

# New Student Checklist

## I have been accepted... Now what do I do?!

Congratulations on your acceptance to Georgia State University! To help you prepare for attending Georgia State University, International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS) has put together the following checklist of things you will need to complete:

- 1) **before your arrival at Georgia State University,**
- 2) **after you arrive on campus but before classes start,**
- 3) **and items to carry with you on the airplane.**

Detailed information on most of these topics is available in the [International Student Handbook](#). Please read the handbook as you prepare for your transition to Georgia State University. Make sure you complete the items below, and contact the ISSS office if you have any questions. We are here to help you, and look forward to seeing you in Atlanta!

### BEFORE YOU ARRIVE AT GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY:

- After you receive your I-20 or DS -2019 form, pay the SEVIS I-901 fee and obtain a receipt. Each student or exchange visitor issued an initial Form I-20 or DS-2019 is responsible for paying the SEVIS I-901 fee. There are some exceptions to this fee. For complete information, visit the [SEVIS fee website](#). You should have a copy of the form I-901 for your reference.
- If you are outside the U.S. and do not yet have an F-1/J-1 visa, make a visa appointment at the nearest U.S. Consulate or Embassy. Be sure to use an I-20 or DS-2019 from Georgia State University. You should have received information about applying for a visa in your Welcome Packet from ISSS. Additional information is available on the [ISSS website](#).
- After you receive your visa, make your airline reservations with enough time to arrive in Atlanta before [International Student Orientation](#).
- Arrange transportation from the Atlanta airport to your place of lodging. For those of you who will be arriving in Atlanta from overseas or another part of the US without someone to pick you up at the airport, below are two possible options:
  - ❖ Contact one of the international student groups that are a part of ISAC (International Student Associations Council). These groups exist to promote the culture and serve the needs of the many international students on campus. Several of them provide airport pickup as well as housing assistance for new students from their part of the world. The list of groups, along with the presidents' email address can be found at [this link](#).
  - ❖ An Atlanta community volunteer named Mike Griffin, who owns a travel company, has offered to organize free airport pickup service for any Georgia State international students who may need it. To contact him, please send an email to [mike@ltgtravel.com](mailto:mike@ltgtravel.com).
- Read the [International Student Handbook](#) very thoroughly. Many questions that you might have about housing, registration, and life in Atlanta are answered in the handbook. This will be your guide to living in the United States and attending Georgia State University.
- Join the [Facebook](#) group *International Student Orientation @ GSU Fall 2009* to communicate with fellow students who will be attending Fall 2009 orientation. This group will provide information on topics such as housing options, jobs on campus, [international organizations on campus](#), etc.

- Confirm your enrollment at Georgia State University by completing the Enrollment Confirmation form included in your Welcome Packet. In order to confirm your enrollment, this form must be returned to the ISSS office by fax or email at least two weeks prior to International Student Orientation.  
\*Please note that after being accepted to Georgia State University you may receive an invitation to register for Incept, the University's undergraduate orientation program. As an international student, you should NOT attend Incept, and are required to attend International Student Orientation instead.
- Research your housing options: First, read the housing section of the [International Student Handbook](#). Then check with [University Housing](#) (250 Student Center, 404.413.1800) for available space on campus, or the [Dean of Students](#) office (300 Student Center, 404.413.1515) for information on off-campus housing. The [International Student Association Council](#) (ISAC) can also be a great resource in finding roommates and temporary housing. For a more complete list of Atlanta area apartments, please check the discussion board on the Facebook group mentioned above. It is not recommended to sign an off-campus apartment lease from overseas without first visiting the property in person here in Atlanta.
- Activate your campus ID. Go to <https://campusid.gsu.edu> and enter your Panther # (which you should have received in your admissions materials). If you have received your Welcome Packet and you still do not know your Panther #, you can contact your department (graduate students) or [Undergraduate Admissions](#) (undergraduate students) for this information.
  - ❖ When you get to the Campus ID site, follow the directions for students without SSN # (Social Security Number). This process provides you with a temporary password, which you can change at the same site.
- Set up your student e-mail account. PantherMail is how the University will communicate important information to you. To activate your email account, please visit: [www.student.gsu.edu](http://www.student.gsu.edu).
- Make sure your immunization records are complete with the [Student Health Clinic](#) (141 Piedmont Ave., Suite D). If you have not yet received your immunizations, you can get them at the Student Health Clinic after you arrive at Georgia State University. If you will be living on campus, you must also obtain the meningitis vaccine or sign an optional waiver with your housing application. Follow [this link](#) to download the Immunization Form, and call 404.413.1930 with questions.
- International students are required to have accident and sickness insurance during their stay in the USA. Georgia State University provides an insurance plan for all F/J students which becomes effective when you enter the U.S. Payment for this insurance is made when you pay your tuition and fees. Students who have purchased insurance from their home country are eligible to receive a waiver of the [Georgia State insurance](#) if their insurance plan meets the following requirements: (1) medical benefits of at least \$50,000 per person per accident or illness, (2) repatriation of remains and expenses associated with medical evacuation, 3) maximum deductible of \$500 per accident or illness. F-1 students must request an insurance waiver online and be approved before the GSU charge can be removed. Additional information is available at the link above.

Things to remember:

- ❖ All administrative insurance waivers for J-1 exchange students are processed by ISSS, upon the receipt of your insurance policy.
  - ❖ Students who do not purchase insurance coverage from their home country are required to enroll in the mandatory health insurance program at Georgia State University [www.studentinsurance.com](http://www.studentinsurance.com).
- Register your home country address and emergency contact information in [PAWS](#) (Panther Access to Web Services). For directions please see the detailed PowerPoint in PAWS under the group *Int'l Students & Scholars*, subgroup *Newly Admitted Students/files*.
    - ❖ Log into PAWS using your campus ID and password (for more Information about PAWS, please see the [International Student Handbook](#)).
    - ❖ Under the One Stop Shop tab, use the personal information menu to add local mailing and foreign addresses as well as emergency contacts.

