Welcome!

We are pleased that you have chosen to pursue your academic career at Kent State University and the staff of the Office of Global Education is eager to help you succeed with your educational goals.

To immediately assist you, our Welcome Guide contains key information intended to help you better prepare for your arrival to Northeast Ohio and your initial weeks at Kent State. For your convenience and reference, our Guide provides useful information and planning tips covering the following topics:

- Your upcoming VISA interview
- Your pre-departure arrangements
- Local airports and available transportation to campus
- International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS)
- Important immigration information
- Life on the Kent State campus and in the city of Kent
- On- and off-campus housing
- Health insurance and immunization requirements
- International student orientation

Contact Information

Email is the preferred means of communication with International Student and Scholar Services
Email: isss@kent.edu
Telephone: +1-330-672-7980
Fax: +1-330-672-4025

Mailing Address:
Office of Global Education
International Student and Scholar Services
106 Van Campen Hall
625 Loop Road
Kent State University
Kent, OH 44242-0001 USA

Whether you arrive at Kent State for the fall or spring semester, you will find a campus awash with beautiful scenery, fresh air and a warm, inviting community.
Getting to Know Us!

The staff and advisors of the Office of Global Education (OGE) want to welcome you to Kent State University. You may already know some of us through our Department of International Admissions. OGE is your initial point of contact on campus and we'll be here to assist you throughout your academic career at Kent State.

The Office of Global Education (OGE) is located in Van Campen Hall, (Room 106, 625 Loop Road) on the Kent State Campus. The office houses International Admissions, International Student & Scholar Services, and Education Abroad. The Office of Global Education is responsible for processing international admissions, advising international students and scholars, and overseeing all education abroad initiatives and international partnerships.

Once you arrive on campus, your main point of contact and assistance will be our department of International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS), which is prepared to help you with a variety of cultural and Visa-related issues. You can learn more about ISSS, its staff and the many issues we can help you with on page 6.

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Please Note: To more easily access the links provided in the Welcome Guide, you can access a digital version (PDF) at: www.kent.edu/globaleducation/welcome-guide
Welcome to Kent State University

Your Home Away from Home
Alongside its internationally-ranked academics, Kent State also offers its students a myriad of social and recreational activities while maintaining a safe, secure campus. At Kent State, you will find many opportunities to have fun, make friends and discover new interests.

Life at Kent State includes:
• More than 400 student clubs and organizations
• 1000-plus on-campus social programs, activities and events
• A 153,000 square-foot student recreational and wellness center
• A medical center

Kent Through the Seasons
Kent State experiences all four of the seasons – Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. Average temperatures range from 1°C in January to 29°C in July.

Points of Interest
1. Library
2. Student Center
3. MACC Center
4. Science Mall
5. Liquid Crystal Institute
6. DeWeese Health Center
7. Student Recreation and Wellness Center (out of frame)
8. Ice Arena
10. Athletic Fields
11. Schwarz Center
12. Residence Halls
13. Downtown Kent

For an interactive map of the Kent State campus, visit: www.kent.edu/maps

For an introductory tour of the Kent Campus, view one of our three videos in English, Chinese or Arabic by visiting our YouTube page: www.youtube.com/user/KentStateGlobalEd

The City of Kent
The City of Kent is a traditional American city located in Northeast Ohio in the nation’s Midwest Region. Founded in 1910, Kent now boasts a population of approximately 30,000 residents. The city is located on the Cuyahoga River. The downtown area is within walking distance of Kent State’s campus and is filled with many small shops, restaurants, musical venues, theaters, and other attractions.
One of the first things you must do as a new student is to set up your Flashline Account. To get started, you will need two things: your FlashLine user name and your default password. Your FlashLine user name is all the characters that appear before the “@” symbol in your Kent State email address (you’ll find your Kent State email address in your admission letter). For example, if your Kent State email address is jdoe@kent.edu, then your FlashLine user name would be jdoe.

The formula for your default password is mmmyyyyy (all lower case), whereby:

- mmmm = first three letters of your birth month
- yy = last two digits of your birth year
- yyyy = last five digits of your Kent State ID Number

If you need assistance locating your Kent State ID Number it can be found in your admissions letter or you can call the Registrar’s Office at +1-330-672-3131.

Once you have determined your user name and default password, follow the next three steps to get create your FlashLine account:

**STEP 1**

Go to the Kent State home page – www.kent.edu – and click on the Flashline Login in the top left corner of the page.

You will be taken to the FlashLine Login page where you will find the following login screen:

**STEP 2**

Enter your FlashLine User Name and your default password in the spaces provided and click the Login bar.

**STEP 3**

A new screen will appear which will require you to provide appropriate information to ensure the security of your account.

