

J-1 Scholar Pre-Arrival Checklist

Step 1: Obtain J-1 Exchange Visitor Visa

Applications for J-1 Visas require:

- Valid unexpired passport (valid for at least six months beyond your intended stay)
- Form DS-2019
- SEVIS fee receipt
- Evidence of financial support
- Visa fee
- Recent 2”x2” passport-style photograph
- Additional forms and/or documents as required by the embassy/consulate at which you will apply (find your embassy/ consulate at <http://www.usembassy.gov/>)

Additional information on visitor visas is available at the Department of State website:

<http://travel.state.gov/>

Step 2: Pay the SEVIS Fee

What is the SEVIS Fee?

The [SEVIS I-901 fee \(http://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901\)](http://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901), implemented by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), is a fee intended to defray costs associated with the administration of the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP). This rule took effect on September 1, 2004. The current fee for exchange visitors (J-1) is \$200.

Who Must Pay the SEVIS Fee?

1. Students & Scholars seeking an F-1 or J-1 visa from a U.S. consulate abroad for "initial" attendance at a U.S. school
2. Students seeking a J-1 visa from a U.S. consulate abroad to commence participation in a J-1 Exchange Visitor Program
3. Persons applying for a change of status to F-1 or J-1
4. Canadians exempt from the visa requirement who are seeking entry at a U.S. port of entry for "initial" attendance at a U.S. school or Exchange Visitor Program
5. J-1 students applying for a change of program category within the U.S.
6. J-1 students transferring from fee-exempt Federal Government sponsored programs (such as Fulbright) to other J-1 programs
7. J-1 students transferring from reduced-fee J-1 programs to full-fee J-1 programs
8. J-1 students applying for reinstatement

Who Does Not Pay the SEVIS Fee?

1. J-2 dependents
2. J-1 students and J-1 scholars who are seeking an extension or transfer
3. J-1 students and J-1 scholars who have previously paid the fee and are applying for a visa to return to the U.S. as continuing students in the same course of study
4. J-1 students and J-1 scholars who have paid the fee but have been denied a visa who are reapplying for the same visa within 12 months
5. Persons who have paid the SEVIS fee but have been denied a change of status to J-1 and who are reapplying for the same status within 12 months after being granted a motion to reopen the case
6. J-1 participants in fee-exempt Federal Government-sponsored programs (such as Fulbright)



Options to Pay the SEVIS Fee

1. Electronic submission of Form I-901 to DHS using credit card or other electronic means of payment accepted by DHS: <https://www.fmjfee.com>
2. File Form I-901 (available at <https://www.fmjfee.com/i901fee/>) with DHS by mail along with a check, money order, or foreign draft drawn on a U.S. bank and payable in U.S. currency
3. Western Union Quick Pay (See http://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901/wu_instr.htm for instructions)

You must have a DHS fee receipt before applying for a visa or change of status. Third parties may pay the fee on behalf of the student or scholar. Additional information on SEVIS I-901 Fee can be found at <http://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901/faq.htm>

Step 3: Assemble Immigration Documents

Form DS-2019 – Also called "Certificate of Eligibility" is required to obtain a J-1 visa and used to enter the U.S. It indicates your length of stay in the U.S. on your J-1 program, authorizes you to participate in Kent State University J-1 Exchange Visitor program, and is used for travel outside and re-entry to the U.S. Scholars should keep all copies of DS-2019 issued to them.

Form I-94 – CBP (Customs and Border Protection) has automated the I-94 process for applying for admission at U.S. ports of entry. Air travelers no longer need to complete paper Form I-94. The I-94 number is used to record your arrival and departure from the U.S. Using this number, CBP authorities can determine your arrival date into the U.S., the port-of-entry and your immigration status as a J-1 visa holder. You can obtain your I-94 number by visiting <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov> after you have entered the U.S.

Visa – The stamp that a U.S embassy or consulate affixes to the passport to indicate the kind of nonimmigrant status that a person is seeking. The only time you are required to have a valid visa is when you enter the U.S.

