

Dear Future Auburn University Student:

I and the staff of the Office of International Education at Auburn University would like to take this opportunity to WELCOME you to Auburn. Enclosed you will find the following items:

1. Your original United States Department of Homeland Security SEVIS I-20 or DS-2019 which you will use to apply for your visa to come to the USA.
2. A packet of informational materials for you to READ before you do anything else! Do you know the amount and how to pay the US DHS SEVIS fee is before you can get a visa interview? Do you know what the AU mandatory health insurance requirement? And much more.....

Please be aware that the majority of students and scholars who do not READ the enclosed materials have difficulties throughout the process of both securing their visa and coming to the US. **AGAIN PLEASE READ ALL THE ENCLOSED MATERIALS.**

If you have any questions AFTER reading the materials please email us at intledu@auburn.edu and in the SUBJECT line indicate NEW STUDENT/SCHOLAR questions. Include your SEVIS ID number which you will find on your I-20 or DS-2019 and as many details as possible regarding your question(s).

Again welcome from Auburn University and the staff of the Office of International Education. We look forward to meeting you and having you on our campus!

Sincerely,



Sue Ann Balch, JD
Assistant Director, PDSO & RO
AU Immigration Compliance

WELCOME FROM THE AUBURN UNIVERSITY OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

PLEASE, CAREFULLY READ THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION!

Enclosed with this letter are documents that you will need to begin the process of coming to the United States and ultimately to Auburn University. You should immediately check with the US embassy or Consulate nearest you for specific information that they will require of you (and any accompanying dependents) as part of the visa application process. The enclosed I-20 (for F visa)/DS-2019 (for J visa) is the document you will use when you visit a United States consular post to apply for your F-1/J-1 visa and the F-2 or J-2 for accompanying dependents. To apply for the visa you must be prepared to provide the consular post with your passport which must be valid for at least six months beyond the date of your expected graduation (**IF POSSIBLE RENEW or EXTEND YOUR PASSPORT BEFORE YOU COME TO THE US**) and all pages of the enclosed documents. In addition you will need to provide proof of financial support at least equal to or greater than the amounts indicated on the enclosed documents. If your financial support documents are over two months old, you should provide more current documents to the consular officials. Additionally as of September 1, 2004, you are required to pay the US Department of Homeland Security SEVIS fee (see enclosed reference information on this process) before your visa interview.

PLEASE NOTE THAT:

- If you are transferring from another college or university **WITHIN THE USA** to Auburn University, you will obtain your original AU I-20 when reporting to AU Office of International Education, if you must travel outside the US prior to arriving at AU please contact OIE immediately.
- **DO NOT PACK YOUR IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTS IN YOUR LUGGAGE. CARRY THESE DOCUMENTS WITH YOU WHEN YOU TRAVEL SO THAT YOU CAN SHOW THEM AT THE PORT OF ENTRY.** After you have obtained your visa and when traveling to the United States you should **REMEMBER** to have your passport, the I-20/DS-2019, SEVIS Fee payment Receipt and financial documentation **IN YOUR POSSESSION** before you pick up your luggage following arrival into the USA.
- When entering the United States you must enter on the visa **AND** I-20 or DS-2019 from the institution for which the visa was issued. You must also report to the institution that issued the I-20/DS -2019 and whose name appears on the visa.
- For students on F-1 or J-1 visas, if you wish to transfer to another US institution after entering the US on an AU I-20/DS-2019/visa you must attend AU for at least one full semester **FIRST** (you may request the transfer out during that term) before you will be authorized to transfer out.
- The enclosed documents are specific for begin date. For students be aware of the arrival date on the I-20 or DS-2019, AU does not use the first day of classes for arrivals. AU OIE requires that all students come earlier than the first day of classes so that you can participate in the required orientations and to process all your documents both for the university and for immigration purposes. If you will be deferring your admission to another semester or if you are not planning on coming to Auburn University at this time we ask that you return the enclosed I-20/DS-2019 document. If you will be arriving later than the date indicated please notify your AU host department **AND** the Office of International Education so we can defer your arrival date in SEVIS. The US POE officers may not allow you to enter the US if you attempt to enter after the begin date on your I-20/DS-2019 and your SEVIS record has not been updated by AU OIE. A new I-20/DS-2019 need **NOT** be issued for your deferred arrival, however, OIE must update the US DHS SEVIS system so the port of entry officers can see that your delayed arrival is expected.
- An F-1/J-1 student or J-1 scholar **WILL NOT** be admitted to U.S. sooner than 30 days **BEFORE** the begin date of your program listed on the I-20/DS-2019. The POE officers will put those who arrive earlier than 30 days from the program

start date on the next flight back to the student's home country and may void the U.S. visa requiring you to receive a new visa. Review the deferred arrival procedures noted above.

