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Greetings from East Carolina University! As the executive director of the Office of Global Affairs at East Carolina University, I would like to thank you for choosing ECU to continue your studies. You have chosen wisely.

ECU offers more than 200 degree programs, including many with a special focus on health, information technology, natural resources, and enterprise management. Our university provides world-class faculty, and all the academic resources and student support services you need to be successful. Our chancellor, Dr. Cecil Staton, has made it a goal to become the next great national university, with a special emphasis on providing unique international and intercultural experiences for students and scholars. So please know that you are a valued member of the East Carolina University community.

Greenville, North Carolina, is a small, friendly city of more than 90,000 people with a welcoming population, an extensive public transportation system, and an affordable cost of living. There are also a multitude of cultural opportunities both in Greenville and within a short drive. This guide will be very helpful as you learn your way around campus and in the community.

Thank you for choosing East Carolina University and we look forward to welcoming you next semester!

Jon Rezek, PhD
Executive Director, Office of Global Affairs
East Carolina University
Walking through the streets of Greenville, you will see the city has its share of art galleries, museums, and festivals that are close to the campus of East Carolina University. Greenville calls to art and culture lovers with its worldly offering of musical concerts, theatrical and dance productions, travel films, and lectures.

Greenville boasts a population of 90,000, making it North Carolina’s 10th-largest city. Positioned an hour and a half outside of Raleigh, the state capital, and two hours from the coast, Greenville is a hub of educational, medical, cultural and economic activity.

The state of North Carolina has something for everyone, from snow-covered mountains in the West to tranquil beaches in the East. Whether you’re skiing in the Blue Ridge Mountains, dining at world-famous restaurants, or soaking in the sun at the Outer Banks, North Carolina has it all. Centrally located on the East Coast of the United States, midway between New York City and Miami, Greenville is only 440 kilometers from Washington, D.C.
Applying for Your Student Visa

Passport
Your passport must be valid at least six months into the future at any time.

Required Documents
An I-20 for F-1 students or a DS-2019 for J-1 students is required to book your student visa interview appointment with a U.S. embassy or consulate. To find your nearest embassy or consulate, please visit usembassy.state.gov. You will be required to take other documents to your interview; please contact your ECU point of contact regarding these. Please review your I-20 or DS-2019 for accuracy. If there is an error, please contact us immediately.

Fees
There will be fees associated with the application process, such as the I-901 fee also known as the SEVIS fee. Fee amounts vary by type of visa.

SEVIS
The Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) is the web-based system that the Department of Homeland Security uses to maintain information on J, F, and M students in the United States and the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP)-certified schools that enroll them.

Possible Outcomes
Possible outcomes include receiving your student visa, the U.S. embassy or consulate requesting more information, or being denied a visa.
Planning Your Arrival

In order to assist you on your arrival and during your first semester at ECU, we ask that you read the following information very carefully.

Travel

Plan to arrive to Greenville one day prior to the orientation, but do not enter the United States more than 30 days prior to the report date on your I-20 or DS-2019. When you arrive at the airport in the United States, your luggage will be inspected, as will your passport and I-20 or DS-2019. The following documents should be carried with you and never left with your baggage:

• Your passport, I-20 or DS-2019
• Copies of your financial support documentation
• Your admission letter
• TOEFL score record or proof of English proficiency exam
• ECU phone numbers
• This booklet, which contains travel instructions

Arrival

The Office of Global Affairs at East Carolina University is located in the International House at 306 East Ninth Street. Our office is the first place you should go to when arriving in Greenville unless you have coordinated other plans with our office. Our staff will welcome and assist you with your initial needs. Let us know your travel plans as soon as you make them. If you are flying directly into Greenville, make sure you book your ticket to PGV, Greenville, North Carolina (not South Carolina).

Airport Pick-Ups: Complimentary airport pick-ups are provided from Raleigh-Durham Airport and Pitt-Greenville Airport. We only offer airport pick-ups on certain days. You will receive an email regarding airport pick-up reservations.
to activate your PirateID and create a passphrase in the online ECU Passphrase Maintenance System. Please remember to set up your PirateID and email account before the start of the semester. www.ecu.edu/itcs/help/pirateid

**Finances and Banking**
You are strongly encouraged to open a checking account with a bank upon arrival in Greenville. With a checking account, you will receive a checkbook and an ATM card, which allows you to withdraw cash from your account 24 hours a day. It is recommended that you choose a national bank that offers an account with no monthly fee and no minimum balance requirements. When opening a banking account, be sure to bring your passport and SEVIS Form I-20 or DS-2019 with you. During our orientation, you will receive more information regarding banking.

**University Tuition and Fees**
Please note that your tuition and fees statement is available online through your Pirate Port account.

