

# OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

## International Students And Scholars Office

### Welcome Guide



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## ISSO WELCOME AND CONTACT INFORMATION

The staff of the *International Students and Scholars Office* (ISSO) looks forward to working with you during your studies at *Oakland University* (OU)!

This information packet is intended to help you prepare for your first days in our community.

OU is an international university that hosts over 800 international students and scholars from more than 65 countries.

The ISSO staff is experienced in meeting the special needs of international students. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need any assistance with your preparations.

You are about to encounter many new experiences. We offer you our best wishes for a safe and pleasant journey to Oakland University and the United States!

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## ISSO CONTACT INFORMATION

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<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Rochester-MI/Oakland-University-International-Students-and-Scholars/134740043022>

**Address:** **International Students & Scholars Office**  
157 North Foundation Hall  
Oakland University  
Rochester, MI 48309-4401

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## I. PRE-ARRIVAL PLANNING

### a. Pre-Arrival Checklist

*Students are allowed to arrive 30 days prior to the I-20 or DS-2019 start date but are responsible for the accommodation themselves.*

- \_\_\_\_\_ Carefully review your I-20 or DS-2019 for accuracy upon receipt of this “Welcome and Information Packet.”
- \_\_\_\_\_ Immediately report any I-20 or DS-2019 errors by email to Mary Miramonti, ISSO Administrative Assistant, [miramont@oakland.edu](mailto:miramont@oakland.edu).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pay I-901 fee
- \_\_\_\_\_ Carefully review the whole information packet. Contact the ISSO by email with any questions.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Make sure your passport is valid at least 6 months into the future. We recommend you renew it before you arrive.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Be ready to purchase UnitedHealthcare Student resources health insurance upon arrival during Orientation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Travel plans: (1) Flight to Detroit; (2) Transportation from DTW airport to OU/Rochester.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Finances: make sure to bring enough cash for your first few days before you open a bank account.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Housing: make sure to arrange your housing prior to your arrival.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Contact and coordinate plans with roommates if you know who your roommates are.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Activate your OU email.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Activate your SAIL account.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Decide if you should bring your cell phone with you or buy one after you arrive in the U.S. If you decide to bring your own cell phone, please make sure your phone carrier knows that you’ll be traveling overseas.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Decide if you should bring your lap top with you or buy one after you arrive in the U.S. OU offers many FREE computer rooms for students’ use. Please remember that our voltage is 110. Therefore, you may need an adapter.

**All of these matters will be addressed at the mandatory orientation but we want to make sure you are prepared for a successful stay at Oakland University.**

b. **Travel to OU – Immigration Documentation**

**Students may arrive up to 30 days prior to their I-20 or DS-2019 date, but must have their own accommodations.**

- Get your visa stamped at the U.S. consulate in your country. Make sure that all the dates and other details are correct and match your other documents such as passport, I-20(F-1 students) DS-2019 (J-1 students), etc. Also, check the expiry date of your passport, as it must be valid for 6 months into the future at all times.
- Complete all your academic documents and apply for the complete transcript from your home university. You also should get all of your original certificates and mark sheets from your university. Please make sure you have certified copies of these documents. You should carry these with you when you come to the U.S. and bring them to the mandatory international student orientation.
- Keep all important letters from Oakland University.
- The State of Michigan will allow you to drive for 6 months (after your arrival) using your national license accompanied by an English translation. The English translation does not need to be notarized. If you have an expired driver's license from a country other than Germany or Canada you may receive a Temporary Instruction Permit. This permit will allow you to practice driving with a licensed adult for up to 6 months.

c. **Pre-Embassy Visit**

**SEVIS I-901 FEE**

The SEVIS I-901 fee went into effect September 1, 2004. New students and exchange visitors with a Form I-20 or Form DS-2019 issued on or after September 1, 2004 are subject to the fee. Continuing students and exchange visitors are not required to pay the fee except under certain circumstances. For complete information on who needs to pay the fee (or does not need to) see the SEVP website at: [www.ice.gov/sevis/](http://www.ice.gov/sevis/) there is a complete list of questions and answers on all aspects of SEVIS I-901 fee payment.

\*Please note that the SEVIS fee and the fee paid to obtain a J visa are two separate fees but both must be paid in order to get a visa's approval.