- Though [Academic Advising](#) will be provided at orientation, ISSS suggests that every new student consult an academic advisor as soon as possible about course selection. Only **AFTER** you have spoken with an advisor should you register for courses! Note that if you are a non-business graduate student it is especially important that you receive academic advisement prior to orientation.

### **AFTER YOUR ARRIVAL IN ATLANTA:**

- Attend **New International Student Orientation**. This orientation program is mandatory for all incoming students and will be held on **August 10 - 13, 2009**. For a complete schedule, please see the [ISSS webpage](#). Remember to bring your passport, I-20 form, and I-94 card with you the first day.
- Beware that that some **graduate** students may be required to take the **Georgia State Test of English Proficiency (GSTEP)** during International Student Orientation. Test results could cause you to alter your initial class schedule in the unlikely event you are required to add an English course. For more information about the GSTEP please see [this link](#). ISSS will let you know if you need to take the test (as determined by your academic department) when you arrive at orientation.
- If you have not yet registered for classes, register for your courses through [PAWS](#). You can register before you meet with an academic advisor, but you may have to change your course selection after meeting with the advisor. ISSS will help you with this process at orientation, but if you wish to register in advance see the [Registration Guide](#) on the GSU webpage.
  - \* All undergraduate transfer students will need to complete [Transfer Student On-line Pre-orientation](#) before they can register for classes.
- Request your [Panther Card](#), the official Georgia State University identification card which you will use as a library card, an access card to some campus facilities, and a debit card (PantherCash and PantherMeals meal plans). It is available (only after you have registered for courses) at the Auxiliary & Support Services Office, and you must bring another valid ID card, such as your passport or drivers license.
- Purchase your text books for classes, but only after you have spoken to an academic advisor about your registered courses. The [Georgia State University Bookstore](#) will have the textbooks you need, or you can order them on-line. If you are going to order books online, make sure you allow enough time for the books to arrive before classes start.
- If you are transferring from another school in the U.S., take the [Transfer Clearance Form](#) to your current international advisor, have the advisor complete the bottom of the form prior to International Orientation, and fax or email the completed form to ISSS at Georgia State University. After the transfer clearance form has been submitted to ISSS, you will receive transfer pending I-20, which will only be valid for the first 15 days of class. You will need to come to ISSS on **August 31** for *Transfer I-20 Pick-Up Day* to obtain your final transfer I-20.
- Be prepared to pay for your tuition and fees on line or at the Office of Student Accounts by **5pm on Friday, August 14, 2009**, to avoid having your classes dropped for non-payment. Please see acceptable methods of payment at [this link](#).
- Familiarize yourself with the [GSU campus](#), especially the buildings in which you will have classes.
- REMEMBER: your class registration will NOT be complete until you have accomplished the following steps at International Student Orientation:**
  - taken the proper GSTEP or Math Placement Exam\*,
  - seen an academic advisor,
  - entered your address information in PAWS,
  - submitted needed immigration documents to ISSS,
  - and paid for your tuition and fees.

\*Please note that Math Placement Exam is not required for graduate students. For more information about who needs to take the Math Placement Exam, please visit [their website](#).

- For additional resources, please visit the following helpful links. However, please note that not all of the information may apply to international students. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact ISSS.
  - ❖ [Accepted Student Newsletter 2009](#) – Undergraduate Admissions
  - ❖ [Frequently Asked Questions](#) – One Stop Shop

### ITEMS TO CARRY WITH YOU ON THE AIRPLANE (Include in your carry-on):

- I-20 or DS-2019 from Georgia State University
- Valid passport
- U.S. Visa for Georgia State University
- Your admission letter from Georgia State University
- Airplane ticket(s)
- Cash, traveler's checks, or any international bank card (ATM or debit card); \$800-\$1,000 in U.S. currency for travel emergencies and settling-in expenses. (Problems with flight connections could make it necessary for you to spend the night in a hotel, which could cost \$100 or more. Try to prepare for all unexpected expenses associated with international travel.)
- Phone numbers and e-mail addresses of emergency contacts at home and in the United States
- Phone numbers and e-mail addresses of relatives, friends, your Georgia State academic department, the ISSS office (404-413-2070 during business hours and a representative of your nationality group at the University (see ISAC)
- An English translation of your medical history and documents
- Prescriptions for medications you take and a fresh supply of prescription medicines
- Medical records (including vaccination records) for your accompanying spouse/children (if applicable)

### ARRIVAL CALENDAR

Fall Semester 2009 enrollment:

July 18	Earliest day you may <b>enter</b> the United States in F-1 or J-1 status
August 10	Date by which you should <b>arrive in Atlanta</b>
August 11-13	<b>International Student Orientation</b> (Immigration sessions, Class Registration, English Proficiency testing-GSTEP, etc.)
August 14	<b>Tuition and Fees due by 5pm</b> (Non-payment may result in classes cancellation)
August 17	<b>Classes begin</b>
August 31	<b>I-20 pick up day for Transfer Students</b>
December 11	<b>Last day of exams for Fall 2009 semester</b>

# Welcome to Georgia State University!

*Contact Info: International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS), [iss@gsu.edu](mailto:iss@gsu.edu), [www.gsu.edu/iss](http://www.gsu.edu/iss),  
Phone: (404) 413-2070, Fax: (404) 413-2072*