

Welcome to **NORSE NATION**

Admitted
International
Student Next
Steps Guide



NKU
NORTHERN
KENTUCKY
UNIVERSITY



WELCOME

CONGRATULATIONS

We are so glad that you have chosen Northern Kentucky University (NKU) for your next steps in higher education. Enclosed in this document, you will find important information about how to proceed with your journey. If you have any questions, you can refer to our Next Steps website at nku.edu/intlnext, or feel free to email us at iss@nku.edu.

The ISSG Team

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NEXT STEPS

1. SUBMIT INTENT TO ENROLL FORM

International Students can submit their Intent to Enroll Form and pay the \$150 International Undergraduate* Confirmation Fee by going to nku.edu/intlnext.

2. APPLY FOR YOUR STUDENT VISA

Once STEP 1 is complete, international students will need to submit the required immigration documents to receive their I-20.

On the next two pages you will find information about the student visa process, including advice for the student visa interview.

3. REGISTER FOR ORIENTATION

Once you've received your student visa, be sure to register for orientation so we can prepare for your arrival and connect you with an academic advisor. Orientation registration includes scheduling a time for your mandatory immigration check-in, which occurs the week before classes begin.

4. PREPARE FOR YOUR JOURNEY

Buying your ticket to the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky airport is only the first step. To prepare you for your arrival at NKU, we'll guide you through applying for housing, understanding health requirements, packing the right things, and arranging for a ride to campus.

**Only international students who are pursuing an undergraduate degree are required to pay this fee.*



NEXT STEPS

HOW DO I GET MY STUDENT VISA?



The process of obtaining an F-1 student visa can sometimes feel very confusing, so we hope the following is helpful as you navigate the process.

Pay SEVIS Fee

To obtain a student visa, you must first pay the SEVIS I-901 fee. This can be done online at fmjfee.com, with helpful instructions found at www.ice.gov/sevis/i901.

Schedule Visa Appointment

Once the payment is made, you can schedule your student visa appointment at your nearest U.S. embassy or consulate. We recommend that you schedule your appointment as soon as possible to avoid any delays.

Prepare For The Interview

There are a few items that you will want to bring to your appointment:

- ➡ NKU Letter of Acceptance
- ➡ SEVIS I-901 Payment Receipt
- ➡ One 2X2 Passport Photo
- ➡ Form I-20
- ➡ Proof of Funding
- ➡ Passport

This is not a complete list. We recommend looking at the website for your embassy because it may have some suggestions for additional materials to bring.

STUDENT VISA TIPS

The following tips are excerpts from NAFSA's "10 Points to Remember When Applying for a Student Visa." We have this guide as well as other important information at nku.edu/intlvisa.

Ties to Your Home Country and Residence Abroad

"You must... be able to show that you have reasons for returning to your 'residence abroad' (usually your home country) that are stronger than reasons for remaining in the United States and that you intend to depart the United States at the conclusion of your studies. 'Ties' to your home country are the things that connect you to your hometown, homeland, or current place of residence: job, family, owning a house or apartment, financial prospects that you own or will inherit, investments, etc. ... the interviewing officer may ask about your specific plans or promise of future employment, family or other relationships, educational objectives, grades, long-range plans and career prospects in your home country."

English

"The interview will generally 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! Expect to have an interactive conversation with the consular office about your plans...."

Speak for Yourself

"The consular officer wants to interview you, not your family, and a more positive impression is created if you are prepared to speak on your own."

Know the Program and How It Fits Your Career Plans

"If you are not able to explain the reasons why you will study in a particular program in the United States, you may not succeed in convincing the consular officer that you are indeed planning to study, rather than to work or stay in the United States."

Be Brief and Maintain a Positive Attitude

"What you say first and the first impression you create are critical to your success. Keep your answers to the officer's questions short and to the point, responding precisely to the consular officer's questions and statements. Do not have an argument with the officer. If you are denied a student visa, ask the officer for a list of documents he or she would suggest you bring to overcome the denial and try to get the reason you were denied in writing."

REGISTER FOR ORIENTATION



Once you have received your student visa, you will need to register for orientation and begin preparing for your arrival at NKU.

Submit International Orientation Registration Form

International Student Orientation is **mandatory** and is typically held the Wednesday before the first day of classes. Once you have received your student visa and purchased your ticket to CVG (if needed), you will need to go to nku.edu/intlnext to register for your orientation and immigration check-in. Once you have done this, you will be connected with an academic advisor so you can register for your first semester classes.

NOTE: International students will not need to attend Northern Exposure or pay the Northern Exposure orientation fee.

Buy your Ticket to CVG

Northern Kentucky University is only 20 minutes from Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport (CVG), so we recommend that students flying to NKU arrive at CVG for their final destination. We recommend having your ticket to CVG purchased before you register for orientation. Check nku.edu/intlnext to review which dates you need to arrive. **Hint:** If you will need an airport pickup, be sure that you are arriving within the airport pickup window!

Request Airport Pickup

Northern Kentucky University offers an airport pickup service for newly arriving international students. Be sure to go to nku.edu/intlnext to complete the Airport Pickup Form if you will need a ride to NKU after you land.

ORIENTATION HIGHLIGHTS

It is mandatory to attend International Student Orientation, but for good reason. We cover some crucial information and do everything we can to set you up for success at NKU. Here are a few highlights to look forward to at International Student Orientation.

U.S. Culture 101

One of our favorite topics to discuss at Orientation is the ins and outs of U.S. culture that might mystify you when you first arrive. Between the confusing coins we use and the way we smile at every single stranger, this entertaining section of Orientation will help you to navigate your first few months at NKU.

