

Ohio  
Wesleyan  
University

*Pre-Arrival Guide  
For New  
International  
And  
US Global Nomad  
Students*

**Division of Student Life  
International Student Services**

**Tel: 1-740-368-3070**

**Fax: 1-740- 368-3073**

**Email: [international@owu.edu](mailto:international@owu.edu)**

**2009**

**Important Dates**  
**Arrival / New International Student Orientation (NISO)**  
**2009**

- **Monday, August 17<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday, August 18<sup>th</sup>**  
New International Student Arrival & Move-in to Assigned Room
  
- **Wednesday, August 19<sup>th</sup>**  
New International Student Orientation
  
- **Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup>**  
Special StART OWU for Internationals and US Global Nomads
  
- **Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
New Student Orientation
  
- **Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup>**  
Classes Begin

*Students will not be allowed to enroll for the Fall Semester if they arrive late.*  
*Students who are unable to arrive on-time will be deferred to the Spring Semester.*

# ***CONTENTS***

ALERT: While this guide presents the best information available at the time of publication, all information contained herein is subject to change without notice of obligation.

<b>CALENDAR</b> .....	Inside Front Cover
<b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....	4
<b>OVER THE SUMMER</b> .....	5
Communication with International Student Services .....	5
Pre-Arrival Materials.....	5
Materials to be Returned.....	6
Pre-Registration for Classes.....	8
Required Summer Reading.....	9
Things to Learn .....	9
Passport and Visa.....	9
Financial Issues.....	10
Pre-Departure Orientation .....	11
<b>ARRIVAL</b> .....	12
Planning Your Arrival Date.....	12
What to Bring—and How To Get It Here.....	13
Entering the United States.....	15
Port Columbus International Airport .....	16
From the Airport To Ohio Wesleyan .....	16
Arrival At Ohio Wesleyan.....	17
Parental Notification of Arrival .....	17
Orientation.....	18
<b>COLLEGE LIFE</b> .....	19
Liberal Arts Education.....	19
Academic Majors.....	19
Classes.....	20
Academic Honesty.....	21
The Stages of Cultural Adjustment .....	22
Roomates.....	23
Your First Semester .....	24
English Competency.....	24
<b>ADVANCED STANDING CREDIT</b> .....	25
Departmental Policies For Advanced Standing Credit .....	26
<b>MISCELLANY</b> .....	27
Receiving Overseas Communications.....	27
StART OWU .....	28
Fresh-X.....	28
Housing .....	29
Food Service .....	30
Student ID Card.....	30
Health Matters .....	31

Social Security Number.....	32
Banking.....	32
Application Fee Waiver.....	33
Courier Charge .....	33

---

## ***INTRODUCTION***

---

We are delighted that you have chosen to pursue your studies at Ohio Wesleyan University. We hope that this experience will further your personal and educational development.

International Student Services at Ohio Wesleyan seeks to assist you in realizing your educational goals. In addition, we will try to help you adjust to the academic and social life on our campus, enabling you to enjoy the freedom of intellectual discovery and the warmth of new friends. We hope that you will take advantage of the resources and facilities at Ohio Wesleyan and that you will seek to impart on our campus an understanding of your cultural heritage.

International Student Services provides assistance to both international and American global nomad students (American citizens who are living or who have recently lived abroad).

You will be receiving materials from other administrative offices at Ohio Wesleyan regarding various aspects of your enrollment here. The following pre-arrival information addresses topics that may be of special concern to you as a student from abroad. Some of the information appears in other University publications and is repeated here just for good measure. And some of the information may not be new to you if you are already familiar with American education or have lived in the United States for some time. We hope that the contents of this guide will be useful to you as you prepare for your arrival on our campus.

Should you have any questions or concerns before your arrival at Ohio Wesleyan, please feel free to write, call, fax, or e-mail.

---

## ***OVER THE SUMMER***

---

### **COMMUNICATION WITH INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES**

Ohio is in the Eastern Time Zone of the USA and observes Summer Time (also called Eastern Daylight Time). Ohio is in the same time zone as New York City year-round.

**Fax:** The number of the fax machine in International Student Services is 1-740-368-3073. If your fax requires a response, be sure to specify the return fax number.

**Telephone.** The number for International Student Services is 1-740-368-3070. During the summer, regular office hours are 08:30 to 16:30, Monday through Friday. If this line is not answered, please leave (clearly and slowly) a voice mail message. Your call will be returned as soon as possible.

**In the United States, you may call the toll-free number 1-800- 922-8953**, without paying, from any phone (including payphones). After the call is answered, ask to be connected to International Student Services at extension 3070. (This toll-free line operates from 08:30 to 16:30 only.)

**In an emergency, at any time, when International Student Services is closed, you may call 1-614-579-5398. This is the number of the mobile phone of the Director, ISS.**

**Email.** The email address for International Student Services is [international@owu.edu](mailto:international@owu.edu) . Because of the large volume of e-mail that we receive in August, we may not be able to answer you immediately.

**Office Closings.** The University (and our office) will be closed on July 4 for the Independence Day Holiday. In addition, International Student Services may be closed periodically throughout the summer for vacations.

### **PRE-ARRIVAL MATERIALS**

You have probably already received a good number of mailings that provide information about the University. Read these materials carefully to become more familiar with Ohio Wesleyan.

**Catalog.** It is especially important to become familiar with the *Catalog*. In particular, you should pay close attention to two sections in the front--one on academic regulations and procedures and another on degrees and graduation requirements--and to the section in the back on expenses. (Unfortunately, some of the information on expenses--sections on financial aid and health insurance, for example--applies only to U.S. students.) The *Catalogue* changes little from year to year but is updated annually in August. You will receive the new 2009/2010 *Catalogue* during Orientation. Please note that a good deal of information, including the *Catalogue* is available through [www.owu.edu](http://www.owu.edu) .

**Summer Mailings.** Like all new students at Ohio Wesleyan, you will be receiving information from various offices. Please read this information carefully. The more you know about Ohio Wesleyan before you arrive, the easier it will be for you to adapt to your new environment.

Some of the information may be inappropriate for students from other countries, since it is intended for all new students, the vast majority of whom are U.S. students. For example, the Office of Residential Life will tell you not to arrive before August 20<sup>th</sup>, yet we ask you to arrive on August 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> because New International Student Orientation (NISO) starts the next day. (A few other groups arrive early as well.) In cases of such conflict, please trust this information, which is designed solely for students from other countries. Please contact International Student Services if there are any questions.

Please make sure that you read the brochures that are included with this *Pre-Arrival Guide* mailing:

1. *Introduction to American Life*
2. *U.S. Classroom Culture*
3. *Health and Wellness for International Students, Scholars and Their Families*

## **MATERIALS TO BE RETURNED**

The various summer mailings will include requests from different offices to return certain forms and materials to those offices. Below is a summary of those materials.

Because of occasional difficulties with overseas mailings, some of our materials might not reach you. Don't worry if this happens. Frankly, all you really need to get here in August is your I-20; everything else can be handled upon arrival if necessary.

**Arrival Information.** Once your travel plans are fixed, please send the "Arrival Notification" sheet to the International Student Services. Arrival notification must be complete—please make sure you include all flight numbers, times, etc. Please also notify us of the people with whom you will be traveling.

**Picture.** Please send a picture of yourself to International Student Services as soon as possible. The picture is used for two purposes: First, it makes it easier for us to identify students at the airport when they arrive. Second, this picture is kept in a photo album of all international students.

**Final Academic Records.** Please send any final academic documents to International Student Services as soon as they are available or make sure that a request has been made to your school. Examples of these final records: final high school transcript and external examination results (ISC, HSC, A-levels, SPM, International Baccalaureate, and so on). All academic documents must be official or attested copies. Plain copies, copies of attested copies, and faxed copies are not acceptable.

**Housing Application and Contract.** You should have received information about housing along with your letter of admission. If you have not already done so, please submit the on-line housing application and the housing contract as soon as possible through web site of the Office of Residential Life. If you are having problems with the on-line Housing forms, please contact us.

The room charge for a standard multiple-occupancy room is the same for all the residence halls.

It sometimes happens that students do not receive housing information or that we do not receive the on-line form back from students, perhaps because of problems with overseas mailings or internet connections. As long as we have your enrollment deposit, we will reserve a room for you, even if we do not have your housing application.

The Office of Residential Life attempts to place students according to their preferences and will inform you of your room assignment late in the summer (early August, usually). Since this notification occurs so late, you may not receive your assignment before you arrive and get your keys from me. If you are eager to know your assignment before the mail reaches you, you can call Residential Life (1-740-368-3175) between 8:30 a.m. and noon or between 13:00 and 16:30 hrs. The assignments may well be complete in late July. Fax or e-mail notification of housing assignments is not possible.