**Form I-901**

You will need to fill in a Form I-901 with information from your Form I-20 or DS-2019 and pay the required fee. For most people, the SEVIS I-901 fee is \$200 for F1 Visa Holders and \$180 for J1 Visa Holders. See the Fee Amount Chart for more detailed fee information.

You can fill in the Form I-901 online at [www.fmjfee.com](http://www.fmjfee.com) and print off the receipt or send a *paper version* to:

***By Mail*** I-901 Student/Exchange Visitor Processing Fee  
P.O. Box 970020, St. Louis, MO 63197-0020, United States

***By Courier (to expedite delivery to SEVP)*** I-901 Student/Exchange Visitor Processing Fee  
1005 Convention Plaza, St. Louis, MO 63101, United States

Phone Number: 1-314-418-8833 (United States Country Code 011)



d. **Embassy Visit For Visa** – *Ten Points to Remember* when you visit the American embassy for your visa:

1. **Ties To Your Home Country**

- Under U.S. law, all applicants for nonimmigrant visas, such as student visas, are viewed as intending immigrants until they can convince the consular officer that they are not. You must therefore be able to show that you have reasons for returning to your home country that are stronger than those for remaining in the United States.
- "Ties" to your home country are the things that bind you to your home town, homeland, or current place of residence: job, family, financial prospects that you own or will inherit, investments, etc.
- If you are a prospective undergraduate, the interviewing officer may ask about your specific intentions or promise of future employment, family or other relationships, educational objectives, grades, long-range plans and career prospects in your home country.
- Each person's situation is different, of course, and there is no magic explanation or single document, certificate, or letter which can guarantee visa issuance.
- If you have applied for the U.S. Green Card Lottery, you may be asked if you are intending to immigrate. A simple answer would be that you applied for the lottery since it was available but not with a specific intent to immigrate.
- If you overstayed your authorized stay in the U.S. previously, be prepared to explain what happened clearly and concisely, with documentation if available.

2. **Practice Your English**

- Anticipate that the interview will be conducted in English and not in your native language.
- One suggestion is to practice English conversation with a native speaker before the interview, but do NOT prepare speeches!
- If you are coming to the United States solely to study intensive English, be prepared to explain how English will be useful for you in your home country.

3. **Speak For Yourself**

- Do not bring parents or family members with you to the interview. The consular officer wants to interview you, not your family.
- A negative impression is created if you are not prepared to speak on your own behalf.
- If you are a minor applying for a high school program and need your parents with you in case there are questions (such as funding), they should be available in the waiting room during your interview.

4. **Know Your Study Program Related To Your Career Plans**

- Be prepared to state the reasons you will be studying a particular program in the United States.
- You want to succeed in convincing the Consular Officer that you want to study and NOT immigrate.
- You should also be able to explain how studying in the U.S. relates to your future professional career when you return home.

5. **Be Brief**

- Due to the great number of applications received, all Consular Officers are under time pressure to conduct a quick and efficient interview.
- Visa decisions are made largely on the basis of the initial impressions you make during the beginning moments of the interview.
- Keep your comments short and to the point in reply to the Consular Officer's questions.
- What and how you first answer and speak are critical to your success.

6. **Additional Documentation**

- Present written documents that are brief and to the point, which clearly state their purpose.
- The Consular Office must be able to quickly read or evaluate your documents.
- Remember that you will have probably only 2-3 minutes of interview time.

7. **Not All Countries Are Equal**

- Applicants will have more difficulty getting visas when they come from countries:
  - (1) suffering economic problems or,
  - (2) where many previous students received visas and remained in the U.S. as immigrants.
- Applicants from such countries are statistically more likely to be intending to immigrate.
- Such applicants are also more likely to be asked about their job intentions and opportunities at home after study in the U.S.

8. **Employment**

- Your main purpose in coming to the United States should be to study, not for the chance to work before or after graduation.
- While many students do work off-campus during their studies, such employment is secondary to their main purpose of completing their U.S. education.
- You must be able to clearly explain your plan to return home at the end of your program.
- If your spouse is also applying for an accompanying F-2 visa, be aware that F-2 dependents cannot be employed or attend school in the U.S., under any circumstances.
- Be prepared to state how your spouse intends to spend his or her time while in the U.S. Volunteer work is a permitted activity.

