

Dear New International Students,

We are excited to have you at William & Mary and VIMS!

We have compiled a checklist of important, and required (★), steps to help ease your transition to life at W&M and in the U.S. If you have any questions, contact ISSP at globe@wm.edu, or [visit our office](#) after you arrive in the U.S.

We look forward to welcoming you to campus!

Staff at the Office of International Students, Scholars & Programs (ISSP)

Before You Arrive

Request Immigration Document from ISSP ★

All new international students studying in F-1 or J-1 status must [request an I-20/DS-2019](#) from the Office of International Students, Scholars & Programs (ISSP). An I-20/DS-2019 is required to apply for an F-1/J-1 student visa to study in the U.S. After paying the W&M admissions deposit, you will receive an email from ISSP with instructions on how to request an I-20/DS-2019 in iStart.

Pay the SEVIS Fee and Apply for an F-1/J-1 Student Visa ★

To enter the U.S. as an F-1/J-1 student, you will need to apply for a student visa at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate. Before applying for your visa, you must [pay a SEVIS fee](#); you will bring the receipt to your scheduled visa interview. For more information: [F-1 Students](#); [J-1 Students](#).

Review Pre-Arrival Emails ★

During the weeks leading up to your arrival in the U.S., you will receive a series of pre-arrival emails from ISSP with important topics for new international students. Make sure to check your W&M email regularly!

Secure Off-Campus Housing (if applicable)

There are many off-campus housing resources and opportunities to explore. Some students arrange housing before arriving, while others make [short-term housing arrangements](#) first and then look for rentals after arriving. Visit ISSP's [Off-Campus Housing](#) webpage for additional resources.

Health Records & Insurance Requirement ★

Students must submit a [Health Evaluation Form](#) to the Student Health Center by **June 1** or **January 10**, depending on the semester of enrollment. This provides the Student Health Center with a medical history and official immunization record for each student. If you are missing any of the required vaccinations upon your arrival to the U.S., you can complete your missing vaccines at the [Student Health Center](#).

Due to the high cost of healthcare in the U.S., all international students must be enrolled in the [W&M Student Health Insurance Plan](#). New students will be enrolled in and billed for the student Insurance plan if they do not request an insurance [waiver](#) by **July 31** or **January 10**, depending on the semester of enrollment.

Schedule Airport Transportation

Explore our [Arrival Transportation](#) webpage to decide which airport to fly into and transportation options to W&M and VIMS.

After You Arrive

- Complete Immigration Check-in with ISSP ★**
 You must be **in the U.S.** to complete the online immigration check-in:
 - 1) Login to [iStart](#) using your W&M login.
 - 2) Select **Immigration Check-In** from the left menu.
 - 3) Select the **Immigration Check-In** e-form and complete the information.

- Connect to the W&M Network**
 Wireless internet is free for you to use when you are on-campus.
 - Use your W&M ID and password to [authenticate your computer](#). Select **eduroam** setup.
 - Problems? Contact the **Technology Support Center** at 757-221-4357 or support@wm.edu.

- Attend International Student Orientation ★**
[International Student Orientation](#) is **required** for new **F-1** and **J-1** international students in the U.S., and is designed to make your transition to campus as smooth and successful as possible. Required orientation sessions will be held multiple times virtually in the weeks leading up to the start of the semester.

- Attend New Student Orientation ★**
 Undergraduate international students, including transfer and exchange students, are also required to join W&M's [New Student Orientation](#). *Graduate students will have separate orientations with their academic programs.*

- Get your Tribe Card (W&M ID card) ★**
 The [Tribe Card](#) is W&M's official form of identification. New student cards are typically issued by [Tribe Card Services](#) during or after your New Student Orientation program. To start the process, visit the [Photo Submission](#) webpage, and complete all three steps.

- Apply for a Social Security Numbers (SSN)**
 Students who will be working on-campus need a [Social Security Number \(SSN\)](#) for payment and tax purposes. SSNs are only granted to F-1 students with work authorization or J-1 students who apply for the number.

- Open a U.S. Bank Account**
 To [open a bank account](#), you will need to apply in-person and provide the following items: a valid passport, your W&M ID (some banks may offer benefits to students), and your physical street address and mailing address.

- Cell Phone Service and SIM cards**
 Take your time to do some research and talk to current students to decide if you need to purchase a new cell phone, select a phone service contract plan, or purchase a SIM card. For more information, visit ISSP's [Cell Phone/SIM cards](#) webpage.

- Get a Driver's License**
 If you plan to do a lot of driving in Virginia, or to other U.S. States, it is advisable to apply for a VA Driver's License. If you are employed in the U.S. and/or have a registered car in VA, you must obtain a Virginia license within **60 days**. For more information about Driver's Licenses, please visit ISSP's [Getting a U.S. Driver's License](#) webpage.