

## WELCOME TO BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY

### INFORMATION FOR ENTERING STUDENTS

**IMMIGRATION DOCUMENT:** For those students entering the United States for the first time to study, enclosed is the necessary immigration document you will need to apply for your F-1 student visa at the nearest American Embassy or Consulate. You will need to present this document when you enter the United States. When you come to the first day of the required International Student Orientation Program, please bring with you your passport, I-20, and the white card (I-94) you will receive at the port of entry when you enter the United States.

New international students who are *transferring from another US institution* to Bowling Green State University will not receive an immigration document from BGSU until their SEVIS record has been released from their previous institution. Occasionally, students will pick up their new immigration document when they arrive for orientation. Whether or not you have received your new document from BGSU, please bring your passport, (old and/or new) I-20, and I-94 card with you when you report for the first day of required orientation.

**ARRIVAL PLANS:** We suggest that you arrive a few days earlier than the first day of International Student Orientation in order to be rested for the activities of your required Orientation program.

- a.) The nearest airport to Bowling Green is the Toledo Express Airport (a distance of 25 miles). If you are traveling by air, you will need to arrive at Toledo Express Airport. We will arrange to have a van meet you in Toledo if you complete and fax/scan your Arrival Information and Waiver Form to us at least five (5) working days prior to your arrival. The cost to be met at the airport will be \$60.00 and will be charged to your bursar's account; the driver will not be able to accept any payment.
- b.) If you choose to arrive in Detroit, you may take another flight or a bus to Toledo, but we can ONLY pick up new students in Toledo.

Our office hours are 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. (New York time), Monday through Friday. If you are sending a FAX or an e-mail to inform us of your arrival plans, be sure we will receive it during the week, since we are closed on Saturdays, Sundays, and all holidays recognized by the US federal government. Our fax number is (419)-372-2429. When possible, we will send an e-mail acknowledgement when we receive your Arrival Information and Waiver Form.

**ORIENTATION:** Spring semester International Orientation begins on Monday, January 5, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. Attendance at International Student Orientation is required. During this time, you will find housing off-campus (if necessary), take placement tests, receive immigration information, and register for classes. It is very important to be here by the required starting date so that you are rested for the English Placement exam. All students for whom the English language is not their first language must take a Bowling Green State University English Placement Test before being allowed to register for classes. This is not the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and does not affect your admission status at BGSU. However, it does affect the number of classes in English (if any) you may be required to take.

All international students must report to the Center for International Programs in Suite 61 McDonald North at the beginning of Orientation or, if they arrive after the beginning of orientation, as soon as they arrive in Bowling Green. When you report for orientation, you will receive the schedule of orientation sessions for the week as well as information on registration, housing, health insurance, and registration. All graduate students with assistantships will be required to participate in the Graduate College Orientation Program. Information about this program will be provided by the Graduate College.

**TUITION, FEES, and LIVING COSTS:** Realistic budget expectations are crucial to your well being in the U.S. A shortage of funds can be a source of anxiety that may affect your studies. Students cannot rely on earning money through on or off-campus employment, and unless you have already been awarded a scholarship or a Graduate Assistantship, you should not expect to receive any financial assistance from the university after you arrive. *There is no financial aid for which international students may apply after they arrive.*

All fee payments are required before registration, and all students are required to sign a Financial Responsibility Agreement before they will be allowed to register for classes. ALL STUDENTS MUST SIGN THE FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AGREEMENT, *regardless* of how their fees are being paid. Students whose sponsors pay tuition and fees directly to the University should bring an official letter from their sponsor giving the name and address where the bill is to be sent. Graduate students with assistantships must pay their general fee and health insurance premium before registering for classes.

Some countries limit the amount of money that may be transferred abroad. Inquire about such regulations before coming to the U.S. Please take into account that you will have considerable expenses when you first arrive---tuition, fees, health

insurance, rent, deposits for housing, electricity and telephone, and basic furniture and household items. In addition to money for tuition, we recommend that you bring at least \$1,500.00 US to cover other initial expenses. It is suggested that you carry some money for immediate use in the form of U.S. dollar traveler's checks, a cashier's check, or an international draft in the form of U.S. dollars drawn on a U.S. bank. The Center for International Programs will be glad to issue letters indicating educational costs should it be necessary for you to obtain an exchange permit from your local bank.