9. **Dependents Remaining At Home**

- If your spouse and children are remaining in your country, be prepared to state how they will support themselves in your absence.
- If you are the primary source of income for your family, your careful answers will be especially important.
- If the Consular Officer concludes that your family will need you to send money home from the United States to support your family, your student visa application will almost certainly be denied.
- If your family does decide to join you at a later time, it is helpful to have them apply at the same post where you applied for your visa.

10. **Maintain A Positive Attitude**

- Do not argue with the Consular Officer.
- If you are denied a student visa, ask the Consular Officer for a *suggested list of documents* that you should bring to overcome the refusal and gain approval.
- If you are denied a student visa, try to get *in writing the reason* that your visa application was denied.

e. **Healthcare:**

i. **Vaccinations:**

We suggest that you bring important medical records with you including a history of prescriptions for chronic conditions. We suggest (however, do not require) that you have taken vaccinations against major contagious diseases. Hepatitis B, Meningococcus, Varicella (chickenpox), and Tetanus/Diphtheria are the four most important vaccinations. Your immunization records should include: Tetanus within the past 10 years; 2 measles, mumps & rubella shots, combined as MMR on the immunization record; and a negative tuberculosis test or chest x-ray within the past year.

ii. **UnitedHealthcare Student Health Care Plan:**

Medical insurance is mandatory for all international students and scholars.

All international students and scholars must purchase the university sponsored health insurance plan provided by United Healthcare Student Resources upon the start of classes. For the 2016-17 academic year, the policy cost is **estimated \$2,007 annually and it will be billed to your student account within your first month after the start of classes.** You can find your bill under the “eBill” tab located on your “mysail” Oakland University student account homepage. The waiver process will exempt you from purchasing the university sponsored health plan under only two conditions (listed below.) All international students and scholars *must* show proof of insurance.

The hard waiver deadline for new students and scholars to submit health insurance proof is the last day to add and drop classes.

It takes just minutes to enroll online at [www.uhcsr.com](http://www.uhcsr.com) and you can pay with a credit card or eCheck. The cost of this comprehensive policy is \$2,007 per year. Once you have enrolled and received your ID card, you may log into MyAccount for 24/7 access to your coverage and claims information. For students newly arriving for the winter semester, the winter and summer semester cost will be prorated.

As a UnitedHealthcare plan participant, you will also have access to:

**Collegiate Assistance program:** Registered nurses are available to speak with you any time and give you unbiased, confidential answers to your health questions.

**Scholastic Emergency Services:** Whenever you are 100 miles away from your campus or home, SES is only a phone call away to help you deal with medical emergencies.

Dental and eye examinations are not covered. If you wear glasses, you may want to bring an extra pair with you because replacing them can be very costly here.

**There is a waiver process in place that will exempt you from purchasing the university sponsored health plan under only two conditions:**

1. You are insured by your government-sponsored U.S. based health plan, which meets the Oakland University Health Insurance Requirements (Listed on page 7). Examples include government sponsored students from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, UAE, Amideast ....)
2. You are covered under a U.S. employer based health plan as a dependent of your parent or spouse. In this case, you must purchase the United Healthcare Scholastic Emergency Services Policy (\$95).

Policies that do not meet one of the two conditions will not be accepted as adequate insurance coverage. Please be advised that no other plans including your home country's government sponsored health plan will be accepted, nor will plans like PSI or ISO. All students will be automatically billed for the university sponsored health insurance plan in September 2013. We believe this is a quality health plan with a reasonable premium.

Coverage under this plan is available for spouses and children and these rates can be obtained by visiting the International Students and Scholars Office.

## f. **Housing**

**There are two types of housing options available:** on campus or off campus. If you choose to live on campus there are residence halls (mostly undergraduate students), a graduate hall and University Apartment complexes. If you choose to live off-campus (in Rochester or the surrounding communities) there are apartment complexes, duplexes, and houses. Finding a place to live in Rochester is not difficult, there are many options; it will take time and preparation on your part. Try to get your off-campus accommodation reserved before leaving your home country by starting your housing search early.

### i. **On-Campus Housing:**

If you plan to live on campus, submit your application as early as possible. Housing is allocated on a first come, first served basis.

OU has 6 undergraduate residence halls. This is an excellent option for undergraduate students and a great way to meet people.

George T. Matthews Apartments are available to students 20 years of age, or older, with junior standing (minimum of 56 credits). Priority is given to graduate students.