**Methods of Payment**
1. In person: Cash and/or bank check(s) receipted by ECU’s Cashier’s Office by the prescribed due date for the total amount billed. Please note we do not recommend carrying large sums of money while you travel.
2. Online: MasterCard and Visa are accepted. All credit card payments will be assessed a convenience fee.
3. Wire Transfer
4. Installment Payment Plans: ECU offers interest-free installment payment plans each fall and spring semester. An installment payment plan fee is due upon enrollment each semester. Visit www.ecu.edu/cashier and select “Tuition Payment Plans” for more information.

**Getting Around Greenville**
ECU Transit operates primarily within the city limits of Greenville to serve students, staff, and faculty with a valid school ID card. Services available to students include a bus system, personal bicycle registration, bicycle rental and Safe Ride. If you have or intend to have a vehicle, on-campus parking and other courtesy services are available. Additionally, Uber, Lyft and LimeBike are services for hire in Greenville.

Please see ECU’s parking and transportation webpage for more information at www.ecu.edu/parking.

**Technology**
You received your user name, or PirateID, in your admission letter. Your user name allows you to log in to systems such as email, Pirate Port, and network resources. Before you can use your PirateID, you are required
**Immunizations**

All students attending East Carolina University must do the following:

1. Provide the valid record of immunizations as explained below, and
2. Fill out a Report of Medical History form by logging in to Online Student Health with their PirateID and password. Students are strongly encouraged to complete this form prior to arrival. Visit [ecu.medicatconnect.com](http://ecu.medicatconnect.com) for more information.

**College/University Vaccine Requirements and Number of Doses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vaccine Required</th>
<th>Doses Required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tetanus, Diphtheria, and/or Pertussis TdaP</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diphtheria, Tetanus, and/or Pertussis</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polio</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measles</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mumps</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubella</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis B</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For international students and/or non-U.S. citizens, all vaccines are required as detailed above. Additionally, international students are required to have a Tuberculin (TB) skin test or blood test for TB with a negative result within the 12 months preceding the first day of classes (chest x-ray required if test is positive). The TB skin or blood test must be performed in a United States facility. ECU Student Health Services is able to administer the blood test for TB to fulfill enrollment requirements. If students do not meet immunization requirements, dismissal from school is mandatory under North Carolina law.

**Insurance**

Health insurance is a requirement for international students. An affordable Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) is provided, or you may elect to keep your current health insurance if you already have coverage that meets ECU’s requirements. You must opt out of the ECU provided insurance at the beginning of the semester. Proof of insurance must be provided to opt out. Please contact studentinsurance@ecu.edu with questions.

**Orientation**

There is a mandatory one-day orientation session for new international students. Orientation will address a wide range of topics, including immigration regulations, health insurance, finances, campus facilities, student services, etc. During orientation, you will receive your student ID card, report to Student Health Services to have immunization records reviewed, and go on a campus tour and an optional shopping trip. Complimentary lunch will be served.

**What to Bring to Orientation**
- $10 in cash for your student ID card
- I-20 or DS-2019
- Passport
Linens, bedding, and room furnishings: Students living in the residence halls must bring items including sheets (twin size/extra-long), pillowcases, pillows, bedspreads, blankets, towels, and room furnishings (desk lamps, area rugs, etc.). If you plan on bringing electrical appliances (computer, hair dryer, etc.), the current in the United States is 110–112 volts, 60 cycles, and outlets require two flat-pronged plugs.

Food: Please note, most food products are not permitted into the United States. Please see www.aphis.usda.gov/travel to determine permissible items. You may want to bring some permissible spices and other products with you.

Other Items:
- List of all airline ticket numbers
- Emergency phone number
- Photocopy of passport
- Photocopy of birth certificate
- Address and phone numbers for your contact person at ECU
- Copies of all prescriptions (glasses, contacts, medicine)
  Please note: Keep in mind that some medicine might not be available in the United States.
- Photographs of friends, family, and home
- Electrical adapter if you plan to bring your own electrical appliances
- Laptop (optional)

What to Bring to Campus
There will be several opportunities to go shopping for items that you may want while you are here.

Clothing: Because of the seasonal variations in the climate, you should bring both lightweight and heavyweight clothing, as well as rain apparel. Temperatures can begin dropping in late September. The coldest temperatures generally are in January and February (0° C to 10° C). Warm winter clothing can be found in shops in Greenville if you wish to purchase winter clothing here. In September and October, the temperature may be quite warm during the day (32° to 35° C) and cooler at night (16° to 20° C).

