Pre-Departure and Arrival Information for International Students
Greetings from the University of Montana!

We would like to wish you a warm welcome to UM. You are about to embark on a life-changing adventure, and we are very happy to assist you in making your overseas experience as enjoyable and worry-free as possible. To help you prepare for your arrival in Missoula, we have created this booklet as a guide. If you need more information, or have questions about anything in this guide, please feel free to contact us. We look forward to meeting you very soon!

Travel Hints

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, 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 the following address: Foreign Student & Scholar Services, Lommasson 219, 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.
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.

There are two bus lines that have daily stops in Missoula – Greyhound Lines and Jefferson Lines. Reservations and information can be found at www.greyhound.com and www.jeffersonlines.com.

Transportation to the University
Free transportation from the airport or bus station is available if we are notified in advance. 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 Hall’s 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
- Doubletree Hotel: www.doubletree.com
- Comfort Inn: www.comfortinn.com
- Holiday Inn: www.holidayinn.com

Important Dates

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summer 2015 (ELI only)</th>
<th>Fall 2015</th>
<th>Spring 2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Must arrive by</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 25</td>
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<td>Orientation</td>
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<td>Classes begin</td>
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<td>May 28</td>
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<td>Classes end</td>
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<td>July 24</td>
<td>Dec. 11</td>
<td>May 6</td>
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<td>Finals</td>
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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](http://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** you will need your **DS-2019**, statement of financial support and your valid country passport, as well as proof you paid the SEVIS fee.

3. Before you leave for the United States, it is a good idea to **familiarize yourself with the different types 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](http://www.umt.edu/fsss) and click on **“Future Student.”**

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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, books 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.

**Wire Transfer with peerTransfer**
The University of Montana and peerTransfer offer an innovative and streamlined way to make international wires for tuition payments. It’s fast, simple and cost effective from any country any time. Just go to [www.peertransfer.com](http://www.peertransfer.com)

**Deferred Payment Plan:** You may choose to divide your total tuition, mandatory fees, room and board in three payments. There is a $30.00 service fee for each semester you choose this option.

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**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.
Attend Orientation: All new students are required to attend orientation. Orientation will cover important topics such as immigrations regulations; campus, academic, social and recreation activities; community resources and course registration. International students should plan to arrive at least one day prior to the start of orientation.

**SUMMER 2015 (ELI ONLY)**
Must arrive by May 25
International student orientation: May 26–27

**FALL 2015**
Must arrive by August 23
International student orientation: August 24–28

**SPRING 2016**
Must arrive by January 18
International student orientation: January 19–22

Buy Books: The Bookstore at the University of Montana makes it easy to find the exact textbooks you need for every class. They also offer a book rental option to help reduce the cost of books. You can visit their website at www.montanabookstore.com

The Missoula Climate
Missoula has a semi-arid climate, with cold and moderately snowy winters, hot and dry summers, but spring and autumn are short and crisp in between.

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<th>May</th>
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<th>Sep</th>
<th>Oct</th>
<th>Nov</th>
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<tr>
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<td>-1.6</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>11.0</td>
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<td>18.8</td>
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<td>8.1</td>
<td>14.2</td>
<td>18.7</td>
<td>23.3</td>
<td>28.6</td>
<td>27.9</td>
<td>21.6</td>
<td>13.9</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>13.5</td>
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<tr>
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<td>-3.9</td>
<td>-0.6</td>
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<td>7.8</td>
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<td>0.2</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>13.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Snowfall (cm)</td>
<td>31.24</td>
<td>18.5</td>
<td>15.24</td>
<td>5.33</td>
<td>1.75</td>
<td>&lt;.13</td>
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<td>&lt;.13</td>
<td>&lt;.13</td>
<td>2.03</td>
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<td>Rain (cm)</td>
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<td>2.54</td>
<td>4.57</td>
<td>4.57</td>
<td>2.28</td>
<td>3.05</td>
<td>2.79</td>
<td>1.78</td>
<td>.51</td>
<td>2.03</td>
<td>34.29</td>
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Clothing: In general, University students dress informally for classes. In the warmer months you will see students wearing shorts, jeans, trousers, t-shirts, blouses, sandals and tennis shoes. As the temperatures get colder students begin to wear long-sleeve shirts, sweaters, long pants, jackets, hats, gloves and warm shoes or boots. You can plan to purchase your cold weather clothing in Missoula once the weather begins to get colder.
How to apply

Students apply online at http://life.umt.edu/rlo/ Each application must be accompanied by a deposit of $225 for the Residence Halls or $325 for Lewis & Clark Village. University Villages requires a $25 non-refundable fee.