University Student Apartments are available to students 20 years of age with junior standing (minimum of 56 credits). They are fully furnished and accommodate 454 students with 2, 3 or 4 students to an apartment. Each student has their own bedroom and 4 bedroom apartments have 2 bathrooms. You can also be a part of the International Village living-learning community that will help to connect international students with American students. Living on campus is the best way to participate in campus life and this residence option offers students an opportunity to learn about and explore each other's culture in a dynamic, engaging environment.

Type of Accommodation	Application Required
The Residence Halls	Housing Contract, Student Profile/Assignment Preference Form
The George T. Matthews Apartments	Matthews Court Apartment Application, Housing Contract
University Student Apartments	University Student Apartments Contract, Preference Sheet
International Village at University Student Apartments bldg. 7000	University Student Apartments Contract, Preference Sheet

For further information, please visit the Oakland University Housing website at <http://www.oakland.edu/housing> or call the University Housing Office at 248.370.3570.

For any questions about the Residence Halls, please e-mail [housing@oakland.edu](mailto:housing@oakland.edu) or call 248.370.3570.

For any questions about the University Student Apartments, please e-mail [apts@oakland.edu](mailto:apts@oakland.edu) or call 248.370.2581.



## ii. Off-Campus Housing:

*The off-campus housing searches listed below are not endorsed by the ISSO and are provided as a tool to assist you in your search for housing. There are other options that can be found by searching online for apartments near O.U.*

Apartment Name	Contact Info
Auburn Ridge	2610 Davison Ave Auburn Hills, MI 48326 1-248-377-2680
Auburn Hills Apartments	2760 Patrick Henry Dr. Auburn Hills, MI 48326 1-248-209-1913
Beacon Hill	2617 Beacon Hill Dr. Auburn Hills, MI 48326 1-248-373-5080
Bloomfield Square Apartments	3161 Bloomfield Ln. Auburn Hills, MI 48326 1-248-852-4377
The Boulevard	2651 Greenstone Dr. Auburn Hills, MI 48326 1-248-716-5365
Pine Ridge	2800 Overlook Dr. Rochester Hills, MI 48307 1-248-853-4160
River Oaks of Rochester Hills	3200 River Oaks Blvd, Rochester Hills, MI 48309 1-248-370-0500
Roanoke Apartments	6 Roanoke Ln. Rochester Hills, MI 48309 1-248-876-0583
Rochester Square Apartments	676 Main St. Rochester, MI 48307 1-248-652-0543

## g. Finances

### i. Money Management:

- Don't carry too much cash while traveling. There are different methods of carrying your money with you.
- You may use Traveler's checks, but many banks and credit unions do not accept this as a form of payment, and if they do, there are usually higher conversions fees.
- Use your ATM/Debit card from your banking institution at home. Often you will get some of the best exchange rates this way. (Check with your bank before you leave your country to see if this is possible.)
- We recommend that you have around **\$500 in cash** with you when you arrive for emergencies or miscellaneous items.
- Use credit cards or debit cards to pay for tuition, health insurance, housing, setting up your living quarters, books for classes, school supplies, and other items.

### ii. Expenses:

- For undergraduate students, the cost of tuition alone can reach \$9,650 or more (per semester) depending on the number of classes you take.
- For graduate students the cost of tuition can reach \$8,300 or more (per semester) depending on the number of classes you take and your field of study.
- Oakland University's health insurance plan costs approximately \$2,007 for a 12-month period.
- Initial expenditures could be quite high (\$3,500 dollars or more) because you have to pay for the initial expense of the following:
  - Setting up your residence hall room or university apartment (furniture, towels, sheets (linens), etc.
  - Setting up your apartment including telephone, electric, and/or cable installation
  - 1<sup>st</sup> month's rent + security deposit (deposit is usually equal to or more than ½ of a month's rent)
  - Furniture for the apartment (bed, chair, desk, etc), Household items (pots, pans, cooking utensils, linens)
  - Oakland University Health Insurance: approximately \$2,007 for 12-month coverage
  - Books, notebooks, etc.
  - A bus pass, winter clothing, and other items you will need to purchase upon arrival.
- Once you are settled, these will be your estimated monthly expenses:
  - Rent – \$350 to \$600 (if you share an apartment)
  - Food and groceries – \$150 to \$200
  - Utilities and Other Expenses – \$80 to \$100
  - Miscellaneous – \$150 (excluding long-distance telephone calls)

## h. What to Bring – How to Pack

### i. Clothing (especially for changes in weather):

Michigan weather is well known for its sudden changes and its extreme temperatures. In summer the temperature averages close to 80°F (29° C). In winter you will see a beautiful snow covered campus with temperatures averaging around 30°F (-1° C). The winter starts by November and continues through March.

