YOU'RE A
SPARTAN!

INFORMATION FOR ADMITTED INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE STUDENTS 2020

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR ADMISSION TO MICHIGAN STATE!

You should know that being admitted to MSU represents much more than just another step in your continuing education. For those who decide to call themselves Spartans, this marks the starting point on a journey of extraordinary possibilities.

It's the first step to becoming part of a student body, 50,000 strong, united in a quest to make the world a better place.

Your admission to MSU allows you the opportunity to experience a campus filled with ground-breaking research and world-renowned professors who have a passion for working together.

Being a Spartan enables you to join a worldwide community of more than 500,000 problem-solvers, influencers, leaders, thinkers, and pioneers.

By choosing Michigan State, you are deciding to be a part of something bigger than us all.

Who will? Spartans Will.

Congratulations again, and welcome to the Spartan family.

MSU NETID AND EMAIL

SETTING UP YOUR MSU NETID AND MSU EMAIL ACCOUNT

Using the PID and PAN information found on your letter of acceptance, you will need to access **tech.msu.edu/new-students** to establish your MSU NetID and MSU email account. This will allow you to enroll for classes, access STUINFO to view your grades, and receive course information from your instructors.

You should complete your enrollment before the first day of classes. Enrollment information, MSU's academic calendar, and the schedule of courses are all located at **reg.msu.edu**.

In order to secure your enrollment at MSU, you should follow all instructions provided by your graduate department.

COMPLETING YOUR ENROLLMENT

ADMISSION TO GRADUATE STUDIES

You are admitted only for the semester indicated on your letter of admission. If you wish to enroll for a different semester, contact your academic department. The decision to change desired semester of enrollment will be forwarded by the department to the Office of Admissions for final approval. Departments reserve the right to approve/deny any changes to items listed on your letter of admission. A new application is unnecessary unless your new semester of enrollment is 12 months after your original semester of admission.

Final, official transcripts showing all grades and degrees must be received by the Office of Admissions. If the transcripts do not clearly indicate degree(s) awarded, official copies of each graduate certificate(s) and/or degree(s) are required. Official translations must be furnished if original documents are not in English. It is not necessary to send transcripts for degrees you have received from MSU. Admitted students from China must follow the CDGDC process; details available at: **grad.msu.edu/cdgdc**.

MSU's department of Residence Education and Housing Services has a variety of housing options, including residence halls and apartments. For more information, including rates and application forms, visit **liveon.msu.edu**.

If you have previously enrolled at MSU, you must notify the Office of Admissions immediately if the student number shown on your enclosed letter of admission is different from the one previously used.

Semester course schedules and procedures, policies, and calendar dates important for enrollment and tuition payment can be found online at **reg.msu.edu**. Information and help is also available from the Registrar's Office by phone at (517) 355-3300 or by email at **reg@msu.edu**.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities (RCPD) assists students by maximizing ability and opportunity for full participation at MSU.

If you have a disability that substantially limits a major life activity and would like to request a disability-related accommodation to participate in MSU programs, you should register with the RCPD. Self-identification is voluntary and completely confidential.

To expedite the accommodation process, please let us know if you have a physical, sensory, cognitive, or psychological disability via secure/confidential web registration at **myprofile.rcpd.msu.edu**. If you encounter problems registering online, call the RCPD office at (517) 884-RCPD. Once your request is received, an RCPD specialist will contact you to schedule a confidential assessment of your needs.

Find more information about disability issues at **rcpd.msu.edu**.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ORIENTATION

ORIENTATION INFORMATION

In addition to your departmental orientation, you are encouraged to attend International Student Orientation. All new students are required to complete immigration check-in with the Office for International Students and Scholars. Consult your department for specific orientation information.

For more information, visit:
oiss.isp.msu.edu/pre-arrival-orientation/orientation-overview

ENGLISH-LANGUAGE POLICY

REQUIREMENTS

All international students admitted to MSU must meet the university and departmental English-language proficiency requirement.

