

Hello from Minnesota State University Moorhead! Glad to hear that you received your visa! I look forward to meeting you in August. Please read through this email very carefully.

What you need to do before you depart:

* Leave a contact number with your family, such as the International Programs Office or e-mail

* You will need to fly to **Hector International Airport in Fargo.**

* Make sure your arrival date is prior to 9:00 AM on Sunday, August 16th.

* **E-mail Greg Wymer all of your travel details, as in arrival date, arrival time, flight number, port of entry to the United States and airline as soon as possible** You can also enter this information online at the following link:

<http://www.mnstate.edu/intl/Arrivalform.htm>

* Please call our office at 1/218-477-2956 anytime during your travels if there are flight delays.

wymegr@mnstate.edu

What do I need to know before arriving at MSUM????

Preparing to study in a new country is exciting. One of the most important aspects of preparing for your journey is adequate preparation prior to your departure. The following pre-arrival information may assist you in this endeavor.

Again... BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

Contact us so we can prepare for your arrival. (See above information.)

Entering the USA

The visa issued by the consulate does not guarantee entry to the United States. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has authority to deny admission at the port of entry, therefore, please be careful to **have all your documents** in order upon arrival. Prior to disembarking from the airplane, the flight attendant will pass out a white-colored form called the I-94 Arrival/Departure Record. You will need to fill out all pertinent information regarding your arrival in the United States. At the port-of-entry, a DHS inspector will review the I-94 and your travel documents and stamp your passport and Form I-20 or Form DS-2019 to indicate the entry date, location and nonimmigrant classification and length of authorized stay. The I-94 Departure Record will be attached to your passport. Keep your documents in a safe place! Not only are these documents verification of your legal non-immigrant student status while in the US, but they are also important for the purposes of obtaining work authorization and other benefits as an international student.

Three Special Notes:

Canadians do not need visa stamps to enter the United States, but they must present the Form I-20 or Form DS-2019 at the port-of-entry to be properly classified in a non-immigrant student status.

Students who are eligible to enter the US under the visa waiver program should not choose this travel option. Please apply for the appropriate student visa.

Students are not allowed to enter the US more than 30 days prior to the start date on their I20 or DS2019.

Students already in the United States

If you are a student who is already in the United States on a F-1 or J-1 student visa, you will need to have your documents processed by the office of International Programs upon your arrival at Minnesota State University Moorhead. Please make an appointment to see an advisor to process your transfer. Your transfer must be completed within 15 days of your arrival on campus.

Arriving in Moorhead

Minnesota State University Moorhead is easily accessible from Hector International Airport located in Fargo, North Dakota. This airport is 5 miles from MSUM. If you fly into Minneapolis, Minnesota, please be aware that you will have another 4 hour drive to reach Moorhead. Taxis from Hector International Airport to the university cost approximately \$20. Doyle Cab has a free phone located directly opposite of the public phones. Just pick up the receiver and tell them you need a taxi. Be sure to inform the driver that you want to go to Moorhead via town (it's cheaper than taking the freeway).

Transportation assistance is also available through the office of International Programs. In order to have someone pick you up from the Fargo airport or the bus or train station, you must provide complete arrival information (including arrival day and time and flight number) to the office of International Programs at least 2 weeks in advance of your arrival. Please fill out the following form to have the office of International Programs setup transportation for you.

<http://www.mnstate.edu/intl/Arrivalform.htm>

On-Campus Housing

- **Please note *** If you are a full time, F-1, degree seeking international student (not on an exchange program) and if you sign a housing contract please be aware that you will be bound by this contract for one year. This means that you will be penalized if you try to get out of the contract any earlier than the one year requirement.**

Housing does not open up until August 19th at 9:00 am. If you arrive before this date or in the evening after housing is closed, you may need to stay at a local motel for the night or weekend. Please contact housing to see whether they can make special arrangements for you. They charge \$15.00 per night if you wish to live in the residence halls before August 19th. **You may not stay in on-campus housing prior to August 19th, unless you plan to live in on-campus housing for the whole academic year.** Their number is: **1-218-477-2118**. Again, in order for the Housing Office to provide a room for you before the start of the semester, you will need to have completed a contract and room assignment and plan on living on campus for the entire academic year. There are various hotels around the area. Please refer to the list below for some hotels. The costs listed are approximate per night prices and are subject to change.

Red River Inn
(701) 282-9100
\$36.99-41.99

Super 8 Motel
(218) 233-8880
\$33.00-39.00

Motel 7
(218) 233-7501
\$32.95-38.95

Once you have received your visa, you will need to complete your housing contract.

International Student Housing Application Process:

Due to unforeseen reasons we are not able to accept credit cards on our on-line housing application.

Please provide us with your housing application in one of the following processes:

Fax (1-218-477-5976) Phone (1-218-477-2118) or mail us the application for housing, the housing contract and a 3rd sheet with the following credit card information: Student Name, Dragon ID #(if known), type of credit card; MasterCard, Visa or Discover, Credit Card #, and Expiration Date, name of the person on the credit card with their mailing address, with amount to be charged. Also, include with your application an email address so we can contact you.

You may also scan the above required documents and send via email. However, this way is not recommended due to security issues and the internet.

