International Student Welcome Guide

Office of International Student & Faculty Services (OISFS)
Fall 2018

“Ipsa scientia potestas est. Knowledge itself is power.”
-Francis Bacon
Dear International Student:

Greetings and congratulations on your admission to Morgan State University! We are delighted that you have selected Morgan and we welcome you as a part of the Morgan community.

Aligned with Morgan State University’s motto of “Growing the Future, Leading the World,” the international community at Morgan is robust and continues to grow with your support.

I look forward to the contributions of new inbound international students that bring with them their values, religious beliefs, customs, and experiences to enrich our campus as you enrich yourselves. We hope you will find your time here rewarding both personally and academically.

The Division of International Affairs and the Office of International Student & Faculty Services (OISFS) is here to support you during your stay. I look forward to meeting you at the beginning of the semester. We wish you a successful and enjoyable stay in the United States!

Kind Regards,

Qimmah Najeeullah

Director of International Student & Faculty Services
I. PRE-ARRIVAL
Here are all the basic things you need to know about & do before you arrive in the USA & to Morgan:

1. Confirm your acceptance
To confirm your acceptance go to:

2b. I-20 pick-up
Undergraduate and graduate students can pick up their I-20 from OISFS--located in Montebello D-208

If someone is picking up your I-20 on your behalf, you MUST send an email expressing consent and the person’s name to international.affairs@morgan.edu

*Confirm that MSU has your correct mailing address*

2a. Receive your I-20
Submit the following documents to Office of Undergraduate Admission & Recruitment:

- Bank statement with official bank stamp or seal and signature of bank official (must be converted to USD if coming from a foreign account) OR a Financial Guarantee from your government or sponsoring agency
- Affidavit of Support (letter from person financially supporting – not required if you have a Financial Guarantee)
- International Student Information Form (link included in your acceptance email)
- Transfer-in form (transfer students only)
1. PRE-ARRIVAL
CONTINUED…
THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

3. Have a passport valid for at least six months

5. Test your username & password
For services such as Morgan Mail, WebSIS, and Blackboard—take time to configure and get familiarized with these services.
If you have any difficulty accessing these services, contact Morgan State University’s Service Desk at 443.885.4357 for assistance.

4. Apply for a US visa
Pay your I-901 fee for SEVIS (mandatory for new international students):
https://www.fmjfee.com/

Print the receipt for your records!

Schedule a visa interview appointment

Attend your visa interview with all required documents. Required documents are:
- A passport valid for at least 6 months
- Form I-20 (prepared by Morgan State and sent to student)
- A completed visa application form
- SEVIS I-901 payment and visa application receipts
- Proof of financial support
- Other documents can be found at the U.S. Embassy website

6. Orientation and other important dates
See page 10 for dates and make sure to arrive on time in order to fully participate

7. Arrive within 30 days of program start date.

OISFS will not provide support letters for late arrivals

8. Plan airport pick-up on arrival to the United States

BEAR TIP
Be prepared for cold weather! Bring a coat or jacket
I. PRE-ARRIVAL
Continued…
Things you need to know

9. Apply for on-campus housing

The application for campus housing can be found here -
http://www.morgan.edu/residencelife

ON CAMPUS HOUSING IS DESIGNATED BY GENDER:

◦ Male
  ◦ Baldwin Hall
  ◦ Cummings Hall
  ◦ O’Connell Hall
  ◦ Rawlings Hall

◦ Female
  ◦ Blount Towers

◦ Co-Ed
  ◦ Harper-Tubman (honors students ONLY)
  ◦ Marble Hall Gardens
  ◦ Thurgood Marshall

10. Child care & schools

If you are bringing your family, you can find more information about local schools and childcare at the link below:


11. Look & apply for off-campus housing

Morgan View Apartments is the closest off-campus housing. Information about Morgan View –
http://morganview.com

To apply to Morgan View Apartments -
https://applynow.studenthousing.com:446/732

TOOLS TO FIND OTHER OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING:
http://www.msu.och101.com/
II. ARRIVAL

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

1. Airport emergencies

If you have any difficulty at Customs & Border Protection while entering the country contact the Office of International Student & Faculty Services (OISFS) so we can assist by phone:

Mon-Fri 9:00AM - 5:00PM

Call: 443.885.3038 (Office line)

Call: 410.805.6924 (AFTER 5 pm /weekends immigration emergencies ONLY)

2. Transportation from the airport

For convenient service that can accommodate your luggage, we recommend:

• BWI Airport Taxi—http://www.bwiairporttaxi.com/
• Uber--mobile app
• Lyft--mobile app
• Super Shuttle

3. Mandatory check-in

Upon arrival to campus, you MUST bring the following documents to the Office of International Student & Faculty Services (OISFS):

❑ Your signed I-20
❑ Passport & F-1 visa
❑ I-94
  https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/consent.html
❑ I-901 Fee payment receipt
  https://fmjfee.com

If these documents are not presented to OISFS within the first two weeks, a hold will be placed on your account.
II. ARRIVAL
CONTINUED...
THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

4. Get a BEARcard!

Your **BEARcard** is your student identification card that can be used for PNC bank, meals, library, residence hall access, parking access, etc.

