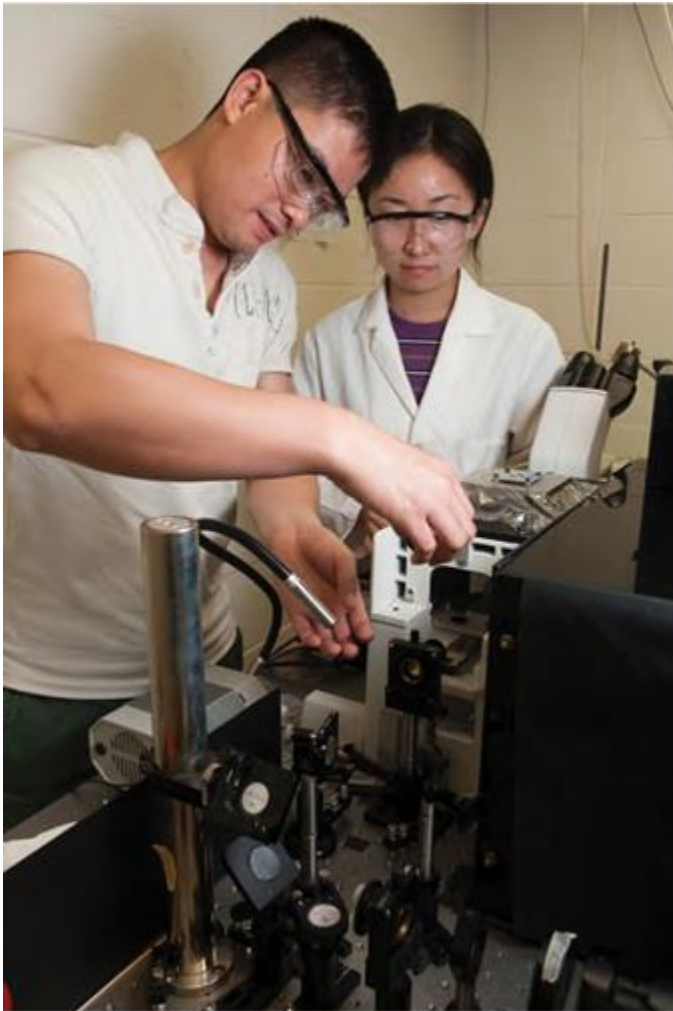




# INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE STUDENT GUIDE

## INFORMATION FOR A SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION



**KANSAS STATE**  
UNIVERSITY

Graduate School

# WELCOME

Congratulations on your acceptance to the Graduate School at Kansas State University and welcome to our campus!

You are joining a group of international students and scholars from more than 100 countries! We are looking forward to supporting your academic and career development journey while at K-State and after graduation. The Graduate School, in collaboration with the International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) office, is here to work together with you to provide you with a positive and exciting K-State experience.

This guide contains information that will be useful as you transition to life at K-State and in Manhattan. If you have questions that are not answered in the guide, please contact the Graduate School or ISSS.

I am excited to welcome you to the K-State family and hope your experiences here are enjoyable and rewarding.

Sincerely,



Claudia Petrescu, PhD  
Vice Provost for Graduate Education and  
Dean of the Graduate School

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## BEFORE LEAVING HOME

### Helpful Links

- International student admissions
- F-1 visa
- J-1 visa
- SEVIS I-901 form

### VISA

Due to the extensive amount of time often required to process visa applications, it is important to apply for your visa as early as possible. Each embassy or consular post has its own application procedures, so you should consult the office where you will be applying for specific details. All students must complete a visa application in order to schedule a visa interview.

Student visa information from the Department of State is available for those applying for an F-1 visa or a J-1 visa. The Department of Homeland Security requires the submission of a SEVIS I-901 form and fee, which must be paid before the Embassy will issue your visa.

### PLAN YOUR ARRIVAL

You may be refused entry into the United States if you attempt to arrive more than 30 days before or any time after the program start date listed on your SEVIS I-20/DS-2019 form. Plan your travel so you arrive no later than the date on your I-20/DS-2019 form and admission letter.