**Why do I need to provide an alternate e-mail address?**
- Will be used by the Helpdesk to distribute a temporary password in the event that you have forgotten your password and security questions.
- MUST NOT end in DirectEd.
- WILL NOT be used for marketing purposes or shared with others.

**Note:** If you do not provide an alternate e-mail address, you will be required to show photo ID at one of the campus technical support locations to re-establish access to your account.

In the appropriate spaces, provide an alternate email address. In the event you forget your FlashLine password, a temporary password will be sent to this address for your retrieval.

**Why do I need to provide security questions?**
- Easily answered so you can retrieve access to your account if you forget your password.
- Please choose questions and answers that you will remember in the future.
- All three questions and answers must be selected and answered.
- A minimum of 6 characters are required.
- All three selected questions must be unique.

Provide the answers to three security questions. In the event that you should forget your password, you will be able to reset your password by providing the answers to these questions.

**New password requirements**
- Password must contain:
  - 8 characters or more
  - Uppercase letter
  - Lowercase letter
  - Special or non-alphabetic character

**Password must not**
- Include the characters: &, @, #, $, *, -
- Include your first or last name
- Be a potentially used password

Create a personal password to replace your default password. Once you have clicked this third and final submit button, a Success dialogue box will appear. Click OK and you will be logged directly into your FlashLine account.
Your I-20, SEVIS Fee and Visa Interview

Along with this Welcome Guide, your I-20 is also included in your admission packet. If not, please contact us immediately!

Your first step is to make an appointment for a visa interview at your local U.S. Embassy or Consulate.

You must pay a one-time fee called the SEVIS I-901 fee. Visit www.fmjfee.com and follow the instructions. SEVIS is the student database that is used to maintain your immigration record. Your SEVIS ID is the number in the top corner of your I-20 or DS-2019 that begins with “N00.”

Print your receipt at the end and take it with you to your visa interview. The fee must be paid at least three (3) business days prior to the scheduled date of your interview.

Your local U.S. Embassy or Consulate can provide you with a specific list of the documents that will be required during your visa interview, but in general, be prepared to have:

- A current (unexpired) passport, valid for at least the next six months
- Your I-20 or DS-2019 signed by you on page 1
- Your admission letter from Kent State University
- Proof of financial support for one year of study that matches what is listed on your I-20 or DS-2019

Additional information about applying for a visa can be found at: www.kent.edu/globaleducation/applying-visa

International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS)

During your academic studies at Kent State, you will have access to a dedicated team of advisors in the department of International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS). These international student and scholar advisors will help you with your adjustment to life in the United States and provide you with accurate immigration advice so that you maintain your student status while you are studying with us.

Please Note: The advisors in International Student and Scholar Services are not the same as your academic advisor. You should also meet with your academic advisor to discuss any academic issues, problems, or questions (including changing your major).

An international student and scholar advisor can help you with the following and much more:

- Updating your Form I-20 or DS-2019
- Issuing a travel signature before you travel internationally
- Assisting you with cultural adjustment
- Answering your questions about life in the United States
- Helping you apply for certain immigration benefits
- Giving you expert immigration advice

The ISSS website – www.kent.edu/iss – is also a valuable source of information. It provides you with step-by-step instructions and helpful information covering a variety of issues. To avoid unnecessary time and confusion, we recommend that you familiarize with the all of the material available on our Guides and Forms page:

www.kent.edu/globaleducation/guides-and-forms

Student Advising

We recommend that you schedule an appointment in advance with an ISSS advisor, but we can also accommodate walk-in advising depending on our workload at the time. Specific times will be provided to you during International Student Orientation (see page 11). For more information about our advising times and to schedule an appointment, visit:

www.kent.edu/globaleducation/office-and-advising-hours

Contact Information

Office Hours: Monday through Friday
8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Phone: +1-330-672-7980
Fax: +1-330-672-4025
E-mail: isss@kent.edu
Mailing Address: 106 Van Campen Hall, 625 Loop Road
Kent, OH 44242-0001

Social Media

Facebook: facebook.com/KentISSS
Flickr: flickr.com/photos/kentstateglobal/
YouTube: youtube.com/user/KentStateGlobalEd
Your student visa comes with a number of responsibilities that you need to follow in order to maintain your student status. We anticipate that you will have questions about your status. Therefore, our International Student and Scholar Advisors are available to help familiarize you with essential immigration regulations and to give you useful advice based on your unique situation. Please keep in mind the following general guidelines to avoid loss of status.

Check-In at the Office of Global Education
Check-In is mandatory, but it will also let us know that you have arrived safely and are ready to start classes. It is a quick and easy process, and only takes a few minutes.