To obtain a BEARcard, go to Montebello D-128 or call 443.885.3065

You must be registered for classes **BEFORE** being issued a BEARcard.

5. Sign up for Mobile Alerts

Mobile Alerts allow you get important campus-wide information by text. You can sign up at [http://www.morgan.edu/mobilealerts](http://www.morgan.edu/mobilealerts)

6. Obtaining a U.S. Phone Number

International students can gain access to a phone number by buying a SIM card with a prepaid plan from certain cell phone providers.

7. Health Insurance

All **UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS** are required to have health insurance. Health insurance is **automatically added to the account of undergraduate students**. If you already have insurance coverage, you can waive health insurance by visiting the following link:


**GRADUATE STUDENTS** are eligible to enroll in the insurance plan, however, this is a voluntary process. To enroll in health insurance, visit:

III. ORIENTATION

1. Freshmen Orientation

**ACCESS ORIENTATION** is for freshman and ALL new incoming students. Afterward, you can take your placement tests and meet your advisor! Register through WebSIS.

2. Online Transfer Orientation

If you are transferring from another U.S. institution, you learn how to transfer your credits and other resources available to you.

3. International Student Orientation

Provides the guidance and information you need to maintain your F-1 status, hear advice from continuing students, and get advice on how to navigate campus services to meet your needs.

4. Meet Your Advisor

Advisors are assigned **according to major**. Advisors help students through choosing classes – **freshmen will have a hold on registration until you meet with your advisor**. A meeting can be scheduled by email to your advisor/department. Check STARFISH to see who your advisor is!
IV. Scheduling Classes

6. Online Registration: WebSIS

WebSIS is the student portal for your registration needs. You will need your pre-assigned username and password for access on: https://cas.morgan.edu/cas/login

WebSIS dates you NEED to remember:

- Last day to ADD/DROP courses: September 1, 2018
- Last day to drop a course WITHOUT a grade of “W” (withdrawal): September 1, 2018

7. Paying Tuition & Fees

Payments can be made at the Office of the Bursar http://www.morgan.edu/bursar

Payments plans are available. Fees and tuition can also be paid by clicking “Pay Now” under the student tab in WebSIS.

8. Government Sponsored Students

Transcripts, Dean’s List, and Proof of Graduation
The Office of Records and Registration provides the above documents to students for respective government requests.

Verification Letters
Letters concerning confirmation of tutoring, online classes, and enrollment, can be requested at the Office of International Student & Faculty Services (OISFS).

Send a copy of your financial guarantee to OISFS by email at international.affairs@morgan.edu to avoid your schedule being dropped.

Bear Tip
V. Administrative Offices & Resources

1. Office of International Student & Faculty Services

http://www.morgan.edu/oisfs
Montebello D-208
Mon-Fri 9:00AM - 4:00PM
443.885.3038 (Office)
Call: 410.805.6924 (AFTER 5 pm /weekends immigration emergencies ONLY)

2. School of Graduate Studies

http://www.morgan.edu/gradschool
McKeldin, 310
443.885.3185

3. Office of Records & Registration

http://www.morgan.edu/registrar
Montebello, A-112
443.885.3300

4. Office of the Bursar

http://www.morgan.edu/bursar
Montebello, A-124
443.885.3108

5. Counseling Center

http://www.morgan.edu/counselingcenter
Carter Grant Wilson, 202
443.885.3130

6. Campus Resources

At Morgan State University, there are several resources located on campus for the convenience of students, including:

- Book store
- Library
- PNC Bank - Located in the University Student Center, provides access to a bank account for all students, including international students.
- Restaurants--Chik-fil-A and Subway
- Sports facilities--workout, tennis, pool
- Chapel
- Gym
- Police and Public Safety Department
- University Health Center
VI. Getting Around

TRANSPORTATION

Getting around Baltimore City:
MTA bus
METRO subway
Lightrail
www.mta.maryland.gov

Getting around campus:

BEARtransit provides transportation around campus.

Routes:
Montebello
McKeldin to Northwood Shopping Center, Blount & Montebello
Campus West
McKeldin to Communications, Engineering/CBEIS, Morgan View, Portage, Marble Hall & Northwood Shopping Center
Campus Wide
Makes all stops

Baltimore Collegetown Shuttle provides transportation around Baltimore City
www.baltimorecollegetown.org/shuttle
Collegetown shuttle stops in McKeldin parking lot and at bus stop by the library

ROUTES:
BLUE: Goucher College, Towson Mall, Towson University, Notre Dame, Loyola University--Maryland, Johns Hopkins & Penn Station
RED: Towson University, Towson Mall, Towson Place Shopping Center, Morgan State, Johns Hopkins, and Penn Station

CAMPUS WIDE: Makes all stops

Obtaining a Driver’s License

If you want to obtain a driver’s license, you must visit the Office of International Student & Faculty Services (OISFS) to obtain a Social Security Exception Letter

Get in contact with & involved with campus organizations

BEAR TIP

MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY