Spring 2014
Arrival Booklet

WINONA STATE UNIVERSITY

WELCOME
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Welcome to WINONA!

Dear Student,

Welcome to Winona State University! We are excited to meet you at the International Student Orientation. International Student Orientation starts on Tuesday, January 7th at 8:00 a.m. in Kryzsko Commons at WSU. You are required to attend the International Student Orientation. During Orientation week you will meet students, register for classes, and learn about immigration regulations, employment, health insurance, banking, housing, campus facilities, and student life at Winona State University.

This booklet has information that you will need as you prepare to travel to Winona. There is also important information about travelling to Winona and once you get here, to help you in planning for your trip. As soon as you know your arrival day and time, please email your arrival information at is@winona.edu

Orientation Week is a short introduction program for new students at Winona State University. During this time, our student leaders will help you explore the Winona community and learn your way around before classes start. During orientation week, International Services staff will give you helpful hints about how to survive in college and how to become successful. You will learn about WSU services such as housing, security, safety, dining, counseling services, tutoring services and employment. We will also discuss what you need to do to follow visa regulations as an F-1 international student. We will help you to go shopping, buy a cell phone and open a new bank account. During orientation, all the new students will register for fall classes and receive their new laptops and iPad Mini.

We do not pick up students at the airport. Therefore, you should arrange your own transportation to Winona (see page 6). Students can start moving in to on campus residence halls on January 4th 2014 if you have already applied for on campus housing. Between January 4th and 7th, we will be providing a greeting service for students. We strongly suggest that you do not arrive in Winona before January 4th. If you choose to arrive before January 4th, you must make your own housing arrangements for the time until January 4th. Here is information about hotels near our campus [http://www.visitwinona.com/directory-entry-type/hotels-and-bbs](http://www.visitwinona.com/directory-entry-type/hotels-and-bbs). Please note that there will be no greeting service before January 4th. Please contact the Housing Office (www.winona.edu/housing) to let them know your arrival date. Please confirm your arrival date and time with International Services by sending an email to is@winona.edu

We look forward to welcoming you to Winona State University soon!

Sincerely,
International Services Office Staff
International Services & Cultural Outreach Office

Address:  
175 West Mark Street  
Kryzsko Commons 233,  
Winona, MN 55987-5838  
Phone: 1-507-457-5303  
Fax: 1-507-457-2474  
Email: is@winona.edu  
Web: www.winona.edu/internationalservices/

International Services Staff

Mrs. Kemale Pinar  
Director  
KPinar@winona.edu

Mrs. Alicia Reed  
Assistant Director  
AReed@winona.edu

Mrs. Vivien Skranka  
International Admissions Coordinator  
VSkranka@winona.edu

Mrs. Ban Faris  
SEVIS Specialist  
BFaris@winona.edu

Our Services

International Services (IS) provides assistance to all international students and scholars and offers programs and events that enhance global awareness, promote cultural exchange and understanding and diversity of WSU student population. The International Services Office Staff welcomes all international students to campus and assists them with transition to life at WSU. Upon your arrival, you must report to IS office to complete your check in procedures. The IS offers an orientation program where you will review immigration regulations, get to know the university and the city, get assistance with registration and learn about the Cross-Cultural Scholarship program.
WSU Academic Calendar – Spring 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Orientation</td>
<td>01/07/2014 - 01/11/2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classes Start</td>
<td>01/13/2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin Luther King holiday (no classes/offices closed)</td>
<td>01/20/2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Break (no classes)</td>
<td>3/8/2014 – 3/16/2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classes Resume</td>
<td>03/17/2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Spring Break Day (no classes)</td>
<td>04/18/2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Semester Classes End</td>
<td>5/8/2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commencement Day</td>
<td>5/9/2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Preparing for Travel

Obtaining your visa
Your I-20 form will allow you to apply for your F-1 student visa at a U.S. embassy or consulate. Please go to the United States embassy or consulate web site in your country to review the requirements for submitting your F-1 visa application.

Please consult the instructions available on the embassy or consulate website, [http://www.usembassy.gov/](http://www.usembassy.gov/) where you intend to apply to determine if there are other entry requirements specific to your country. Wait times for interview appointments vary by location, season, and visa category, so you should apply for your visa early. Review the interview wait time for the location where you will apply. Please visit [http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/wait/wait_4638.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/wait/wait_4638.html)

Before you can apply for your F-1 visa, you are required to pay the SEVIS fee. Payment may be made by credit card, debit card, check or money order. You need to bring the SEVIS fee payment receipt to the visa interview. (If you do not need a visa, bring the receipt to the U.S. port of entry)

- Fee payment process: [http://www.ice.gov/sevis](http://www.ice.gov/sevis)
- Fee payment & online I-901 Form: [http://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901/index.htm](http://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901/index.htm)
Changes: (There has been a new change regarding the I-94 form)

Travelers will no longer need to fill out the I-94 in paper form when arriving to the U.S. The CPB (U.S. Customs and Borders Protection) will now be generating this form using traveler information already transmitted through electronic means. You can find the electronic version of the I-94 at www.cbp.gov/I94. You can print a copy of an I-94 based on the electronically submitted data, including the I-94 number from the form, to provide as necessary to benefits providers or as evidence of lawful admission.