Check in at the Office of Global Education (Van Campen Hall, Room 106) within 10 days of entering the U.S. Be sure to bring your passport, visa, I-20, and any other important immigration documents for yourself as well as any dependents who are accompanying you.

Maintain a full course load
Your student immigration status requires that you maintain full course load each semester, for the entire semester. Below are the minimum requirements for each academic level.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Level</th>
<th>Minimum Full-Time Credit Hours Required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESL</td>
<td>17*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The 17 hours is a university requirement.

You may only count one online course (3 credit hours maximum) toward this full-time requirement. Failure to maintain your status will result in termination of SEVIS record and loss of student immigration status.

Do not accept an internship or employment without authorization
You are allowed to work on-campus for up to 20 hours per week while school is in session. However, if you want to work off-campus, you need to obtain authorization from ISSS. Please note that working without authorization is illegal and will result in the termination of SEVIS record and loss of student immigration status.

Advise us anytime you plan to travel
Before travelling outside of the United States, you will need to obtain a travel signature on page two of your I-20 or page one of your DS-2019 (that is less than one year old) in order to return to the U.S. Valid travel signatures can only be issued by ISSS Advisors.

International travel also requires that your passport and visa be up-to-date (unexpired). You should always confer with ISSS before you travel so that we can check your documents to ensure that they are in order and that you are able to travel.

Report your U.S. address and phone number
Your student immigration status requires that you keep your local U.S. address and U.S. phone number up to date at all times. You must report this information to ISSS upon arrival to the U.S. and each time there is a change. You must report any change within 10 days through your FlashLine account. Failure to report will result in termination of SEVIS record and loss of student immigration status.

Stay in touch
ISSS will periodically need to contact you to either request or advise you of important information. We will always contact you through your Kent State email account. Add isss@kent.edu to your Safe Senders list and check your account frequently. If we request information from you, please respond immediately. Besides, we always like to hear from you!

One regular piece of communication is our Weekly International Student E-Newsletter. It’s packed with useful information, updates, upcoming events and other regular features. Don’t miss a single issue! Visit our online newsletter archive at: www.kent.edu/globaleducation/international-student-news-archive
Medical Insurance and Immunization Requirements

Medical Insurance Requirement
Healthcare can be expensive in the United States, especially when faced with a serious illness or injury. Therefore, all international students taking at least one credit hour are required to have health insurance that is comparable to the coverage provided by the Kent State-sponsored Student Health Insurance Plan. To automatically initiate your coverage, the bursar’s office will post your Health Insurance fee to your account each semester. You can view this charge through FlashLine.

Students may obtain healthcare insurance waivers if certain conditions are met. You may request a waiver of this fee if:

- You provide proof of full sponsorship by a government agency including health insurance, comparable to the coverage provided by KSU, OR
- You provide proof of health insurance provided by a United States employer.

For assistance contact:

University Health Services Insurance and Billing
- By Phone: +1-330.672.8251
- By email: insbilling@kent.edu

Immunization and Medical History Forms
Upon your arrival to Kent State, you are required to complete the following two medical forms and submit them to the university at the DeWeese Health Center located at 1500 Eastway Drive on the Kent State campus.

1. Immunization Form. Obtain the form for completion and processing:
   www.kent.edu/uhs/mandatory-immunizations

2. Medical History Form: Obtain the form for completion and processing:
   www.kent.edu/uhs/medical-history-form

For more information:
- Online: www.kent.edu/UHS/immunizations
- By Email: immunizations@kent.edu

For more information about Healthcare in the United States, visit:
www.kent.edu/globaleducation/understanding-us-healthcare-system
On and Off Campus Housing

As a student you must live on campus unless you meet one of the following conditions:

- You are at least 20 years old
- You are at least a junior (at least 60 credit hours)
- You are married

If you answered NO to all of the questions above, you are required to live on campus in one of our residence halls (until you meet one of the above conditions).

If you answered YES to at least one of the questions above, you have the option of living off-campus.

Living On Campus

If you plan to live on-campus, please complete a housing application. The application as well as information about residence hall and room options can be found on the KSU Residence Services website: www.kent.edu/housing.

Living Off Campus

If you meet one of the conditions previously discussed and would prefer to live off campus, visit https://www.kent.edu/coso/housing-information

Please note that off-campus housing in the City of Kent fills up quickly. As an option, you can search for apartments in nearby cities including Stow, Cuyahoga Falls, Tallmadge, Ravenna and Streetsboro, which have apartments less than 20 minutes from the university. However if you do choose to live in a surrounding city, you will need to ensure you have transportation to and from campus.

