International Student Welcome Guide
Office of International Student & Faculty Services

Look out for my tasty bites of advice!

BEAR TIP

Fall 2020
Greetings International Student,

Congratulations on your admission to Morgan State University! We are delighted that you have selected Morgan and we welcome you to our growing global 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.

We look forward to the contributions of new ideas, values, beliefs, customs, and experiences to enrich our campus. You will find your time here rewarding both personally and academically.

The Office of International Student & Faculty Services (OISFS) is here to support you. I look forward to meeting you at the beginning of the semester and wish you a successful and enjoyable learning experience in Maryland.

Kind regards,

Qimmah Najeeullah
Director of International Student & Faculty Services
1. 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 (Undergrad)

**To confirm your acceptance go to:**

Submit the following documents to Office of International Student & Faculty Services via: international.affairs@morgan.edu

- **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**

  - **Financial Guarantee** from your government or sponsoring agency covering full cost of tuition, room & Board and books for 12 months: UG $30,274.00 | GRAD $29,844.00

- **Affidavit of Support** *(A notarized letter from person financially supporting – not required if you have a Financial Guarantee)*

- **Passport Bio Page**

- **International Residential Address**

- **Transfer-in form** *(transfer students only)*

### 2a. Receive Your I-20

Submit the following documents to Office of International Student & Faculty Services via:
international.affairs@morgan.edu

- **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**

  - **Financial Guarantee** from your government or sponsoring agency covering full cost of tuition, room & Board and books for 12 months: UG $30,274.00 | GRAD $29,844.00

- **Affidavit of Support** *(A notarized letter from person financially supporting – not required if you have a Financial Guarantee)*

- **Passport Bio Page**

- **International Residential Address**

- **Transfer-in form** *(transfer students only)*

### 2b. I-20 Delivery & Pick-up

Undergraduate and graduate students can pick up their I-20 from OISFS--located in Montebello D-206.

**ALL I-20 MUST BE PICKED UP BY OR MAILED DIRECTLY TO THE ADMITTED STUDENT**

**NO EXCEPTIONS**

If you are outside of the United States, you will need to register with eShipGlobal UMES to receive your I20. Instructions can be found on our webpage below:

https://www.morgan.edu/international_affairs/office_of_international_student_and_faculty_services/shipping_information_for_international_students.html

**PLEASE FOLLOW ALL INSTRUCTIONS COMPLETELY**
la. PRE-ARRIVAL
CONTINUED...
THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

3. Your Passport Must be Valid For At Least Six Months

Homeland Security

4. Apply For A U.S. 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

5. Test Your Username & Password

For services such as Morgan Email, WebSIS, and Canvas, 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.

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
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

9. Apply For On-campus Housing

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

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)

AFTER 5:00 PM & WEEKENDS FOR AIRPORT EMERGENCIES ONLY, Call: 410.805.6924

2. Transportation from the

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/#/home
❑ I-901 Fee payment receipt
https://fmjfee.com

**If these documents are not presented to OISFS by September 30th, 2020 a Registration Hold will be placed on your account.**

3a. Maintain Your Visa Status

IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO MAINTAIN YOUR VISA STATUS.

Visit: https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/students to learn about the process and rules for studying in the United States as an international student.

For general and case-specific questions call 703-603-3400 or email SEVP@ice.dhs.gov.
IIa. 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.

Money can be added to your BEAR Card to purchase items in the bookstore, canteen & certain vending machines.

5. Sign Up For Mobile Alerts

Mobile Alerts allow you to get important campus-wide information by text. You can sign up at 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 must waive health insurance by visiting the Harriet A. Woolford University Health Center

GRADUATE STUDENTS are eligible to enroll in the insurance plan, however, this is a voluntary process.

TO ENROLL IN OR WAIVE HEALTH INSURANCE, VISIT: https://www.gallagherstudent.com/students/student-home.php?idField=1451
III. ORIENTATION & WORKSHOPS

1. Freshmen Orientation
ACCESS Orientation is for new, incoming first-time freshmen only. CASA, PACE, and Transfer students are not required to participate in the ACCESS Orientation Program. See the link for more information: https://www.morgan.edu/enrollment_management_and_student_success/office_of_student_success_and_retention/access_orientation.html
All NEW international students must attend ACCESS Orientation to prevent a hold on your registration.

2. Online Transfer Orientation
If you are transferring from another U.S. institution, you will learn how to transfer your credits and other resources available to you. Check in with your department’s Transfer or Retention Coordinators

3. International Student Workshops
F-1 BASICS:
Thursday, August 27th 2020 11am - 1pm &
Thursday, September 3rd, 2020 11am - 1pm
LOCATION TBD
Provides guidance and information you need to maintain your F-1 Status and get advice on how best to navigate campus services to meet your needs.

4. Meet With Your Advisor
Advisors are assigned according to major and help students with choosing classes. Freshmen will have a hold on registration until you have a meeting with your Advisor. A meeting can be scheduled by email. Check STARFISH/WebSIS to find your advisor.
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 4th, 2020
- Last Day To Drop A Course WITHOUT A Grade Of “W”: September 4th, 2020

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 & Proof of Graduation:
Transcripts with a posted degree are proof of graduation. The Office of Records and Registration provides the above documents to students for their respective government requests.

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

BEAR TIP

Being Under-enrolled And Not Paying Your Tuition And Fees WILL Affect Your Immigration Status.
V. Getting Around

1. Transportation

**BALTIMORE CITY TRANSPORT:**
www.mta.maryland.gov
MTA BUS
METRO SUBWAY
LIGHTRAIL

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**GETTING AROUND CAMPUS:**
BEARtransit provides transportation around campus.
https://morgan.edu/beartransit

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

3. Baltimore CollegeTown

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

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**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

2. Obtaining A Driver’s License

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

BEAR TIP

Get in contact with & involved with campus organizations
VI. Administrative Offices & Resources

1. Office of International Student & Faculty Services

http://www.morgan.edu/oisfs
Mon-Fri 9:00AM - 4:00PM
443.885.3038 (Office)
International.affairs@morgan.edu

**AFTER 5 PM & WEEKENDS**
FOR AIRPORT EMERGENCIES ONLY:
CALL - 410.805.6924

3. Office of Records & Registration

registrar.morgan.edu
443.885.3300

4. Office of the Bursar

http://www.morgan.edu/bursar
443.885.3108

5. 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--Chic-fil-A and Subway
- Sports facilities--workout, tennis, pool
- Chapel
- Gym
- Police and Public Safety Department
- University Health Center

6. Counseling Center

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

2. School of Graduate Studies

http://www.morgan.edu/gradschool
443.885.3185 (Office)