Tips for Applying for your U.S. Student Visa

TIES TO HOME COUNTRY “Ties” to your home country are the things that bind you to your hometown, homeland, or current place of residence: job, family, financial prospects that you own or will inherit investments. If you are a prospective undergraduate, the interviewing officer may ask about your specific intentions or promise of future employment, family or other relationships, education objectives, grades, long-range plans, and career prospects in your home country.

ENGLISH anticipate that the interview will be conducted in English and not in your native language. One suggestion is to practice English conversation with a native speaker before the interview. If you are coming to the United States solely to study intensive English, be prepared to explain how English will be useful for you in your home country.

SPEAK FOR YOURSELF. Do not bring parent of family members with you to the interview. The consular officer wants to interview you, not your family.

KNOW THE PROGRAM AND HOW IT FITS YOUR CAREER PLANS. You should also be able to explain how studying in the United States relates to your future professional career when you return home.

BE CONCISE. Keep your answers to the officer’s questions short and to the point.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT Make sure that you bring sufficient proof that you have enough money to support yourself in the U.S.

EMPLOYMENT: Your main purpose of coming to the United States should be to study, not for the chance to work before or after graduation. While many students do work off-campus during their studies, such employment is incidental to their main purpose of completing their U.S. education. You must be able to clearly articulate your plan to return home at the end of your program.
Entering the U.S.

You will need the following:
- Your original I-20 form.
- Passport, valid for travel to the U. S. Your passport must be valid for at least six months beyond your period of stay in the U. S. If more than one person is included in your passport, each person who needs a visa must submit a separate application.
- Visa.
- Do not attempt to enter the U.S. without these documents. Additional documents may be needed as evidence of:
  - Your academic preparation.
  - Your intent to depart the U.S. upon completion of the course of study.
  - How you will pay all educational, living and travel costs.

Travelling to WINONA

We recommend that you arrive at Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport (MSP) (www.mspairport.com). Transportation services are available for travel to Winona, MN from the MSP Airport. Scheduled bus ticket counters are located at the Ground Transportation Center of MSP Airport, one floor up from the Tram Level (Level T) in Terminal 1-Lindbergh Terminal (www.mspairport.com/maps.aspx).

You can choose one of the following transportation services for your trip to Winona:

GO Carefree Shuttle
www.gocarefreeshuttle.com
Phone: 608-781-5181 or 888-781-5181 (toll free)
Email: info@gocarefreeshuttle.com

Jefferson Bus
www.jeffersonlines.com
Phone: 1-800-451-5333

If you choose to take a scheduled bus service with Go Carefree Shuttle (www.gocarefreeshuttle.com or www.gorochesterdirect.com/schedule) from MSP to Winona, please make a reservation prior to your trip and choose Winona State University Kryzsko Commons as your destination. Advanced reservations are highly recommended.

Please email us your itinerary (flight number, date, airport and bus schedule) so we may plan to greet you at the WSU Sheehan Hall upon your arrival. International Services Office (ISO) does not pick up students from the airport.
What to do once you are in Winona

1. You must immediately inform the International Services Office of your arrival for Check-in!
2. Join Orientation 2014

If you arrive before Tuesday, January 7, 2014

1. Visit the International Services Office for check-in at your earliest available International Service Office business hours. We are open Monday thru Friday from 8am to 4:30pm. Please come and see us right away; we are eager to meet you and register you with SEVIS.
2. Check-in! F1 Regulations require you to check-in with your university immediately upon the arrival to your campus. Please, bring to the International Services Office the following required documentation:
   o Passport
   o I-94 -if available
   o I-20
   o Your address in Winona
3. If the office is closed, see Pre-Orientation Schedule to join the next available activity.

If you arrive during Orientation Week, January 7 to January 11, 2014.