One transportation option is the local PARTA Bus Service, which operates on campus and within the surrounding Kent/Ravenna area. For bus schedules and routes, visit: www.partaonline.org/ride-parta/

Arriving Early

If you are arriving in Kent before you can move in to your residence hall or apartment, you may apply for temporary housing at the University at an affordable daily rate. Contact Kent State Residence Services at: housing@kent.edu

Getting around town and campus.
PARTA Bus Service operates on campus and the surrounding area.

Kent State features 25 residence halls, 13 learning-living communities - including the International Village - and more than 20 on-campus restaurants, dining halls and coffee carts.
Local Airports, Transportation and Your Arrival on Campus

Local Airport Options
Most students choose to fly into Cleveland-Hopkins International Airport (airport code: CLE). Cleveland-Hopkins is approximately 50 minutes by car from Kent. A smaller, regional airport, Akron-Canton Airport (airport code CAK), is closer – approximately 30 minutes by car or taxi from Kent – but has fewer available international flights.

- CLE: www.clevelandairport.com/
- CAK: www.akroncantonairport.com/

Local Taxi Services
Both airports feature a taxi stand in the baggage claim area that you can use to reserve a taxi to take you to Kent. Local taxis accept cash (U.S. currency) and many also accept credit cards. If you arrive late at night and no one is at the taxi stand, you can use a phone in the baggage claim area to call a taxi.

- Cleveland: Yellow Cab Company at (216) 623-1500.
- Akron: Akron-Canton Transport at (330) 808-2159

If you are arriving at CAK, you can also make a reservation with Akron Canton Transport ahead of time online at: www.acataxi.com

From Cleveland Hopkins Airport, you may also use the Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (RTA), a public transportation service, to transport you to Kent State. Please allow approximately four hours travel time. Book your trip in advance online at: www.riderta.com

Airport Pickups
For the fall semester, the Office of Global Education schedules airport pickups for new students and family members at the Cleveland-Hopkins International Airport. The pickup costs $20 per person. To check the pick-up dates for the upcoming semester and to schedule a ride, visit: www.kent.edu/globaleducation/airportsarrivals

Required Arrival Date
You must arrive on or before your Program Start Date as indicated on your I-20 or DS-2019. You may arrive in the United States up to thirty days before your Program Start Date.

CAUTION: Students who arrive after their Program Start Date risk being denied entry to the United States.

Upon Your Arrival
First, check in first with the residence hall or apartment complex where you will be living to confirm your placement.

Next, you are required to check in with the Office of Global Education, which is located in 106 Van Campen Hall. Our hours are between 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. Please bring your passport, visa, and I-20/DS-2019 form for yourself as well as any dependents who are accompanying you. We can also answer any of your questions and help you find your way around campus and the city of Kent.
New International Student Orientation

Making the transition to a new country as well as life as an international student is exciting but also challenging. To ensure a successful transition there is a lot of information that you must know. Therefore, we have organized THREE orientation sessions – a formal onsite presentation, an interactive online training program, and a helpful resource fair – each designed to help you succeed at Kent State. Because there is much you need to learn about Kent State and your responsibilities as an international student, we’ve made all three sessions mandatory! There is an optional pre-arrival webinar in which you can participate, as well.

1. New International Student Orientation

After arriving at Kent State and before classes begin, you will attend International Student Orientation. To register for onsite orientation and to check times and dates, visit: www.kent.edu/globaleducation/orientation

During Onsite Orientation, you will:

• Meet the staff of the Office of Global Education.
• Attend informational sessions to help you understand your responsibilities as an F-1 or J-1 student.
• Get acquainted with important locations, buildings, offices and dining areas on campus.
• Learn about how to apply for on-campus employment.
• Discover how to buy a cell phone, and other practical information.
• Meet students from all over the world and make new friends. You will feel comfortable and ready to begin your studies upon completion of Orientation.

2. International Student Resource Fair

International students are also required to attend the International Student Resource Fair. Numerous KSU offices, colleges, and support services will be available to answer your questions and to match you with helpful resources. Check the online Orientation Week calendar for information about date, time and location at: www.kent.edu/globaleducation/orientation

3. Online Orientation

Online Orientation is a fun, instructive, and interactive program that teaches you about important immigration information as well as the many university resources available to you. You can find more information at: www.kent.edu/globaleducation/online-international-student-orientation.

Following the start of classes during your first semester at Kent State, you will receive an email with instructions on how to access and complete the online Orientation, including your deadline for completion. You will access your training program through the BlackBoard Learning Service in your FlashLine Account. All new students must complete online Orientation.

4. Pre-Arrival Webinar (optional)

Our online Pre-Arrival Webinar will introduce you to everything you need to know about academics and life at Kent State as well as critical immigration information. Originally aired on July 6, 2017, a recorded version is now available for your to watch at your convenience at: www.kent.edu/globaleducation/newly-admitted-international-students-kent-state