**Pre-Registration / StART OWU.** You will receive detailed information and special forms from the Associate Dean for First Year Students explaining how to pre-register for courses. (In most cases, this information will be sent to you in the same packet as the Pre-Arrival Guide.) After you arrive, you will receive the new *2009/2010 Catalog*. It is best to pre-register as soon as possible, as courses that are popular might close early. The StART OWU Program, which follows NISO in August, provides students with even more information regarding courses and academic life at OWU.

**Academic Advising.** You should receive information about academic advising from the Office of Academic Advising with your StART OWU materials. To help in assigning new students to academic advisers, they send a form to gather some information about you and your academic and personal interests. Please complete the form and return it as directed.

**Medical Forms.** The Student Health Center sends information about required immunizations as well as a medical history form. Please return the materials to the Student Health Center as soon as possible. You are required to have your immunizations up-to-date in order to enroll in classes. In addition, Ohio Wesleyan requires a negative tuberculin skin test or chest X-ray within the past year. Skin tests are available at the Student Health Center before classes begin. Any special medication or treatments or information (in English) about your medical history should be sent directly to the Student Health Center or brought in August. All health and medical information is confidential and will be available to medical personnel only.

**Personal Data Sheet.** The Office of Residential Life sent to all accepted students a personal data sheet to gather certain information for your permanent record in their files. All information in your files is confidential. Please complete the form and return it to Residential Life.

**Account Agreement and Statement of Financial Responsibility.** Information about your student account at Ohio Wesleyan is generally included in the first general summer mailing (or in this packet). There is an "Account Agreement and Statement of Financial Responsibility" that must be signed by the student and parents and then returned to the University Controller. They include two copies--mail one to us and keep the other for your files.

There may well be other, less important forms to return--a student publicity form, a prospective student referral form, and so on. As you can see, you have plenty of homework long before your first day of classes!

**Forms Checklist:**

- Arrival Notification Sheet / *To International Student Services*
- Picture / *To International Student Services*
- Final Academic Records / *To Office of the Registrar*
- Housing Application & Contract / *On-line Submission*
- StART & Course Registration Materials / *To International Student Services*
- Academic Advising Forms / *To International Student Services*
- Medical Forms / *To International Student Services*
- Personal Data Sheet / *To International Student Services*
- Account Agreement and Statement of Financial Responsibility / *To International Student Services*

## PRE-REGISTRATION FOR COURSES

Pre-registration materials are, in most cases, sent in the mailing with this Pre-Arrival Guide. You must read these materials very carefully and to spend some time developing a first-semester schedule. Please follow all instructions carefully and submit information/forms by the published deadlines. Please also see [www.start.owu.edu](http://www.start.owu.edu) for more information. Course registrations may even be changed through the second week of classes; it is far better, however, to be settled into your courses within the first week. When necessary, students may change courses after taking placement examinations, consulting with academic advisors or peer advisors during the StART Program.

A few guidelines:

- If English is not your first (and only) language, you do not have to do a foreign language.
- Try to do ENG 105 (Freshman Writing Seminar) your first semester. Actually, half the freshmen do it the first semester, and the other half do it the second semester, so there is no requirement to do it the first semester. But it is better for you to do it as soon as possible, especially if you have little experience writing research papers according to American standards of good composition.
- If you are unsure about your placement in a sequential subject (e.g., physics), choose the lower course for pre-registration. During StART and orientation, you will be tested and perhaps then moved to a higher level. Be sure that you are present for any required placement tests. It is very important that you take all of the placement examinations that are required during StART and Orientation.
- The normal course load is four full-unit courses, especially the first and second semesters. International students in F-1 visa status must be enrolled for 3.25 units for the entire semester in order to maintain their visa status. It is, thus, a good idea to enroll in more than 3.25 units (say 4.25 or 4.5) so that you can withdraw from a course, if need be, and still maintain your immigration status.
- Take courses in a variety of areas. Do not take more than one or two in your intended major and related areas. There is just too much risk of problems in the first semester, and you don't want to undertake such risk in your major. Besides, most of your major will be done in the last two years of college. Also, many students do change majors after their first or second semester; it's good if you have exposure to a variety of areas early on so that you can discover where your interests and abilities lie.
- Occasionally a student will do well in three math and science courses the first semester, but it is rare. If you are not a Presidential Scholar, you probably shouldn't attempt this (unless you are absolutely sure that you will remain completely oblivious to all the wonderful distractions of college life and that you can study, on a daily basis, starting with the first day of classes, at least twice as hard as you ever have before).
- The courses that tend to close before your arrival in August are ECON 110 and perhaps CS110. If you are interested in taking these courses your first semester, please notify us of your course choices early. With the economics course, it is not so important to enroll in it the first semester as there is ample opportunity to do it later. With computer science it is important to start from the first semester of enrollment. Please do pre-register for CS 110 for the fall, and be sure to send in your pre-registration materials early.
- Take courses that you have some interest in. At some point, you may have to take courses you think you won't like, to meet a requirement; avoid doing this your first semester.
- Be adventurous. Take courses in areas that are of interest but that you haven't had the opportunity to explore before. Bring your curiosity to college!

## REQUIRED SUMMER READING

Every year, all first-year students are assigned a book to read over the summer. The book is chosen, by the Department of English, with an eye to the topic for the National Colloquium for the year. Aside from the connection with the National Colloquium topic, the chosen book is used in all sections of ENG 105: Freshman Writing Seminar. In addition, this summer reading creates a common experience for all new students. Information about this year's required summer reading should be sent in mid-June.

## THINGS TO CONSIDER / LEARN

**Computers.** Computers are available for student use in the library and the academic buildings. There are assistants available for help. Most students have their own computer; in fact, most now have laptops. It will be more convenient to have your own, but it is not at all necessary given all the computers on campus. For more information about computers on campus and the Office of Information Systems (InfoSys), please visit <http://infosys.owu.edu/>. Extensive

**Laundry.** You will have to do your own laundry in college, by using the coin-operated washers and dryers found in each of the residence halls. It is important that you learn how to do laundry before you leave home. (Your roommates will not tolerate a pile of dirty, smelly clothes in the room.) You should at least be aware of the basics--certain fabrics shrink if washed in hot water or dried at a high temperature, dark colors may bleed onto light-colored clothes, some fabrics (wool, for example) cannot be machine washed, and so on. Some students learn these things the hard way and ruin their clothes, so it is better if you come knowing how to take care of your clothes. Last year, the cost to wash was \$1.25 and \$.75 to dry (about \$2.00 per load). Americans tend to wash their clothes very frequently--often after a single wearing.

**Cooking.** Learn how to cook a few basic meals before you leave home. Bring recipes. Almost all of your meals will be taken in the dining halls, but you will occasionally have the opportunity to prepare meals--especially over the breaks or for special occasions--and what students most want then is food from their own countries. You will probably adjust fairly easily to American food, but it is nice if you can indulge your own cravings from time to time. This applies to both men and women.

**Expectations for Parental Communication.** Be sure that you and your parents have frank and open discussions about their expectations for the information that you will be sharing with them. For parents living a long way from the sons and daughters, there is often an increased desire to be informed about

## PASSPORT AND VISA

You must have a valid passport to obtain a visa for the United States, and you must keep your passport current throughout your stay in the United States. "Current" means "will not expire in fewer than six months." You must monitor the expiry date on your passport. Passports may be renewed through embassies / consulates in the USA. ISS will assist students with this process.

Before you visit a U.S. Consulate to apply for your visa, please read carefully the instructions on the Certificate of Eligibility (Form I-20) issued for your studies at Ohio Wesleyan University. You will also need to pay the SEVIS (Form I-901) and other visa fees. To be eligible for an F-1 visa, you will be required to demonstrate that you will be a bona fide student, that you have adequate financial support for your stay in the United

States, and that you have nonimmigrant intent. Further information about immigration regulations will be presented during Orientation—attendance at these sessions is MANDATORY for all students in F-1 visa status.

If you use an institution's I-20 to obtain a visa and then to enter the United States, you must enroll at that institution for the first semester. Make sure that for the purpose of getting a visa and entering the United States, you use the I-20 of the institution that you intend to attend.

Many people mistakenly think that the visa must be valid for the entire period of stay in the United States. In fact, the visa needs to be valid only on the day that you enter the country. Once you have been lawfully admitted to the United States, the visa is irrelevant. What is then relevant is the I-94 (white card) that you will be given upon entry. Some students have four- or five-year visas; some have one- or two-year visas, occasionally a student will have a visa valid only for a few months, and once we had a student with a visa valid for only three days. So long as your visa is valid when you enter, it's fine. If the visa expires while you are here, there is no problem. However, if you later leave the United States, for winter or summer break, for example, and then need to re-enter the United States, you will need to get your visa renewed at home if it has expired. You cannot renew an F-1 or J-1 visa in the United States.

Please see the later section on "Entering the United States" for more information.

## FINANCIAL ISSUES

Please read carefully the expense sheet and the sheet on payment of fees. They provide detailed information about your expenses at Ohio Wesleyan and about your payment of those expenses.

