East Carolina University

Tomorrow starts here.

Arrival Guide

Office of Global Affairs
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
Immigration Information

**Passport**
You must obtain a passport from your government under the regulations for obtaining permission to travel abroad. The passport must be kept valid at least six months into the future at any time. Please take into consideration that you might need a few weeks to obtain or renew your passport.

**Visa**
Please visit the [usembassy.state.gov](http://usembassy.state.gov) for information on when, how, and what to provide when applying for F-1 or J-1 visa at a U.S. consulate or embassy. An I-20 for F-1 students and a DS-2019 for J-1 students serves as your “application” for a U.S. student visa. Please take a few minutes to review your I-20 or DS-2019, and if there is an error, please contact our office.

**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.

**Denied Visa**
A visa denial is not permanent and may be reconsidered if you show further convincing evidence. It is extremely important that you do not enter the United States with a visitor’s visa. It cannot be changed to a student visa once you are here.
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 more than 90,000, making it North Carolina’s 10th-largest city. It is positioned an hour and a half outside of Raleigh, the state capital, and two hours from the coast.

North Carolina is unique in that it is home to snow-covered mountains, vibrant cities, and tranquil beaches. 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 offers it all. Our state is 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. As the cultural, educational, and economic hub of the region, it’s expansive; it rewards the curious imagination and the entrepreneurial mind.
ECU international students have the option to live in residences on or off campus. Residential life in Greenville on or off ECU’s campus has a lot to offer. First-year students and transfer students with fewer than 24 credit hours must live on campus.

**On-Campus Living:** On-campus housing offers the convenience of easy access to classes, libraries, study and recreation areas, and special events. New students must notify the assistant director for international student advisement if they wish for on-campus housing. Living on campus provides ideal enculturation into East Carolina University. For more information, please visit [www.ecu.edu/campusliving](http://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. Reasons for living off campus include being able to prepare meals, being subject to fewer restrictions, and the hope of saving money. 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](http://www.ecu.edu/offcampus).

**Dining Services:** ECU Dining Services offers numerous meal plans that include a certain amount of designated meals in one of the restaurants as well as “Pirate Bucks” or extra funds to be used for snacks. Meal plans are mandatory for first-year students living on campus and are very flexible and easy to use. The dining options on campus include two all-you-can-eat dining halls, Starbucks, Subway, Chick-fil-A, Panda Express, and many more. If you would ever like to grab a bite to eat off campus, there are numerous restaurants in Greenville to choose from. For more information on dining services, please visit [www.ecu.edu/dining](http://www.ecu.edu/dining) online.
An academic advisor is a faculty or staff member in your college/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 e-mail mallettw@ecu.edu.

If Your Plans Change

We certainly hope you enroll at East Carolina University, but if for some reason your plans change, please contact our office.

- F-1 students, arrival, housing and orientation related questions: Dr. William Mallett at mallettw@ecu.edu or +1 252-328-1939
- International Undergraduate and ECULA Admissions: Ms. Julie Williams at williamsjul@ecu.edu or +1 252-328-1938
- J-1 students: Ms. Katie Erickson at ericksonk@ecu.edu or +1 252-328-1937

Student Services

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

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 our students.

Joyner Library: J. Y. Joyner Library is the largest library east of Raleigh and offers state-of-the-art research services and resources. It offers an extensive collection of volumes, prints, databases, and online
subscriptions. Here you will be able to 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: All East Carolina University students may use any of the many computer labs conveniently located throughout the campus close to residence halls and classrooms. Shared scanners and laser printers are available to help provide students with all the computer service necessities.

Student Health: East Carolina University Student Health Services (SHS) is a primary health care facility located conveniently on central 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: ECU seeks to comply fully with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students requesting accommodations based on a disability must be registered with the Department for Disability Support Services. For more information, please visit www.ecu.edu/accessibility online.

Center for Counseling and Student Development: Through counseling, the center’s goal is to help students achieve as much success as possible while at East Carolina University. The Center for Counseling and Student Development services are available to all currently enrolled ECU students. ECU provides individual, couples, group, and substance abuse counseling. For more information, please visit www.ecu.edu/counselingcenter online.