**HEALTH CARE AND HEALTH INSURANCE:** Health care in the United States is *very* expensive! Thus, all international students are required to have acceptable and approved health insurance coverage at all times. You will be expected either to purchase the university-sponsored health plan (automatically charged to your bursar's bill) OR to show proof that you have enrolled in an acceptable alternative insurance plan. Proof of insurance must be provided to the Student Insurance Office during Orientation.

Many international students will be required to be tested for tuberculosis (TB). This test must be performed at the BGSU Student Health Service and there is a charge for it. The University-sponsored insurance plan will cover the cost of the TB test IF you are enrolled in the university plan. Most other insurance plans will NOT cover the cost of the TB test.

**NOTE: Students who do not provide proof of their insurance coverage to the Student Insurance Office by the stated deadline WILL BE CHARGED for the university sponsored policy, and that charge will NOT be removed from their bursar's bill even if they do have alternative insurance coverage!**

**HEALTH ASSESSMENT FORM:** All new students must complete and return the Health Assessment Form located on the web at <http://www.bgsu.edu/downloads/sa/file30152.pdf>. The Health Assessment Form must be downloaded, printed, completed and submitted to the Student Health Center. You may complete it and bring it with you to submit during orientation or you may fax it to the Student Health Service at 419-372-8010.

**ON-CAMPUS RESIDENTS:** Undergraduate students are required to live on-campus. International students who will be living on campus must pay the full semester housing fee before they arrive at the university (information about making your housing reservation has been included on another form which is being sent with this letter). On-campus residents arriving at the beginning of Fall semester must sign a housing contract for both Fall and Spring semesters; those students who arrive at the beginning of Spring semester will sign a contract for Spring semester only. This contract is a legally binding document.

Bedding and pillows are not provided in the residence halls. Students may either bring these items with them or buy them in Bowling Green. A meal plan is usually included as part of your room and board contract, and you will take your meals in the residence hall cafeterias.

**OFF-CAMPUS RESIDENTS:** Graduate students live off-campus. One may locate a single room for about \$325.00 per month, depending on whether it is a single or double occupancy, whether it has cooking privileges, and the condition of the property. However, there are very few single rooms available in town. One can also find an apartment. Rents range from about \$400.00 to \$600.00 per month and apartments may be furnished or unfurnished. You must also pay a security deposit (usually one month's rent) and sign a lease, which is a legally binding contract; thus, at the beginning, you need about \$500.00 to \$700.00 to secure an apartment. A few apartment owners require the entire semester's rent at one time. It would be wise for you to come to Bowling Green a few days before the required orientation reporting date if you will be seeking off-campus housing.

### Helpful Web Addresses

**General Health Information from the Student Health Service:**  
<http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/sa/health/info/page11936.html>

**Insurance Requirements:**  
<http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/sa/studentinsurance/page19407.html>

What an insurance policy must cover in order to be accepted by BGSU

**Health Assessment Form:**  
<http://www.bgsu.edu/downloads/sa/file30152.pdf>  
Health Assessment Form must be completed before you arrive at BGSU.

**Required Immunizations:**  
<http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/sa/health/allergy/index.html>

**Residence Life (On-Campus Housing/Residence Halls):**  
[http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/sa/reslife/;](http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/sa/reslife/)

To e-mail Residence Life: [reslife@bgsu.edu](mailto:reslife@bgsu.edu)

**Dining Services:**  
<http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/sa/dining/page26456.html>  
Information about meal plan options

**Off Campus Housing:**  
<http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/sa/offcampus/index.html>  
To e-mail Off-Campus Housing: [ocho@bgnnet.bgsu.edu](mailto:ocho@bgnnet.bgsu.edu)

Bursar's Office:  
<http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/bursar/page25709.html>  
Information on paying bills at BGSU