

Dear Student,

Welcome to the University of Colorado Denver. We are excited to have you join us for this next step in your career! We look forward to meeting you and helping you flourish at UC Denver. This is an exciting time to join us – the campus is getting larger, research is growing, and the university is highly ranked.

Included in this packet is your I-20 and flyers with information ranging from what to do your first days in Denver to how to get to Denver to how to register for classes. Please read these papers carefully and feel free to call or email if you have any questions.

As international students, you must abide by the rules governing your visa type. Please read the second page of your DS-2019 or I-20 carefully.

We want you to be successful here and have a wonderful experience. The first step toward success at UC Denver will be to attend the mandatory international student orientation. This orientation is required for all new and transfer student. You will receive an email with more information about orientation closer to the required entry on your immigration documents.

International Student and Scholars Services are here to help you maintain your status, help you with the cultural transitions and are a resource for you. We also offer events throughout the year. An e-newsletter is sent with important information, updates and our program information.

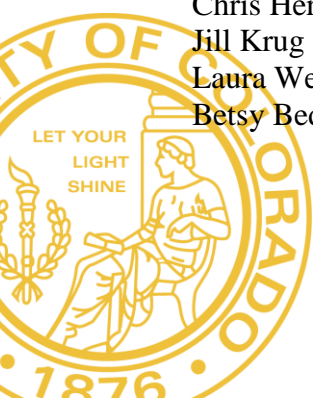
When you arrive, please check-in to our office with your immigration documents. For more information, please see the flyer called “Upon Arriving at UC Denver”. Our walk-in hours are from 1-4 pm. We are also available by appointment most of the rest of the day.

We look forward to meeting you and welcoming you to beautiful Denver.

Sincerely,

Your ISSS Team

Chris Hertel
Jill Krug
Laura Welch
Betsy Bedient



Before Applying for a Visa

SEVIS Fee

All F-1 and J-1 students must pay the SEVIS or I-901 fee. The cost is \$200 for F-1 students and \$180 for J-1s. This fee should be paid prior to making a visa appointment at the US Embassy or Consulate. You must take the receipt to your visa appointment for the officer to see.

You will need to go to <https://fmjfee.com> and complete the I-901 form. You can pay the fee by credit card, by mail or by Western Union. (If paying by Western Union or mail, please keep in mind that it will take several weeks to get a receipt, please pay this fee early to avoid delays).

Hints for filling out the I-901:

1. Read the FAQ (frequently asked questions)
2. Double-check that the information on the I-20 or DS-2019 is correct. If it is not, do NOT pay the fee and contact UC Denver's office of international admissions to correct the I-20.
3. The school code is DEN214F00301000 (for F-1s) or P-1-03858 (for J-1s).
4. Your SEVIS number is in the top, right-hand corner and begins with N000.
5. Print at least two copies – one to take to the Embassy or Consulate and one for your records.

If you have applied to more than one school, you must decide which school you will attend and pay the SEVIS fee using that school's information.

If you are denied a visa, you cannot get a refund of your SEVIS fee. If you decide to reapply for a visa within the next 12 months, you will not have to pay the fee again.

F-2 and J-2s do not have to pay the SEVIS fee.

Visa Interview

You must enter the country **BEFORE** the reporting date on your I-20 or DS-2019. Make sure that your visa appointment is in plenty of time. You can go to http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/wait/tempvisitors_wait.php to see what the estimated wait times are for the Embassy or Consulate nearest you. The visa can be issued up to 120 days before the reporting date on your documents. You can enter the US up to 30 days before the reporting date.

Be prepared for the visa interview. The officer must assume that each prospective student is planning on staying in the US. It is your job to prove otherwise. Any ties to your country – family, jobs, land ownership, etc – will help show that you do plan to return to your home country after you are finished with school. Take any documents that you think will help your case including your original financial documents or letter of sponsorship, but don't be surprised if the officer does not ask to see anything. The officer will probably spend less than a few minutes with you as well.

