



Welcome on behalf of the Office of International Programs

Congratulations incoming students! Your admission to the University of Mississippi is a testament to your hard work and we look forward to your arrival.

The Office of International Programs is here to assist you before, during, and after your time at the university. You've likely already interacted with our admissions team and now it's time for advice on topics such as applying for a student visa, arranging for housing, registering for orientation, traveling to the campus, and other matters related to your start at the university. Please use the resources in this guide as well as those on our [website](#) for information on these important practical matters.



Martindale building houses student services offices including the Office of International Programs

Supporting your success is what we are here to do. You can reach us by email at ipdept@olemiss.edu to address any remaining questions you may have.

See you soon,

Jean Robinson

Jean Robinson
Director
Office of International Programs



Here are some important dates to keep in mind as you plan for your arrival to study at the University of Mississippi.



Martindale building entrance facing north

ALL STUDENTS:

Spring 2021 Arrival Date:
Monday, January 11, 2021 (Free Airport Shuttle from Memphis Airport on this day ONLY)

January 12-15, 2021: Required Health Center Visit, adjusting to life in Oxford

International Student Orientation (Required Attendance): **Online via Blackboard**

Classes Begin:
Tuesday, January 19, 2021

University of Mississippi Graduate School Orientation: Available Online

If you have not visited our website: www.international.olemiss.edu to review pre-arrival information, please do so. Orientation updates can also be found at this link: <http://international.olemiss.edu/orientationcheck-in/>



– AIRPORT SHUTTLE INFORMATION –

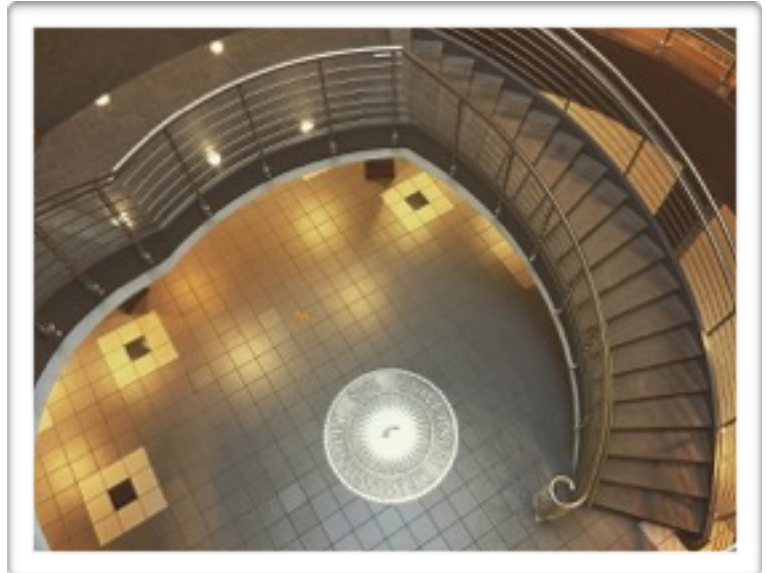
Monday, January 11, 2021

Spring 2021 Arrival Date: Free Airport Shuttle from Memphis Airport on this day ONLY

Option 1: For flights arriving on January 11 ONLY*

We will be providing a free shuttle service transportation from the Memphis Airport to Oxford on the day of **January 11th only**. The deadline to sign up for this free shuttle is by December 17th.

If you would like to sign up for this shuttle service, please fill out the form here and include your flight information: [Sign up for free shuttle from Memphis airport to Oxford here.](#)



Main staircase inside Martindale building with the seal of the University of Mississippi in the center of the floor

*Please note that if we do not have enough students arriving, the shuttle is subject to cancelation

Option 2: If your flight does not arrive on January 11th you are responsible to schedule your own transportation to Oxford

If your flight arrives on any day other than January 11th you will have to arrange and pay for your own transportation to Oxford from the Memphis International Airport. Please look at transportation options listed on our website: <http://international.olemiss.edu/transportation/>

Option 3: Applicable for graduate students only

If your flight arrives on a day other than January 11th, you can try to contact your graduate program coordinator to ask if they can make arrangements for you to arrive in Oxford from the airport.



– ORIENTATION INFORMATION –

January 2021

International Student Orientation

(Required Attendance for all new international students)

There is no fee or registration required for the International Student Orientation- you simply attend!

Location will be announced closer to the orientation date.

