

June 2009

New to FSU

E—Newsletter for New International Students

Florida State University - Division of Student Affairs



Welcome to FSU!

This is the first edition of the **New to FSU** newsletter, a series of e-newsletters that you will receive from the International Center. We are looking forward to your arrival and have lots of important information to share. You probably have many questions about what you need to know before you get here, and **New to FSU** can help answer those questions!

Inside this issue:

Check-In Requirements	1
Orientation Information	2
Housing—On & Off Campus	3
Get to Know FSU's Campus	3

All new international students are required to attend the International Center's orientation and check-in at the International Center. You must do these before you can register for classes. Plan your arrival so you can be here in time to check-in and attend orientation.

If you will live on-campus, you can request an early move-in date so you can arrive in time for orientation (*see the Housing section of this newsletter*).

Check-In Requirements

Upon arrival to Tallahassee, come to the International Center to complete your "check-in". Check-in hours are Monday—Friday from 8:00—4:30. At check-in, we will copy your important documents. Bring your I-20 and your passport with visa and I-94 card inside. You also will report your local address and emergency contact information for a relative or friend. If you're bringing a spouse and/or children, bring their documents as well.

Check-in at least one day before the International Center orientation.

Frequently Asked Questions about Check-In:

What if I forget some of my documents when I come to check-in?

- You will not be able to check-in unless you bring all required documents. You will need to return with all of your documents (and those of your dependents) together.

Do I need to make photocopies of my documents or will you do it for me?

- If you copy your documents before check-in, that will make your check-in faster. However, if you cannot copy them in advance, that's OK. We will be happy to make the copies.

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
International Center



Orientation Information



The **mandatory** main orientation will take place **Friday, August 14 from 10-4 at the Oglesby Student Union Ballrooms.**

Graduate students can register for classes starting August 17 if all registration holds are cleared. Undergraduates register at their university orientation. Therefore, you need to attend the International Center's orientation and check-in **before** you can register for classes!

To confirm your attendance at orientation, go to:

<http://www.ic.fsu.edu/newstudents/orientation.cfm>.

Early Orientation: If you arrive early, we also offer an early orientation that you can attend instead of the main one. The early orientation is offered Friday, August 7 at 1:00 in building HCB, room 205.

Frequently Asked Questions about Orientation:

What other orientations are required?

Graduate students need to ask their academic department for the date and location of their department orientation. The department orientation is important for learning about academic and registration matters. The Graduate School also offers orientation for all new graduate students on Tuesday, August 18 at 12:00 and 1:15 p.m. in building HCB, room 101. Additional information and registration at: <http://gradschool.fsu.edu/orientation/>.

Undergraduate students must attend the university orientation, offered by the Office of New Student and Family Programs. This orientation is different from the International Center orientation and it is very important because this is when you will get registration advice and register for classes. You must sign-up in advance and pay the orientation fee online at www.orientation.fsu.edu.

What information is discussed at the International Center orientation?

We have an exciting day planned for the main orientation on August 14. The main orientation is designed to give you the information you need to have a successful

start at FSU. It's also a great way to meet other new students. Orientation will introduce you to the services and programs that the International Center provides. We will also talk about what it means to have an F-1 student visa, and tell you about the rules you need to know about employment, enrollment, travel, and more.

We will also offer two special sessions: Getting Started at FSU (with current students to answer your questions) and Healthcare and Insurance. Lunch will be provided, as well as an "information fair" with representatives from campus and community organizations. We look forward to meeting you!

What if I have a problem and can't attend on August 14?

Students must make all attempts to attend the orientation on either August 7 or August 14 to avoid delays in their registration for classes. You will have a registration hold until you attend orientation and check-in at the International Center. If you have a problem, such as a visa or travel delay, contact the International Student Services Coordinator, Leigh Ann Osborne, as soon as possible at IC-NewStudents@fsu.edu, or 850-645-1424.



Housing— On and Off-Campus

On-Campus Housing: Early Move-In Request

Did you know that you can request to move in to your on-campus housing before the scheduled move-in date of August 19?

Because you are required to be here for the orientation on August 14, you can ask for an early move-in date. Making the request does not guarantee an early move-in. Be sure to read your Housing Assignment notice for your assigned move-in date.

Housing contacts: Mr. Frank Cuevas, fcuevas@admin.fsu.edu; or Ms. Alicia Deckard, adeckard@admin.fsu.edu. For general housing information, see: www.housing.fsu.edu/.



Off-Campus Housing

If you have decided to live off-campus, it's recommended that you do plenty of research on housing options before your arrival. To start, see the "Pre-Arrival" brochure you received with your I-20 on pages 30-32.

The International Center has a brief list of off-campus housing that is close to campus and within walking distance. If you would like to get a copy of this list, just email IC-NewStudents@fsu.edu and ask for the off-campus housing list. Good luck on your housing search!

Other Resources for Off-Campus Housing:

- Apartment Ratings: www.apartmentratings.com
- FSU Student Resource Center: www.fsu.edu/~sga/src/services.html
- Off-Campus Housing Guide (for undergrads): <http://family.fsu.edu/docs/2009OffCampusGuide.pdf>

Getting to Know FSU's Campus

Before you get here, check out these online resources to familiarize yourself with the FSU campus.

- **Virtual Tour online:** www.fsutour.org/
- **Online campus map:** www.fsu.edu/Campus/newmap
- **Self-Guided Walking Tour:** <http://visit.fsu.edu/pdf/WalkingTour.pdf>
- **Campus Webcams:** www.fsu.edu/webcam/