Residence Halls
The Residence Halls at the University of Montana are designed for single students and provide housing during Autumn and Spring semesters. Any student with less than 30 credits and without dependents is required to live in the Residence Halls.

The University of Montana offers students a variety of options for their on-campus housing experience. We have nine different residence halls offering single rooms, double rooms, triple rooms, three-person pods, and four-person suites. We have one all-female hall, one all-male hall, and seven co-ed halls available to students. We also offer several Living Learning Communities for students within the residence halls. The Intercultural/International Living/Learning Community is one of the on-campus housing options that helps enhance meaningful interaction between American and International Students.

What’s in my room?
All residence halls are equipped with standard twin-size beds, desks, chest of drawers, closet, chair, bookshelf, overhead light, network connection, and a wastebasket.

Students can order their room linens in advance from our online partner, On Campus Marketing. We encourage you to check out their website for linen options that you may purchase for your Residence Hall room. Go to http://www.rhl.org/uma.

Lewis & Clark Village
Lewis and Clark Village offers furnished two-bedroom and three-bedroom apartments for single students who have achieved 60 or more credits. Apartments have common living space with the kitchen, bathroom, and living room with private bedrooms. Lewis and Clark Village is conveniently located on the South Campus of the University of Montana. Lewis and Clark is within close walking distance to campus and is just a short drive or bus ride to Missoula College.

Applications for Lewis and Clark apartments are accepted at anytime; however, you must be accepted for admission to the University of Montana or Missoula College before housing can be assigned. The date indicated on the application as the earliest housing date wanted will affect your position on the waiting list. If a unit becomes available prior to the date you have indicated, you may not be offered that apartment; therefore, you will want to put down the earliest date you are willing to start paying rent on a unit.

University Villages
University Villages are unfurnished apartments ranging in size from studios to four-bedroom apartments. Housing priority is given to students who are married, have dependent children, and students who have disabilities. Single graduate and undergraduate students, as well as faculty and staff, may also live in University Villages.

University Villages are conveniently located on the South Campus of The University of Montana. University Villages are within close walking distance of the main campus and are a just a short drive or bus ride (or a reasonable walk) to Missoula College.

Applications are accepted at any time; however, you must be accepted for admission to the University of Montana or Missoula College before housing can be assigned. The date indicated on the application as the earliest housing date wanted will affect your position on the waiting list. If a unit becomes available prior to the date you have indicated, you may not be offered that apartment; therefore, you will want to put down the earliest date you are willing to start paying rent on a unit.
Health Insurance

All international students are required to have and to maintain major medical insurance while residing in the United States. This insurance must include sickness as well as accident coverage. In any situation where the cost of medical treatment is not covered by health insurance, the student, not the University, is responsible for payment. To read more about the University’s student health insurance plan you can visit their website at www.umt.edu/curry-health-center/insurance/

Health Requirements at UM

Medical Requirement Form
All students must submit this completed form before beginning classes. During your orientation you will tour the student health center and have an opportunity to submit your form if you have not already done so. This form was enclosed in your acceptance folder. It can also be found on the website at www.umt.edu/curry-health-center/Forms.php

Immunization Requirements
Montana immunization laws and the University of Montana require proof of immunizations against certain diseases for all students. These immunizations must be:
• Verified on the Medical Requirement Form by a physician or health agency.
• Translated into English.
• Show the dates that the immunizations were given.
If you have any questions about the immunizations requirements or the Medical Requirement Form, contact Curry Health Center by email at medreception@mso.umt.edu.

WORKING IN THE USA 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 UM.
Final Pre-Departure Checklist

☐ Checked that my name and other information on my I-20 or DS - 2019 match those in my passport.

☐ Paid the SEVIS fee.

☐ Obtained F-1 Student Visa.

☐ Completed travel arrangements.

☐ Completed and sent the Personal Data Sheet.

☐ Completed application for housing through Residence Life.

☐ Sent the Medical Requirement Form to Curry Health Center.

☐ Ensured 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.