



GETTING STARTED IN GRAD

*Making Your Move
to the U.S.*

October 14, 2026



Important dates for international students

December 9 – earliest you may arrive in the U.S.

December 24-January 1 – **university offices closed**

January 8 – arrive to the U.S. by this day

January 11 – International Student Orientation - *required*
(additional activities during the week)

January 13 – Graduate School Welcome Session

January 14 – Orientation for Graduate Students with Teaching Responsibilities

January 19 – First day of Spring 2027 semester—classes begin!

What do I need to do now?

- Follow Guides to Getting Started (Graduate School website)
 - Getting started checklists
 - Tutorials

www.ksu.edu/grad

Kansas State University

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Graduate School



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Get ready

Guidance for incoming
students

KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY

Graduate School



You're admitted! What's next?

We are pleased you have chosen K-State for your graduate education and look forward to welcoming and supporting you through this exciting journey! The following will guide you through the next steps to prepare for your K-State graduate career.

Let us know you're attending

If you have not already done so, make sure to officially accept your admission offer. Visit your application portal and submit your "reply to offer of admission" in the "Post-Admission Checklist."

[Application portal](#) ›

Address admission letter requirements

Your admission letter may require you to submit additional documents or complete other actions to finalize your admission.

[See instructions for these requirements](#) ›

Get ready!

Use our getting started resources and participate in orientation and welcome activities to help you prepare for your first semester of graduate study at K-State!

[Guides to getting started](#) ›

[Welcome and orientation activities](#) ›

[Moving to Manhattan](#) ›

Guides to getting started

The checklists and tutorials below will help you prepare for your first semester as a graduate student at K-State. You may need to refer to more than one checklist, depending on your citizenship status and if you have been appointed to an assistantship.

Checklists

All new graduate students



International students



New GTAs, GRAs, and GAs



Tutorials

[International student travel](#)

[Enroll in courses](#)

[Technology](#)

[Tuition and payment](#)

[Health, well-being, and safety](#)

[GTAs, GRAs, and GAs](#)

Prepare for travel

Utilize the International Graduate Student to the U.S. Tutorial
(<https://www.k-state.edu/grad/admissions/incoming-students/getting-started/travel.html>)

International student travel guide to the U.S.

This guide helps incoming international graduate students who have been admitted to a graduate program at a physical Kansas State University campus (in Manhattan, Olathe, or Salina, Kansas) plan their travel to the U.S.

- [What education and immigration documents do I bring?](#)
- [What is the VISA application process?](#)
- [When should I arrive in the United States?](#)
- [How do I get from the airport to Kansas State University?](#)
- [How do I make housing arrangements at K-State?](#)

What education and immigration documents do I bring?

Please make sure you have all your diplomas/degree certificates and transcripts from your prior coursework with you before you leave your home country. Documents must have an official English translation. When you arrive to K-State, you must check-in at the Graduate School and provide original copies of your diplomas/degree certificates and transcripts for prior education reported in your application. Then your K-State student record will be matriculated, and you may enroll in courses.

When can/should I arrive?

- January 8 is program start date in I-20
 - You are expected to arrive by this date
 - You may arrive as early as 30 days prior, December 9
- If you will be on an assistantship appointment
 - You are encouraged to arrive as early as possible—it takes time to get your SSN and get on payroll (*attend Nov 4 webinar for more details*)

What airport do I fly to?

- We recommend you fly to Manhattan Regional Airport (MHK)
 - University shuttle available the week of January 4 (more information will be shared in the next couple of months)
 - Helping International Students (HIS) transportation, <https://hismanhattan.org/newstudents>
- Next closest airports are Kansas City International Airport (MCI) and Wichita Dwight D. Eisenhower National Airport (ICT)
 - Both are about 2 hours from Manhattan
 - The university does NOT provide ground transportation from these airports

Housing

**It is your responsibility to secure housing
before you arrive!**

- KSU Jardine Apartments recommended at least for first year
 - Close to campus
 - Strong community of other international and graduate students
 - Make sure there is availability for ***when you plan to arrive***
 - It is unlikely we will have temporary housing available