You may want to compare the costs, as winter clothing may be cheaper in your home country. If you are planning to carry clothes from home you may want to bring: sweaters, shirts, jackets, caps, and gloves.



## II. ARRIVAL

### a. Arrival Checklist

**Students may arrive up to 30 days prior to their I-20 or DS-2019 date, but must have their own accommodations.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ F-1 and J-1 students **must** attend mandatory ISSO Orientation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Purchase **health insurance** through United Healthcare Student Resources.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Obtain your **OU Student Identification Card**.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Open a **bank account** (saving, checking, etc.).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Know the deadline for **tuition payment**. (*Pay your bill before this date or your classes will be automatically dropped and you may not be able to re-enroll into them.*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Set-up **apartment**.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Install utilities (gas, electricity, etc.)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Install home telephone (if desired)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Install cable (if desired)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Obtain/purchase bed
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Obtain/purchase furniture
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Obtain/purchase kitchen supplies
- \_\_\_\_\_ Locate **grocery stores** (see ISSO website Community Resource guide).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Shop for **cell phone**.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Driver's License or Michigan ID card** (ISSO organizes annually On-Campus Application Session)  
The State of Michigan will allow you to drive for 6 months (after your arrival) using your national license accompanied by an English translation. The English translation does not need to be notarized. If you have an expired driver's license from a country other than Germany or Canada you may receive a Temporary Instruction Permit. This permit will allow you to practice driving with a licensed adult for up to 6 months.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Written test
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Road test
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Purchase car insurance
- \_\_\_\_\_ Buy **books** for classes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Meal Plan:** Oakland University offers a variety of flexible meal plans to suit the needs of each student for both on and off campus residence.

### b. Arrival In The United States – Immigration Information

#### i. Students Coming From Outside the U.S.:

##### Obtaining a U.S. Visa Stamp:

- If you have the I-20, then apply for an F-1 Visa.
- If you have the DS-2019, then apply for a J-1 Visa.
- Be prepared for the interview with the consulate.
- Speak in English.
- Be able to concretely prove that you will return to your home country. (This is one of the biggest reasons why students are denied a Visa.)
- Be able to explain how obtaining this degree fits into your career plans.
- Be able to show that you have access to the amount of money that is stated on your I-20 or DS-2019.

### **Entering the U.S.:**

- *DO NOT* use a B-1 or B-2 Tourist Visa to enter the US. If you enter this way, you will have to do a Change of Status to either the F-1 or J-1 Visa. You will be able to do this through the mail, however, this may take up to 6 months or more to get it approved and you CANNOT begin studying until USCIS has approved the Change of Status.
- Have all of your paperwork with you in your carry-on luggage. This paperwork includes:
  - I-20 or DS-2019
  - Passport
  - Visa Stamp
  - Immunization record (if required from your country)

### **Special Tips:**

- Immigration Officers have the right to ask about the purpose of your stay (to obtain a degree & return home), and about the items on your entry document (proof of sufficient funds).

## **ii. Students Who Are Canadian Citizens:**

### **No Visa Stamp Required:**

- Students from Canada entering the U.S. in either the F-1 or J-1 immigration status DO NOT need to go to the U.S. Embassy or Consular's Office to obtain a U.S. Visa Stamp.

### **Entering the U.S.:**

- DO NOT enter as a Tourist.
- You MUST enter the U.S. using either your I-20 or your DS-2019.
- Present financial verification
- Present to the Immigration Inspector the following:
  - I-20 or DS-2019
  - Passport

## **iii. Students Transferring From A U.S. School:**

- You must complete a transfer form if you are currently studying at another U.S. educational institution and submit it to the admission offices.
- Inform your current university/college to release your I-20 record in SEVIS.
- Email Mary Miramonti at [miramont@oakland.edu](mailto:miramont@oakland.edu) to inform her that your SEVIS record has been released so that she may generate your new I-20. Upon which time, you may pick up your I-20 or request for it to be mailed to you.

