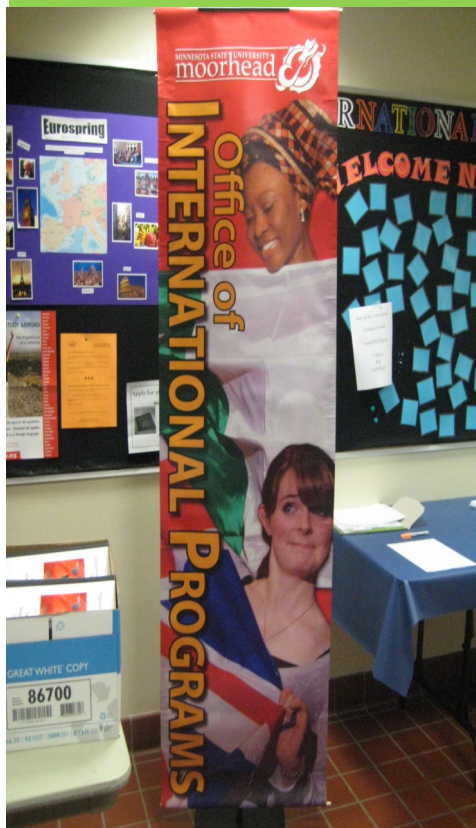


Spring 2012 International Student Mandatory Orientation January 3-7th, 2012



It's a good day to be a Dragon! Welcome to MSUM and Minnesota!



All international students must attend the mandatory International Student Orientation from **January 3 through 7th, 2012**. Please arrange your accommodations, arrival and airport pick-up accordingly.

International students can move into their assigned dorm rooms prior to orientation (if they are living on campus) for \$15 per night until January 6th (noon) 2012 (on-campus living and meal plan start date).

If a student fails to attend the mandatory Orientation, a hold will be placed on the student's account to prevent from future registration.

Orientation sessions are **IMPORTANT!**

Arrive early? Things you can do:

- Say "hello" and provide your passport, I-20 & I-94 (white card you fill out on the plane) for photocopying at International Student Services
- Pay the required minimum amount of \$1,500 at the Business Office

What to bring to Orientation:

- Passport
- I-20 or DS-2019
- I-94 card (white card that you fill out on the plane)
- \$1,319 payment to MSUM
- SAT scores (if you taken SAT)
- Immunization records
- **Students transferring from another U.S. institution:** Bring your final official transcript (if you did not send it already)
- Know your local (MN) address (on-campus or off-campus)

What's inside:

- Mandatory dates
- What to bring
- What to know
- Health screening test
- Diplomats
- Living on campus
- Employment
- In-State Scholarship criteria
- Tuesday schedule
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- Thursday schedule
- Friday (Registration Day)
- Saturday Schedule
- ISS staff information
- Days to remember
- ISO committee members
- Acronyms/Important days

Hosted By:
International Student Services

CMU 229
218-477-2956
intlads@mnstate.edu
www.mnstate.edu/intl

Why do we need to attend Orientation?

We know that you are tired from your exhausting, long journey to the United States. Orientation is mandatory because we want you to have a very pleasant experience here at Minnesota State University Moorhead, so we are going to conduct sessions, give presentations and host events to make you aware of what MSUM offers and how to successfully complete your education here. You will also meet International Student Services (ISS) staff, MSUM staff and faculty, new students just like you, our wonderful Diplomats and other students. We are your new family and are here to help you — we want you to succeed! By attending Orientation, you will be at ease to live, learn and enjoy MSUM.

Yes, Orientation is mandatory for you to attend because we have sessions that will help you as a student at MSUM. Even if you have attended another U.S. institution, the policies & procedures at MSUM may differ from your previous school. **You will be assigned to a Diplomat at Orientation and the group with the most involvement will win fabulous prizes. Enjoy the orientation. ORIENTATION is for YOU!**

Am I a transfer student? What is a credit transfer?

The word “transfer student” has many meanings. For immigration purposes, it means you have previously studied and remained in the United States and directly “transferred” from your previous U.S.

institution listed in the SEVIS system to MSUM. For academic purposes, you may have credits that “transfer” to MSUM from either a foreign or U.S. institution. For students transferring credit from an overseas institution, please submit your transcripts to ECE or WES. For more information on transferring credits, please attend the **Wednesday January 18th 6:00pm in CMU 216**. We will talk about how to do the ECE/WES evaluation process at this meeting. In Diplomat group sessions, “transfer” is for students transferring from another U.S. institution.