Passport – Your passport should be valid at least six months into the future when you apply for your visa. Your passport must remain valid while in the U.S. If your passport will expire, you must contact your embassy to renew it.

Step 4: Obtain Health Insurance

The U.S. government **requires** all J-1 scholars and their dependents to have health insurance coverage for the entire duration of their stay in the U.S. You must provide proof of health insurance to ISSS within 10 days of arrival. Suggested insurance companies are listed at <http://nafsa.org/resource/library/default.aspx?id=8823>. Your health insurance policy must meet the following minimum coverage: \$50,000 per sickness or accident, \$10,000 for medical evacuation, and \$7,500 for repatriation of remains to your home country. These are requirements from the U.S. Department of State for anyone on a J visa.

Step 5: Pack Appropriately – What to Bring

Immigration and Travel Documents

- Passport, valid at least six more months
- J-1 visa
- Form DS-2019

Important! Please put all these documents (passport and DS-2019) in your carry-on luggage, not your checked suitcase. Also, we recommend that you make copies of all of these documents and place the copies in your checked luggage.

Money

- Amount brought with you should be enough to cover at least one month's expenses, as well as any necessary items such as cellular phone, etc.
- You can bring the money in the form of/via:
 - Cash
 - Wire transfer
 - Traveler's checks
 - Credit card(s) accepted in the U.S.

Please note that passengers flying on international flights carrying \$10,000 or more in cash must declare the cash amount to Customs and Border Protection and fill out the appropriate form.

Important Numbers and Addresses

- Your address in your home country and phone number(s) to call in case of emergency
- Your U.S. address and/or phone number, if already available
- Host Department phone number, address, and contact person
- Office of Global Education

Other Important Documents (with official English translation)

- Marriage certificate

Personal Items: What You Should Bring to the U.S.:

- Any prescription medications
- Your medical history with English translation

Personal Items: What You May Want to Purchase Upon Arrival:

(These items are not provided by the university)

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| • Pillows | • Blankets | • Laundry Supplies |
| • Bed
Sheets | • Desk Lamp | • Clothes
Hangers |
| • Computer | • Alarm
Clock | • Pens/Pencils/Notebo
ok Paper |

It is advisable to purchase many of these items in the U.S., since you may be traveling a great distance and need to bring many other necessary items, including clothing for four different seasons. These items do not cost much and can be purchased at the University Bookstore or other nearby stores.

Additional Information

Arrival Notification

J-1 scholars **must** report to Kent State University once they arrive in the U.S. Please bring your immigration documents with you when you come to the Office of Global Education to check in. You will need to make an appointment with an International Student and Scholar Advisor: <https://advising.ehhs.kent.edu/index.php?gid=54>.