- For regular University academic admission, your TOEFL scores must be above 550 (paper version) or 80 (Internet version) with no subscores below 52 (paper version) or 19 for reading, listening, and speaking and 22 for writing (Internet version). If you took IELTS, your score must be 6.5. Some departments require a higher IELTS or TOEFL score.
- If your TOEFL score is less than 550 (paper version), or 80 (Internet version) – or higher if your department requires a higher TOEFL score – , or IELTS score below 6.5, you are admitted provisionally.
- If you were provisionally admitted, your I-20 will be issued as "English Language Studies." When you arrive on campus you will be required to take the MSU English Language Test before enrolling in academic courses. Upon meeting university and departmental English-language proficiency requirements, a new I-20 will be issued for your area of study.

In our experience, 80 percent of students with a TOEFL below 550 (paper version) or 80 (Internet version) require additional English-language classes before they can enroll full time in academic classes. If you pass the MSU English Language Test, you will be allowed to begin in a full-time academic program immediately.

If you do not pass the MSU English Language Test, you are required to take English-language classes. You may not enroll in full-time academic programs/courses until you meet the English-language requirement.

If you will be a teaching assistant, you must pass the SPEAK test with a score of 50 to qualify.

To prepare you for full-time academic work, with no additional English-language study, we recommend the following options:

- Continue English-language study in your own country and, if possible, meet the English-language requirement on the TOEFL. Ask ETS to send your TOEFL results to MSU.
- Attend English classes before you leave your country. Classes for helping you pass the TOEFL are not recommended. These will not prepare you for academic work.
- If you have fall semester admission to MSU, you can also consider attending the "Preparing for Academic Life" summer program (see below).

PREPARING FOR ACADEMIC LIFE

A good TOEFL score is not always enough. If you have met (or have almost met) MSU's basic English-language requirement, you may still have concerns about studying in the USA. This intensive summer program helps international students prepare for their academic course work at Michigan State.

For more information about the "Preparing for Academic Life" summer program, visit MSU's English Language Center online at **elc.msu.edu/programs/pal**. The English Language Center can also be reached by email at **elc@msu.edu** or by phone at (517) 353-0800.

OBTAINING YOUR I-20 OR DS-2019

PREPARING FOR THE STUDENT VISA

If you have not previously attended school in the United States, your I-20 or DS-2019 is included with this admission packet. Using your I-20 or DS-2019 from Michigan State, you will need to apply for a student visa at the United States Consulate prior to coming to the U.S.

For more U.S. visa and immigration-related information please refer to the pre-arrival information at **oiss.isp.msu.edu/immigration1/visa-and-immigration-overview.**

CURRENT F/J VISA TRANSFER STUDENTS

If you are transferring to MSU from another U.S. institution, are currently in F-1 or J-1 status, and need an MSU I-20 or DS-2019, please follow the instructions online at **oiss.isp.msu.edu/immigration1/visa-immigration/transfer**. Please note: MSU cannot issue an I-20 or DS-2019 until your current school releases your SEVIS record.

CHANGING VISA STATUS

If you are a student requesting immigration documentation that does not correspond to your current visa status, you need to change your visa status. Issuing an I-20 or DS-2019 does not automatically change your status to an F-1 or J-1 student.

For more information about changing your visa status, visit **oiss.isp.msu.edu/immigration1/visa-immigration/change-status**.

SEVIS FEES

You must pay a government-mandated fee and obtain a receipt before you can apply for your U.S. visa and enter the United States. You will need your Certificate of Eligibility (I-20 or DS-2019) to pay the SEVIS fee. For more information about how to pay the fee, visit: **fmjfee.com**.

PASSPORT

Your passport must always be valid for at least six months past your date of entry.

IMPORTANT HEALTH INFORMATION

IMMUNIZATIONS AND VACCINATIONS

If you will be a student at Michigan State, you must review the U.S. immunization recommendations available online at **immunize.msu.edu**.

If you have not had the vaccinations recommended for living in the U.S., you can get them when you arrive on campus. Cost is variable by site and is the student's responsibility. Vaccines are available from the MSU Student Health Center for a fee, from most county health departments, or from personal physicians.

REQUIRED TUBERCULOSIS TUTORIAL

Incoming international students are required to complete an e-learning module reviewing important aspects of tuberculosis (TB) infection and disease. Topics covered will include how TB is transmitted, symptoms of the disease, forms of testing, and treatment options. Completion of the online module is required, and a registration hold will be placed on student accounts if the module is not completed.

More information and a link to the module is available at **http://uphys.msu.edu/student**. For questions regarding this requirement, please contact the Office of the University Physician at **uphys@hc.msu.edu** or (517) 353-8933.