Information about Housing, Applications and Contracts can be found on-line at the following links:

<http://www.mnstate.edu/housing/documents/ChoosingMSUM.pdf>

<http://www.mnstate.edu/housing/app.cfm>

<http://www.mnstate.edu/housing/contract.cfm>

Please read them carefully, and use the first link to learn more about the various halls and meal plans. **If you decide to live in a residence hall, please complete both parts of the application and sign the contract.** Return these with the \$50.00 non-refundable application fee and your \$200 prepayment (the full amount of \$250.00 is required before we make any room assignment). Refer to section 5.A1 and 2 a-d in the contract for more complete information.

During preparation for Fall Semester ... The first group of new student assignments is usually made on or before April 15. You may wish to apply early to improve your chances of being assigned to one of your preferred locations. In this case, you must submit the full \$250 (deposit and pre-payment) so it is received in the housing office or postmarked no later than March 15. For contracts submitted after March 15, the full \$250 must accompany the contract. After April 15, assignments will be made on a weekly basis by date priority as space becomes available.

Please make your check or money order payable to Minnesota State University Moorhead and send to the Housing and Residential Life Office. When they receive your application, they will

send you a card confirming its receipt. If you do not receive such a confirmation card within 30 days, be sure to contact the housing office. Please remember that full payment of the \$50 reservation fee and \$200 prepayment must be received before they will make a specific assignment. If you have particular questions, **please contact the housing office at: 1-218-477-2118**

Immunization Records:

It is important that you provide immunization records. The link to the immunization form can be found at the following link <http://www.mnstate.edu/hendrix/forms.cfm>

You can log on to this form providing the Dragon ID and your Birth Date in the following format: (YYMMDD).

It is compulsory to provide information of the following vaccinations on the form

Diphtheria & Tetanus (TD)

Measles (rubella, red measles)

Mumps

Rubella (German measles)

Also fill all the fields that you can on the form.

It is important that you bring documentation to verify the information you provide. You can print a copy of the form from the following website:

http://www.mnstate.edu/hendrix/forms/Immunization_2.pdf

Starter Packs:

To better assist you in your travels, the International Programs Office provides a Starter Pack Service. If you wish, we will gladly provide the following items to you at the time of your arrival. The cost for these items will be added to your semester bill (that way, you don't even need to worry about having any money on you.) If you wish to have us do the shopping, please just indicate with items you would like us to purchase for you. The costs are listed next to the items. We will have these items available to you upon your arrival. You may email (hohenst@mnstate.edu – with starter pack in the subject line) your request. Please send the following information at least 1 week prior to orientation:

Name:

Dragon ID:

Arrival Date:

STARTER PACK OPTIONS

Total package is \$88, please tell us what items you would like us to buy for you:

- ___ Total Package
- ___ Pillow (\$6)
- ___ Mattress Pad – goes on mattress, under sheet (\$15)
- ___ Bed-in-a-Bag – comforter, sheet set, pillow cases, bed skirt (\$45)
- ___ Towels – bath towel, wash and face cloth (\$10)
- ___ Misc. - toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, shampoo (\$12)

Clothing

You might want to shop for some of your clothing after you arrive, especially winter clothing. You will need good quality winter clothes which can be purchased at a reasonable price in Fargo-Moorhead. Plan on spending about \$200.00 to purchase these winter items. Also come prepared

with a lighter weight coat or jacket to use upon arrival, if you come in for Fall semester. September can be chilly (about 15 degrees C.), particularly for those who come from warm climates.

In the United States, students dress casually for classes. It is not unusual to find every kind of apparel imaginable. Men wear slacks or jeans, and shirts or sweaters. They also wear shorts or cut-off jeans in warm weather. The majority of women on campus wear slacks or jeans, and blouses or sweaters, but many wear dresses and skirts as well. Sweatshirts are also common for both men and women.

Payments

New entering students will pay outstate tuition for the first semester, upon enrolling for their second semester, the entire Minnesota Resident Tuition Scholarship for both their first and second semesters will be applied toward the second semester. After students have completed their first 2 semesters, the Minnesota Resident Tuition Scholarship will be applied each semester rather than once per year.

Finally, students must pay approximately \$1,500 to the university within the first 5 class days. (You can pay the entire semester's balance if you would like, but you need to pay a minimum of approximately \$1500 within the first 5 class days.) As you prepare to travel, you should plan on one of the following two options:

1. Bring two bank drafts, one made out to the University for \$1,500 (or whatever amount you plan on paying the university) and then one draft made out to yourself for approximately \$650 so you can open a bank account and then purchase books.

or

2. The best option would be to make out a bank draft for \$1500 USD to Minnesota State University Moorhead and then to purchase \$650.00 in international traveler's checks. This way, you can use the traveler's checks to purchase books at the bookstore as well as open a bank account or cover any emergencies that may occur during travel.

(Again, students are able pay for the semester completely within the first 5 class days which will be approximately \$11,000.00, or you can pay in installments... this is your choice.)

As always, please let me know if you have questions. I am always happy to help!

I have tried to give you any information that will be helpful and of benefit to you. It looks much worse than it will actually be! Happy travels and see you soon!