



**INTERNATIONAL
GRADUATE &
PROFESSIONAL
STUDENTS
ORIENTATION**

Spring

2025



International Student
and Scholar Services Office
Division of Student Affairs

WELCOME

Dear Students,

Welcome to the University of Houston! As newly admitted international students you may be wondering about your next steps. The following information in this guide will help you through the enrollment process, including things you need to do before and after you arrive on campus.

We look forward to seeing you at UH very soon!

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CHECK-IN

All new and transfer international students are required to check-in through International Student and Scholar Services Office (ISSSO). You must also attend International Student Orientation. Please follow these instructions carefully.

► How do I complete the International Student Check-In?

All International Student Check-ins are being completed virtually. Our office is only using an upload to the UH Peoplesoft system to complete the check-in process for Spring 2025. Please see [this PDF file](#) with step by step instructions for how to upload international student check-in documents.

► When should I complete my International Student Check-In?

- **New students (First time entering the U.S.)** – Upload your International Student Check-In documents to the UH Peoplesoft system as soon as you have entered the United States. After you enter the U.S., Customs and Border Protection (CBP) will issue an arrival record to you (**form I-94**), which is an essential part of your check-in. Please wait until after you have entered the United States before you complete the International Student Check-in.
- **Transfer students** – Upload your International Student Check-In documents to the UH Peoplesoft system as soon as (1) your SEVIS record has been transferred to UH, and (2) you have received your UH form I-20 from UH Graduate School.
- **All students** –If you are not currently in the U.S., then you cannot check-in with our office. You must have an I-94 record in order to check-in (**I-94 from either CBP** or from USCIS).

If you have a scanner, please use it to scan all of your immigration documents. If you do not have a scanner, please use Cam scanner app on your phone or tablet to take a good quality picture of all immigration documents.



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INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CHECK-IN: REQUIRED ITEMS/DOCUMENTS

► F-1 Visa Students

- I-20 Form issued by the University of Houston
- All Previous I-20 Form(s) issued by former school(s) (*Students transferring from another U.S. school*)
- Passport
- Visa
- I-94 arrival/departure record (if issued to you)

► J-1 Visa Students

- DS-2019 form issued for attendance at the University of Houston
- All previous DS-2019 form(s) issued by former school(s) (*Students transferring from another U.S. school*)
- Passport
- Visa
- I-94 arrival/departure record (if issued to you)

► Students with Other Visas

- Passport
- Visa (evidence of current visa status)
- I-94 arrival/departure record (if issued to you)
- I-797 (if any)

Please note: F-2 Visa holders may study part-time only. B-1/B-2 visa holders wishing to enroll in studies at UH must first apply for and obtain a change of nonimmigrant classification to F-1.

► Students with Pending Permanent Residency

Students pending Permanent Residency are considered international students until their Permanent Residency is approved.

- I-485 Receipt
- Passport

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ORIENTATION

Orientation to the University of Houston and to American culture will be provided in-person on January 9, 2025. The sessions will cover restrictions and benefits to your visa status, the academic system and student services offered at the University of Houston, as well as American friendship patterns, language and cultural adjustment. You will have the opportunity to ask questions about things you have encountered and did not understand. You will be able to meet students from your home country, as well as other international students.



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► **SEVIS Fee**

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security requires first-time F-1 and J-1 students to pay an I-901 SEVIS Fee to them. The fee is \$350 for F-1 visa applicants and \$220 for J-1 visa applicants. For more information and instructions, please visit www.fmjfee.com.

► **Social Security Card Applications**

You are required to have a social security card if you plan to work on campus. Procedures to apply [can be found on the ISSSO website](#).

HEALTH INSURANCE

International students with “F” or “J” visa status are required to be covered under the UHS Student Health Insurance Plan or have equivalent health insurance coverage, regardless of the number of credit hours taken. At the time of registration, the student will automatically be enrolled in the mandatory UHS-endorsed **Student Health Insurance Plan** (SHIP) and will be charged for the coverage period on their student financial account.

A student may apply for a waiver of this requirement if the student’s alternative coverage meets the requirements outlined in this policy:

- [International Student Health Insurance Requirement](#)
- [Waiver Information and Criteria](#)

For **J Exchange Visitors**, your health insurance policy must offer coverage that is comparable to or greater than the following criteria: (1) at least \$100,000 in acceptable medical benefits for each accident or sickness; (2) at least \$50,000 for medical evacuation, (3) at least \$25,000 for repatriation, (4) Covered benefits paid at a minimum of 75%; and(5)annual deductible not to exceed\$500. Dependents of J-1 exchange visitors must also be covered during the period of participation in the sponsor’s program.

► **Early Arrivals:** Students on nonimmigrant visas who arrive early and need coverage prior to the beginning of the term/semester, have the option to purchase a travel policy such as those offered by International Medical Group (www.imglobal.com) that can be purchased online to provide temporary coverage.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICE FEE

A fee of \$100 per semester of enrollment is charged to support special services to international students holding nonimmigrant visas and those pending permanent residency.



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BACTERIAL MENINGITIS VACCINATION REQUIREMENT

Beginning January 2012, Texas State Law (Senate Bill 1107) mandated that all entering college/university students under the age of 22 provide evidence of vaccination against bacterial meningitis or meet certain criteria for declining the vaccination prior to the start of your first semester here. All newly admitted students and students returning to the university after an absence of at least one long semester will be required to comply with the Meningitis Vaccination Law. Official information and updates regarding the new law can be found online at <http://www.uh.edu/immunization>.

ARRIVAL IN HOUSTON

► Campus Information

- [Directions to campus from area airports](#)
- [Campus Map](#)
- [Campus Parking Map](#)

► Houston Area Transportation Resources

The more you get to know Houston, the more you will notice that it is made up of several distinct districts each with its own unique appeal. **With the help of public transportation and an excellent freeway system**, you can travel anywhere; however, it can be a little difficult if you are not familiar with the local terminology. We hope that the information provided in the following links would assist you in getting around this great city.

- [Information on Airports and Transportation](#)
- [Transportation](#) (This link provides information on taxicabs, METRO, driving in Houston, car rentals, buying a used car, and obtaining a driver's license. Interstate and highway names needed)

TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATIONS

If you need hotel accommodations while on a brief visit to the campus, please see the following information:

University Hilton Hotel
4450 University Drive
Houston, Texas 77204-3028
+1 832-531-6300
[Hilton University of Houston](#)

On-Campus Housing
For information on how to apply for on-campus housing, please visit the website for Residential Life and Housing at: housing.uh.edu/



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INTERNATIONAL STUDENT & SCHOLAR SERVICES OFFICE

You may still have many questions as you transition into the University of Houston. Please know that International Student and Scholars Services Office (ISSSO) is here to help you along the way! ISSSO provides support services for non-immigrant international students and exchange visitors at the University of Houston. Visit uh.edu/oiss for more helpful information.

If you have any questions about International Student Check-In, International Student Orientation, and/or Immigration information, please contact International Student and Scholar Services Office (ISSSO) at (713) 743-5065; e-mail: isssohlp@central.uh.edu or visit uh.edu/oiss.

Our staff here to assist you includes Stefan Johnsson, Ida Thompson, Nicole Xi, Allison Foster and Cathy Chen.

Address:

International Student and Scholar Services Office

University of Houston

4465 University Drive, Room N203

Houston, TX 77204

Website: www.uh.edu/oiss

We look forward to seeing you soon!



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