent or “dime” and twenty-five-cent or “quarter”. One hundred cents equals one dollar.
Your First Days on Campus

**Orientation:** Your mandatory Orientation Program will cover important topics such as how to choose and register for classes, immigration regulations and benefits for foreign students, campus academic, social and recreational services, and community resources. During the Orientation Program, you will also meet your academic advisor, who will assist you in designing your academic program and help you select future semester classes. To facilitate a smooth transition to the University, it is crucial that you attend the Orientation Program. An Orientation Fee is included in your tuition and fees. Please refer to the enclosed letter for the dates of your Orientation Program, which takes place the week prior to the start of the semester you plan to attend classes.

**Academic Books:** The courses that you choose with the help of your academic advisors will determine which books you will need. All the books needed for your classes can be purchased on campus at the University’s bookstore.

**Registration:** Please check your personal email regularly for specific instructions on how to register for your classes online and other important information.

**Fee Payment:** On an appointed day, usually a day or two after the registration day, you will have to pay your tuition and fees, as well as campus housing and meal fees (if applicable). All these expenses will appear on one bill, payable to The University of Montana. The exact amount of your tuition and fees will depend on the number of class credits (instruction hours) you have enrolled for. Tuition and fees cannot be paid in advance of registration for classes. At the time of fee payment, you may elect to pay by the Deferred Payment Plan, which divides the total amount of your bill into three smaller payments throughout the semester. There is, however, a small administrative charge for use of the Deferred Payment Plan ($30 per semester).

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The Missoula Climate

**Weather**
Missoula enjoys a full range of seasons with a hot summer, cool autumn, cold winter and wet spring. When you arrive for the fall semester the weather will usually be fairly warm with temperatures in the 70F – 80F (20s C) but as the semester continues the weather will begin to get colder with temperatures ranging from 30F–60F (0C–15C). If you plan to arrive for the spring semester the winter weather in Missoula will be both sunny and snowy with temperatures ranging from 20F-40F (-6C-4C). As the semester continues the warmer Missoula spring weather arrives and is very similar to the fall temperatures.

**Clothing** Being ready for each season is an important part of your pre-departure preparation. You should plan appropriate clothing for each season. In general, University students dress informally for classes. In the warmer months you will see students wearing shorts, jeans, pants, t-shirts, blouses, sandals or tennis shoes. As the temperatures get colder students begin to wear long-sleeved shirts, sweaters, long pants, jackets, hats, gloves and warm shoes or boots. The colder weather lasts an average of three months so either bring warm clothes with you or plan to purchase them after you arrive.
Applying for Housing

A brochure entitled “Housing” was enclosed in your acceptance folder. This brochure details the steps for applying to live in one of the University housing options. All applications are processed on a first-come, first-served basis so planning ahead and getting your application in early will help you get the building and room of your choice.

Each application must be accompanied by a deposit: $225 for residence halls, $325 for Lewis & Clark Village and a $25 processing fee for University Villages. If you change your mind and wish to cancel, you must notify the Residence Life Office by the deadline stated for that specific term. If you notify before the deadline, you will receive a refund of your prepayment. If you decide to postpone your enrollment to a later date, you must still notify the Residence Life Office. For more information about UM housing options, visit http://life.umt.edu/rlo

Residence Halls
There are nine residence halls located on campus which provide quick and easy access to classes. The University of Montana requires all freshmen and undergraduate students who have earned less than 30 semester credits to live on campus in one of these residence halls. Students are required to continue living in the residence halls until they have earned 30 semester credits. Exceptions are made for students who live with their parents and for students who are married or single parents.

All rooms are furnished with a single bed, mattress, desk, chair, closet, drawer space, wastebasket, curtains and overhead light. Students must provide their own study lamp and linen (sheets, mattress pad, pillows, pillowcases, blankets and towels), known as “bed in a bag”, these can be purchased from the Residence Halls upon arrival. Internet access is provided as part of the room rate. Telephone service can be arranged with Residence Life for an additional fee or you can make arrangements with a cell-phone provider.

The Lewis & Clark Village
The Lewis and Clark Village offers shared, furnished apartment units for single students without dependents who have accumulated at least 60 credit hours by the time they move into the apartments. All apartments are furnished with a sofa, chair, refrigerator, range, microwave, stools and dishwasher in the living room-kitchen area. Each bedroom has a built in closet, full-size bed, mattress, desk, chair, bookcase and chest of drawers. You must supply your own linens, towels, cooking utensils and other personal items.