1. Visit the International Services Office for Check-in! This office is located at Kryzsko Commons, second floor, and we are open Monday thru Friday from 8am to 4:30pm. Please come and see us right away; we are eager to meet you and get you register with SEVIS.
2. Check-in! F1 Regulations require you to check-in with your university immediately upon the arrival to the campus. Please bring the following required documentation with you:
   o Passport
   o I-94 –if available
   o I-20
   o Your address in Winona
3. Join Orientation 2014
Spring 2014 Orientation Schedule

Tuesday, January 7, 2014
• Check in with International Services
• Open bank account
• Shopping trip

Wednesday, January 8, 2014
• All about WSU- Orientation
• Presentations on- academic life, student services, living in the residence halls, counselling
• Campus tour
• Immigration session
• Cross cultural scholarship
• Bank trip-shopping

Thursday, January 9, 2014
• Discovering American culture
• Math testing (tentative)
• English testing
• Matoux test (tentative)
• Bank & shopping trips

Friday, January 10, 2014
• Registration
• Evening activity

Saturday, January 11, 2014
• Trip to Mall of America (tentative)

Remember all new students must take the English & Math Placement tests. If you miss the English Placement Test on Thursday, January 9, 2014 you will be required to register for the English Second Language classes 106 (Reading course) and English 107 (Writing course)

Where is WINONA

Nestled between the covered limestone river bluffs that rise 500 feet and the stunning mighty Mississippi River, Winona (www.visitwinona.com) is one of the most beautiful places in America. Winona is about two hours away from Minneapolis, one hour to Rochester, and five hours away from Chicago by car.
Housing

If you live on campus, the official move in day is January 4, 2014. If you choose to arrive before January 4th, you must make your own housing arrangements for the time until January 4th. Here is information about hotels near our campus. http://www.visitwinona.com/directory-entry-type/hotels-and-bbs. Please note that there will be no greeting service before January 4th.

Please let both International Services office and the Housing Office know your arrival plans. There is no charge from January 4, 2014 to January 6, 2014. The Housing Office has compiled the most frequently asked questions on their website (http://www.winona.edu/housing/faq.asp) to address student’s basic concerns.

- What Furnishings are included:
  “Each room is furnished with an extra-long twin bed, with mattress. Also included is a desk and desk chair, dresser, and closet for each student. There are window coverings on all of the windows in each hall as well as carpet in each room, expect for Lourdes and Tau rooms.” www.winona.edu/housing/faq.asp

- Things to Bring: http://www.winona.edu/housing/Media/Things_to_Bring.pdf

- Housing Office does not provide bedding (sheets, blankets, pillows). We have worked with the Housing Office to let you purchase your own bedding products (sheets, pillow case, towels, blanket) from local online stores and have them shipped to the Housing Office prior to your arrival. You may purchase the bedding products from Target (target.com), Wal-Mart (walmart.com), Kmart (kmart.com), JC Penny’s (jcp.com), or Shopko (shopko.com). The size of bedding products is: extra-long twin. Please remember to use your real name (name on your passport) when you make your order. The Housing Office address is listed below.

  Winona State University, Housing Office
  175 West Mark Street, 275 Kryzsko Commons Winona, MN, U.S.A., Phone: 507-457-5306

- How does the meal plan work?
  Dining Services offers a choice of meal plans: 7, 10 and 14 meal plans. Meal plan information is available on the DineOnCampus website (www.dineoncampus.com/winona/show.cfm?cmd=residents).

- “Information such as things related to moving into the residency halls is listed at www.winona.edu/housing/movingin.asp

Off Campus Housing

WSU Housing Office has listed an off-campus housing list for students’ reference. www.winona.edu/housing/offcampushousinglist.asp
Hotels near WSU Winona campus

http://www.visitwinona.com/directory-entry-type/hotels-and-bbs

Paying Tuition and fees


If you are planning to transfer funds to WSU, below please find information about transferring funds:

Beneficiary Financial Institution:  JP Morgan Chase
Swift Code:  CHAS US 33
Routing Number:  021000021

Beneficiary:  Merchants Bank NA
Account Number:  623470879

“You may pay your tuition and fees by using the extended payment plan. By January 17, 2014 you must pay a minimum installment of $ 300 of your tuition and the health insurance premium of $720 to maintain your registration. Please go to http://www.winona.edu/billing/paymentprocedures.asp for a payment calendar and detail information.

How to Open a Bank Account

During Orientation you will have the opportunity to open up an American bank account and also learn about how to manage your account. We have scheduled a trip to a local bank where you will be able to open a bank account and deposit money into your account on that day. Once your account is established, your family or financial sponsor will be able to transfer money directly into your account.