HEALTH CHECK IS MANDATORY!

A health check will be administered on at Hendrix Health Center. This is a **mandatory requirement**. Health Check is on Thursday 5th of January from 8am to noon. If you do not attend the health check a **HOLD** will be placed on your account and you will not be able to register for future classes. Please bring your medical records with you to the health check. Depending on your medical records and the health check results, a nurse will advise you whether or not to do a TB test. If the nurse makes the TB test mandatory for you then you **must** do the TB test. Please stop by International Student Services to make an appointment for the TB test. You must have purchased the MSUM insurance (or have another form of insurance for exchange students only!) at the day/time of the TB test.

What to know when living on campus:

Explore your residence hall:

Locate the hall main desk, mail boxes, vending machines, hall kitchenettes, TV's and the laundry machines. Each dorm room may have different facilities (i.e. aerobics area, game room). Be familiar with how the floors are laid out. Every residence hall has a front desk, usually located near the main entrance of the residence hall. You will receive a key for your mailbox, so check your mail. Pay attention to the emergency exits and ,most importantly, visit with your Resident Assistant (RA) or the Front Desk staff if RAs are not available. **NEVER leave your dorm room un-locked. You are responsible for your own belongings.**

Kitchenette facility:

Each residence hall/floor has their own kitchenette. Food preparations should be limited only to these areas. Kitchenettes are equipped with a microwave or stove unit and a sink for washing and cleaning. You will need to purchase your own supplies (pots, pans, plates, utensils, cups, etc.). You must clean up after yourself when you are done. If you leave any dishes unattended they will be thrown out the next day. Every dorm will have staff to do simple cleaning. Please be considerate of other members living in the residence hall. Please do not leave cooking unattended. Smoke from burned food will activate the smoke alarms and will involve the Moorhead Fire Department and will cause you an administrative fine. You will be responsible to cover the cost pertaining to damages caused by you.

Laundry:

Laundry rooms are available in each residence hall. If you are unsure where your laundry room is located, please check with the front desk staff of your residence hall or consult your RA. You will need quarters (25c) to operate the machines.

Making phone calls/e-mail:

Each dorm room has a phone. Please remember to check for the volume switch of the phone as it is set at zero. If you want to make a call to another campus number, just dial the last 4 numbers. If you are making a local call (Fargo-Moorhead), dial 9-(seven digit phone number). You can dial 1-800 numbers for free, but you must use a phone card or collect call for long-distance calls.

Food:

On-campus dining does not begin until the afternoon of August 18th. International students are required to arrive to campus on August 10th for Orientation. Café Connection (Flora Frick), Dragon Stop (by the book store) & Subs and Sweet (CMU) will be open for limited hours. You will be provided with all three meals on August 16th. Breakfast and lunch will be provided on August 17th, however you must buy your own dinner. There are many restaurants in the vicinity including China Garden, McDonalds, Taco Bell, KFC, Erbert & Gerbert's, Buffalo Wild Wings, pizza delivery restaurants & Hornbachers (grocery food market) where you can buy food, rent DVDs, buy phone cards and much more. **Please note: You cannot consume alcohol on MSUM property (including dorms) even if you are of the legal age of 21. It is illegal to consume alcohol if you are under 21. Severe consequences will apply if you do so.**

Shopping:

There are many shopping areas around Fargo-Moorhead for your shopping needs. Moorhead Center Mall is the closest and has men's, women's and children's clothing, a hair salon, nail salon and a few dining places. Wal-Mart, Target and K-mart are a few miles away (take the local bus) and have everything from grocery items to electronics, books, movies, clothes and toiletries. West Acres Shopping Center in Fargo (take the local bus) is a larger mall with several clothing stores, salons, a food court, etc. Best Buy in Fargo (take the local bus) has electronics such as computers, iPods, cameras, GPS's, and much more.

Visit www.mnstate.edu/housing for more information.