### CONNECT WITH CURRENT GRADUATE STUDENTS

K-State has registered graduate student organizations. Student organizations include departmental wide student associations as well as international student organizations. You can find all the registered student organization in the below link.

### [GRADUATE STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS](#)

## WHAT TO BRING FROM HOME

- Carry-on bag with a change of clothes, toothbrush and toothpaste, any required medication (in its original container) and other items that you may need during your first few days in the U.S. Important identification documents (passport, SEVIS Form I-20/DS-2019, evidence of financial resources, driver's license, etc.) should be carried with you on the airplane and NOT stored in your checked luggage.
- Pictures of your family, home and country to remind you of home and to show new friends.
- It may take a few days to get all of the necessary furniture, so consider bringing a sleeping bag to use until you are able to fully furnish your living space.
- Items from your country that illustrate your culture, such as musical instruments, picture books, small gifts and traditional clothing. There are several international events on campus during the year, so this is a great way to educate others about your country and culture. You may want to wear traditional clothing from your culture during presentations and events.
- Enough money to live on until you can open a bank account and arrange for funds to be transferred from your home country. Remember, you will need funds to pay deposits for living accommodations, utilities, food and other expenses.

## THINGS TO CONSIDER

- The electricity supply in the U.S. is 120 volts. The shape of electricity outlets may differ from those in your home country so consider purchasing electronics and small appliances in the U.S.
- Check the luggage restrictions for the airline you are flying. Weight restrictions and fees may vary by airline.
- You can obtain a booklet on customs regulations at the consulate or embassy where you acquire your visa. Prohibited items include some foodstuffs, narcotics, weapons and items for resale.

## HEALTH INSURANCE

K-State requires that all international students be covered by health insurance. If insurance is not supplied by a sponsor or agency, it can be purchased upon arrival. Health insurance should be maintained during your entire stay at K-State. It is advised to take care of your immediate medical needs and dental care before arriving in the U.S. if possible.

- U.S. Customs Service

- Mandatory Health Insurance Information



## BEFORE LEAVING HOME

### Helpful Links

- [Manhattan Regional Airport](#)

### FLYING TO MANHATTAN REGIONAL AIRPORT (MHK)

The Manhattan Regional Airport (MHK), conveniently located seven miles from the K-State campus, offers flight options coming from Dallas International Airport (DFW) or Chicago O'Hare Airport (ORD). If you are able to arrange your international flight to bring you through Dallas or Chicago, then you can fly directly into Manhattan.

Taxis are available from Manhattan Regional Airport. If you are planning to live on-campus, ask the taxi driver to take you to Moore Hall. If you are living off-campus, have the address of your destination ready. There are phones available in the airport to call a taxi. If you need assistance making the call, ask an airport staff member for help.

### TAXI SERVICES

- Go-Van-Go (785) 410-2005
- Taxi 4 Less (785) 776-5508
- Wildcat Taxi (785) 477-8808
- Apps (Uber, Lyft)

## FLYING TO KANSAS CITY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (MCI)

The Kansas City International Airport is approximately 130 miles (208 km) from Manhattan. You can connect to MCI from your U.S. port-of-entry. Once you arrive in Kansas City, you can take a shuttle bus to Manhattan at your own expense.

### SHUTTLE SERVICES

- **5 Guys Transportation (816) 891-9999**  
This shuttle-van will pick you up from MCI at any time. Just make your reservation before you arrive at MCI and the shuttle will pick you up when your flight arrives.
  - **ExecuCar**  
This town car service will pick you up from MCI and deliver you to your destination in Manhattan, according to your reservation.
  - **SuperShuttle Express**  
This shuttle-van will deliver you to any location in Manhattan. Make your reservations online at [www.supershuttle.com](http://www.supershuttle.com).
  - **Arival Shuttle**  
Arrival is the premier airport transportation service in Kansas City. Arrival provides Kansas City International Airport to Manhattan
  - **Greyhound Bus**  
The Greyhound Bus has a stop at the parking garage on the K-State Manhattan campus. You can book a trip on the Greyhound Bus from Kansas City, Wichita, and other locations in the U.S.
- Five Guys Shuttle online reservations
  - ExecuCar online reservations
  - SuperShuttle online reservations
  - Arival Shuttle online reservations
  - Greyhound Bus online reservations







## LIFE IN MANHATTAN

### Helpful Links

### ABOUT MANHATTAN

Known as The Little Apple, Manhattan has a population of more than 53,000. Located in the scenic Flint Hills, you can experience all four seasons in Manhattan--sometimes all in one day! Winters are chilly (average high temperature is 41° F, 5° C) with small to moderate amounts of snow, while summers are hot and humid (average high temperature is 92° F, 33° C).