<https://housing.k-state.edu/living-options/international-students/>

Housing

- Contracts typically begin January 15 spring semester
 - May be earlier if you're moving in with a roommate
- If you plan to arrive in December or early January, it is unlikely your apartment will be ready, and there is very limited temporary housing
- What do I do if I don't have a visa yet?
 - If you plan to attend K-State in January and want to live in Jardine, you should submit an application as soon as possible – application goes live Nov. 2 for spring semester
 - It is better to get an application in early to have space secured than to submit an application close to the start of the semester when there might not be space available
 - If your visa is denied, please communicate with housing so we can process your cancellation

Housing

K-State Housing website and Jardine staff are your best resources for information about living in Jardine

- K-State housing information for international students:
<https://housing.k-state.edu/living-options/international-students/>
- What you need to know about Jardine Apartments:
<https://housing.k-state.edu/living-options/international-students/jardine-info.html>
- Ask for assistance with finding a roommate, complete this form
https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=cfqi2X3Wtky1QQbMqoAT-0M_9PJtvBJEhmyu2OL_tVtURU1PTDFMNExxWTVSNU5aREowMEdIUlFaWC4u&route=shorturl

Plan for steps after arrival

When to Arrive to the U.S.

As early as 30 days prior to the program start date on your I-20 or DS-2019.

No later than the program start date on your I-20 or DS-2019.

***If you have been offered an assistantship** (GTA, GRA, or GA), we recommend that you arrive as early as possible, up 30 days prior to the program start date on your I-20.*

If you are unable to arrive by the program start date, please notify us at gradapply@ksu.edu prior to the arrival deadline.

Prepare for travel to the U.S.

We have information to help you plan your travel and prepare for your move to Kansas!

Guide for international student travel to the U.S.

Plan for steps after arrival

Check-in with International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS)

- Have your immigration documents scanned and saved for uploading purposes. Documents include passport (pages with photo and expiration date), I-94, I-20, or DS-2019. You will upload these documents in the ISSS check-in survey.
- Know the U.S. address where you will be currently staying, even if it is a temporary address.

Complete the ISSS check-in survey

Also refer to ALL NEW STUDENTS checklist and GTA/GRA/GA checklist

What do I need to do now?

- Follow Guides to Getting Started (Graduate School website)
 - Getting started checklists
 - Tutorials
- Know where to ask for help
 - Your graduate program – provides guidance about your academic program
 - Graduate School – high-level guidance on grad student experience
 - International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) – support for policy and process specific to international students

<https://www.k-state.edu/grad/academics/program-contacts.html>

Graduate Program Contacts

Agriculture	▼
Architecture, Planning and Design	▼
Arts and Sciences	▼
Business Administration	▼
Education	▼
Engineering	▼
Health and Human Sciences	▼
Leadership	▼
Olathe	▼
Salina-Aerospace and Technology Campus	▼
Veterinary Medicine	▼

Other resources

- Current graduate students – ***one of your BEST resources!***
 - Students in your graduate program
 - Students from your home country
 - ***International student associations at K-State:***
https://www.k-state.edu/iss/resources/intl_assoc.html
- Helping International Students (HIS), <https://hismanhattan.org/>
 - A community organization
 - Provides furniture to international students
 - Can provide transportation from MHK airport, and sometimes from Kansas City
 - Organizes events to support community building

Other resources

- What is life like in Manhattan, Kansas?
 - Explore resources on our Moving to Manhattan page:
<https://www.k-state.edu/grad/admissions/incoming-students/manhattan.html>
- How to get around Manhattan
 - ATA Bus system – ride for free around campus with your K-State ID card (<https://www.k-state.edu/parking/services/shuttle/>)
 - Bicycles from Helping International Students (HIS)



Attend upcoming webinar

Nov 4 – Preparing for Your Assistantship

9:00am U.S. central time

Nov 6 – Enrollment, Billing, and Making Payments

9:00am U.S. central time

Learn more and register on the Graduate School website:

<https://www.k-state.edu/grad/admissions/incoming-students/orientation/spring.html>