Most students, both men and women, wear casual clothing (often jeans, trousers, or shorts) in warmer weather. On a few occasions, you might need more formal attire for special events such as school presentations, concerts, or other functions.
Housing and Dining Information

Residential life in Greenville on or off ECU’s campus has a lot to offer. You have the option to live in residences on or off campus. First-year students and transfer students with fewer than 24 credit hours must live on campus. Please contact globalaffairs@ecu.edu for potential exemptions.

On-Campus Living: On-campus housing offers the convenience of easy access to classes, libraries, study and recreation areas, and special events. Living on campus provides the ideal university experience. For more information, please visit www.ecu.edu/campusliving.

Off-Campus Living: A variety of off-campus housing options can be found in the Greenville area, but you may have to stay in a hotel for a day or two before finding something suitable. Please plan to arrive early to allow time to seek accommodation before the beginning of the semester. This process may take several days of active searching. Usually a security deposit of one month’s rent is required plus the first month’s rent at the time the contract is signed. Leases are normally one year in length. More information and a list of apartments can be found at www.ecu.edu/offcampus.

Dining Services: ECU Dining Services offers a variety of meal plans that include different amounts of meals in campus facilities, as well as “Pirate Bucks” or extra funds that can be added to your student account for extra meals or dining facilities that are not included in your meal plan. Meal plans are mandatory for first-year students living on campus and are very flexible and easy to use. Dining options on campus include two all-you-can-eat dining halls, Starbucks, Subway, Chick-fil-A, Panda Express, and many more. For off-campus choices, numerous restaurants in Greenville cater to a variety of palates. For more information on dining services, please visit www.ecu.edu/dining.

Academics

An academic advisor is a faculty or staff member in your college or major who assists you in choosing and registering for classes each semester. You should contact the assistant director of international student advisement for questions regarding contact information for your advisor. Please email globalaffairs@ecu.edu.
Student Services

East Carolina offers a variety of services designed to help students make the most of their time in college and be successful.

Campus Recreation and Wellness: The Student Recreation and Wellness Center, located on Main Campus, includes indoor and outdoor pools; a climbing wall; basketball courts; free weights; weight and cardio machines; a track; racquetball courts; and more. A fully functioning wellness center and the expansive North Recreational Complex are also available at no cost to you.

Joyner Library: J. Y. Joyner Library is the largest library in eastern North Carolina and offers state-of-the-art research services and resources. It offers an extensive collection of volumes, prints, databases, and online subscriptions. You can check out a variety of books, DVDs, and electronics. The library is equipped with computer labs, study areas, and even a Starbucks coffee shop.

Computer Labs: You are allowed to access any computer labs on campus. They are conveniently located throughout the campus close to residence halls and classrooms. Shared scanners and laser printers are also available for you to use.

Student Health: East Carolina University Student Health Services (SHS) is a primary health care facility located conveniently on Main Campus, composed of dedicated professionals providing easily accessible and affordable health care to enrolled students. For more information, please visit www.ecu.edu/cs-studentaffairs/studenthealth online.

Disability Support Services: If you wish to request accommodations based on a disability, you must register with the Department for Disability Support Services. For more information, please visit www.ecu.edu/accessibility.
Center for Counseling and Student Development: As an ECU student, you can access this center’s services, which include crisis services, psychiatry, individual, couples/partner, group, and substance use counseling. For more information, please visit www.ecu.edu/counselingcenter.

Pirate Academic Success Center: Tutoring services, academic skills workshops, study skills coaching, individual assessment and consultations, and other academic support initiatives are all free for you to use.

Dean of Students: The East Carolina University Dean of Students Office is the central campus resource for addressing student complaints and inquiries. All issues and concerns need to be filed through this office. The Dean of Students Office is also the official ECU office to contact if you feel you have experienced discrimination.

Career Services: Available throughout your time as a student and as an alumnus, Global Affairs regularly partners with Career Services for a five-part series focusing on résumé and cover letter development, interviewing skills, strategic job searching, and opportunity for Curricular Practical Training and Optional Practical Training.

Ledonia Wright Cultural Center: The Ledonia Wright Cultural Center at East Carolina University provides diversity and social justice programs and events so all students can become confident, culturally aware, global citizens.

LGBT Resource Office: Located on Main Campus, the LGBT Resource Office promotes a safe and welcoming environment through understanding, acceptance, and visibility of the LGBT community via a comprehensive range of educational programming and advocacy services.
Campus Activities and Events

From athletics to the arts, there are countless ways to spend your leisure time. ECU offers many activities, events, and programs for your enjoyment on campus throughout the year.

The Main Campus Student Center houses student-focused departments, including the Student Government Association and the Office of Student Activities and Organizations. Amenities include a black box theater, a bowling alley and game room, dining options, and an outdoor Pirate Vision digital screen. Other resources on campus include Ledonia Wright Cultural Center, LGBT Resource Office, and Dowdy Student Stores. For more, see the Student Services section in this guide.