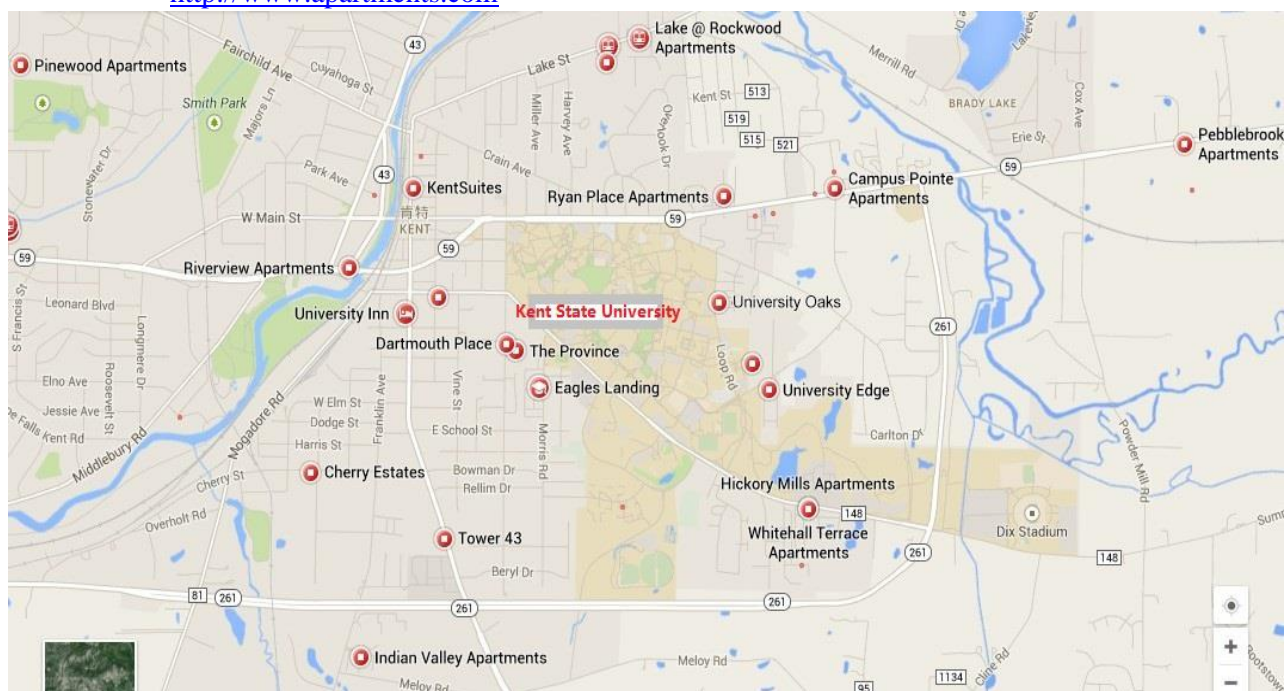
Climate

Kent, Ohio, has four seasons so it is necessary to have appropriate clothing for all types of weather. In the fall, it is important to be ready for the rain and the change of temperature from warm to cold. Winter in Ohio may be very cold and it will most definitely snow. It is advisable to purchase at least one heavy coat, scarf, gloves, boots and a warm hat. Spring weather is very similar to fall, so be ready to experience warm days, cold days and rain. Summer in Kent will be warm/hot. If you are planning to stay in Kent over the summer, you should plan to wear light clothing.

- Average Temperatures for Fall : 9°C (Avg. low) to 12°C (Avg. High)
- Average Temperatures for Winter: -8°C (Avg. Low) to 8°C (Avg. High)
- Average Temperatures for Spring: 3°C (Avg. Low) to 15° (Avg. High)
- Average Temperatures for Summer: 12°C (Avg. Low) to 27°C

Where to Live?

- **Nearby Hotels:**
 - Kent State University Hotel and Conference Center: <http://www.kentstatehotel.com/>
 - Holiday Inn Express: <http://www.hiexpress.com/hotels/us/en/reservation>
 - Comfort Inn & Suites: <http://www.comfortinn.com/hotel-kent-ohio-OH363>
- **Off Campus Options:** (You must be 21 years of age or older to live off campus)
 - <http://www.kentcribs.com>
 - <http://www.apartments.com>



Getting to Kent State

- **From the Cleveland Hopkins International Airport:**

You can take a taxi provided by the airport. To use the taxi service, look for the taxi entrance at the orange wall on the south end of baggage claim, adjacent to Carousel 11. Pickups are made at this location only.

After hours, please call the following taxi services (metered rates will apply):

- Ace Taxi: \$88
(216)361-4700
- Yellow Cab: \$88.50
(216)623-1500
- Americab: \$107
(216)881-1111

For more information, Please check www.clevelandairport.com/Transportation/Taxis.aspx

- **From the Akron-Canton Airport:**

- Airport Taxi: \$60
330-434-4444
- Akron Canton Taxi:
\$50-64
330-808-2159
- Elite Taxi:\$40
330-350-6395

Accepts: Cash and Major Credit Cards

For more information, Please check www.akroncantonairport.com/ground-transportation/taxis

We look forward to meeting you at Kent State University!