**Billing Statement.** Students and their parents will receive a billing statement of the student account at the end of each month. Once you are here, you should verify that the University computer has your correct billing address. In addition to tuition, room, and board, which appear on the July and November statements (insurance is billed only once a year, after you arrive), other charges may be billed to the student account upon the student's request. Examples of these charges are a late registration fee, tickets to special events sponsored by Ohio Wesleyan, and a fee for replacement of a lost identification card. Further details appear in the back of the University catalog and on the separate sheet.

**Monthly Payment Plan.** The University offers a monthly payment plan through an outside company – Tuition Management Systems. A brochure about this plan from the Office of Student Accounts is included in this mailing. If you have any questions, you should contact Tuition Management Systems directly, or contact Student Accounts.

There is a fee for the monthly payment plan, a one-time-only annual fee to enroll in the plan. There are no interest charges. Your payments are spread over ten months. Read the brochure for official details.

One option that this company offers is low-interest loans. My understanding is that nonresidents are not eligible for the loans unless they have a co-signer who is a U.S. citizen or U.S. permanent resident and who assumes legal responsibility.

**Transfer of Funds.** If you expect to receive funds from your home country for your studies at Ohio Wesleyan, you should ensure that satisfactory arrangements for the transfer of funds have been made before your departure. You should know your government's regulations on currency exchange and bank procedures for money transfers to the United States. Delays in the transfer of educational funds can create a hardship and an inconvenience for you.

**Assurance of Support.** You must reconfirm the financial commitments to your education. The University does not make new financial aid awards to enrolled students. If you were not offered financial aid, you will not be able to obtain assistance after you have enrolled. If you have received a financial aid award, you will be able to renew your award each year, but you will not be able to receive additional assistance. Those receiving scholarships must maintain specified grade point averages.

**Employment.** You will not be able to fund your education through employment (although you may be able to earn a little spending money if you are able to find a job on campus). Furthermore, students may not work off campus, because of the strict regulations governing the employment of nonimmigrant international students. Therefore, it is essential that you have arranged for the funding of your education before the beginning of your studies here. Illegal employment will result in incarceration and deportation.

**On-Campus Employment.** Students in F-1 status have permission to work on the campus of the school they are authorized to attend. Most international students here do work on campus. However, there are limitations. Students can earn no more than their allotment of \$1,500 per academic year, an amount generally earned by working about eight hours a week. There are two reasons for the allotment. First, the budget for student employment has its own limitations, and second, we believe that students are here to study, not to work, and we do not want work to interfere with academics. This allotment may change slightly from year to year; I do not foresee an increase in the near future. Those with US citizenship or Legal Permanent Resident status in the US are eligible to work off-campus and for “work study” positions, which are supported by the US Federal Government.

Students sometimes ask us to find jobs for them before they arrive. Unfortunately, this is not possible. Campus employers usually hire at the beginning of the academic year, when students are here and can apply in person. In the first week, there is a campus-wide job fair. If you do not find a job at the job fair, there will be other opportunities later on. It is always hard to predict what the employment situation will be, but generally, I find that most students who want to work are able to find a job, although perhaps not in the very first semester. Most campus jobs require no specific skills and are not particularly challenging, but a job is a good way to earn some pocket money, to develop some skills, and to get plugged into the University. Some students treat their jobs too casually and then lose them; the most important traits that campus employers look for are dependability and willingness to do the work assigned.

**Expenses.** The expenses listed by the University for books and personal and vacation living expenses are the minimum. Many students find that they need more money. Personal expenses, especially at first, may be higher than you imagine. You will find it very helpful if you have available more funds than the minimum. The required books in some areas (sciences, economics) tend to be very expensive, and students who take more than the normal course load (as many do) of course have more books to buy. There is no way around the expense for books--students are often surprised at first at just how expensive books are, so I hope you will come prepared.

For more information about payment of fees, please contact The Student Accounts Office at [owstuact@owu.edu](mailto:owstuact@owu.edu).

For more information about scholarship and loans, please contact The Financial Aid Office at [finaid@owu.edu](mailto:finaid@owu.edu).

## **PRE-DEPARTURE ORIENTATION**

To prepare you for your experience for higher education in the United States, many overseas counseling centers in the EducationUSA network, such as USIS, the Fulbright Commission, the Institute of International Education (IIE), and America-Mideast Educational and Training Services (AMIDEAST), hold pre-departure orientation programs. We hope that you will take full advantage of these opportunities to prepare yourself for a new environment. Details should be available at the American Embassy or Consulate in your area—please check out its web site.

---

## ***ARRIVAL***

---

### **PLANNING YOUR ARRIVAL DATE**

You must plan to arrive on Monday, August 17<sup>th</sup> or Tuesday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, so that you will have time to move into your room and recover from your trip. New International Student Orientation (NISO) – a special orientation program for new international students and American global nomads will begin on Wednesday, August 19<sup>th</sup>. StART OWU is on Thursday, August 19<sup>th</sup>. The regular Orientation program, for both international and American students, will take place from August 19<sup>th</sup> through the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Attendance at all programs is required. Please plan to arrive on-time so that you will be able to participate in all programs. Students who are unable to arrive by the start date will not be allowed to register for classes and will be deferred to the Spring Semester.

Please let us know when you are coming and how you plan to get here, even if we will not be meeting you at the airport. Knowing your arrival plans allows us to prepare. Unscheduled arrivals cause undue hardship for our office at our busiest time of year and prevent us from providing proper service to new students. Once your travel plans are fixed, please send us the on-line "Arrival Notification" sheet. Please make sure that we have your complete itinerary with all of the information for all legs of your trip—all connecting flights, all airlines, all times of arrival and departure.

Please prepare yourself for delays. Last year 80% of the flights of our incoming students were delayed, many students were delayed for more than 24 hours due to weather, canceled connecting flights, etc.

We will provide transportation to all students who arrive on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, the official Arrival Days, at any time of the day or night that they arrive. Transportation will be provided ONLY from Port Columbus International Airport (CMH) and only on these two days.

Those students taking part in *Fresh-X* may arrive on-campus on the specified dates for the start of those programs. You will be picked-up at the airport by an orientation leader. Further information will be provided by the *Fresh-X* staff.

If, for whatever reason, your plans change and you are unable to enroll at Ohio Wesleyan, please extend us the courtesy of letting us know that you will not be coming.

### **NEW INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ORIENTATION LEADERS**

Current students volunteer each year to become New International Student Orientation Leaders (NISOLs). These students assist new international and global nomad students arrive and get settled on campus. They also are available to answer questions and serve as points of contact. Each new international student and global nomad student will be connected to two NISOLs. These will be informal mentors for the first semester.

## WHAT TO BRING--AND HOW TO GET IT HERE

**Clothing.** Because of the seasonal variations in the climate, it is important to include in your wardrobe lightweight and heavyweight clothing as well as rain apparel. Temperatures here may begin dropping in late September. The coldest temperatures generally come in January and February. Warm, winter clothing--a necessity--can be found in shops in Delaware or Columbus.

In late August and early September the temperatures here may sometimes be quite warm during the day (32--35°C.) and cool at night (16--20°C.). It would be best to have lightweight and heavyweight clothing with you, just in case. Delaware stores are within walking distance of campus, and the University occasionally provides van service to the shopping centers in Columbus.

Average Monthly Temperatures in Central Ohio:

Month	Low (F)	Low (C)	High (F)	High (C)
Jan	20.3	-6.5	36.2	2.3
Feb	23.5	-4.7	40.5	4.7
Mar	32.2	0.1	51.7	10.9
Apr	41.2	5.1	62.9	17.2
May	51.8	11	73.3	22.9
Jun	60.7	15.5	81.6	27.6
Jul	64.9	18.3	85.3	29.6
Aug	63.2	17.3	83.8	28.8
Sep	55.9	13.3	77.1	25.1
Oct	44	6.7	65.4	18.5
Nov	34.9	1.6	52.4	11.3
Dec	25.9	-3.4	41.0	5.0

There is no official or required dress code at Ohio Wesleyan. Most students (both men and women) wear very casual clothing, often jeans or sweatpants, almost all the time. Both men and women wear shorts to class in warm weather. Occasionally, you might need more formal attire, such as a sports coat or suit and tie for men or a dinner or party dress for women, or traditional dress of your culture. Above all, informal and comfortable clothing is practical for everyday occasions.

**Cultural Items.** Horizons International, other student organizations with an international focus, and community organizations provide opportunities for you to wear your native dress, to sing or play musical instruments, to display objects of cultural interest from your country, to discuss various aspects of your way of life, or to prepare the cuisine of your country. We strongly encourage you to bring items of cultural interest, such as native dress, photos, books, slides, taped music, and cultural objects.

**Spices.** Many spices and foodstuffs from other countries can be purchased in Columbus. However, it might be good to bring recipes and whatever spices are permitted by U.S. Customs. Many students enjoy being able to cook "real" food for themselves on occasion. Kitchenettes are available in most residence halls, but students are responsible for providing their own tableware and cooking utensils.