### HOUSING

#### TEMPORARY HOUSING

The Office of Housing and Dining Services offers limited early arrival housing for international students that arrive for orientation in August. The rate for each apartment is \$50 per night. An invoice is created and it can be paid by cash, check, or credit card. Credit card payment may also be made by telephone. Further information on temporary housing can be found in [University Guest Housing](#).

There are also several hotels in Manhattan with rooms available

- To reserve a space, email [housing@k-state.edu](mailto:housing@k-state.edu)

- Hotels in Manhattan

## ON-CAMPUS HOUSING

There are two on-campus housing options available through the Office of Housing and Dining Services.

- Residence halls have space available year-round, including holidays and vacation periods. The cost for residence halls includes up to three meals per day.
- Jardine Apartments has more than 700 apartments for undergraduate and graduate students, as well as single students, married couples and families. Options include 1-, 2-, 3- and 4-bedroom apartments, as well as studios, lofts and town houses. Residents are not required to purchase a meal plan, but an off-campus meal plan is available. Please note that you must apply for housing a minimum of 9 months in advance to secure a space in Jardine.

## OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING

Several apartments and houses off-campus are also available for rent. Costs are moderate to expensive depending on individual choices. Apartments are generally available, but can be difficult to find at the beginning of the semester. Also be sure to check out our [Graduate Student Housing Guide](#), designed by VeryApt specifically for K-State graduate students!

## TRANSPORTATION

### ATA BUS

The aTa bus system in Manhattan offers routes with access to several important on- and off-campus shopping and entertainment locations. You can ride free with a K-State Student ID. Monthly passes can be purchased for \$30/month.

### DRIVING IN KANSAS

If you plan on renting or purchasing a vehicle once you arrive in the U.S., remember to bring your international driving license with you to avoid having to complete the entire Kansas driver's license process.

If you purchase a vehicle, you are required to pay a license and registration fee yearly. Kansas state law also requires all drivers to have automobile insurance.

- Residence halls
- Jardine Apartments

- Housing Guide
- The Mercury
- The Collegian
- Craig's List
- Apartment finder

- aTa bus routes and schedule
- Kansas driver's license information
- Registration and insurance information
- International driving license

## BICYCLES

Bicycles are an economical and easy way to travel around campus and Manhattan. If you will be using and parking your bike on campus, you must complete the free registration through Parking Services.

There are several locations to purchase a bicycle and accessories in Manhattan. Some also offer repair services.

- The Pathfinder *304 Poyntz Ave*
- Target *800 Commons Pl*
- Walmart *101 Bluemont Ave*
- Green Apple Bikes

## FINANCES

It is not common for individuals in the U.S. to carry large amounts of cash. Most people use a debit card, credit card or check to pay for items. A debit cards works similarly to a credit card, except funds are withdrawn directly from your checking or savings account.

Two forms of identification (such as your passport and K-State Student ID) are required to open a checking or savings account.

There are several banks in Manhattan, some with multiple branches. You are not required to use any of the banks listed below. If you are interested in opening an account at any of these banks, please contact the bank directly for further information A branch of Commerce Bank is also located in the KSU student union.

## BANKS

- Capitol Federal Savings *(785) 537-4226*
- Commerce Bank *(785) 537-1234*
- Kansas State Bank *(785) 587-4000*
- K-State Federal Credit Union *(785) 776-3003*
- Sunflower Bank *(785) 537-0550*
- UMB National Bank of America *(785) 776-9400*

## CHILDCARE

The Center for Child Development provides family-centered childhood care and education programs for children of K-State students, faculty, staff and community families. The Center community is made up of families from all over the world and the diversity at the center is celebrated on an ongoing basis. The Center provides teachers certified in English as a Second Language to provide special support to families, to encourage families to continue speaking their native language to create bilingual children and to help children learn English quickly.