## **c. Travel to Rochester**

### **Important Travel Tips:**

- Purchase your airline ticket to arrive in Detroit (DTW) with time to move in and look around the OU campus before the International Student Orientation program begins.
- Confirm baggage requirements and limits with the airline.
- Obtain an ISIC (International Student Identity Card).  
For more information about this card, go to this website: <http://www.isic.org>.  
This card offers many benefits:
  - Use as an ID card before obtaining Michigan drivers license or state ID
  - Discounts on flight tickets, transportation, lodging, museums, food, entertainment, and more

### **While Traveling:**

- Always carry your important documents (passport, I-20 or DS-2019, admission and financial aid letters, certificates Etc.) with you, do not leave them in the luggage. Keep copies of these documents in the luggage and note all the details (luggage description, Visa number, ticket number, passport number and emergency contact numbers) in a card and keep it in your pocket.
- Keep some change (\$1 bill, 25¢ coins) with you. This will be helpful if you want to make phone calls or buy food in vending machines). Carry most of your money on your credit or debit card. You may need to only carry \$500 in cash.

### **Arrival in Detroit:**

- Detroit is Michigan’s largest city and has the largest airport in the state. The Detroit airport is about a 1-hour drive from Rochester.
- Upon your arrival at Detroit Metropolitan Airport, keep your belongings with you at all times. Bring only what you can carry conveniently. If a porter assists you with your luggage you are expected to tip \$1.00 per bag.
- Ask about Ground Transportation at an information desk. You will be directed to a location where you can get a taxi. Metro Cab & Metro Cars Services are available on location. Taxi service is the more efficient mode of transportation between Detroit Metro Airport and Oakland University in Rochester.

### **d. Costs for Ground Transportation**

<b>Service</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Approximate Cost</b>	<b>Reservations needed?</b>
Metro Cab (taxi) Detroit Airport Taxi	1.800.745.5191 <a href="http://www.metroairporttaxi.org/">http://www.metroairporttaxi.org/</a>	\$92 Plus Gratuity	Requires 2-24 hours’ notice in advance
Metro Cars Sedans & SUV	1.800.456.1701 <a href="http://www.Metrocars.com">www.Metrocars.com</a>	\$105 Plus Gratuity Sedan (4 passenger) & SUV (6 passenger)	Requires at least 24 hours’ notice in advance
Metro Cars Metered Taxi Mini Van		\$85 Metered Taxi Mini Van (5 passenger + luggage)	

Uber is also an affordable transportation service which provides rides around the area to help you get conveniently from one place to another. It is used in many countries around the world and is gaining popularity in

Michigan. Uber drivers use their own unmarked cars to drive you to your destination.

You can use it by registering online and downloading the app to your phone.

Uber is nice because it allows you to attach a credit card to your account so you do not have to pay with cash and drivers are available 24/7.

From the Detroit airport to OU in a basic Uber car, the estimated cost is \$48-\$63. Visit [uber.com](http://uber.com) to learn more.

### **e. Stress Relief Tips**

- Many students leave home without preparing for travel stress. Some find it useful to keep a travel journal of their experiences, thoughts, and feelings.
- If you are someone who has difficulty being alone, travel with familiar pictures or reading material. Make new friends to ease the separation while away from family and friends at home.
- If Oakland University is several time zones away from your country, try adjusting your habits several days before travel by the equivalent of one-hour per time zone change per day.
- While on the plane, make efforts to get up, walk around a little bit, and stretch, so that your body will not feel sore after a long flight. Stretch your neck occasionally and rotate your head.
- Simple massage of the feet, lower neck, shoulders, and leg muscles can often relieve tension.