Division I Sports: ECU plays within the American Athletic Conference at the highest level of intercollegiate athletics, sanctioned by National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). Enjoy a variety of sports, including American football, basketball, baseball, and many more.

Intramural Sports: The intramural sports program offers you a fun and unique recreational opportunity, with leagues and tournaments available in most sports.

Club Sports: Club sports offer you the opportunity to participate in a variety of competitive and recreational activities that travel and compete in regional and national championships.

Fine Arts Performances: Enjoy a plethora of student, faculty, and guest artist performances in visual, musical, and performing arts. ECU has brought Broadway performers and world-class artists.

Barefoot on the Mall: Created as a modest comedy show nearly 30 years ago, Barefoot on the Mall has evolved into a full-day event providing students a way to relieve stress before exams with music, food, and plenty of ECU spirit. It is held in the month of April.
**Student Involvement Fair:** The “Get a Clue” Service Opportunities Fair is a great way for you to become active on campus and in the local community. This is an opportunity to meet student organizations, campus departments, and community businesses.

**Plunge into Purple:** During the first several weeks of each semester, there is a series of events welcoming you to campus called Plunge into Purple. These programs and events help you meet fellow students and begin college in a fun and informative way. During this time, you’ll discover more about ECU and keys to being successful in your first year.
Pre-arrival Checklist
After Obtaining a Visa

- **Set up your PirateID and e-mail account.**
  Your Pirate ID, student ID number, and university e-mail address are included in your acceptance letter. Activate your account at [www.ecu.edu/its/help/pirateid](http://www.ecu.edu/its/help/pirateid).

- **Register for courses.**
  Your departmental advisor will assist you with course registration. Registration for the fall term courses begins in late March, and registration for the spring term courses begins in late October.

- **Submit your campus housing contract.**
  Freshmen, exchange students and transfer students with less than 24 credit hours are required to live on campus. If you are a transfer or graduate student, you must notify the Office of Global Affairs if you would like on-campus housing at least two months prior to the beginning of the semester.

- **Submit your final official transcripts.**
  You must submit your final official transcript from all institutions attended before the date specified on your admission letter.

- **Complete your immunization report.**
  The Student Report of Medical History form must be returned complete with immunizations records to Student Health Services. For more information, please see page 12 or visit the website at [www.ecu.edu/studenthealth](http://www.ecu.edu/studenthealth).

- **Confirm insurance information.**
  If you already have insurance, please make sure that it meets ECU’s requirements. If it does, you may wish to waive out of ECU’s insurance. You must be registered for classes to be able to start the waiver process. For more information, please visit [www.ecu.edu/studenthealth](http://www.ecu.edu/studenthealth).

- **Prepare for port of entry.**
  Upon your arrival into the United States, please have your immigration documents ready for inspection. The following documents should be carried with you and never left with your baggage:
  - Your passport, I-20 or DS-2019
  - Copies of your financial support documentation
  - Your admission letter
  - English proficiency score record
  - ECU phone numbers

- **Plan transportation.**
  Plan to arrive in Greenville at least one day prior to orientation, but do not enter the United States more than 30 days prior to the report date on your I-20 or DS-2019. Please note that our office only offers airport pickups on specific days.

- **Check in at the Office of Global Affairs.**
  Upon arrival at ECU, check in at 306 East Ninth Street, Greenville, NC 27858. Our staff looks forward to welcoming you and assisting you with your initial needs.

- **Call home.**
  Please remember to call or email your loved ones upon arrival in Greenville.

- **Attend orientation.**
  Attend the mandatory orientation, and bring the required documents listed on page 13.

- **Get involved.**
  Embrace your time in Greenville! We hope you will consider ECU as your home away from home. Plunge into campus life with our numerous student activities and organizations, and be sure to show your Pirate Pride at our many sporting events.
Sending Items Prior to Arrival

You may ship boxes or other items to yourself prior to your arrival on campus. Please address packages as follows:

Your Name, c/o East Carolina University
Office of Global Affairs
306 East Ninth Street
Greenville, NC 27858
United States of America

Print on the package “New International Student, Hold Until Arrival” with your expected arrival date, box number X out of X. Please note: Items shipped before your arrival are sent at your own risk.

If Your Plans Change

We certainly hope you enroll at ECU, but if for some reason your plans change, please contact International Admissions at international@ecu.edu.
East Carolina University is committed to equality of opportunity and does not discriminate against applicants, students, employees, or visitors based on race/ethnicity, color, creed, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, veteran status, political affiliation, genetic information, or disability. East Carolina University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action university that accommodates the needs of individuals with disabilities. C.S. 18-2153