- For initial arrivals, F-2 or J-2 dependents may not enter the US PRIOR to the F-1 or J-1. Please be aware that if you plan on having your dependents come at a later date all of your family/dependents should still accompany you to the visa interview. The visa officer needs to be aware of your plans regarding any plans you have regarding your dependents when the F-1 or J-1 applies for a visa.
- After entering into the US on an Auburn University I-20/DS-2019 *you and all accompanying dependents must report in person to the AU Office of International Education. If you do not plan on arriving in Auburn within five working days of entry please arrange to contact us by phone (334)844-5001 or fax 334-844-4983 or email intledu@auburn.edu.*
- ALL F-1 and J-1's and their dependents sponsored by AU will be automatically enrolled in the MANDATORY AU International Student and Scholar Health and Emergency Assistance insurance plan upon arrival. (See Enclosed or go to www.aburn.edu/academic/international/oie more information).
- *ALL NEW F and J INITIAL arrivals and transfers to AU are required to attend and participate in a series of OIE orientation programs where you will learn more about our campus and about maintaining your US immigration status while in the US. Dates and times for student orientations will be posted prior to the start of each term on our web site: www.auburn.edu/international. For J-1 Scholars, orientations are held once per week throughout the semester, you will be signed up at check in for the next appropriate orientation program.*
- *Due to the ongoing changes in US Drivers License regulations we highly recommend that if you are able to secure a drivers license in your home country you do so BEFORE coming to the US. You should also secure an "International Driving Permit" (IDP) (you can only get these in the country from which your original drivers license was issued and you must carry an original valid drivers license with the IDP). Check with your local automobile association or your country's foreign affairs office for more information. Also be aware there are other products that are similar in wording and form but are not recognized as IDP's. The IDP will allow you to drive in the US temporarily while you settle in and before you get a US drivers license. Also be aware that most states in the US and all car rental companies require that you carry certain levels of liability and car insurance at a minimum before you can drive a car, check with your insurance companies at home if your policies will cover you while you are in the US.*
- We are very eager to have you attend Auburn University therefore we would like to hear from you. Please complete the attached "Intent to Enroll" form and return it as soon as possible OR email us to advise us of whether you will be coming to AU and your projected date of arrival information. If you will not be coming to AU please let us know as well, note that we do ask that you return the I-20 or DS-2019 if you have no plans on coming to AU.
 - If you have any questions please feel free to email them to INTLEDU@AUBURN.EDU and indicate your SEVIS ID number in the text of your email.

Again, WELCOME to Auburn University, to the State of Alabama and to the USA. We look forward to working with you in the upcoming years as you proceed in your chosen program.

APPLYING FOR A VISA TO COME TO THE US?

If this is the first time you are applying for a visa please take the time to review the following links:

- US Department of State VISA information: <http://travel.state.gov/visa/index.html>
- US DOS Temporary Visitors Visa Information: <http://travel.state.gov/visa/tempvisitors.html>
- Link to determine approximate WAIT TIMES for US visa processing:
http://travel.state.gov/visa/tempvisitors_wait.php
- EDUCATION USA web site sponsored by the US Department of State: <http://educationusa.state.gov/>
- Auburn University Office of International Education web page on obtaining a visa:
<http://www.auburn.edu/academic/international/oie>

Don't have access to the internet? Here are the basics:

1. locate the nearest US consulate – ask them for their visa application information for an F or J visa depending on whether you have an I-20 (F) or DS-2019 (J).
2. ask about the fees you will be required to pay
3. once you have your I-20 or DS-2019 you will be able to make an appointment to apply for your visa (make sure you read the US consulate instructions carefully) – you cannot make an appointment until you have an I-20 or DS-2019 with your SEVIS ID number.
4. **PAY THE SEVIS FEE** before going for your interview – see below for more information
5. all F and J visas require a personal interview at the consulate –
6. when you go to your interview make sure you take all your documents and proof of payment of fees including the SEVIS fee
7. Note that all dependents will need their own I-20 or DS-2019, this must be requested at the time of your application for admission to Auburn University. AU OIE requires additional proof of financial support for dependents as does the US consulate. If you have dependents (a spouse and or children) who will come to the US at a later date make sure they accompany you for your visa interview. You need to inform the visa officer of their intent to come and be with you at a later date – even if it is a month, six months or even a year later.
8. Expect that your visa process may be delayed for a variety of reasons including large numbers of applications or even security checks that the US consulate must run (these include applicants for certain subject areas, background checks for criminal records, etc..)
9. Problems, questions? When emailing AU OIE at intledu@auburn.edu we must know the date and location of the interview, your SEVIS ID number, and specific details of the problem include a copy of any form replies, letters or other information provided by the US consulate (scan these and send them with the email or fax them to 334-844-4983).

