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, it will be necessary 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.msu.edu/students/orientation/prearrival.

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.msu.edu/students/admiss.htm. Please note: MSU cannot issue an I-20/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.msu.edu/students/admiss.htm.

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 for 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.

IMMUNIZATIONS AND VACCINATIONS
If you will be a student at Michigan State, you must review the U.S. immunization recommendations available online at uphys.msu.edu/forstudents/immunize/immunchart.pdf.

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. Immunizations are available on campus at the student health center, at the preclinical health professions school clinics, at the Ingham County Health Department, or at a private physician's office.

TB TESTING
Beginning Spring Semester 2015, incoming international students will be 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 will be available at uphys.msu.edu. For questions regarding this requirement, please contact the Office of the University Physician at uphys@hc.msu.edu or (517) 353-8933.

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, 49,000 strong, united in its quest to make a global difference.

Your admission to MSU allows you the opportunity to experience a campus filled with ground-breaking research, world-renowned professors, breathtaking beauty, and awe-inspiring creativity. Daily.

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.

Get ready for an epic journey.

Welcome to the Spartan family.

For more information on graduate studies at MSU, visit grad.msu.edu
**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 as well as important pre-arrival and orientation emails.

**COMPLETING YOUR ENROLLMENT**

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.

**ADMISSION TO GRADUATE STUDIES**

You are admitted only for the semester indicated on the enclosed form. If you wish to enroll for a different semester, contact the department listed on this form. The decision to change semesters will be forwarded by the department to the Office of Admissions for final approval. Departments reserve the right to approve/deny any changes to those listed on the enclosed form. 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. Official translations must be furnished when originals are not in English. It is not required to take English language classes. You may not enroll in academic courses.

If you have already enrolled at MSU as an off-campus or Lifelong Education student, 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 517.353.1300 or by email at reg@msu.edu.

If you have already been admitted to MSU as an off-campus or Lifelong Education student, 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 517.353.1300 or by email at reg@msu.edu.

**ORIENTATION INFORMATION**

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

For more information, visit: oiss.msu.edu/students/orientation

**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.

**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 and are required to take the MSU English Language Test when you arrive at MSU before enrolling in academic courses.

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 full 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” 2015 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 517.333.0800.