**f. Temporary Housing – Local Hotels/Motels List**

If you need temporary housing, you should stay with friends or contact a hotel or motel from the list below:

<b>Hotels and Motels Close to Oakland University</b>				
	<b>Hotel Name, Address &amp; Phone</b>	<b>Phone Number &amp; Web Address</b>	<b>Approx. Cost</b>	<b>Amenities/Features</b>
<b>1</b>	Cobblestone Manor 3151 University Drive University Drive Auburn Hills, MI 48326	1.248.370.8000 <a href="http://www.cobblestonemanor.com">www.cobblestonemanor.com</a>	\$139 or less for longer stays (plus taxes)	Closest to campus, whirlpool, fireplace, full breakfast, private bath, cable TV, VCR, data ports
<b>2</b>	Extended Stay America 3315 University Road Auburn Hills, MI 48326	1.248.340.8888 <a href="http://www.extendedstayamerica.com">www.extendedstayamerica.com</a>	\$80/night (plus taxes) 1 mo.= \$50/night	Full kitchen, half stove microwave, freezer, fridge, pots & pans, TV, cable, guest laundry facilities, voicemail
<b>3</b>	Baymont Inn 1294 Opdyke Road Auburn Hills, MI 48326	1.248.373.2228 <a href="http://www.baymontinns.com">www.baymontinns.com</a>	\$69/night (plus taxes)	Breakfast, free local calls, Cable, TV, outdoor pool, cookies in the evening (weekdays), coffee M-W Complimentary dinners
<b>4</b>	Crowne Plaza 1500 Opdyke Road Auburn Hills, MI 48326	1.248.373.4550 <a href="http://www.Crowneplaza.com">www.Crowneplaza.com</a>	\$119/night (plus taxes)	Newspaper, cable, indoor pool, whirlpool/sauna, hot breakfast buffet, exercise facility, free local calls, computer hook-up, non- smoking rooms, fitness center
<b>5</b>	Courtyard Detroit Auburn Hills 2550 Aimee Lane Auburn Hills, MI 48326	1.248.373.4100 <a href="http://www.Marriott.com">www.Marriott.com</a>	\$93/night (plus taxes)	Bistro (breakfast, dinner), voice mail, remote TV, laundry service, indoor heated pool, hot tub, exercise room
<b>6</b>	Hawthorne Suites 1650 Opdyke Rd. Auburn Hills, MI 48326	1.248-373.3342 <a href="http://www.hawthornesuites.com">www.hawthornesuites.com</a>	\$78/night (plus taxes)	Full kitchen, guest laundry, free high speed internet, fitness center
<b>Hotels and Motels Close to the Detroit Metro Airport</b>				
<b>7</b>	Hampton Inn 31700 Smith Road Romulus, MI 48174	1.734.595.0033 <a href="http://www.detroitairportromulussuites.hamptoninn.com">www.detroitairportromulussuites.hamptoninn.com</a>	\$124/night (plus taxes)	Breakfast, free local calls, free shuttle to the airport & restaurants, outdoor pool, fitness center, voicemail
<b>8</b>	Courtyard by Marriot 30653 Flynn Drive Romulus, MI 48174	1.734.721.3200 <a href="http://www.marriott.com">www.marriott.com</a>	\$129/night (plus taxes)	King size beds, indoor swimming pool, whirlpool, ironing, high speed internet access, fitness center
<b>9</b>	Four Points 8800 Wickham Romulus, MI 48174	1.734.729.9000 <a href="http://www.fourpoints.com/Detroitairport">www.fourpoints.com/Detroitairport</a>	\$100- \$129/night (plus taxes)	Room service, directly in airport, phone, Cable, TV, high speed internet access, fitness center

### III. ORIENTATION (MANDATORY)

**\*You must attend the orientation for the semester that you first begin your classes.\***

**International Student Orientation** is required for all new F-1 and J-1 international students.

#### **SUMMER SEMESTER**

**Date:** Friday-May 5, 2017  
**Time:** 9:00a.m. - 3:00p.m.  
**Place:** Lake Michigan of the Oakland Center  
**Classes Begin:** Monday, May 8, 2017 at 7:30 am

#### **FALL SEMESTER**

**Date:** Wednesday-August 30, 2017 and Thursday-August 31, 2017  
**Time:** 9:00a.m. - 5:00p.m.  
**Place:** TBA  
**Classes Begin:** Wednesday, September 6, 2017 at 7:30 am

#### **WINTER SEMESTER**

**Date:** Tuesday January 2, 2018  
**Time:** 8:00a.m. – 5:00p.m.  
**Place:** TBA  
**Classes Begin:** Wednesday, January 3, 2018 at 7:30a.m.