**Appliances.** Most electrical outlets in the U.S. provide 110 volt alternating current (AC) at a frequency of 60 cycles. Appliances brought from some countries will not work on this current, or will work only with a transformer and a special adaptor that has blade-like (not rounded) prongs. It is easier to purchase electrical equipment here than to locate an adaptor.

**Linen, Bedding, and Furnishings.** Students must provide items such as sheets, pillowcases, pillows, bedspreads, blankets, towels, and room furnishings (desk lamps, area rugs, an alarm clock, and so on). Since bed sizes may vary from country to country, it may be best to buy sheets, blankets, and bedspreads after you arrive in the United States. Most of these items can be bought easily and inexpensively in Delaware or Columbus. Most students, however, find it more convenient by far to order their linens/towels/ etc. through the approved vendor [www.rhl.org/owu](http://www.rhl.org/owu) . If you order on-time, your linens/towels/pillow/ etc. can be here waiting for you when you arrive. This will keep you from carrying these bulky items with you or waiting (and sleeping on a bare mattress) until you can get to a store. Further information has been sent to you from the Residential Life Office.

All of the mattresses in the residence halls are 36 inches wide. In Hayes, Stuyvesant, and Welch, they are 75 inches long, and in Smith, Bashford, and Thomson, they are 80 inches long.

**Money.** Before coming to the United States, you should familiarize yourself with procedures for transferring funds for your studies from your home country. In addition, you should be prepared to meet your initial expenses here for tuition, room and board, insurance, books, and personal items.

For security reasons, it is not advisable to carry large quantities of money except in the form of traveler's checks or international bank drafts. Do carry enough US dollars to get you through the first few days or the first week, until you establish a bank account. You will need to purchase some meals and other things during this period.

Please remember that if you are carrying large quantities of currency, you must declare this fact to customs officials. If you do not you, you could have your currency confiscated. Please make sure that you follow the declaration procedures carefully. Again—you are advised to not carry too much currency with you but carry enough to get through the first few days or the first week.

If you wish to transfer funds to your student account at Ohio Wesleyan before your arrival, please send an international bank draft payable to Ohio Wesleyan University, to the attention of our Accounting Office. Please make sure your name appears on the draft so that your personal student account can be credited. Should you wish, Ohio Wesleyan will hold money you transfer in excess of your first semester's tuition, room and board, and release it to you upon arrival so that you can open your own personal bank account at a Delaware bank. We must have written permission from your parents to release the extra funds to you.

Four major banks and several savings associations are located in Delaware. During orientation, we will assist you in opening a personal checking or savings account.

**Luggage.** Each piece of luggage should be of a size and weight that you can handle. Please do not bring very large suitcases. Two medium-sized suitcases are much easier to handle and less likely to be damaged than one enormous suitcase. There are no servants to help carry luggage, so you will need to be able to carry your luggage from the airport to the van and from the van to your room. In addition, make sure that all bags are well secured. Each year there are a few students whose luggage (even new pieces) gets damaged in transit. Straps around a suitcase can hold it together even if the lock or opening mechanism gets damaged. Airlines do occasionally lose luggage that has been checked. Make sure that tags with your name and address (Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, Ohio 43015, USA) are on both the outside and inside of all suitcases. To prevent inconvenience in case of loss, try to carry enough things in a carry-on bag to get you through a day or two.

**Advance Shipping.** Luggage or boxes shipped before your arrival are sent at your own risk. Please address packages with your name, c/o Central Receiving, Ohio Wesleyan University, 28 Hayes Street, Delaware, Ohio 43015, USA. You should also write "New International Student, arriving 8/21."

**Cell (mobile) phones:** Cell phones are available. The most common mobile system in the USA is CDMA, not GSM. Most of our students who have cell phones, however, subscribe to the local T-Mobile or Cingular plan with GSM service. Beware of bringing your GSM SIM with you—the cost of establishing and maintaining a cell phone in the USA with a foreign SIM is very, very high. There are many mobile options available, including cheaper “recharge” phones which do not require a contract and do not result in a monthly bill. Most first-year students do not get a cell phone because they do not have a US Social Security Number, a credit card, etc. This can be frustrating. There is, however, a phone line in every room. Local calls are free. Most students buy long-distance calling cards for calls home at local stores.

## ENTERING THE UNITED STATES

After your arrival at your port of entry in the United States, there will be two inspections (after perhaps a long wait in line): One by an immigration official who will “admit” you to the United States in F-1 (student); and Two by a customs official who will ask you about and maybe check the things you are bringing into the country.

You should carry with you:

- \*your passport (with your US F-1 visa)
- \*your Form I-20 (usually in an US Embassy/Consulate sealed envelope)
- \*your SEVIS fee receipt (Form I-901)
- \*your financial support / certification documents
- \*your letter of acceptance

You will probably be asked to show only your passport and your Form I-20, along with the I-94 cards (embarkation/disembarkation cards) that you fill-out during your flight by the immigration inspector. You may be asked to show the other things also.

You should also make sure that you have copies of all of these documents in checked baggage, as a back-up.

You will also fill-out a customs declaration form on the airplane or after you arrive but before you enter the inspection area for customs.

The immigration official will inspect your passport and your I-20. The official should stamp your U.S. entry in the upper right-hand corner of your I-20 and write F-1, D/S. Immigration should return your I-20 to you. Make sure that it has been properly stamped in with F-1, D/S.

Please make sure that you complete the white I-94 cards carefully and completely. Make sure that you use the same name spellings as appear in your passport. Fill-in your name, date of birth, and citizenship on both halves. At inspection, the official will stamp in your entry and write F-1, D/S, just as on your I-20. Again, make sure that the I-94 is properly stamped in. They will take the top half of the card, and they generally staple the bottom (departure) half of the card to the page in your passport opposite the U.S. visa page. This card is very important – it is proof that you have been lawfully admitted to the United States.

This I-94 card bears a pre-printed eleven-digit number called an admission number. They will probably copy this admission number onto your U.S. visa and onto your I-20.

You may also have your picture taken by a digital camera and your fingers scanned by an inkless device. This is part of the new US-VISIT Program to enhance visa and border security. Because this part of the entry procedure is new it is handled differently at each airport and land-crossing, but it should be completed while your passport, I-94 and I-20 are being processed.

**IMPORTANT – Please note the following:**

Most students are really too tired and disoriented upon arrival to pay attention to this procedure. But you really should pay attention. If the border official makes a mistake on the I-94, you will have to pay a fee to get it corrected, and you will not be able to work on campus for the several months it will take to process the correction.

Male students from certain countries will also have to go through an additional inspection called “Special Registration” (part of the NSEERS Program). It is very important that students who are subject to the “Special Registration” procedures, complete them before they leave the airport. More information will be provided about this to those subject to it.

If you are a citizen of Canada, Mexico or the Caribbean, please contact the OWU ISS for special instructions.

### **PORT COLUMBUS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (CMH)**

Port Columbus International Airport is served by a number of major airlines. In making flight reservations, please be sure that you are scheduled to come to Columbus, Ohio. Several states other than Ohio have cities named Columbus, which are not your intended destination! The airport code "CMH" should appear on your baggage tags.

If your luggage is lost or damaged, be sure to file a report with the airline at the airport, before coming to campus. Our New International Student Orientation Leaders who will be meeting you at the airport, will be glad to help you with this procedure.

The major airlines seem to have fairly good records of on-time arrivals, but my experience with new students over the years is that few students actually arrive on time. Be prepared for delays, especially if you are coming from halfway around the world.

### **FROM THE AIRPORT TO OHIO WESLEYAN**

We provide free transportation from the airport for new students arriving only on the Official Arrival Dates. Students participating in *Fresh-X* will be advised by *Fresh-X* staff on pick-up arrangements. Students should notify us in advance of their arrival plans by sending us the "Arrival Notification" sheet or emailing us at [international@owu.edu](mailto:international@owu.edu). Please note: We can only pick-up students at Port Columbus International Airport (CMH). We cannot pick-up those arriving by bus/highway coach or those arriving at other airports. There is no bus/highway coach service to Delaware.

We need to know:  Name of student  
 Date & time of arrival in Columbus (CMH)  
 Details of all flights in the itinerary including departure and arrival times  
 Names of all airline(s) and all airline flight number(s)

We will have two vans making trips back and forth to the airport on the Official Arrival Days. With more than 50 new students expected, and arriving at different times, some students will have to wait a bit at the airport until a few more new students arrive so that the van can carry a group of you. Please try to avoid arriving early in the morning (it can be impossible to recruit a volunteer at that time and you may have to wait at the airport).

Because we have a limited number of vans and New International Student Orientation Leaders, we are unable to provide transportation for new students accompanied by parents or relatives. We strongly urge arriving families to rent a car because public transportation in Delaware is very limited and taxis are few and expensive.