University Villages
University Villages are primarily for married students, single parents with dependent children and graduate students. Studio, one, two, three, or four bedroom units are available. All units are unfurnished, except for kitchen appliances.

Off-Campus Housing
Off-campus housing not affiliated with the University is in high demand which makes it very competitive. It can be located in apartments and houses, private homes or rooming houses. Off-campus housing varies greatly in cost, location, etc., and generally requires a rental deposit of one to two month’s rent. We highly recommend that if you choose to rent off-campus you start searching at least one month prior to arrival.

To find rentals and student roommates there are a couple of good websites: Housing Finder at www.umt.edu/housingfinder
UM Renter Center at http://life.umt.edu/asum/asum_agencies/Off_Campus_Renter_Center/

Pre-arrival Housing -
Temporary housing is available for up to two nights prior to the start of the Orientation Program, but only to those who have applied to Residence Life for on-campus housing and prepaid the $225 deposit. The charge is $17 per night for lodging; you will have to buy your own food. You will need to contact FSSS to make arrangements for any on-campus pre-arrival housing.
Working in the USA

Working in the United States is regulated by federal law. International students in F-1 status are not allowed to work off campus except by special permission of the U.S. Immigration Service, and then only after one academic year. Employment on campus is permitted without permission from the U.S. Immigration Service, but it is limited. Students on J-1 status may receive permission for employment from their program sponsor. You can receive further information about employment regulations during the Orientation Program at The University of Montana.

Health Insurance in the U.S.

Health care in the United States is largely a private function. The government does not offer any health care options. Instead, people have health insurance policies to help them with medical costs and procedures. Most health insurance policies in the U.S. rarely pay for 100% of the medical expenses incurred by illness or accident. For example, with the University's health insurance policy you must pay all of the first $300 of any medical bills incurred each semester. Then the insurance company will pay 70% of the remaining charges and you will be responsible for rest.

Health Insurance at The University of Montana

The University of Montana requires all international students to subscribe to the University’s health and accident insurance plan or to show proof, in English, of adequate medical insurance coverage. This insurance must include sickness as well as accident coverage. Health insurance for spouses and children is highly recommended because of the high cost of health care in the U.S.

The University’s student health insurance policy does not cover the cost of eye examinations or eyeglasses. It is advisable that you have these examinations and procedures done before leaving home. In any situation where the cost of medical treatment is not covered by health insurance, the student, not the University, is responsible for payment.

Health Requirements

Immunization Requirements
Montana immunization laws and The University of Montana require proof of immunizations against certain diseases for all students. Please see the Pre-Registration Immunization Requirement Form sent with your admission documents for exact requirements. These immunizations must be:

- Verified on a validated record or on the Pre-Registration Immunization Requirement Form by a physician or health agency.
- Translated into English.
- Show the dates that the immunizations were given.

The Pre-Registration Immunization Form
Submit the Pre-registration Immunization Requirement Form enclosed in your acceptance folder. You will not be eligible to register for classes until the form has been received with a copy of the required immunizations.

Make a copy for your personal record and bring it with you.

Please send the form to:
Curry Health Center
634 Eddy Ave
Missoula, MT 59812

If you have any more questions about the immunization requirements or the Pre-Registration Immunization Requirements Form, please contact the Curry Health Center by email at medreception@mso.umt.edu or +406.243.4330.
Final Pre-Departure Checklist

☐ Checked that my surname and first names in my passport and I-20 or DS-2019 are the same.

☐ Paid the SEVIS fee.
☐ Obtained F-1 Student Visa.
☐ Completed travel arrangements.
☐ Completed and sent the Personal Data Sheet to FSSS.
☐ Completed application for housing through Residence Life.
☐ Sent the Pre-Registration Immunization Requirements Form to Curry Health Center.

☐ Insure that the necessary funds are available for at least one semester’s expenses.

☐ Obtained proof of health insurance policy in English if not enrolling in the University’s health insurance plan.

☐ Obtained course descriptions for transfer credit in case academic advisors need to examine them.

☐ Gave family and friends the address of Foreign Student & Scholar Services. The University of Montana, Lommasson Center 219, Missoula, Montana 59812, U.S.A.