Employment:

Working 20 hours/week on campus:

All international students are eligible to work on campus ONLY for up to 20 hours/week when school is in session and

40 hours/week when school is not in session. You will need a Social Security Number (SSN), but must secure a job on campus before you can apply for a SSN. You may work while your SSN card is still processing/pending. [We will give you tips on how to secure a job on campus and obtain a SSN during orientation.]

Working more than 20 hours/week on campus:

Some international students have been fortunate to find more than one on-campus job. Your combined working hours cannot go over the 20 hour/week limit or you will be violating immigration rules. If you work 15 hours at Sodexho plus 10 hours at Campus Security during one week, that is considered an F-1 status violation. You put yourself at much risk by trying to "beat" the system. While a student may feel they are gaining a financial advantage by doing this, the gains are very short-term with potential long-term and devastating effects. Through Social Security and tax records, the hours worked become available to immigration officials. They can use that information when reviewing a student's proper status and eligibility for other F-1 benefits like Practical Training, and change of status to H1B or permanent residence. Do not risk these major consequences for minor financial gains. You are not only protecting your immigration status with Homeland Security, but also helping other international students by increasing their employment options while you follow the 20 hours/week maximum.

TO WORK AT NDSU OR CONCORDIA COLLEGE, YOU MUST HAVE OFF-CAMPUS WORK AUTHORIZATION! EVEN IF YOU ARE TAKING TRI-COLLEGE CLASSES, IT DOES NOT GIVE YOU AUTHORIZATION TO WORK AT ALL THREE INSTITUTIONS.

Working off campus:

International Students are **not** allowed to work off campus WITHOUT proper work authorization. **IF** you work off campus without proper authorization, it will result in deportation, cancelled OPT privileges and fines. You will be risking your chances of permanent residency or H1B if that is your future plan by seeking employment off campus without proper authorization. There are a few options for off campus employment: Curricular Practical Training (CPT), Optional Practical Training (OPT) and Economic Hardship, but you must consult with International Student Services to apply for these options.

Visit www.mnstate.edu/intl/employment.cfm for more information.

In-State Tuition Scholarship:

All international students will automatically receive the in-state tuition scholarship their first semester at MSUM. However, to continue receiving the scholarship, students are required to attend Orientation their first semester, maintain good academic standing and contribute 10 hours of volunteer work for MSUM and the Fargo-Moorhead community. The volunteer hour form is available on our website and is due on commencement day of every semester. Please read all e-mails International Student Services sends out as they include important information regarding deadlines, document submission, volunteer opportunities, etc. Do not wait until the last minute to submit your form or look for volunteer hours. The scholarship is a great opportunity to build a strong resume. You can build your professional experience by volunteering in an area which closely relates to your field of study. This way you gain professional experience as well as an economic benefit.

Visit www.mnstate.edu/intl/volunteerhours.cfm for more information.

Tuesday, January 3rd — CMU Ballroom (Mandatory)

- **8:30am: Check-In at CMU Ballroom / Breakfast**

Please bring your passport, I-20 or DS-2019, visa and I-94 for us to photocopy. You will fill out forms, so bring a pen.

- **9:00am: Welcome — Welcome: Provost Dr. Anne Blackhurst, VP Diane Solinger**

Meet the ISS staff and your Diplomats

You will be introduced to International Student Services staff & Diplomats. Office hours and other important information will be discussed.

- **9:30am: Completing Immigration Documents**

You will complete immigration documents that ISS staff needs in order to update the immigration database.

- **11:30am: Student Conduct — Ashley Atteberry, MSUM Student Judicial Officer**

You will learn about acceptable behaviors on campus and good ethics.



- **12:00pm: Lunch**

- **1:00pm: Immigration Information: What you Need to Know**

We will discuss immigration basics, such as maintaining your legal status in the United States, on-campus jobs, internships and more.

- **2:30pm: Diplomat Session**

Get to know your Diplomats. Ask questions and get to know the others in your group.

- **3:00pm: Living on Campus** (Mandatory for students living on campus.)

Information regarding living on campus.

- **3:30pm: Banking 101 — Affinity Plus Credit Union**

Learn about banking in the U.S., money handling, savings and how to open a bank account.



Tuesday, 3rd of January 2012 — CMU Ballroom (Mandatory)

- **4:00 p.m. — 6:00 p.m. Dinner — China Garden**
Shuttles will depart the CMU Parking lot at 4:00 p.m. If weather is nice, we will walk, so wear comfortable shoes.
- **6:00 p.m. — Ongoing Shopping — Wal-Mart and Target**
We will have shuttles available for you to go shopping, you must sign-up. Ask your diplomat for more info.