If you do not notify us of your travel plans, we will be unable to meet you at the airport. Public transportation between the airport and Delaware is available (by taxi only), but it is expensive. The current cost of taxi transportation from the airport is approximately \$85 to \$100 for a one-way trip (not including tip).

All arriving students should proceed to the baggage claim area at CMH. You will be met at the central information desk near the baggage carousels.

### **ARRIVAL AT OHIO WESLEYAN**

You will be met by OWU staff or students who have volunteered to help with New Student Orientation. If you arrive unexpectedly, please call International Student Services.

You may also seek assistance from the Hartupee International House (a small living unit on campus, located at 88 Oak Hill Avenue), at telephone 1-740-368-2292 or -2293. Students at the International House will be able to help you and will know how to reach me.

### **PARENTAL NOTIFICATION OF ARRIVAL**

Your parents may wish for you to contact them immediately upon your arrival, to verify your safe arrival. Unfortunately, this is generally not possible. You will be able to make long-distance telephone calls only after you receive a telephone authorization code. Since you will not have an authorization code for the first day or two, you will not be able to call home unless you can make a collect call (not possible to many countries) or unless you can get a large number of coins and make a call from a public pay phone off campus.

International Student Services does, however, encourage new students to contact their parents briefly as soon as they can after they arrive to inform them of their safe arrival. New students can use the ISS phone to call home, briefly, if the ISS Office is open. Students may also use on-campus computers.

Parents are welcome to send an email to the ISS or to call to check on the arrival of their son or daughter, but because of the amount of activity taking place during the arrival and orientation of new students, responses can be very slow.

## **ORIENTATION**

The New International Student Orientation Program is viewed very favorably by students here. We hope you will enjoy it and profit greatly from it. During this period, we get you settled in--give you your room, take you around campus, show you downtown, take care of banking matters, and show you where everything is and how everything works.

We also have a few group meetings during which we can discuss issues such as graduation requirements, courses, the academic system, how to pay bills, immigration, employment, life in the residence halls, how to make friends here, and so on.

All new international students will also be required to take a mandatory New International Student Orientation Course (UC099) during the first-half of the first semester. This course will cover important information regarding immigration regulations, cross-cultural communication issues, American culture and American academic culture, etc.

Returning international and American students will be very helpful in getting you settled as well. You would be surprised at how interested they are in you and in helping you when you arrive. You will have the chance to talk to students and ask them all sorts of questions during orientation.

---

## ***COLLEGE LIFE***

---

### **LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION**

The U.S. system of higher education may be quite different from that of your country. At the undergraduate level, most U.S. colleges and universities offer what is called a liberal arts education, the purpose of which is to ensure both breadth and depth of learning. Students gain exposure to a broad range of subjects by taking courses in the humanities, the social sciences, and the natural sciences. This broad base of learning serves to complement specialization in a major field of study.

A few students are initially hesitant about taking courses outside their major area, but most are delighted with the opportunity to explore various fields of interest. Some modify their academic plans because of the educational growth that liberal arts learning inspires: a pre-engineering major has decided to add a major in religion to her plans, and a recent graduate ended up majoring in both pre-medicine and humanities. Regardless of their majors, almost all students graduate with a deep appreciation of the value of a liberal arts education. I therefore urge you to keep an open mind and allow yourself the pleasure of sampling courses in a variety of academic disciplines.

Please make sure that you read the pamphlet *U.S. Classroom Culture*, which has been sent to you.

### **ACADEMIC MAJORS**

Many students from other educational systems mistakenly think that a bachelor's degree is more or less equivalent to the academic major, as in many countries the major is all one studies at the university level. Some international students are therefore too concerned with the major at first. Most majors, as you can see by reading the catalog, consist of eight or twelve courses, out of 34 required for graduation. Roughly, then, a major is one-third of the coursework for a bachelor's degree.

Students are free to major in whatever subject they want; the University does not put limitations on the choice of major. Students are not admitted to one academic department or another – they are admitted to the University.

There is no need to declare a major until the end of the second year. You can also change majors – several times if necessary. Many students do change their intended majors, as first-year college students generally have an unrealistic assessment of their abilities and their interests. The first year is often a year of important discoveries. Let it happen. It is much better to explore in your first year or two and then settle on a well chosen major than to be narrowly focused at first and then have to change everything towards the end, when there is not enough time.

You can do two majors, if you want. You could even do three, although it may well be impossible to fit all the requirements in your four years here.

The most important part of the major is the advanced coursework, generally done in the last two years. It is good to sample the introductory courses in a number of disciplines, including your intended major(s), in the first year.

## CLASSES

The approach to education in the United States may be different from what you are used to and may require a change in your study habits. What counts here is your daily performance throughout the semester, not the big test at the end. You will be expected--not just encouraged--to attend class regularly, to participate in class, and to keep up with regular reading and other homework assignments.

Professors evaluate student work quite frequently during the course of a semester, through assignments and frequent quizzes. The final examination at the end of the semester often makes up only a small percentage of the final grade in a course. Professors will tell you on the first day of class what they expect from you and how they will evaluate you. If you do not understand or want more information, do not hesitate to seek clarification from your professors.

In most courses, class participation is strongly encouraged. Students are expected to ask questions about points they do not understand, to share their opinions and comments, and to contribute to the class. Most classes are not so much lectures by the professor to the class, but dialogues between the professor and the class. No student should feel any intimidation about speaking in the class. It is not considered disrespectful to question the instructor. Professors welcome lively discussion if it is to the point; it is their way of making sure that the students are following the lectures and understanding the material properly. More important, it is how they go about developing in their students the ability to think critically and logically. Do not be afraid to admit that there are parts of the material you do not understand; if you do not understand them, it is likely that others in the class will share your confusion, and the resulting discussion will benefit everyone.

If you still have additional questions after the class discussion or if you are really interested in the material and want to explore it to a greater extent, feel free to go see your professor in his or her office after class. Professors have posted office hours specifically to welcome students who wish to discuss the course work or to receive extra help with problems, and they will expect you to take advantage of these opportunities to come talk to them. By visiting your professors when you have a problem, you demonstrate your interest in the course and your seriousness about your academic responsibilities.

Courses in literature and the social sciences will often require a lot of reading. Emphasis is on understanding and on synthesizing the various authors, not on memorizing details. Professors are looking for originality of thought and for the ability to analyze material. For written work, too, emphasis is not on eloquence, but on having good arguments, expressed clearly and supported by reason and evidence.

Choose your courses carefully. Do not overload yourself, especially during the first semester. Do not automatically assume that you can handle more course work than the average U.S. student; you must leave yourself plenty of time to understand and adapt to our system and to new ways of studying. Ohio Wesleyan courses are difficult, and our professors' expectations are high. Students balance their course load by taking one or two lighter courses, which do not require too much reading or written work, with two more difficult courses.

Genius alone will not get you very far in the American system. If you don't produce the work, on a regular basis, you will fail.

Get to know your fellow students. Group study and exchange of ideas often help you to understand how the system works. Other students are ready to offer help if you ask for it. You can benefit a lot from discussions with your classmates, and vice versa.

Go to your professors, your academic adviser, or me if you have any problems. We are here to help you, and we encourage you to let us know when you are having difficulty. Don't be too shy to talk to them, they won't know that there is a problem -- until they see your grades!

Students from other countries who come to Ohio Wesleyan tend to be well prepared academically. We are confident of your ability to achieve success here. Students tell us that it takes about one semester to adjust to the system and feel comfortable with it, and as a result, the first semester can be stressful as well as exciting. It is like a roller coaster ride, they say. You will find a lot of support here--from our office, from your professors, and from other students. By giving you information in advance about academics at Ohio Wesleyan, we hope to prepare you to meet the initial challenges of adjustment and make a smooth transition.

## **ACADEMIC HONESTY**

Authenticity and the ethical use of information are highly valued in academia. The integrity of the academic community depends upon norms of conduct that support cooperation, honesty, and respect in the use of all information and academic resources. All members of the academic community are expected to promote adherence to the principles of honest academic conduct. Participating in, allowing, and even ignoring academic dishonesty are unacceptable.

Your professors are themselves scholars, and they will generally expect you to behave as scholars. A presumption of good faith and honesty underlies all student-professor interactions. Professors trust you to behave honorably and honestly. Violations of our policy on academic honesty will result in penalties. Furthermore, such violations are viewed by professors as a betrayal of their trust in you, of the implicit student-professor contract. Aside from any stated penalties, there may be unspoken penalties for violating this trust that affect your standing in your major department, the respect and goodwill afforded you by your professors, and recommendations for graduate school or employment. I urge you to take very seriously your professors' trust in you.

Sometimes it is hard, especially for new students, to pin down the spirit of academic honesty. Professors might not discuss their expectations explicitly. And whereas a certain amount of group work might be required in a lab, for example, it might be strictly prohibited in another course. It is your responsibility to know what is acceptable and what is not in each course. If you are unsure, talk to your professor. And in general, when in doubt, err on the side of caution. The spirit of academic honesty should infuse all academic work--from major examinations down to the smallest homework assignment and including all interactions with professors and other students.