You should take:

1. I-20/DS-2019
2. Proof of having paid the SEVIS fee
3. Evidence of financial resources
4. Evidence of English ability
5. Evidence that you intend to depart the US upon completion of your studies
6. Forms DS-156 and DS-158
7. Form DS-157, if applicable
8. Passport-sized photographs
9. Proof of payment of Machine Readable Visa (MRV) fee
10. Visa reciprocity fee (if applicable)
11. Transcripts, test scores (GRE, TOEFL, etc)

Port of Entry

Make sure that you pack all your important documents in your carry-on luggage. This should include:

1. Passport
2. I-20/DS-2019
3. Evidence of financial resources
4. Evidence of student status, such as recent tuition receipts, transcripts or proof of registration
5. Paper receipt for the SEVIS fee, Form I-797, and
6. Name and contact information for your Designated School Official

You can also read more about what will happen at the Port of Entry at

http://www.ice.gov/sevis/factsheet/100104ent_stdnt_fs.htm.

Coming to Denver

Denver International Airport (DIA) is located about one hour from downtown Denver. To get to campus from the airport, you have a few options:

- Contact your student group for pick-up possibilities. UC Denver does not offer pick up services, but some of the student groups may. You can visit <http://thunder1.cudenver.edu/studentorgs/handbook/lists2.html> and scroll down to Cultural-International for contact information.
- Shuttle services (about \$20 per person to downtown; cash or credit)
 - Supershuttle www.supershuttledenver.com
 - ABC shuttle www.abcshuttle.com
 - More shuttle options are listed at <http://thunder1.cudenver.edu/internationaladmissions/arrival.htm>
- Taxi (\$54 flat rate to downtown; cash only)
 - Metro taxi: 303-333-3333
 - Yellow Cab: 303-777-7777
 - Zone Cab: 303-444-8888
- RTD bus (\$8 one way; exact change – cash only)
 - The bus will drop you off at the Market Street Station (Market and 16th), just a few blocks from campus.

More information is available on Level 5 (ground transportation and baggage claim). Please see www.flydenver.com for information on DIA and services provided. You can also call 303-342-4059 or email ground.transportation@diadenver.net.

UC Denver also provides more information at <http://thunder1.cudenver.edu/internationaladmissions/arrival.htm>.

You may also want to either come to the US with a minimal amount of US dollars or convert a small amount of money at the airport exchange kiosks.

Upon Arriving at UC Denver

Check-in

Upon arriving in Denver, you MUST check-in at the Office of International Affairs, 1380 Lawrence St., Room 932, Denver, CO 80204. You must bring your I-20 or DS-2019, passport and I-94 card (the small white card that will be stapled in your passport at US Customs when you first arrive in the US). If you have dependents, you must bring their documents as well.

You must check-in at the Office of International Affairs prior to the mandatory orientation on January 14, 2010.

You will receive a packet of information to help you through the first few days before Orientation.

Mandatory International Student Orientation

You MUST also attend the Mandatory International Student Orientation, held on January 14, 2010. Topics that will be discussed include regulations governing international students, campus services, social security card/driver's license, cultural adjustment, health services and insurance.

Please check your personal email account for details about the exact location and time the orientation will be held on January 14, 2010.

Please note: Federal regulations REQUIRE new international students to check-in to report their arrival in the U.S. and to report their address to their school. IF YOU DO NOT CHECK IN WITH ISSS, YOUR IMMIGRATION STATUS MIGHT BE CANCELLED! Reporting to International Affairs upon arrival and attending Orientation is important.

If you have questions contact Chris Hertel at Christina.Hertel@ucdenver.edu or Jill Krug at Jill.Krug@ucdenver.edu.

You may also be required to attend another orientation for your department. This is separate from the mandatory International Student Orientation.

Academic Advisor

You will also need to meet with your academic advisor in your department to ensure that you register for the right classes to stay on schedule. Part of the visa requirements is to make progress towards your degree. Starting off "on the right foot" makes it much easier.

Registration

You must pay your \$200 registration deposit to activate your account. After that, you will be able to register for classes. If you are a sponsored student, you may need to pay this, and ask your sponsor for reimbursement later. Payments can be made by credit card, mail and electronic bank withdrawal. You will also need to take your financial guarantee letter, if you are a sponsored student.

Activate your University email account

All official University correspondence will be sent to your UC Denver email address. Please check your email account at least three times a week. If you choose to, you can forward your official account to your personal account, but turn off the SPAM filter in your personal email account.