Wednesday, 4th of January 2012 —CMU Ballroom (Mandatory)

- **8:00am — 9:00am: Light Breakfast**
- **9:00am: Academic Integrity and Plagiarism**
Learn about plagiarism, how to write papers and how to do research for a paper.
- **9:00am — 4:00pm: Need a Cell Phone?**
Ask from your Diplomat!!!!!!
- **9:30am: MSUM Public Safety**
Learn how you can be safe on-campus
- **10:00am Officer Jeff Nelson, Moorhead Police Department**
Learn about public safety, partying, safe driving, alcohol and drug usage and campus violations.
- **11:00am: Counseling and Personal Growth Session**
- **11:30am: International Student Organization - Join the ISO today!**
- **12:00pm: Lunch**
- **1:00pm: Wellness Center and Hendrix Health Center Procedures**
- **1:30pm: Health Insurance**
Learn about your mandatory Health Insurance plan and coverage.
- **2:00pm: Business Office**
- **2:30pm: Cultural Adjustment Session**
Learn about the differences between your culture and the U.S. culture, classroom behavior and more.
- **5:00pm: Dinner — Dinner—Sponsored by ISS**

Thursday 5th of January 2012— Mandatory

- **9:00am — Noon: MANDATORY Health Screening Test — Hendrix Health Center**
ALL INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS (INCLUDING U.S. TRANSFER) MUST DO THE HEALTH SCREENING TEST!
After the health screening test, Hendrix Health Center staff will let you know if you need to do the TB blood test. We will provide more information regarding the TB blood test later. If you have a pre-existing condition(s), please bring supporting medical documents. BRING THE COMPLETE IMMUNIZATION FORM ON THIS DAY. This form is available at www.mnstate.edu/hendrix/immunization.cfm. **If you fail to participate in the health screening test, a hold will be placed on your student record preventing from registering for future semesters.**
- If you do get done with the Health Check early, you can walk to the Business Office to make the minimum payment
- **1pm to 4:00pm MANDATORY Math Placement Test — MA 169**
All undergraduate freshman and transfer students are required to take the Accuplacer math test! Transfer students who meet certain requirements are exempt from taking this test, but must provide written proof to ARO. Math placement will be waived if you scored 490 or higher for your SATs (math section). Please bring your SAT score report in order for the math test to be waived.

Friday 6th of January 2012—CMU Ballroom REGISTRATION — Mandatory!

9:00am: Freshman Registration — CMU BALLROOM

Exchange Students: All exchange students should already be registered for Fall 2011 courses. If you want to change your course schedule, you may attend the afternoon session to do so.

12:00pm: Lunch

12:30pm: Transfer Registration — CMU BALLROOM

1:00pm: Fun Events planned by SOCs (Student Orientation Course)

3:00pm: Campus/Fargo-Moorhead City Tour — Get to Know Your Diplomats and SOCs

Dinner: On Your Own

Saturday 7th of January 2012—Bowling Afternoon

2pm to 6pm

Join current international students for a bowling afternoon at the Sunset Lanes. We will depart MSUM at 2pm and return to MSUM at 6pm. Please sign-up during the orientation.

IMPORTANT

Do not consult your friends for information pertaining to MSUM and/or immigration information. Even though your friends may have gone through the same scenario, the laws, rules & regulations may have changed. What applied to your friend may no longer apply. **PLEASE CONSULT INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES FOR IMMIGRATION INFORMATION AND RELEVANT MSUM DEPARTMENTS FOR MSUM RELATED QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS. WE ARE HERE TO ASSIST YOU!**

International Student Services Information

Office Hours: Monday — Friday 8:00am to 4:30pm (Closed on federal holidays)

Contact Information

Janet Hohenstein—Director: hohenst@mnstate.edu

Ludmi Herath—Programs Coordinator: ludmi.herath@mnstate.edu

Jaclyn Miller—Office Manager: jaclyn.miller@mnstate.edu

CMU 229 / www.mnstate.edu/intl

Phone: 218-477-2956

Important Days to Remember

January 13: Drop/Add Deadline

January 16: Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday (No Classes)