Immigration Basics

Maintaining your good immigration status can be incredibly confusing, and our office is always here to help you if you have questions. However, there are some fundamentals that are crucial for you to understand so you don't find yourself in a troubling situation with immigration. We cover these basics so you have the tools you need to maintain your status with success.

What I Wish I Knew

One of our favorite sections of Orientation is where we hand the mic over to a panel of our current international students. You'll get crucial advice from them as they tell you about their personal experiences while attending NKU.



HOUSING AT NKU

Housing Requirements

At NKU, all first-time-in-college freshmen are required to live in on-campus housing, unless they meet one of the exemptions as specified by University Housing. For a link to this information, please refer to the international student Next Steps page at nku.edu/intlnext.

Applying for NKU Housing

NKU is excited to announce the International Student Living Learning Community (LLC) located in Callahan Hall. This LLC is for international students and globally-minded domestic students.

As you prepare for your journey to NKU, keep in mind that the sooner you apply for on-campus housing, the more likely it is that you will receive your first preference. Keep in mind that once you submit your housing application, you are locked into a contract.

In order to submit the housing application, you will first need to set up your NKU email account at <https://password.nku.edu>. In order to create your account, you will need the four-digit number provided in your acceptance letter email; this number will go where the SSN is required when setting up your NKU email account.

Once your NKU email account has been set up, you will be able to submit your housing application at inside.nku.edu/housing. Your housing username is your NKU email address, without the [@nku.edu](https://nku.edu) portion.



Any questions about your housing application should be directed to University Housing via email at housing@nku.edu or by phone at +1 (859) 572-5676.

UNDERSTANDING NKU HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

There are two important things to note regarding NKU's Health Requirements:

First, all international students are required to purchase health insurance through NKU that meets USCIS regulation requirements; students are automatically enrolled and billed at the beginning of each semester.

Do not purchase insurance in your home country prior to arriving at NKU. No foreign-based health insurance coverage will be considered for a waiver. Health insurance through NKU costs an average of \$1,500 per year and is included in the annual cost of attendance on an NKU I-20.

Second, all students arriving from tuberculosis-endemic countries will be required to take a tuberculosis test after arrival. Your NKU-sponsored insurance will cover the associated costs of this test. If you wish to take this test in your home country, you must submit appropriate documentation of this test upon arrival. The test must be a Quantiferon-Gold TB test with the full written report in English and signed by a physician in order to waive testing at NKU.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at iss@nku.edu.



ADVICE FOR NEW STUDENTS

Check your Email

There is a lot of important information being sent to your email, so be sure that you get into the habit of checking your email, including your NKU email. This will also be the primary means of communication for important information during your time at NKU, so make sure that you are checking your email regularly and frequently. We don't want you to miss out on an important deadline or other bit of crucial information.

Get Connected

We have several fantastic Global Ambassadors (international student peer coaches) who are happy to speak with you and help answer your questions before you arrive. They come from a variety of countries and backgrounds, and are studying everything from computer science to international business. Many of them will be international orientation volunteers, and they are happy to help you feel right at home at NKU, even before you arrive on our campus. Let us know if you would like to connect with them!

Get your All Card

Ordering your NKU All Card/Student ID ahead of your arrival will make a huge difference, including your ability to get into your on-campus residence right when you first arrive at NKU. Be sure to check our Next Steps guide at nku.edu/intnext for instructions on how to do this.

Learn more about your All Card at inside.nku.edu/allcard or emailing allcard@nku.edu with your questions.

Here are answers to some of the most frequently asked questions we get every semester from our students. We hope these tips help you as you prepare for your journey to NKU!

What to Pack

Based on what our international students have told us, we recommend that you bring most of the personal clothing that you will need with you, including at least one outfit of your traditional clothing for special programs. Most students wear casual clothing (jeans, T-shirts, sweatshirts) to class. Also, you will need winter jackets and boots from the months of November through March, but these items can be purchased after you arrive at NKU.

Bringing Money

Students often ask us how much money they should bring with them to NKU. You will need to bring cash for food or drinks at airports while you are traveling. It is also a good idea to have enough cash to buy supplies or go shopping in your first weeks on campus. The amount varies by student, but keeping these items in mind will help you decide what you personally need.

Paying your Bill

Your bill for NKU will be due on the first day of classes. Once you have registered for your classes, your tuition balance will be calculated. Additionally, your international student health insurance will appear on your bill approximately 1-2 weeks after classes begin. We advise that you prepare to pay your bill before you leave for NKU. If you are unsure of what your bill will be, we recommend the 4-Year Financial Planning Tool at nku.edu/intlfinances.

When paying your bill, you have several options including a wire transfer, online with a credit card, online with an e-check, or in-person with cash. For more details on these, just type "Payment Options" in the search bar at nku.edu and you'll find everything you need.

PRE-ARRIVAL CHECKLIST

Keep track of your International Student Next Steps with this checklist

- ☐ **Submit International Intent to Enroll Form**
- ☐ **Pay \$150 International Student Fee**
(undergraduates)
- ☐ **Activate your NKU Email Account**
- ☐ **Apply for your Student Visa**
- ☐ **Register for International Student Orientation**
- ☐ **Celebrate being #NorseBound**
nku.edu/norsebound
- ☐ **Work with your Advisor to Register for Classes**
- ☐ **Apply for Housing**
- ☐ **Arrange for your Flight to CVG**
- ☐ **Submit Airport Pickup Form**
- ☐ **Complete Online Orientation Modules**
- ☐ **Connect with an NKU Global Ambassador**
- ☐ **Order your AllCard**
- ☐ **Pack your Bags & Fly to CVG**



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT & SCHOLAR SERVICES

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