SEVIS FEE ELECTRONIC PAYMENT - YOU MAY BE REQUIRED TO PAY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY \$100.00 SEVIS FEE BEFORE YOU GO FOR YOUR INTERVIEW or ENTER THE US- YOU WILL NEED A CREDIT CARD, YOUR SEVIS I-20 OR DS -2019 AND PASSPORT INFORMATION TO PAY THE FEE. START THE PROCESS BY GOING TO:

<https://www.fmjfee.com/index.jhtml> Student and Exchange Visitor Program: SEVIS I-901 Fee

<http://www.ice.gov/graphics/sevis/i901/faq.htm> SEVIS I-901 Fee Frequently Asked Questions

MAKE SURE YOU PRINT THE RECEIPT AND NUMBER YOU WILL BE PROVIDED WHEN THE PAYMENT IS CONFIRMED – YOU NEED THE RECEIPT NUMBER FOR THE INTERVIEW

Auburn University Mandatory International Student and Scholar Health and Emergency Assistance Insurance Coverage for All F and J Visa Holders and their Dependents (02/26/08)

All students (F/J) and scholars (J) and their dependents coming to Auburn University are Automatically enrolled and billed for the mandatory international student and scholar health insurance plan. This plan has been designed to minimize the cost of health care during your stay at Auburn University and to ensure that you are complying with all US Department of Homeland Security and Department of State Regulations. This plan provides all students and their dependents with the more than the minimally recommended coverage required for health care in the US. All F, J and dependent status holders must carry insurance that is EQUAL TO OR GREATER THAN the AU standard for health insurance (see the OIE web site indicated below for more information).

All benefits apply to covered F-1, F-2, J-1 and J-2's. US born dependents may also be enrolled in this plan (see FAQ and enrollment period limitations on the OIE web site) upon arrival. Please refer to the web site below for additional information on this plan – details of the plan are subject to change in August of each year with the beginning of the new academic year.

• **Benefits of this policy include but are not limited to:**

- Major medical benefit: \$250,000 per accident or illness
- \$2,000 preexisting condition benefit during the 6 month pre-existing condition exclusion period
- Deductible: \$200.00 per coverage year (check with Agent for details)
- \$25 co-pay for each physician visits
- Auburn University \$10 co-pay for each generic prescription and \$25 co-pay for each BRAND name prescription \$75 co-pay for each visit to an Emergency Room
- Home Country Coverage (120 days per 12 month period)

• **Emergency Medical Assistance Plan (Scholastic Emergency Services)**

- 24 hour 7 days a week: Scholastic Emergency Services call center
- Access within USA via 1-800 phone number
- Access when outside the USA rest of the world via one collect call phone number ,
- Medical Evacuation benefit
- Repatriation of remains
- Family Assistance Benefit and Family Reunification Benefits (limited benefits in the event of serious illness or death in the U.S., of a scholar, student or their dependents. Benefit can also be applied to travel to student or scholar's home country in the event of the death of immediate family member.

• **Pre-Existing Conditions Limitation** - Pre-existing conditions are NOT covered by this plan during the first six months of coverage. If you have pre-existing conditions make sure to carry ADDITIONAL coverage as appropriate until this plan has covered you for at least six months. See plan exclusions and limitations for additional information.

• **Network** – Benefits of this plan are subject to in and out of network coverage limitations. For additional information on in or out of network coverage check the Auburn University website at <http://www.auburn.edu/academic/international/insurance/>.

