PRE-ARRIVAL INFORMATION

IMMIGRATION INFORMATION

To obtain an F-1 or J-1 visa from the American Consulate in your country, follow the steps described below:

• Review your immigration document (F-1/I-20 and/or J-1/DS-2019).
  o If you find errors, notify our office
  o Read I-20, page 3 or DS-2019 page 2 to inform yourself about your responsibilities as an international student.
• Sign and date at the bottom of page 1 (I-20/DS-2019).
• Examine your passport. The passport must be valid for at least six months into the future, at all times.
• After paying the SEVIS I-901 fee, make an appointment for a visa interview.
• Bring your passport, I-20 or DS-2019 document, and I-901 SEVIS Receipt to the visa appointment.
• If sponsored by your government, school, or other agency, you must show an official letter of award to the Consular Officer
• If your support is from personal and/or family funds, you must show bank statements, letters of credit, or proof of annual salary and/or total available or anticipated assets.

HOW TO NAVIGATE THE U.S. IMMIGRATION SYSTEM
https://www.ice.gov/sevis/students#wcm-survey-target-id

PORT OF ENTRY
https://www.cbp.gov/travel/international-visitors

VALIDATION WITHIN 30 DAYS OF PROGRAM START DATE

• F-1 and J-1 students must report to Office of International Students & Scholars Office with their passport, I-20 and/or DS-2019 forms (and their dependents documents) within 30 days of the beginning the semester to validate/register their program participation.

• Failure to have the program validated/registered will result in an automatic invalidation of the SEVIS record by the Department of Homeland Security.

• F-1 and J-1 are prohibited from entering the United States more than 30 days in advance of the program start date listed in forms I-20 A-B and/or DS-2019.

SCHOLASTIC INFORMATION

International Students, avoid violating your F-1 or J-1 status by registering full time at all times.

• Graduate students without assistantships: minimum of 9 credits
• Graduate students with assistantships: minimum of 6 credits
• Undergraduate students: minimum of 12 credits
All URI students must get a University of Rhode Island (URI) “Student Identification Card (ID). You may obtain your ID card by visiting the Campus Access Office, in the Memorial Union. This ID card will permit you access the campus library, the gymnasium and other URI facilities. **Before obtaining your URI ID card, you must be registered for classes.**

### HOUSING INFORMATION - Making housing arrangements is solely your responsibility

**Graduate Students:** [https://web.uri.edu/housing/graduate-village-apartments/](https://web.uri.edu/housing/graduate-village-apartments/)

**Off campus housing information:** [https://web.uri.edu/commuter-housing/](https://web.uri.edu/commuter-housing/)

**Undergraduates Students:** For on-campus housing information, go to: [https://web.uri.edu/housing/](https://web.uri.edu/housing/)

International first-year and transfer **Undergraduates Students** must pay the $500 Enrollment Deposit with Housing. Allow three business days for these payments to be proceed by URI. If you have any questions about the Enrollment Deposit please contact URI Admission at admission@uri.edu.

Once your Enrollment Deposit with Housing has been processed by URI, you must complete a First-Year Student **Housing Application** if you want housing on campus.

Housing options at URI are varied to adapt to your educational and social needs at each stage of your college career. First year students are usually grouped with similar majors in **Living and Learning Communities (LLCs).** Then once you’ve settled in to URI, your options will allow for more independence, from semi-suites, to full suites, and apartments with kitchens. We also offer **gender-inclusive housing** options to students who are interested.

### HEALTH INFORMATION

Please down load the URI Health Immunization Record by visiting the Health Services web page: [https://health.uri.edu/](https://health.uri.edu/)

A licensed physician in your country should complete the Record Form in **English.** Bring your immunization forms to Health Services. **If you do not submit your health records, you will be prevented from attending classes.** Failure to attend classes could cause you to fall out of status.

Please **Note:** If accompany by school age children, you should also bring their educational and medical records.

**URI Health Insurance:** All international students are required to purchase the University of Rhode Island’s health insurance. Students may be **EXEMPTED** from purchasing the URI health insurance if they can demonstrate that they have a comparable plan to URI’s health policy (**Affordable Care Act standards**). To be exempted from purchasing URI health insurance, you must submit a **WAIVER** request on line. If you do not complete this process, you will be billed the URI health insurance total cost.

**Dependents of international students must also be covered by URI health or other comparable insurance.** Students accompanied by children will need to choose a local pediatrician for their children, since URI Health Services does not offer pediatric services.

For more information on insurance or immunization information please contact the URI Health Services Department directly at 401-874-2246 or [https://health.uri.edu/](https://health.uri.edu/)

OISS - Updated 03/05/2019
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Cost of living in Kingston is very high. Please plan to arrive with enough U.S. currency to meet your initial expenses. It may take up to 8 weeks before funds from scholarships, fellowships and/or assistantships are available to you.

Make adequate provision for yourself or your family before arriving. There are no emergency funds available to assist you. Depending on your country of origin, it can be time consuming to have funds transferred to you after you are in the United States; in some cases, as much as 6 weeks. Familiarize yourself with the regulations of your own government regarding dollar exchange and transfer of funds.

Although on-campus employment is available to international students, it is not a sufficient source of income and does not count toward financial certification for the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service.

EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

In general, both F-1 and J-1 students are permitted to work 20 hours per week, on-campus during the academic year; and up to 35 hours per week during official school breaks or vacation. You must contact the OISS to complete the on-campus employment permission form before beginning a period of employment. Any employment that is not authorized by our office will be considered as unlawful employment and will cause you to lose your immigration status.

- F-1 visa holders are not permitted to work off-campus during the first academic year.
- J-1 government sponsored students are not permitted to work unless authorized by their home government.
- F-2 visa holders cannot accept employment or monetary compensation of any kind.
- The US Citizenship and Immigration Services may authorize J-2 visa holders to work. Please contact our office for more details.

SOCIAL SECURITY CARDS and DRIVER’S LICENSE

To obtain a social security card, you must bring the original documents listed below to the Social Security Administration Office. Obtaining a Social Security Card takes approximately thirty days.

- Offer of employment letter or assistantship letter,
- Verification of enrollment letter from the OISS,
- Copy of biographical passport page,
- Copy of the visa page
- I-94 number
- I-20 or DS-2019

To obtain a Rhode Island driver’s license, in addition to the items listed above, you will be required to bring to the Division of Motor Vehicles Office in Cranston:

- A valid social security card or a rejection letter from the Social Security Office
- Documentation showing your Rhode Island address

AIRPORT PICK-UP

Refer to the Arrival Services Form and the Transportation Information Handout included in your packet and/or visit the OISS orientation web page.

Pick-up service is available for all international students attending the mandatory International Welcome Week, who arrive at Boston International Logan Airport, T.F. Green Airport or the Kingston Train Station on Move-In Day between the hours of 9:00am-3:00pm*. The OISS does not provide transportation services on any other days. However, arrangements can be made for you by contacting swoconnor@uri.edu.

OISS - Updated 03/05/2019
Students who cannot arrive on the designated Move-In Day are encouraged to book their travel to the USA a day before, stay at a hotel, and travel to URI the following day.

INTERNATIONAL WELCOME WEEK FOR UNDERGRADUATES ONLY

The International Welcome Week is a mandatory one-week program prior to the start of classes. It provides new international undergraduate & graduate students an opportunity to become familiar with URI’s campus, community and resources for success. The program includes helpful presentations on immigration and status orientations, academic advising, campus resources and opportunities to explore Rhode Island.