OGE Orientation is fun experience designed to help you adjust to your life as an international student at Ole Miss. During orientation, OGE staff, as well as other Ole Miss staff and students, will discuss important topics such as immigration regulations, health insurance, academic expectations, life in Oxford, among others. You will also have the opportunity to meet fellow international students and form friendships.



Lyceum building houses administrative offices and is the oldest building on campus, constructed in 1848

University of Mississippi Graduate Student Orientation

Online orientation (Review at your earliest convenience)

Please visit the Graduate School's Online Orientation found here:

[Graduate School Spring 2020 Online Orientation](#)



HOUSING

Monday, January 11, 2021

Arrival Day and Move-In for On-Campus Residents

You **MUST** have a housing confirmation secured *before you arrive* January 11th. Whether you live on-campus or off-campus, you will need to contact your desired housing complex, fill out their application and receive a confirmation from your housing complex of your accommodation booking **before** you arrive in the U.S.A.

You may not show up the day of your arrival and expect to receive a housing reservation that day. Your housing arrangements must be confirmed prior to arrival.



The Grove, a central meeting space and host to many events on campus, is full of trees and captures the beauty of autumn.

ON-CAMPUS HOUSING

Please keep the following in mind:

In most cases, students classified as freshman students are **required** to live on campus. More about this as well as the housing application can be found at: [Student Housing Applications](#)

The earliest date you may move into on-campus housing is January 11th.

If you are living in an on-campus residence hall, you will soon receive further instructions from us on how you may purchase bedding in advance by ordering a bedroom and bathroom pack. Due to the unique size of the beds in on-campus residence halls, the bedroom and bathroom pack is only available to order for those who are living in on-campus residence halls



OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING

If you are a first-year student and do not wish to live on campus, you must fill out an application for exemption here: [On-Campus Housing Application for Exemption](#)

Our website lists options for you to find housing off-campus: <http://international.olemiss.edu/housing-and-accommodations/>

It is important to note:

Many apartments in Oxford require a lease of one year so be sure to read through the terms of your lease carefully *before* signing. By signing a lease, you are promising to pay the landlord for the entire time listed on the lease. Ending a lease early or violating the lease agreement can cost you the rental deposit or continued monthly payments for the apartment or house. It is common for landlords to require that you pay a deposit equal to one month's rent when you sign the lease. Additionally, many apartments and rental houses are unfurnished. It is best to check with the landlord about whether furnished housing is available.

HEALTH INSURANCE

The University of Mississippi requires all international students to maintain health insurance coverage as a condition of enrollment and maintenance of status. In addition, all dependent family members of J-1 Visa holders are required by federal regulation to have health insurance at all times while in the United States.

All international students with the exception of those classified in the university system as U.S. permanent residents or H-1 status holders will be enrolled in the health insurance program made available through the university (Wellfleet). It is important to read the brochure (retrievable at the University Health Services [website](#)) describing what is and is not covered. Participation is mandatory for all international students except Permanent Residents and H1B visa holders. Exemptions may be considered on the basis of stated exemption requirements available [here](#).

You should also familiarize yourself with the differences between healthcare in your home country and the U.S. Check out this [video from AETNA](#) for more information.



FINANCIAL MATTERS

Please familiarize yourself with the following financial matters as they will be very important for your arrival. international.olemiss.edu/financial-matters-newly-admitted/

OFFICE OF THE BURSAR

The office at the university that manages tuition assessment is called the **Office of the Bursar**. All students have a bursar account which can be checked in myOleMiss. You will not have any charges for tuition until *after registration* for courses.

If you are living on campus or buy a meal plan for on-campus dining, these charges will also get placed on your bursar account. You can give your parent or sponsor access to see your bursar charges by setting the appropriate permissions in your myOleMiss account. Your parent/sponsor would also need to sign up for a parent webID. See more about this at: <http://www.olemiss.edu/helpdesk/parentwebid.html>

There are several methods that can be used to pay your bursar charges. These can be found at: <http://international.olemiss.edu/tuition-and-fee-payment/>

COST OF STUDY

Estimated tuition and other cost amounts can be found at: <http://international.olemiss.edu/cost-of-study/>

SCHOLARSHIPS

If you have been offered a scholarship, you will **need to accept this award** in the Financial Aid award notification section of your myOleMiss account. If you do not see an award that was expected, contact the office that made the offer.



The Oxford Square is hub of the town of Oxford where you can shop, eat and stroll. It is especially festive during the holiday season.