Several other on- and off-campus childcare options are available in Manhattan and the surrounding areas. Non-Traditional & Veteran Student Services (NTVSS) can help you obtain information and/or provide referrals for existing childcare options. Childcare expenses vary in the U.S. Contact providers for fees.

Children attending childcare centers or public schools require specific vaccinations. The Riley County Health Department is a great resource for immunizations for children and adults.

## SCHOOLS

### PUBLIC SCHOOL

Manhattan is served by the Manhattan-Ogden school district (USD 383). The district has nine elementary schools, two middle schools and one high school, as well as preschool learning opportunities.

### PRIVATE SCHOOL

Manhattan Catholic Schools is a co-educational parochial Catholic School serving students from pre-kindergarten to 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The diverse student body is made up of approximately 260 Catholic and non-Catholic students from Manhattan and the surrounding areas.

Flint Hills Christian School provides a Christ-centered, challenging academic program with instruction based on the Biblical view of God and the world. There are approximately 170 students enrolled in pre- kindergarten to 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

### ADULT LEARNING

The Manhattan Adult Learning Center offers adult education services such as Adult Basic Education, English as a Second Language, GED preparation and official practice testing.

The College Heights Baptist Church offers conversational English classes for international students and their families. Classes are taught weekly by experienced instructors. In addition to practicing English skills, students will have the opportunity to learn about American culture and share their culture with others

- Center for Child Development
- Additional childcare providers in Manhattan
- ChildCare Aware of Kansas
- Riley County Health Department

- Manhattan-Ogden USD 383 school district
- Manhattan Catholic Schools
- Flint Hills Christian School

- Manhattan Adult Learning Center
- Conversational English classes

Please note that classes may contain religious material

International Student & Scholar Services offers a spouse's orientation for spouses of K-State students, researchers and faculty new to Manhattan. The orientation provides individuals with an opportunity to get better acquainted with the area and to meet other international spouses at K-State.

## SHOPPING

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Manhattan offers several stores to buy food and household items, many of which can be reached by public transportation.

### GROCERY STORES

- Aldi's *140 E Poyntz Ave*  
Discount grocery store with lower prices on everyday basics. Bring your own grocery bags to save even more.
- Dillons *130 Sarber Ln & 1101 Westloop Pl*  
Wide selection of products. Compared to other grocery stores, prices are mid-range.
- Hy-Vee *601 N 3<sup>rd</sup> Pl*  
Similar to Dillons, Hy-Vee offers a wide selection of food products, personal items and a pharmacy.

### SUPERSTORES

- Target *800 Commons Pl*  
Wide selection of products, such as home furnishings, electronics and clothing and personal items. Target also carries a limited amount of grocery items and has a pharmacy.
- Walmart Supercenter *101 Bluemont Ave*  
Wide selection of products, such as home furnishings, electronics, clothing and personal items. Walmart has a full stock of groceries and a pharmacy.

## SPECIALTY STORES

- Manhattan Farmer's Market 3rd and Leavenworth Open from early spring to late fall, the Farmers Market is a great place to buy fresh fruits and vegetables, as well as homemade jellies, breads and other treats.

## INTERNATIONAL FOOD MARKETS

- Asian Market *2304 Stagg Hill Rd, Ste D*
- Halal Meat (Islamic Center) *1224 Hylton Heights Rd*
- La Estrella *312 Tuttle Creek Blvd*
- Yi's Oriental Market *1030 Colorado St*

## DISCOUNT AND THRIFT STORES

- Dollar Tree *624 Tuttle Creek Blvd*  
Wide selection of products, including food, personal and household items for very low prices.
- Goodwill *421 E Poyntz Ave*  
Sells a variety of used items, such as clothing, furniture and household items at low prices.
- Salvation Army Thrift Store *310 Poyntz Ave*  
Similar to Goodwill. Sells a variety of used items at low prices.
- Grand Ol' Trunk Thrift Shop and Bookstore *1304 Pillsbury Dr*  
Sells a variety of used items, such as clothing, furniture and household items at a low price

## CELL PHONES

It is recommended that you get a U.S./local sim card as soon as you arrive in Manhattan. There are several cell phone providers in Manhattan.