To activate it go to <https://web.cudenver.edu/prfw/chpass.cgi>. You will need your UCD Student Identification Number and your assigned Personal Identification Number (PIN). These numbers will be mailed to you by the UCD Registrar's Office at your home country mailing address. If you do not receive the numbers before you arrive on campus, only the Registrar's Office can provide them to you after your arrival on campus. Our office does not have access to your PIN.

Update your Mailing (local) Address and/or Permanent (Home) Address

Update your information on the SMART system. You will find the link to SMART on the Registrar's website at www.cudenver.edu/registrar. It is a requirement of your visa that you always maintain an accurate address in the system.

Get your Student ID card

In the Tivoli Student Union, you can get your Student ID card. You will need your passport or another photo ID, \$10 or a voucher from the Bursar's Office and proof that you have registered for classes.

Pay your bill

For further enrollment, billing, and payment details, go to www.ucdenver.edu/bursar. NOTE: The amount of tuition listed on Form I-20 is for the minimum required courseload. If you register for additional classes, your tuition may be more. Furthermore, some departments charge additional fees for certain classes. Students are responsible for making arrangements to cover any additional expenses. For additional information, please visit the Bursar's website: www.ucdenver.edu/bursar.

Get involved with activities on campus

The International Student and Scholars Services will have different programs and events throughout the year. Some of the events include going to a baseball game, hiking, a trip to the Stock Show, etc. Please take advantage of all that Denver and Colorado have to offer. Join student groups or start one of your own. If you ask American students who have graduated, they will tell you their fondest memories are not of textbooks and note-taking, but of late-night study groups in the library and snowball fights in front of the dorms.

Housing

On-Campus

All first-time, single, undergraduate international students will be required to live in Campus Village, our student housing. Basic information about student housing, available options, costs, and exemptions can be found on-line at www.cudenver.edu/housing.

Campus Village encourages you to apply on-line in order to reserve a room before arriving. Returning students also live at Campus Village and can renew their leases for the following year, so it is important to sign up early.

Undergraduate international students wanting to apply for an exemption to the live-in requirement may do so by filling out the Special Exemption Form on-line. **If you feel your situation warrants an exemption we urge you to apply for an exemption so that your individual situation can be reviewed.** Exemptions will be authorized on a case by case basis.

Graduate international students are NOT required to live in Campus Village, but they do have the option of staying at the Campus Village.

Off-Campus

Graduate students, married students or students with children here can visit the UCD Housing Website for assistance with finding off-campus housing in the Denver metropolitan area:
<http://www.cudenverhousing.com/>.

UC Denver does not offer a homestay program. If you decide that is what you want, you will need to find the program and check it out yourself.

More Information

Health Insurance

Since medical care is so expensive in the United States, UCD provides a health insurance policy specifically for international students. This policy also gives students access to the Health Center at Auraria. You should not purchase additional private health insurance before coming to campus, except to cover your travel time to campus. All F-1 students and J-1 students and their J-2 dependents will be billed for this insurance. F-1 students may purchase additional insurance for their dependents. To obtain more information about insurance, please contact the Student Insurance Coordinator, Diane Siewert at 303-556-6273 or by email at diane.siewert@ucdenver.edu.

Cost Estimate on I-20

The costs shown on the application for admission and on the I-20 or DS-2019 form are estimated to cover the average amounts mentioned on the documents we have sent you for an academic year (9 months). Personal expenses and travel costs are not included. These expenses are subject to change at any time, without notice.

Wire Transfer Information

Bank Name: Wells Fargo/ San Francisco, CA; **Routing Number:** 12100024; **Swift Number:** WFBIUS6S; **Depositor Name:** Regents of University of Colorado at Denver; **Depositor Number:** 1018145260. Please be sure that your name and student ID number are included on all wire transfers.

J-1 or F-1 Students Sponsored by Government Funds or Other Outside Sponsor

When you arrive on campus, please take your sponsor's guarantee letter to the Bursar's Office, so the University can send tuition and fee bills to your sponsor. The Bursar's Office is located in the North Classroom Building, Room 1001. You will also need to follow the instructions above about Payment of Tuition and Fees in order to register for classes. If you are fully sponsored then you will be reimbursed for the \$200 registration advance payment.