You are strongly encouraged to become familiar with our policy on academic honesty. Information can be found in the catalog, and a more detailed policy description is available from the Office of Academic Affairs.

Despite my making a special effort to publicize this policy, every year a few students are found guilty of plagiarism. They are generally shocked at the penalties, which can range from an F on an assignment or exam to failure in the course (even for one incident which may, to the student, seem trivial), to expulsion from the University. The professor is generally the one who decides the penalty, and a report is made to the Dean of Academic Affairs. A second offense could be very serious indeed.

## THE STAGES OF CULTURAL ADJUSTMENT

The process of cultural adjustment has long been known to international student advisors who work with foreign students from the early days of their arrival in the U.S. Professionals in Student Health and Student Counseling Services may also see students who are in the process of adjusting to their new surroundings. These students often demonstrate physical and psychological symptoms that may seem unrelated to the adjustment, though a closer look at exactly where the student falls in the adjustment process may prove useful in making the connection.

Commonly recognized stages of cultural adjustment are:

**The Honeymoon Stage...** characterized by exhilaration, anticipation, and excitement. The foreign student is fascinated with everything that is new. The students are embarking on their “dream come true,” which is to study in the United States.

A student in the honeymoon stage will demonstrate an eagerness to explore the novelty of the new experience.

**The Stress and Hostility Stage...** characterized by frustration, anger, anxiety and sometimes depression. Following the initial excitement is frustration with the college bureaucracy and weariness of speaking and listening in English every day. Sleep patterns may be disrupted. Students may suffer from indigestion and be unable to eat. Students are upset because, although they have studied English, they don't seem to understand anyone and perhaps people do not understand them.

Foreign students react to this frustration by rejecting the new environment in which they feel discomfort. The internal reasoning might be, “If I feel bad it's because of them.” The student blames his external environment for his bad feelings. At this point foreign students usually display hostility towards the new culture. Some of these hostilities are translated into:

- fits of anger over minor frustrations
- excessive fear and mistrust of Americans
- frequent absenteeism
- lack of interest
- lack of motivation
- fits of weeping
- marital stress
- compulsive eating
- compulsive drinking
- and, at worst, complete withdrawal

Academic problems may begin during this stage. These students are in a difficult, painful stage. Students in this stage, in particular, need the tolerance and patience of those around them.

**The Adjustment Stage...** follows when the new foreign student begins to relax in a new situation and begins to laugh at minor mistakes and misunderstandings which previously would have caused major headaches in the hostility stage. This more relaxed state of being occurs after the student has established a support system and is able to manage the size and complexity of the university, understands his/her studies, and begins to pass tests. Eventually, the student will begin to feel “at home” and ideally have the ability to function well in the United States as well as his/her home country.

*This article was written by Nancy Mark, Associate Director of International Student Affairs at the University of Illinois/Urbana-Champaign, for the September 1990 issue of Optimizing Health: International Connections.*

## ROOMMATES

Many new students are concerned about getting the “perfect” roommate. They may develop unrealistic expectations, hoping that the roommate will end up becoming their best friend for life, and as a result, they can only be disappointed. They may also be anxious about living with a “stranger.” Almost all new students tend to focus on this one person--the roommate--as crucial for happiness in college. But it’s not true.

Your room is where you sleep and where you keep your things. But the whole campus is your living room, your backyard. There are plenty of students who spend very little time in their room--they study in the library, they hang out in the campus center, they spend time visiting friends, they watch television or play games in the common areas. The college is your home, and your room is only one little corner. It is less important than you might think at first. You need to explore the campus, starting with your residence hall. If you spend a lot of time in your room first semester, you are probably doing something wrong.

Similarly, your roommate is only one person among many who may become important to you. Your roommate does not need to be your friend; in fact, sometimes friends make terrible roommates. What is important is that you learn to get along with your roommate, to compromise, to work out schedules, and to create and maintain a certain harmonious environment in the room so that you both can function well. Learning to deal with people is an important part of college life at a residential campus like ours.

If you do have roommate problems, it is important to seek help before the problem gets out of hand. There are lots of people to help--RAs and RLCs in the residence halls and upperclass students who may have been through a similar situation. By all means, talk to people--starting with your roommate--if there is a problem.

Certainly, you will want to make friends in college, starting with the first day. To make friends, you need to meet people--lots of people. You will meet a small group of students, some of whom will become your friends, during the international student orientation. This will happen naturally, without effort. What will take effort is getting to know lots of Americans, who will arrive a few days after you do. You need to be ready on Thursday, when they arrive, to make the effort to meet not just your roommate but all the other students on your floor. It is in the first few days that new students are very eager to meet others and begin to form friendships. If you ignore all the new students who arrive on Thursday, you may later find yourself on the periphery.

College may be the first time that you are thrown together with people who are very different from you--in background, culture, religion, and in styles of dress and the like. New students especially are quick to reject another student because of superficialities--this one likes the “wrong” kind of music, that one wears the “wrong” kind of clothes, another one is from the “wrong” kind of place. Please keep an open mind about all the students you meet; you may be pleasantly surprised by what you find under the surface. They might be the best part of college life.

You are encouraged to be bold in your first few days and weeks. Go up to other students and introduce yourself, ask questions, invite the person to go eat with you, be open to doing things with new people. If you are shy or nervous or uncomfortable doing so, just fake it for a few days and see how it goes. With over 500 new students, all of whom need friends fast, you can’t afford to be shy.

## **YOUR FIRST SEMESTER**

Without question, the first semester is the most difficult and maybe the most exciting as well. So many things are new, and new things make some people uncomfortable. You may be worried about leaving your family and friends for the first time, about living with "strangers" here (they will not be strangers for long), about academic success, about your fluency in English, about any number of things.

The students we enroll from other countries are exceptional young men and women, and they do very well here. They distinguish themselves academically, they make outstanding contributions in student government and organizations, and they truly enjoy their years at Ohio Wesleyan. I know you will too.

Every year students go through the transformations of the first semester. There may be a few struggles, so be patient with yourself at first – there is so much to learn and to experience. We look forward to sharing your experiences as you learn to meet new challenges and reach new goals.

## **ENGLISH COMPETENCY**

Regardless of your TOEFL or SAT verbal score, you may be anxious about your ability to communicate effectively in the U.S. dialect and idiom. You may have slight difficulty at first with conversational English until you get used to the accent and some new vocabulary, especially slang. Students tell me that within one semester they have no problems at all. They also tell me that they were more worried about this than they needed to be.

Some students may be enrolled in a partial-credit course to assist them with their transitions to academic life in an English speaking classroom. Selection to participate in this course is based upon submitted test scores and other evaluative criteria.

## ADVANCED STANDING CREDIT

**Advanced Standing Credit** may be given for advanced coursework completed at a secondary-level institution. The University recognizes the superior achievement evidenced by good results on the CEEB Advanced Placement Examinations, the SAT II Examinations, the International Baccalaureate Higher Level Examinations, the GCE Advanced Level Examinations, and other such credentials. This superior achievement – and the strength of the academic curriculum in general – is a significant factor in our decision to grant admission (and scholarships, in many cases) to the University.

Students with exceptional preparation at the secondary level may be eligible for advanced standing credit on a course-by-course basis, depending on the departmental policies and standards. Academic departments have developed their own policies in accordance with their departmental curricula, the typical preparation of their students, and their experience with the performance of students in their departments. Departments generally require evidence of completion of the work, grades, course syllabi, and A-level, IB, or other certificates and score reports where applicable. Some departments may make a decision to grant credit based solely on an evaluation of the student's academic record; other administer a placement/proficiency test and use the results in conjunction with, or instead of, the student's academic credentials.

Students should consult the section on “Examinations for Placement and/or Credit” in the University Catalog for a description of University policies. In addition, detailed and updated information from some academic departments is included in the orientation packet that new students receive upon arrival. Fees may be charged for departmental examinations and for the awarding of credit.

**Advanced Placement (AP) Examinations.** Advanced standing credit may be granted depending on the score and departmental standards. Most departments require a score of 4 or better (a few require a score of 3 or better) and grant either one or two units of credit. Regardless of credit awarded, students may need to pass a proficiency test in order to enroll in a course beyond the introductory level, depending on the policy of a particular department (see below).

**International Baccalaureate.** Advanced standing credit may be granted on a course-by-course basis for completion of the IB at the higher level. Students who present higher level IB scores of 5 or better may receive one or two academic units, depending on the course syllabus, the student's mark, and departmental standards. No credit or course exemption will be awarded for subsidiary-level IB passes. Regardless of credit awarded, students may need to pass a proficiency test in order to enroll in a course beyond the introductory level, depending on the policy of a particular department (see below).