- AT&T *100 Bluemont Ave Ste B*
- Best Buy *329 Tuttle Creek Blvd*
- T-Mobile *707 Commons Pl & 638 Tuttle Creek Blvd*

- Target *800 Commons Pl*
- U.S. Cellular *322 Southwind Rd C*
- Verizon Wireless *100 E Bluemont Ave Ste H*
- Walmart Supercenter *101 E Bluemont Ave*

## MEDICAL CARE

### LAFENE HEALTH CENTER *1105 Sunset Ave*

Lafene Health Center is a professional accredited health facility designed to provide cost effective, physician directed healthcare and offer health information to students at K-State. As a student at K-State, a student health fee is included in your tuition each semester. This fee entitles you to:

- Access all services available at the health center from the time of fee payment on campus until midnight the day before the next semester begins
- See a health care provider free of charge (students needing other services and procedures such as laboratory testing, x-rays, physical therapy, medications or medical supplies will be charged additional fees)

A Student Spouse Fee is available to cover all services at the health center except services offered through Counseling Services. The spouse fee rate is the same as the student health fee and may be paid in the Lafene Business Office.

### MANHATTAN MEDICAL GROUP *2900 Amherst Ave 785-539-8700*

### K+STAT URGENT CARE *711 Common Place 785-537-6264, and 930 Hayes Drive B 785-565-0016*

When Lafene Health Center is closed, K+Stat Urgent Care and Manhattan Urgent Care provide timely, walk-in treatment for non life-threatening conditions. No appointments are necessary, the clinics are open seven days a week and rates are typically cheaper than emergency room rates at Mercy Regional Health Center.

### ASCENSION VIA CHRISTI HOSPITAL *1823 College Ave 785-776-3322*

The Emergency Department at Mercy Regional Health Center offers high-quality medical services by physicians with specialty training in emergency medicine. The department is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Hospital charges will apply and are higher than those at Lafene Health Center, K+Stat Urgent Care or Manhattan Urgent Care.

In the event of a serious or life-threatening emergency, call 911.

- Manhattan Medical Group
- K+Stat Urgent Care
- Emergency Department



## STUDENT SERVICES

### GRADUATE SCHOOL

113-119 Eisenhower Hall  
1013 Mid-Campus Dr, Manhattan, KS 66506  
Phone: (785) 532-6191  
Email: [grad@k-state.edu](mailto:grad@k-state.edu)

### INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AND SCHOLAR SERVICES

104 International Student Center  
1414 Mid-Campus Dr. North, Manhattan, KS 66506  
Phone: (785) 532-6448  
Email: [isss@k-state.edu](mailto:isss@k-state.edu)

### OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

304 Fairchild Hall  
1601 Vattier St. Manhattan, KS 66506  
Phone: (785) 532-5498  
Email: [oip@k-state.edu](mailto:oip@k-state.edu)

### NON-TRADITIONAL AND VETERAN STUDENT SERVICES

217 Student Union  
Manhattan, KS 66506  
Phone: (785) 532-6432  
Email: [kstatenontrad@k-state.edu](mailto:kstatenontrad@k-state.edu)

### Helpful Links

- Graduate School
- Facebook
- Twitter

- ISSS
- International Student Organizations

- Office of International Programs

- Non-Traditional and Veteran Student Services



## HOUSING AND DINING SERVICES

- Housing and Dining Services

104 Pittman Building  
1531 Mid-Campus Dr. North Manhattan, KS 66506  
Phone: (785) 523-6453  
Toll free: (888) 568-5027  
Email: [housing@k-state.edu](mailto:housing@k-state.edu)

## CENTER FOR STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

- Student Activities and Services

114 K-State Student Union  
918 N. 17<sup>th</sup> Street  
Phone: (785) 532-6541  
Email: [studentinvolvement@k-state.edu](mailto:studentinvolvement@k-state.edu)

## MANHATTAN CAMPUS MAP

- Campus Map