#### a. Orientation Program Opportunities and Benefits

- **You will receive academic advising and register for classes.**
- **You will learn about...**
  - Your immigration rights and responsibilities
  - U.S. healthcare and health insurance
  - On-campus and off-campus employment
  - Resources and services that are available on campus and in the community
  - How to open a bank account
  - How to succeed academically in the U.S. educational system
  - How to find your way around Oakland's beautiful campus: <http://www.oakland.edu/map/>
  - How to avoid immigration problems during your academic career
  - Tips for adapting to U.S. culture
  - Tips for places to do bargain shopping
  - Tips for finding supplies to set up your living area
- **You will begin friendships with important people...**
  - Other new international students from over 60 countries
  - Students from various campus cultural organizations
  - Staff of the ISSO (International Students & Scholars Office) and OU Professors

#### b. Items to Bring to Orientation

- Passport with your visa, Canadian citizens students Passport only
- I-20 or DS-2019 Form
- If you have F-2 or J-2 dependents (spouse or children) who traveled with you to the U.S., bring their I-20/DS-2019s, and passports.
- Completed Data Sheet (yellow form attached)

#### c. Academic Information

- **Registration**
  - Students will consult and register for classes with academic advisors during Orientation.

- For more information about your program of study and course offerings, see the following websites:  
Undergraduate Catalog – <http://catalog.oakland.edu/>  
Graduate Catalog – <http://catalog.oakland.edu/index.php?catoid=14>  
Schedule of classes – <http://www.oakland.edu/registrar>
- Schedules are available on the web as follows:  
Fall in Mid-April; Winter in Mid-October; Summer in Mid-March

**d. Guest Policy**

While we recognize that the support of family and friends is critical to your success as a student, we regret that we do not have space to accommodate family members including children or guests during our program. Two lounges in the Oakland Center are available to your guests for quiet reading or television viewing should they wish to wait for you.

**e. Course Scheduling Information**

- Review vocabulary such as “major” courses, “minor” courses, and “electives” with your academic advisor.
- Some classes have conditions or limits that are strictly enforced:
  - Many courses are offered only in either the fall or winter semesters, but not both.
  - Registration for courses with listed pre-requisites is possible only if pre-requisites have been completed or waived by the department.
  - Conditionally admitted students must meet the terms of the conditions at the beginning of your academic study.

**f. English as a Second Language (ESL) Requirements**

If you need English as a Second Language, a letter in your packet that you receive from the ISSO explains the procedure for your arrival at Oakland University. **You have to take the on-line placement test PRIOR to orientation!**

\*Direct any ESL questions or problems to:

**Melissa Vervinck** Email: [vervinck@oakland.edu](mailto:vervinck@oakland.edu)

The ESL Center offers small group and individual ESL instruction for a fee additional to the ESL course tuition. If you expect to need special extra ESL instruction, be sure to plan for this additional expense. For more ESL information, please visit [www.oakland.edu/esl](http://www.oakland.edu/esl).

**g. Tuition and Fees**

You may pay by check (made payable to Oakland University) or bank draft drawn out of U.S. funds. Checks must be written from U.S. bank accounts. Your checks will cover tuition, charges, room & board, if appropriate. **Sponsored students** should provide original documents that clearly state who pays their expenses and specify what the sponsorship covers. The Office of Student Financial Services can be contacted at: 248.370.2550 for all financial questions.

**h. Payment Information**

- Payment due dates and current charges for a specific semester can be found in the Schedule of Classes.
- All tuition and charges are assessed at registration and are payable in U.S. dollars.
- Late payment penalties are assessed if payment is not received by the published bill due date.
- Cancellation of courses must be completed by the published **Drop Date**, indicated under the “Important Dates” section at: [http:// www.oakland.edu/important-dates](http://www.oakland.edu/important-dates).
- NO refunds of tuition and charges will be made for non-attendance or withdrawal after the published drop deadline.
- Failing to drop classes by the published deadline and non-attendance may result in failing grades on the student transcript.

**DO NOT FORGET TO RSVP FOR ORIENTATION AS SOON AS YOU RECEIVE YOUR VISA (CANADIAN CITIZENS DO NOT GET VISA TO STUDY IN THE USA), LINK TO RSVP IS LOCATED AT [WWW.OAKLAND.EDU/ISS](http://WWW.OAKLAND.EDU/ISS) UNDER NEWLY ADMITTED STUDENTS!!!!**

**If you have questions regarding the information in this packet, please send them by email to the ISSO Administrative Assistant: Mary Miramonti at [miramont@oakland.edu](mailto:miramont@oakland.edu).**