F-1 Student
ARRIVAL CHECKLIST

The MSU OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS is responsible for advising on F-1 international student regulations. The following is a list of important steps to prepare for your arrival on the Minot State University campus. We look forward to meeting you!

Carefully review the MSU Office of International Programs Website
It has answers to most of your questions, including detailed information on arriving in the U.S., health insurance, taxes, and social security numbers.
www.MinotStateU.edu/international/services.shtml

Get a passport (if you haven’t done so already)
A passport is required for entry into the U.S.

Speak to your insurance providers
Make sure everything is in order with your insurance providers to continue coverage while you are a student in the U.S. Download the required forms for each provider and send them to the MSU Registrar’s Office for verification of enrollment, if necessary.
• Provincial Health Insurance – each province has its own form. Contact your Provincial Health Office.
• Private Health Insurance – if you have insurance coverage through a private provider, contact that company for information on what is needed from MSU to continue your coverage.
• Auto Insurance (if bringing your car to the U.S.) – you must maintain liability insurance on your car at all times. You do not need to get a North Dakota license or register your car in the U.S., as long as you maintain valid F-1 student status.

Pay the SEVIS Fee
SEVIS (Student Exchange Visitor Information System) is an internet-based system in which the U.S. Department of Homeland Security maintains information on non-immigrant visitors holding F visas. You can pay the SEVIS fee to the Department of Homeland Security by mail or online. The fee can be paid by you or by a third party, inside or outside the U.S. The fee must be paid at least 3 business days BEFORE crossing at a U.S. port of entry.

To pay the SEVIS fee online:
• Find the Form I-901 at www.Fmjfee.com.
• Complete the form online and pay the fee. Be sure to write your name on the form I-901 exactly as it appears on your I-20.
• After paying the fee, print your SEVIS fee receipt by entering your SEVIS ID number, last name, and date of birth. Your SEVIS ID number can be found at the top of your I-20.
• Make copies of your receipt, and keep it with your other important immigration documents.

Fill out a Canada Student Loan application
MSU is an eligible recipient institution for Canada Student Loans. Student loan applications are available online starting in June of each year. Start the process early as loans are usually processed at a date later than tuition and fees are due. You can send your Program Information Form directly to the International Student Coordinator by email. www.canlearn.ca

Sign and date your I-20 on the bottom of page 1
Review the regulations on page 3.

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Provide Immunization Records
Official immunization documentation must be submitted to the MSU Student Health Center prior to your arrival in Minot. For more information regarding immunizations or health records, contact the center at +1-701-858-3371 or visit their website at www.MinotStateU.edu/health.

Entry into United States
You must bring all of your documentation regarding Minot State University in order to successfully obtain entry into the U.S. Without proper documentation and identification, you will be denied entry until all documentation is present.
• Form I-20
• Passport
• Six American dollars – to pay for the I-94, a white card that border officers will staple into your passport
• Admission letter – sent by Enrollment Services with your I-20
• I-901 SEVIS fee receipt
• Financial documentation – the same documents you sent to Enrollment Services to prove eligibility to receive an I-20

When to Arrive
You may enter the United States up to 30 days before the Program Begin Date listed on your I-20. We recommend that you arrive in Minot at least 1 to 2 days before the beginning of CONNECT orientation so you have time to get settled and begin to recover from jet lag.

If you will live on campus, please note that you are responsible for informing the Housing Office of your arrival date and time. International students are given a special allowance to arrive prior to the official check-in dates so that you can attend CONNECT and to get settled over the weekend. However, you MUST notify the Housing Office of your expected arrival date and time AT LEAST 3 DAYS IN ADVANCE in order to ensure that staff will be available to assist you when you need them. As soon as you know your arrival details, contact the Housing Office at msu.housing@minotstateu.edu or +1-701-858-3363.

Attend the Mandatory International F-1 Regulations Workshop
This meeting typically takes place on the first Monday of the semester in the morning (classes commence after 4:00 pm that day). You will receive an email from the International Student Coordinator approximately one month before classes start to confirm the workshop date, time, and location.

Enjoy Life as an MSU Student!

Questions? Contact the Office of International Programs!
elizabeth.sund@minotstateu.edu
www.MinotStateU.edu/international

Attendance at the INTERNATIONAL F-1 REGULATIONS WORKSHOP is MANDATORY for ALL new international and Canadian students at MSU, including transfer students.

During this meeting, you will learn about U.S. federal F-1 visa regulations and rules that you must comply with in order to remain in the country in legal student status.

The F-1 Regulations Workshop is in addition to the campus-wide CONNECT orientation, which is run by the Student Success Center. You may also be required to attend Transitions in the afternoon, which is run by the Center for Engaged Teaching and Learning.

Bring the following items with you to the F-1 Regulations Workshop:
✔ Form I-20
✔ Passport
✔ I-901 SEVIS fee receipt
✔ Form I-94 (students who enter the U.S. by air only have an electronic version)
✔ Your local address in Minot
✔ Copy of your current immunization records

Attendance at the International F-1 Regulations Workshop is considered to be so important that if you fail to attend, an administrative “Hold” will be placed on your MSU student record, and you will not be able to add or drop classes. Your registration in SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System) could also be delayed, which could create future concerns with the Department of Homeland Security.

During the workshop you will also meet with representatives from Student Health to check over your immunization records to ensure you are ready to begin your studies at MSU.