February 28: Mid-Term

March 12–16: Spring Break

March 5: Fall/Summer registration advising begins

March 31: Celebration of Nations (All International Students MUST attend)

April 6–9: Non-Instructional Days (No Classes)

March 26– April 17: Fall Registration

April 17: Student Academic Conference

May 2: Study Day

May 3–9: Finals Day

May 10: International Student Sash Ceremony

May 10: Grading Day

May 11: Commencement

May 11: Residence Hall Closes (7:00pm)



International Student Organization Committee Members

President

Alpha Duru: durual@mnstate.edu

Vice President

Beza Mulugeta: mulugetabe@mnstate.edu

Events Coordinator

Edward Yamba: yambaed@mnstate.edu

Publicity/Promotions:

Luo Ying: luoying@mnstate.edu

List of Places to Visit:

- Academic Resource Office (ARO)
- Academic Service Learning Center
 - Bookstore
 - Campus Bank (Affinity)
 - Campus Dining (Kise Commons or other)
 - Campus Security
 - Comstock Memorial Union
 - Hendrix Health Center
 - KMSC Radio
 - Library
- MSUM Campus (creative picture of students in the MSUM surroundings as the background)
 - MSUM Dragon Statue
 - Multicultural Affairs Office
 - Nemzek Hall
 - Office of Student Activities
 - Rainbow Dragon Center
 - Recreation and Outing Center
- Residential Halls (choose one hall)
 - Wellness Center



ACRONYMS/BUILDING CODES

MSUM BUILDING CODES:

AH—Alumni House/MSUM Foundation	JN—John Neumaier
BA—Ballard Hall	KH—King Hall
BR—Bridges Hall	LI—Livingston Lord Library
CA—Center for the Arts	LO—Lommen Hall
CB—Center for the Business	MA—MacLean Hall
CN—Centennial House	MU—Murray Commons
CS—Campus Security	NL—Nelson Hall
CU/CMU—Comstock Memorial Union	NZ—Nemzek Hall
DA—Dahl Hall	OW—Owens Hall
FR—Floral Frick	SC—Regional Science Center
GN—Grantham Hall	SL—Science Lab Building
GR—Grier Hall	SS—Snarr Hall South
HA—Hagen Hall	SW—Snarr West
HH—Hendrix Health Center	WE—Weld Hall
HO—Holmquist Hall	WC—Wellness Center

Important Dates for International Students (Immigration Purposes)

Passport Expiration Date:
Apply for renewal/new passport 6-8 months before it expires

Visa Expiration:
Not important if you are staying in the U.S. as long as you have a valid I-20 (I-20 not expired and you have not fallen out of status). However, if you leave the U.S. and your visa is expired, you need a new visa to enter the U.S. Check with your country U.S. consulate for more details.

I-20/DS-2019 Expiration Date:
Pay attention to the I-20/DS-2019 end date & do not let this date expire IF you have more classes to take. Visit International Student Services at least 30 days before the I-20 end date.

Travel Signature:
Obtain a travel signature from International Student Services before you depart the U.S. Travel signatures are valid for 12 months. However, we recommend that you obtain a travel signature every time you depart the U.S.

U.S. Drivers License Expiration Date:
Pay attention to this date. You will need to update the DMV with your latest immigration information (current I-20 and letter). **Do not drive with an expired license.**

It is the student's responsibility to contact International Student Services at least 1 month before the above documents expire. Please remember the important dates as they are important in order for you to live/stay in the U.S. Plan your travels accordingly. Do not wait until the last minute!

IMMIGRATION AND OTHER ACONYMS:

- CBP—Customs and Border Patrol
- CPT—Curricular Practical Training
- DHS—Department of Homeland Security
- DS-2019—Exchange/Partner program student immigration document (keep it in a safe place)
- F-1—Student visa status in order to be a student in the U.S.
- I-20—F1 Student Immigration Document (Keep it in a safe place!)
- ICE—Immigration and Custom Enforcement
- ISS—International Student Services
- OPT—Optional Practical Training
- SEVP—Student Visitor Exchange Programs
- SEVIS—Student Exchange Visitor Information System
- SSN—Social Security Number
- TB—Tuberculosis/Mantoux Test
- USCIS (former INS/BCIS)—United State Customs & Immigration Services