• **Billing – Enrolled F-1 and J-1 Students** will be billed for the premium along with their tuition and other fees. Payment must be made in accord with AU bursars billing and payment cycles. **J-1 Research Scholars, Professors and Short Term scholars** will be billed upon arrival (credit cards- monthly, US check- monthly). Check with AU OIE for billing process applicable to your situation. The AU bursar takes checks made out in US dollars on US banks, credit cards or US cash. Billing is based on the date of entry into the US on the I-94 (arrival/departure card received upon entry to the US). *For the current premium rate go to the web link below*

ESTIMATED 2008-2009 Premiums:

F-1/ J-1 US\$96.00 per month	F-2/J-2 Spouse US\$330.00 per month	F-2/J-2 per child US\$98.00 per month	3 or more children US\$292.00 per month
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The information in this flyer is subject to change prior to arrival without notice. For current plan details, Premium costs, "EQUAL TO OR GREATER THAN" Waiver Policy and procedure, Billing Schedules, and other plan information please go to: <http://www.auburn.edu/academic/international/insurance/>

ARRIVAL INFORMATION

Atlanta Airport - Hartsfield Jackson International Airport: <http://www.atlanta-airport.com/>
(international flights generally arrive in Concourse E where US immigration and customs processing takes place)

Transportation from Atlanta Airport to Auburn: There is a shuttle service from the Atlanta Hartsfield International Airport to Auburn. The link for information about their fees and schedule is: www.express85.com (this shuttle picks up at the Ground Transportation Center at the Atlanta Airport and will drop you off at hotels or other designated areas in Auburn, Alabama)

Auburn University Home Page: www.auburn.edu

Auburn University Office of International Education: <http://www.auburn.edu/international>

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS WEB SITE:

There are many AU international Student Organizations who offer advice from a student and scholar point of view for coming to Auburn. Please check out their web sites and contact these organizations directly. If there is no organization representing your country or region please feel free to contact any of the organizations or contact the ISO directly at: <http://www.auburn.edu/academic/international/iso/> or http://www.auburn.edu/student_info/iso/

AUBURN AREA INFORMATION:

Express 85 Atlanta Airport Shuttle service (check for schedule and fee) - <http://www.express85.com/>

Auburn University Prospective Student web page: <http://www.auburn.edu/main/prospectivestudents.html>

City of Auburn web page - <http://www.auburnalabama.org>

Auburn Chamber of Commerce: <http://www.auburnchamber.com/>

Opelika Chamber of Commerce: <http://www.opelika.com/>

Auburn Area map: <http://www.auburn.edu/its/ducapps/aumap/auburnmap3.jpg>

Campus map: <https://oitapps.auburn.edu/campusmap/>

Instructions to get to Auburn <http://www.auburn.edu/map/directions.php>

Auburn City Schools for families with children: <http://www.auburnschools.org/>

TEMPORARY HOUSING INFORMATION

The Cambridge at Auburn is a private apartment complex offering students and scholars temporary, semester and academic year rates for housing. Note this is an apartment complex not a hotel therefore there is no daily maid service, etc. The Cambridge at Auburn welcomes students or scholars, if you wish to make a reservation for a TEMPORARY PERIOD or for a semester or longer please contact them directly at, Phone: 334.826.9750 or 334-826-9787(fax)

<http://cambridgeatauburn.com/>

132 East Thatch Avenue, Auburn, AL 36830

DAYS INN AND SUITES

Street: 333 S. College St. Auburn, AL 36830

Mailing: P.O. Box 632, Auburn, AL 36830,

Phone: 334-887-3462 Fax: 334-887-5564

http://www.daysinn.com/DaysInn/control/Booking/property_info?propertyId=15098&brandInfo=D1

UNIVERSITY INN

129N College St., Auburn AL36830
Phone 334-821-4632 Fax. 334-826-3394

THE HOTEL AT AUBURN UNIVERSITY, Address: 241 S. College St. Auburn, AL 36830

Phone: 334-821-8200 Fax: 334-826-89787 , Web Site: <http://www.auhcc.com>

AREA APARTMENTS AND HOUSING COMPLEXES INFORMATION

On Campus Housing - UNDERGRADUATES ONLY <http://frontpage.auburn.edu/housing/index.html>

Off Campus Housing links for all students and families: <http://frontpage.auburn.edu/housing/offcampus.html>

Auburn Apartment Guide - <http://www.auburnapartmentguide.com/>

AUBURN UNIVERSITY

CONFIRMATION OF INTENT TO ENROLL

Please return this form as soon as possible to:

Auburn University, Office of International Education
201 Hargis Hall
Auburn, AL 36849 USA

Or Email us at: intledu@auburn.edu

Last (Sur) Name: _____

First(Given)Name: _____

Date Of Birth: _____ Male _____ Female _____

Country of Citizenship: _____

Phone #: _____ E-mail: _____

Graduate: _____ Undergraduate: _____ Other: _____

_____ YES I plan to attend Auburn University starting the _____
Semester 200__.
My planned arrival date is: _____

_____ NO I do not plan to attend Auburn University. Please tell us why:

If NO, please return I-20 with this form.

_____ DEFER: I need to defer my admission to the _____ Semester.