Here is a list of the banks in Winona:

Wells Fargo https://www.wellsfargo.com/
Altra Federal Credit Union https://www.altra.org/
Merchants https://www.merchantsbank.com/

Cell Phones

Once you arrive in Winona, you will get the opportunity to purchase a cell phone with an American number. This is often cheaper than using your phone from home. Pre-paid phones are also available.
**Student Medical Insurance**

Student Health Insurance is mandatory. The Spring semester insurance coverage will start on January 1, 2014 to August 14, 2014 for the spring 2014 and the cost for spring/summer is $720. We recommend students not to arrive earlier then the set dates for orientation. However, if you need to travel to U.S.A. before January 1, 2014, please purchase additional insurance to cover this time period. Frontier Medex is one of insurance companies that our Health Services recommended. If you would like more information of their international travel insurance and emergency evacuation assistance services, please visit [http://www.medexassist.com/](http://www.medexassist.com/)

Insurance plan information, such as search for a provider, insurance plan information, summary of benefits and coverage documents, can be found from the following link: [www.uhcsr.com\winona](http://www.uhcsr.com\winona)

Please note: The insurance does cover students when they travel.

**Mandatory Laptop Program**

Winona Campus Undergraduate students are required to participate in the Laptop Program. This program offers students with a powerful set of tools (e.g., a laptop, updated software) and services (e.g., help desk) to support all facets of their academic work and residential life at WSU. Please go to [www.winona.edu/it/programdetails.asp](http://www.winona.edu/it/programdetails.asp) to find out what is included in this program. Starting from fall 2013, newly admitted students will receive a laptop and a tablet device (iPad Mini or Samsung 7)

**What is the Warrior ID**

The Warrior ID (also known as the Tech ID) is a number unique to you. It is given to you when you apply to WSU. After you have submitted an admission application, you will then use this identifier to conduct most business at WSU.

If you do not remember your Warrior ID you can go to or call the Warrior Hub @ 507-457-2800 and they can assist you. [http://www.winona.edu/campuscard/warriorid.asp](http://www.winona.edu/campuscard/warriorid.asp)
Registration

Registration for class will take place on Friday, January 10, 2014 during Orientation week. If you wish to start planning for your classes, the undergraduate catalog (www.winona.edu/undergradcatalog) and graduate catalog (www.winona.edu/gradcatalog) are both available online for your reference. You will have the opportunity to discuss your course selections and schedule with your advisors during the registration, which will take place during Orientation week. If you can’t get into courses for your major, don’t worry. You can still take major course prerequisites and fulfill your university goals (credits in a variety of disciplines required for graduation).

Placement tests

During orientation, you will take two placement tests, one in math and one in English. These placement exams help determine what level of English and Math classes you should take at Winona State University.

P.S.: Missing the English Placement Test on Thursday, January 9, 2014 will require the student to register English Second Language classes at Winona State University. English Second Language classes are English 106 (Reading course) and English 107 (Writing course).

Transportation

There are several options if you want to travel to or from Winona.
http://www.winona.edu/transportation/towinona.asp

WSU offers numerous sustainable and cost-effective transportation solutions for getting around Winona. Check out the link below to learn more:
http://www.winona.edu/transportation/aroundwinona.asp
Student Associations and Clubs

There are a lot of clubs on campus that may be of interest to international students. Below is a short list and the link to the whole list: http://www.winona.edu/sal/clubs.asp

1. WSU Nepali Club
2. VOCES-Spanish Club
3. SSA-Saudi Student Association
4. Malaysian Student Association (MSA)
5. KEAP Diversity Center Leaders
6. International Club
7. Hmong American Student Association
8. Han Culture Society
9. GLBTA Partnership
10. Gaonnuri
11. French Club
12. Club Sri Lanka
13. Black Student Union
14. Asian American Club
15. Amigos de Cuetzalan

Cross Cultural Scholarship

The Cross-Cultural Scholarship is available to all international students who qualify for admission to Winona State University and hold an F-1 Student Visa. These scholarships are equivalent to the difference between the resident rate of tuition and the non-resident rate of tuition. Since tuition is based on a tuition band, the amount of the scholarship for the Academic Year of 2013 - 2014 is valued at an estimate of USD $4,500.00 based on 24 - 36 semester credits. Scholarship recipients share their culture with Americans through a series of projects as part of the requirement of the Cross-Cultural Outreach Program.

The Major project is an all-day project about 6-8 hours in length. You only need to complete one major project per year, so make it special! The major project must be scheduled ahead of time and planned carefully. Remember to notify your professors ahead of time, since you will be missing classes that day.

The Minor projects are shorter projects and students plan activities to share their culture with the community. You are required to complete three minor projects per academic year.

When you are packing, don’t forget to bring something special that represents your country that you can use for your cultural project.

For more information, please check http://www.winona.edu/internationalservices/scholarships.asp