

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Undergraduate Exchange Information Sheet – 2024-25

Learn how to apply and prepare to become an undergraduate exchange student at Ohio State.

Contact Information

Office Name: Office of International Affairs

Exchange Program Coordinator: Ms. Caroline Omolesky
Program Officer for Sponsored Programs & Academic Liaison
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Application Process

Deadlines: Autumn Semester and full year: February 15
Spring Semester only: September 1

Link to online application: https://delegated.erppub.osu.edu/psc/ps/EMPLOYEE/CAMP/c/OAD_GEA.OAD_GEA_NUR_APL_FL.GBL

Required materials:

- Photocopy of passport
- Copy of official university transcript
- Proof of English language proficiency
- Proof of sufficient funding (approx. \$12,000 per semester)
- Letter of recommendation from university professor or exchange coordinator
- Personal statement from the applicant.
- For complete details, also see: <https://oia.osu.edu/exchange-students/application-instructions.html>

Minimum required scores:

- GPA: 3.0, or equivalent
- English proficiency: 79 on iBT TOEFL; 6.5 on IELTS; 120 on Duolingo

Pre-Departure

Housing options:	Campus housing website: http://www.housing.osu.edu/. Students are e-mailed housing contracts soon after admission, if space is available. Please note that placement in on-campus housing is not guaranteed. Students may also elect to live off-campus, and assistance is available through the office of Off-Campus and Commuter Student Services: http://offcampus.osu.edu/.
Immigration information:	Upon admission exchange students are issued a Form DS-2019, to apply for a J-1 student visa. Immigration advising is through the Office of International Affairs.
Health insurance:	All exchange students in J-1 status are required to purchase Ohio State's Comprehensive Health Benefits Plan. For the '23-'24 academic year the cost of insurance per semester is \$1,884 (may increase for '25-'26). For full details, visit http://shi.osu.edu/.
Vaccination requirement:	All exchange students are required to show proof of having received certain vaccines prior to arrival, or receive them at the Student Health Center on campus. For full details, see: http://shc.osu.edu/services/vaccinations/vaccination-requirement/.
Estimated living expenses:	Students must show a minimum of \$11,900 per semester (subject to change), in a personal or family bank statement, to prove they can cover living expenses and non-academic fees, including health insurance.

Arrival and Orientation

Airport information:	Students should plan to fly into John Glenn Columbus International Airport (CMH), located approximately 20 minutes from campus by car. Office of International Affairs provides free taxi vouchers to international students, for transportation from the airport to campus.
When to arrive:	Students may arrive no more than 30 days prior to the start of classes (also the start date on the DS-2019) and are recommended to arrive two to three weeks prior to that start date. Students must plan arrival in accordance with the Check-In and Orientation requirements (see below).
Immigration Check-In:	A federally mandated requirement for all incoming international students. Immigration Check-In is held during the three weeks prior to the start of Autumn Semester and the week prior to the start of Spring Semester. Students register for an immigration check-in date and time in advance (https://oia.osu.edu/units/international-students/new-

[student-check-in-and-orientation/immigration-check-in-process/](https://oia.osu.edu/units/international-students/new-student-check-in-and-orientation/immigration-check-in-process/)).

New International Student Orientation:	All new international students, including exchange students, are required to attend orientation, which is an introduction to life at Ohio State. For additional details, see: https://oia.osu.edu/units/international-students/new-student-check-in-and-orientation/orientation/ .
Exchange student meeting:	This mandatory meeting covers important information about being an exchange student and gives students a chance to meet and socialize with each other.

Academic Information

Academic calendar:	Autumn Semester 2025: August 26 – December 21 Spring Semester 2026: January 12 – May 10 For full calendar, see http://registrar.osu.edu/staff/bigcal.asp .
Course catalog:	https://registrar.osu.edu/courses/
Course registration:	In their first semester students register through their academic advisor. In further terms they can register online on their own.
Academic Advising:	Students are assigned to an advisor through the Office of Extended Education (https://extendeded.osu.edu/) or through their major department, when available. Advisors help students select coursework, assist with adding and dropping classes and provide general academic guidance.
Course load:	Students are required to enroll full time, taking a minimum of 12 credit hours per semester, to maintain J-1 immigration status. Most exchange students take between 12-15 credits per term, and registration above 18 credit hours is not permitted. At least 9 of the required 12 credit hours must be taken in-person or hybrid (not online).
Grading:	A – E grading system; D is the highest passing grade. Some courses are graded on an “S/U” basis only (satisfactory/unsatisfactory).
Transcript issuance:	OIA’s exchange coordinator mails a final transcript for all students directly to their home institution upon completion of studies, free of cost. Further transcripts can be ordered by a student through the Registrar’s website: http://registrar.osu.edu/alumni/index_transcript.asp .

Student Support Services

Office of International Affairs International Students & Scholars:	Caroline Omolesky (contact info above) at OIA provides immigration advising, and serves as a
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<https://oia.osu.edu/international-students.html>

Office of International Affairs

Global Engagement:

<https://oia.osu.edu/get-involved/global-engagement>

Intercultural English Language Programs:

<https://ielp.ehe.osu.edu/>

Writing Center:

<https://cstw.osu.edu/writing-center>

Dennis Learning Center:

<http://dennislearningcenter.osu.edu/>

Counseling & Consultation Service:

<https://ccs.osu.edu/>

Student Health Services:

<http://shs.osu.edu/>

Buckeye Link:

<http://contactbuckeyelink.osu.edu/>

Student Organizations:

https://activities.osu.edu/involvement/student_organizations/

Disability Services:

<https://slds.osu.edu/>

first point of contact for any other questions.

OIA's Global Engagement team aims to bring together domestic and international students through cross-cultural programming. All exchange students are signed up for GE's weekly newsletter, which advertises fun and educational events.

Students may (but are not required to) register for English as a second language coursework.

The Writing Center offers free help with writing at any stage of the writing process.

The Learning Center offers courses, workshops and coaching to help students develop study skills such as time management, stress management, motivation, test-taking strategies, reading skills, etc.

Up to 10 free sessions of counseling are available to all students enrolled in the Ohio State student health plan. Counseling is available in many languages other than English.

Offers a wide range of non-emergency medical care and pharmacy services.

Consolidated service center encompassing the Registrar, Bursar, Financial Aid and Admissions. Assists with fee payment, transcript issuance and other administrative business.

Exchange students are strongly encouraged to get involved in student organizations, of which Ohio State has hundreds. A great way to connect with current students.

Disability Services provides services for and coordinates accommodations for students with a wide variety of disabilities.

This list of student support services on campus is not exhaustive. There are many other offices that provide specialized support for students, in a variety of domains.

