



UDM INTERNATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE

IMPORTANT INFORMATION for NEW INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AT UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT MERCY

▪ BEFORE YOU LEAVE HOME

APPLY FOR A VISA

Take the following documents to the U.S. embassy or consulate: form I-20, valid passport, photograph, evidence of financial support for the entire period of your study, your academic credentials and proof of payment of the SEVIS fee. Detailed information on the SEVIS fee is available online at http://www.udmercy.edu/apply/international_students/iso/for_ms/pdf/SEVIS%20FEE.pdf.

At the consulate, you will fill out an application form and be interviewed by a consular official. Before a visa can be issued, the consular official must have convincing evidence that you have strong ties to your home country and that you do not intend to immigrate to the U.S. For example, documents showing that you or your family owns a business or rents or owns a house or apartment in your country, or that you are employed or are being considered for employment upon your return may constitute evidence of intent to return home.

If a visa is issued, it will be marked "University of Detroit Mercy." You are expected to attend UDM for at least your first semester in the U.S.

Detailed information about U.S. visas is available at the Department of State's web site: www.unitedstatesvisas.gov. See especially the article, "Deciphering the Visa Code" at: <http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itps/0905/ijpe/visacode.htm>.

ARRANGE FOR HOUSING

You are strongly advised to make arrangements for housing before you arrive. On-campus housing is available in the University residence halls. Applications for housing should be submitted online at <http://www.udmercy.edu/reslife/live-on-campus/apply/index.htm> for the fall semester no later than July 14, for the winter semester, no later than December 1, and for the summer semester, no later than April 7. All applications will be processed and students who submit a residence hall contract will be expected to live in the halls for the academic year. If you have questions about on-campus housing, please contact the Office of Residence Life reslife@udmercy.edu, 313-993-1230.

MAKE FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

You will need to bring enough money to cover at least your first semester's expenses (about \$20,000 for undergraduates or \$15,000 for graduate students). We suggest traveler's checks

for your living expenses and either traveler's checks or a bank check (preferably issued by a U.S. bank in your country) for your tuition. Never carry large amounts of cash. Wiring money to the U.S. before you arrive is discouraged as it may cause difficulties or delays. If you decide to wire money, however, call the Student Accounting Office at 313-993-1431.

A WORD ABOUT HEALTH INSURANCE

Please do not buy health insurance in your country for use in the U.S. International students must enroll in the University's health insurance plan unless they qualify for one of the following exceptions: 1) insurance sponsored by the government of Canada, Kuwait, Libya, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia or UAE; 2) insurance through a spouse's U.S. employer. There are no other exceptions.

DECIDE WHAT CLOTHING TO BRING

In general, be prepared for changeable weather. You will need some lightweight clothing for summer since the weather is usually quite warm (22-23 degrees Celsius). Winters can be quite cold, however (around 0 degrees Celsius or below). If you are arriving in late fall or winter, you will need a warm coat or jacket as well as boots, a hat and gloves. Early fall and spring are generally cool so it is a good idea to have a light jacket or a sweater for these seasons.

PLAN FOR YOUR TRAVEL AND ARRIVAL

You must arrive in the U.S. no later than the date on which you are expected to report to the school (item #5 on your I-20). You may enter the U.S. no more than 30 days before your reporting date. If you have a reserved a room in the residence halls, you should plan to arrive no earlier than two or three days before your reporting date. If you are reporting for the winter term, please be advised that that University offices and facilities, including the residence halls, are closed each year from approximately December 24 to January 2 in observance of the Christmas and New Year's holidays. If you have questions or concerns about on-campus housing, please contact UDM Residence Life: reslife@udmercy.edu, 313-993-1230.

Carry your I-20, your passport, and your airline ticket together when you travel. On the plane, you will be given an I-94 (Admission/Departure) card to fill out. When you enter the U.S., the customs officer will stamp the I-94 card with the date and place of entry and return the card to you. The card will be marked "D/S" (duration of status), which means that, as long as you do not violate the terms of your F-1 status, you may

remain in the U.S. until your program is completed. The inspector will also stamp page 1 of your I-20 and return the document to you.

Try to arrange for someone to meet you at the airport when you arrive. If no one is available, the most convenient way to get to campus is by taxi (cost: around \$50.00). Don't ride in any car not clearly marked with a company name and the word *Taxi* or *Cab*.

▪ ARRIVING ON CAMPUS

The first thing to do when you arrive on campus is to check in at the International Services Office. The ISO is located on the McNichols campus in room 208 (2nd floor) of the Student Center Building. Please use the Livernois entrance to the campus. Check-in hours are 9:00-4:00, Monday-Friday.

Bring your I-20, passport and I-94 card. We will photocopy your immigration documents and take your picture for our records. You will sign up for the University's required health insurance plan, and you will be given information about the Orientation program and a reservation for the English proficiency examination.

▪ ENGLISH PROFICIENCY TESTING AND PLACEMENT

Before you can register for classes, you must take the UDM English proficiency test, *The Detroit Test of American English*. (The test is *not* required for students who have a degree from a U.S. college or university or who have achieved a computer-based TOEFL score of at least 250 [600 paper] and an essay score of at least 5, or internet-based TOEFL score of at least 100 and writing sub score of at least 24.) Based on the results of the test, you may either be exempted from taking English-language classes or placed into one of the following: a) Intensive English (23 hours a week); b) Intermediate English (9 hours a week); c) Advanced English, for those who need work on writing, (3 hours a week). Students placed in Intermediate and Advanced English are required to take additional courses in their major field of study. A sample Detroit Test is available [online](#)

▪ ORIENTATION TO THE UNITED STATES

During your first days on campus, the ISO sponsors an orientation lunch and information session, which all new international students are required to attend. Continuing orientation to American culture is provided through English-language classes, through workshops, and through our International Friendship Program, which pairs interested students with American host families for regularly scheduled recreational and educational activities.

▪ MAINTAINING YOUR STATUS

In order to maintain your F-1 status, you will be required to enroll in a full course of study throughout your program. A full course of study is defined as 12 credit hours for undergraduate (Bachelor's degree and post-degree) students and 9 credit hours for graduate (Master's or doctoral degree)

students. You must be enrolled full time in the fall and winter terms each academic year. Summer is normally a vacation term; however, if you begin your studies in the summer term, you must be full time that summer only. You will receive detailed information on this and other immigration requirements at the orientation session.

Students who are informed are not likely to experience significant difficulties with immigration requirements. Please remember that the staff at the International Services Office will be available to provide information and assistance to you throughout your stay at UDM. In the meantime, if you should have any questions, please call, fax, or e-mail our office.

*We are looking forward to seeing you at
University of Detroit Mercy!*

International Services Office

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We want great things for you!