For advanced standing credit, remember that:

- It is up to you to initiate requests for credit.
- Requests for credit must be made in the first part of the semester.
- It is essential to send to us, or bring with you, documentation of all academic work completed.

For further information, please consult the University Catalog, the Office of the Registrar, the appropriate academic departments, or International Student Services.

## DEPARTMENTAL POLICIES FOR ADVANCED STANDING CREDIT

**Mathematics.** Students who have studied calculus for one to two years at the secondary level and who have not taken an AP exam should begin with Calculus II. A test for students enrolled in Calculus II will determine if any are eligible to begin in Calculus III (Multivariable Calculus). Depending on their academic performance in the course, they may receive credit for previous courses in Calculus. It is not possible to receive advanced standing credit in math (other than through AP) without completing a course in math here.

**Physics.** Students must take the placement examination if they want advanced credit or if they will study physics (for their major or for general degree requirements) and if they do not have AP results. Credit is awarded on the basis of the results of the examination and perhaps an evaluation of other credentials as well. Students who pass the physics exam must also complete a laboratory requirement in order to receive credit. The physics exam is offered during orientation, generally on the Friday morning before classes begin.

**Chemistry.** Students must take the proficiency examination if they want advanced standing credit and do not have AP results. Credit is awarded on the basis of the results of the examination and perhaps an evaluation of other credentials as well. The chemistry exam is generally offered on the Saturday after the first week of classes. Students must sign up for the exam by Tuesday of the first week of classes.

**Biology.** Students may receive advanced standing credit on the basis of their academic record, the result of a proficiency test, or both. All students with advanced preparation in biology who wish to enroll in a biology course here must take the placement exam, including AP and IB students. Students who want advanced standing credit but do not wish to enroll in biology here do not need to take the exam if they already have AP or IB. A biology test is offered in the first week of the semester, generally on Monday evening of the first week of classes. Students must sign up for the test by noon on that Monday.

**Economics, Accounting, and Management.** Students may receive advanced standing credit on the basis of their academic record, the results of a proficiency test, or both. The Department of Economics normally offers a proficiency test in late August. Students with an A-level pass in economics with a grade of C or better will be given two units of credit, one for ECON 110 and one general unit of credit in economics (lower-level) with no specific equivalent. Students with an A-level pass in accounting with a grade of C or better will receive one unit of credit for ACCT 217. Students with an A-level pass in management with a grade of C or better will receive one unit of credit (lower-level) with no specific equivalent. Such students should bring the original (or attested copy) A-level certificate to International Student Services, who will review the document and make an attested copy for the Department of Economics. Students with exceptional preparation in these areas who have not done A-levels may take a proficiency examination administered by the department. The exam is generally given during the second week of classes, and students must sign up for the exam by the end of the first week of classes.

**Other Disciplines.** Students with exceptional preparation in subjects other than those listed above should consult with the appropriate academic department regarding the possibility of advanced standing credit. The department may grant credit on the basis of the student's credentials or may require the student to sit for an examination.

---

## MISCELLANY

---

### RECEIVING OVERSEAS COMMUNICATIONS

**Mail.** Student mailboxes are located in the basement of the Hamilton-Williams Campus Center (HWCC). Each student is assigned a mailbox and a mailbox number. Your mailing address will be:

(your name)  
HWCC Box (your box number)  
Ohio Wesleyan University  
Delaware, OH 43015  
USA

Your mailing address does not include your room number and residence hall.

**Email.** All students are given an OWU email account. It is very important that you check your OWU email frequently as official University communications are delivered to your OWU email account. Your user name for your OWU email consists of eight letters: the first letter of the first (given) name, the first letter of the second (middle) name (or the first letter of the first name again for those who have no middle name), and the first six letters of the last (family) name (if the last name has fewer than six letters, then just the whole last name is used and the username has fewer than eight letters).

***Bulletins from International Student Services.*** Informational bulletins will be sent out periodically from International Student Services to all international students via email. International students must set their email accounts to make sure that Bulletins from ISS are not spammed-out.

**Telephone.** The telephone system will allow students to buy their own telephone and plug it into a receptacle in their room. With the new system, students will have a single telephone voice mailbox extension number throughout their stay at OWU in addition to the extension number that rings in their room.

**Fax.** Fax messages can be sent to students at 1-740-368-3073. This is the number of the International Student Services fax machine. Students are always welcome to receive faxes at my office. When we receive a fax for a student, we will email the student or leave a phone mail message so that the student can come pick up the fax during office hours. You can also send faxes from my office, using your telephone authorization code.

## StART OWU

StART OWU is Ohio Wesleyan University's new "Student Advising, Registration & Testing" program that will be offered four times during the summer for new, freshman (first-year), students. You will be receiving information regarding this program after you have made your enrollment deposit.

During StART, students meet with faculty advisors, attend presentations on degree requirements and major programs, sit for placement examinations in various subjects, and do other such things. The goal is to prepare students for the start of their academic programs here at OWU.

The first four StART sessions take place on-campus in June. The fifth one takes place after New International Student Orientation (NISO) and before New Student Orientation in August. It is assumed that almost all international and global nomad students will take part in the fifth session. International and global nomad students are very welcome to take part in the June sessions, if they want to do so. Students who will be in F-1 student status are required to enroll in the August StART OWU session, unless they will be able to enter the USA in "B" visitor status for one of the June sessions.

Course pre-registration materials will be sent to you over the summer (usually arriving at your home in early June). This will give you an opportunity to become familiar with the academic programs, the requirements for different majors and minors, the course offerings for the Fall Semester and other matters that are important to your academic program.

You will be able to pre-register for classes for the Fall Semester by email and starting in late June. It is best to have this process completed as early as possible and at the latest by July 1<sup>st</sup>. Please wait for the receipt of your pre-registration materials before attempting to pre-register. If you do not receive your pre-registration materials by June 10<sup>th</sup>, please contact us.

You will be able to change courses or add courses—adjust your pre-registration course schedule—after you arrive and complete the StART program in August. Changes to student course schedules are permitted after placement examinations have been completed and academic advisors have been consulted.

There is a fee for the StART OWU program. This fee may be paid AFTER you arrive at OWU.

## FRESH-X

There is a special outdoor pre-orientation program offered every year for all new students. This is called "Freshman Experience" or "*Fresh X*." It is held just before the regular orientation program. Those international students who have participated in it in the past have given it rave reviews.

Information about *Fresh-X* will be in the general orientation mailing from New Student Programs; it is also available on the web. If you decide to participate in this program, you will not be able to participate in our regular New International Student Orientation program. There will be, though, a special make-up orientation session for those international students who decide to participate. If you are interested in this, please be sure to register online at <http://fresh-x.owu.edu/registration.html>. The deadline for registration is Friday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008. You are recommended to register early as the space is limited, and, in past years, the program has filled up quickly. To know more about *Fresh-X* please visit <http://fresh-x.owu.edu/>. Those who decide to participate in this program will be required to attend a make up session for New International Student Orientation later in the semester.

## HOUSING

**Housing Policy.** A residential campus, Ohio Wesleyan requires all students, domestic or foreign, to live on campus except those who are married, those who live with their parents, those who are 24 years of age or older, and those with a documented medical or psychological condition that makes it inappropriate for them to live on campus.

**Housing Fee.** The room charge for a standard multiple-occupancy room is the same for all the residence halls.

**Notification of Housing Assignment.** The Office of Residential Life attempts to place students according to their preferences, as indicated on the housing application, and will inform you of your room assignment late in the summer. Since this notification occurs so late, you may not receive your assignment before you arrive and get your keys from me. If you are eager to know your assignment before the mail reaches you, you can call Residential Life 1-740-368-3175 between 08:30 and 12:00 or between 13:00 and 16:30 hrs. The assignments may well be complete in July.

**Room Freeze.** Once students arrive on campus, there is a room freeze for the first month of the semester. Students will not be permitted to change rooms until the room freeze is lifted. After that time, if students are having difficulties, they can discuss the problem with their student RA and the RLC for the residence hall and perhaps get on the waiting list for a change of room.

**Staffing of Residence Halls.** The halls are staffed by a professional Residential Life Coordinator (RLC) for each hall as well as several trained student Resident Assistants (RAs), perhaps one or two to each floor. Soon after you arrive, you should look around on your floor and find your RA – the RA's room should be marked. RAs will be in training for much of time during the Monday and Tuesday that new international students arrive, but they will be on their floors part of time, especially late at night. Find your RA, introduce yourself, and let him or her know that you are here. They can be helpful with any problems you may have.

**Vacation Housing.** The academic year officially begins on August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008 and ends on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Vacation periods are from November 22<sup>nd</sup> to November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008, from December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008 to January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009 and from March 7<sup>th</sup> to March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009. During these vacation periods University housing is officially closed, but will be open for international and US global nomad students who wish to remain in Delaware. For 2007/2008, housing was free over the Thanksgiving and spring breaks; there was a charge, however, of \$15 per night over the winter break. Summer housing is also generally provided, at a reasonable rate. Vacation housing policies and charges are subject to change.