ASSISTANTSHIPS

Any student who has been offered **on-campus employment**, including those who will have **graduate assistantships** will have some forms to process with the university's Student Employment office. This information can be found at: <http://www.olemiss.edu/hr/students.html>. **Please note that your first paycheck will be delayed so plan accordingly by bringing enough funds with you to meet your needs until the necessary paperwork for payment is processed.** The biggest factor in the delayed release of employment funds is the need for a Social Security number. If you have lived in the U.S. previously and already have one, bring your social security card with you. We will assist you in [applying for a Social Security number](#) upon your arrival but the process will take several weeks. Please note that it may take a month for you to receive your Social Security card.

EMPLOYMENT

Rules and regulations regarding on-campus employment will be given at the International Student Orientation. Meanwhile, you can read information regarding on-campus employment at our website found here: <https://international.olemiss.edu/student-employment/>

OBTAINING A SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

A Social Security number (also known as "SSN") is issued by the Social Security Administration to all U.S. citizens and non-citizens who are work eligible. It is used to report your income to the U.S. government and required in order to receive a paycheck.

You may begin employment before being issued an SSN, however you will not receive your first paycheck until you have obtained an SSN. You may only apply for an SSN in person, after you have arrived in the U.S.

In order to apply for a Social Security number, you must submit your application *in person* and include the following three documents:

1. Social Security Application (available at OIP or found online here: [SSN Application](#))
2. Job Offer Letter
3. Verification Letter from OIP

Please check <http://international.olemiss.edu/newlyadmitted/> for additional information for incoming students.



OBTAINING A MISSISSIPPI DRIVER'S LICENSE

If you are at least 18 years of age, you may be eligible to apply for a Mississippi driver's license. To read more about what is required, please visit: <https://international.olemiss.edu/driving-responsibilities/>

CELLULAR PHONE PLANS

Cellphones are one of the first items international students typically want to purchase upon arrival. There are various cellphone companies in Oxford. Each company has its own set of policies and requirements for cellphone purchase. A summary of cellphone companies is included in the welcome packet that will be given to you during airport pickup or at orientation.

WHAT TO PACK

Oxford generally has a warm, humid climate, but it does get colder in winter! You will arrive in the middle of winter when it is cold and occasionally rainy. We would suggest that you pack what is needed upon arrival. This may include things like clothes suitable for the weather, a rain jacket, some toiletries, chargers and adapters. Other items can be purchased once you have settled in Oxford. You may find useful items in the Walmart in town or browse online retailers like Walmart, Target, and Amazon.

CAMPUS NEWS PUBLICATIONS

The campus newspaper is called *The Daily Mississippian* and prints a paper newspaper as well as maintains an online presence. To keep updated with news at The University of Mississippi before and after your arrival, please visit their website: <http://thedmonline.com/>

Another way to keep updated with the latest news and events going on in the Office of International Programs is to follow our social media. Our [Facebook page](#) posts important events and helpful information while our [Instagram profile](#) posts photos of our campus, students and events.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Find out what student organizations and campus communities exist at Ole Miss before you arrive. All of our events and organizations are listed on the Ole Miss Forum where you can find contact



information and social media links to get in touch before and after your arrival. Search the Forum here: [Ole Miss Forum](#).

HOW TO REGISTER FOR CLASSES

It is not possible for new students to register until they have arrived to campus and checked in with the Office of International Programs to complete the required tasks to clear all holds. You will have holds that need to be cleared by visiting the appropriate office or department on campus and submitting forms to them in-person before you can register for classes.

CLEARING HOLDS

The first hold you should clear is your **international hold**. In order to clear your international hold, you must follow instructions that will be sent to you through email. Make sure to have your passport, visa and I-20 documents ready with scanned copies to be submitted digitally. There will be additional forms the office staff will ask you to complete upon your arrival. Finally, you must attend the International Student Orientation held online in order to complete all requirements to clear your international hold.

Another hold that is required to clear for all new students is your **health hold**. You must contact the Student Health Center located at the V.B. Harrison Building (400 Rebel Drive, University, MS 38677) to schedule a time for your appointment. Please submit all health and immunization documents directly to the Student Health Center (the Office of International Programs will not and does not accept any health immunization records).

Please find Student Health Center Contact Information Here: [Student Health Center website](#).

Lastly, you should speak with your academic advisor within your academic department to clear your **advisor hold**. Your academic advisor can help you register for classes only AFTER your international and health holds have been cleared. If you are unsure who your academic advisor is, you should contact your department to inquire.

We look forward to your arrival!

The Staff of the Office of International Programs