Since the regular food service does not operate during the breaks, students may either prepare their own meals in the kitchen facilities located in most residence halls or dine at local restaurants.

**Vacation Homestays.** The Visit Program, Christmas International House, and the Experiment in International Living are examples of programs administered by organizations or churches nationwide to provide opportunities for students from abroad to visit other areas of the United States and to spend time (especially over Christmas) with American families. Costs for these programs are generally small, although students are responsible for their own travel expenses. Information about these programs is available in the Office of International Student Services.

## FOOD SERVICE

**Meal Plans.** You will receive a detailed brochure about University dining options in one of the summer orientation mailings. There are three meal plans – Knight, Bishop, and Squire – which vary according to purchasing power and price. The Knight plan is for heavy eaters, the Bishop for moderate eaters, and the Squire for light eaters. New students are automatically assigned to the Bishop plan over the summer. You can change your meal plan by completing the form from University Dining Services in the summer mailing, or you can change in person (at the Office of Residential Life) once you arrive, in the first week of the semester. No changes can be made after the first week of the semester until the following semester.

Students buy a meal plan for each semester. Depending on the plan you buy, a certain number of “points” are electronically encoded on your student ID card. You then use your card (like a debit card) to pay for each meal, with different selections costing a certain number of “points.” With this point system, there is, in effect, a volume discount given to big eaters, who pay slightly less for each unit of food than others. This discount is really reflected in the base price (different from purchasing power, or points), which might be considered to cover overhead, of each plan. This system is confusing at first – it’s the sort of thing which is very difficult to explain in words but which makes sense quickly once you use it. Certain restaurants off-campus will accept OWU food points.

If you think the middle plan, Bishop, may not be right for you, why don’t you talk to some of the old students in your first week here and see what they recommend. Or just try the middle plan your first semester, and if it turns out to be too much or too little, you can change the following semester. By the way, if ever you run out of food points, you can always buy more points to add to your card, although in the long run it is more expensive to do it this way.

**Dining Facilities.** There are several dining areas on campus, with the larger cafeterias in Smith Hall (just renovated) and in the Campus Center. In addition, there is a dining room in Welch, a small convenience store in Thomson, a bakery in the Campus Center, a new sit-down restaurant called “1842,” pizza delivery campus-wide, and even a breakfast cart in University Hall. All students have access to all facilities.

**Off Campus.** In addition to the dining facilities on campus, students can also use their off-campus food points to buy food from several off campus stores such as Subway.

## STUDENT ID CARD

The student ID card, sometimes called the OWU card, only rarely serves its original purpose of providing identification on campus (after all, we know who you are). It is absolutely required, however, for many other purposes, including:

- Residence hall access – halls are locked 24 hours a day and can be accessed by swiping your ID card.
- Library books – a bar code on the ID is used to check books out of the library.
- Food service – the ID, which has a record of your meal plan and points remaining on a bar code, is used to purchase food in the dining rooms.

The ID card can also be used as a debit card for certain functions on campus, if you deposit money into your OWU card account. There is no need to do this before you arrive on campus, and it is probably better to wait until you are here and can better see whether or not this is something you want and need. Some students choose to do this, and other do not. No refunds are made of money deposited to your OWU card account. Please read carefully the information they send before agreeing to use the debit card feature. If you do decide to deposit money in your OWU card account, you can use your card:

- To buy books and other items in the OWU Bookstore.
- To use the washing machines and dryers in the residence halls.
- To make copies in the copiers in the library and in the residence halls.
- To buy drinks and snacks in some vending machines on campus.

For all these purposes, you can also use cash, so there is no need to put money on your ID card, although you may find it convenient to do so. All of the machines will take coins as well as a swipe of your ID card, and in the bookstore you can pay with real money, a check, or a credit card. The OWU card account is different and separate from your OWU student account. The OWU card account is only for the four uses mentioned above. The student account is for OWU fees and charges – tuition, room, board, and other special charges. Although your meal plan is on your ID card, the meal plan is paid for through the student account and not through the OWU card account.

Immediately upon arrival you will receive a temporary ID card that will permit access to the residence halls. During orientation you will turn in this temporary card and receive your permanent ID card that will provide for all the other functions in addition to hall access.

Do not lose your card! There is a charge to replace a lost card – temporary or permanent. If you have deposited money in your OWU card account to use it as a debit card and then you lose your card, someone else could find it and spend your money. Please be careful with your ID card.

## HEALTH MATTERS

**Medical Services.** The University Student Health Center provides medical care on an outpatient basis to all students. The Health Center is staffed by two family physicians (one male and two females), one Certified Nurse Practitioner (also the Student Health Center Director), one Registered Nurse, and an insurance specialist/secretary. Professional services are free, but charges are made for most medications and lab procedures. Students whose illness necessitates hospitalization will be taken to Grady Memorial Hospital in Delaware.

Please remember that if you are ill, the Health Center should be your first stop.

**Dental Services:** The University does not provide dental health services. The International Student Accident and Sickness Insurance Plan does not cover dental services (except for those related to injury to the mouth). Dental services in the USA are very expensive. We strongly urge you to have a complete and thorough dental check-up before you depart your home country and strongly urge you get all dental issues attended to before your departure.

**Insurance.** All full-time international students and global nomads (American citizens living abroad) attending Ohio Wesleyan are required to have health insurance. International students are required to participate in our International Student Accident and Sickness Insurance Plan. Because of the extremely high cost of medical care in the United States, insurance is absolutely necessary.

We are pleased to announce that our American global nomad students will be eligible to enroll in our International Student Accident and Sickness Insurance Plan—a great value. We are one of only a handful of schools in the USA that offers this.

Please ignore any information you may receive from the University regarding the Ohio Wesleyan Student Health Insurance Plan. This insurance plan is designed to provide minimal supplementary coverage to (U.S.) students residing in the USA, most of whom are already well covered under their parents' policies. It is not appropriate for foreign students. All international students are covered under a special policy designed to meet their specific needs.

### **SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER**

You will need to get a U.S. Social Security number in order to work on campus. As a nonimmigrant, you do not pay into the social security system. Nor can you receive benefits. But the bureaucracy here runs on these numbers nationwide, and no employer can pay you without one.

The application process is facilitated by International Student Services. Students are allowed to begin working on campus before a Social Security Card has been issued—but only for a few weeks. After students get a job offer, they must make arrangements with the International Student Services Office to travel to the Social Security Administration Office to make an application. International students are not allowed, by law, to apply for a Social Security number unless they have an offer of employment—this is a new rule that went into effect late in 2004.

### **BANKING**

On the first day of orientation, we will take students in groups to a local bank so that they can open accounts. The Delaware County Bank and Chase Bank have special sessions or tables set-up on-campus just for new international students, to explain the system to them and to help them get accounts. You can get a checking account, a savings account, and an ATM card. If you would prefer to have your account at another bank, that is perfectly fine – it's just easier at the orientation for use to do it this way. During the first semester, you might wish to do your own research on all the banks in town – find out which services they offer and what their charges are, and then make your own decision. It is very easy to open and close accounts and to change from one bank to another.

One problem I see is that because students have little experience handling money and little experience with banks, they sometimes use poor judgment and create financial problems for themselves. For example, with an ATM card, you have access to your funds 24 hours a day. If you are the sort that spends money too easily with such easy access to cash, then make it hard for yourself to get cash – don't get an ATM card, or put it away so that you don't develop the habit of using it all the time. After all, if you don't have cash on you, you can't spend it.

Some students already have credit cards; other might get one in college. Many people cannot resist the lure of credit and find themselves buying things they can't afford. When the monthly bill comes, they pay only the minimum amount instead of the full amount, and over time they accumulate large debt and high interest charges. The debt load can soon become unbearable. Before you get a credit card, you should consider whether or not you can handle the responsibility that comes with credit. Or, if you have a credit card, maybe you should put it away and use it only in emergencies. (A new Ipad is not an emergency!)

A checking account also requires care. If you write a "bad" check – that is, a check without sufficient funds in your account – the penalties are high. The store to which you wrote the bad check might charge \$25 or more, and then your bank will add its own charges. Writing bad checks is considered sleazy. If you have a checking account, make sure you keep very careful track of your funds. Of you use an ATM card against your checking account, make sure you keep very careful track of all cash withdrawals.

### **APPLICATION FEE WAIVER**

Students for whom the customary application fee was waived, owing to extenuating financial circumstances, will be expected to pay the application fee upon enrollment. This fee will be added to the monthly billing statement of students for whom the fee has been deferred.

### **COURIER CHARGE**

If you asked us to courier your I-20, you so indicated on a special form in your packet and paid a \$40 charge in advance. If the actual cost was more than \$50, the extra cost will be billed to you on your student account. If the actual amount was less than \$50, the extra amount paid will be credited to your student account.