Pirate Academic Success Center: Provides free tutoring services for ECU students, academic skills workshops, study skills coaching, and academic support to enhance student success. The center’s mission is to help ECU students through peer academic tutoring, academic success strategies, individual assessment and consultations, and outreach initiatives in order to enhance academic performance and success.

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 for discrimination complaints against students.

Career Services: East Carolina University Career Services offers many programs and services that prepare current students and alumni for the next stage of their lives. Career Services uses state-of-the-art technology to make information available and processes easy for students while providing personalized one-on-one service, such as résumé building and writing skills.

Ledonia Wright Cultural Center: The Ledonia Wright Cultural Center at East Carolina University provides specialized diversity and social justice experiences so all students can become confident, culturally aware, global citizens.
Campus Activities and Events

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

**Outer Limitz Bowling:** The Outer Limitz Bowling alley provides the university community with eight lanes equipped with automatic scoring and bumpers. Outer Limitz Bowling has enjoyed a long-standing relationship with the Department of Kinesiology as they offer bowling classes each semester. The bowling alley is located in the student center.

**Game Room:** Across from the bowling alley is a game room that offers billiards and table games. It also houses several popular board games and comfortable seating areas with large screen televisions for you to enjoy. The arcade area has 14 arcade-style games and also provides foosball, air hockey, and a juke box.

**Movies:** For movie lovers, East Carolina University offers recently released films rotated on weekly basis for no charge to students. The movies are screened in Mendenhall Student Center’s Hendrix Theatre.

**Division I Sports:** Division I sports are the highest level of intercollegiate athletics sanctioned by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) in the United States. East Carolina University plays within the American Athletic Conference. Enjoy a variety of sports including football, basketball, baseball, and many more.

**Intramural Sports:** The intramural sports program offers a fun and unique recreational opportunity to East Carolina University students, faculty, and staff. Men’s, women’s, and co-recreational leagues and tournaments are available in most sports. With a range of competitive levels, everyone is able to find activities that fit their abilities.
Fine Arts Performances: Performing arts enthusiasts enjoy a plethora of opportunities to enjoy student, faculty, and guest artist performances. ECU offers performances of visual art, performing arts, and many more. East Carolina holds a rich tradition of providing world-class performers and performances.

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 all students to discover opportunities to be active on campus and in the community. This is an opportunity to meet student organizations, campus departments, and community businesses and to find out about volunteer opportunities in the community from local partners.

Plunge into Purple: During the first several weeks of fall and spring semesters, there is a series of programs to welcome you to campus called Plunge into Purple. These programs and events will help you meet your fellow students and begin college in a fun and informative way. During this time, you’ll discover more about ECU and the keys to being successful in your first year.

Club Sports: The club sports program is designed to promote and develop the interests and skills of individuals in more than 40 sport or recreational activities. They also offer opportunities to participate in a variety of competitive and recreational activities that travel and compete for regional and national championships.
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.

**Transportation**

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, East Carolina University phone numbers, and this booklet, which contains travel instructions.

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. We only offer airport pick-ups on specific days. If you are flying directly into Greenville, make sure you book your ticket to PGV, Greenville, North Carolina (not South Carolina).
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. A diverse fleet of vehicles is used to provide fixed-route service and point-to-point, demand-response service to our students.

Our Department of Parking and Transportation Services offers alternative transport options as follows:

• Enterprise CarShare
• Zimride Ride Share
• Pirate BikeShare
• Bike Rental Program

We recommend that you check out ECU’s parking and transportation web page for more information at www.ecu.edu/parking.

Technology
Newly admitted international students receive a user name, or PirateID, found in the admissions letter. Your user name allows you to login to systems such as e-mail and network resources, using this PirateID and a unique passphrase of your choice. Once assigned a PirateID, new users are required to activate their PirateID and create a passphrase in the online ECU Passphrase Maintenance System. Once registered, users maintain their PirateID/passphrase through the PirateID (school account) system. Please remember to set up your PirateID and e-mail account before the start of the semester.

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. 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. MasterCard and Visa payable online. 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.
Immunizations
All students attending East Carolina University must do the following:

1. Provide a valid record of immunizations as explained below, and
2. Fill out a Report of Medical History health form by logging in to Online Student Health with their PirateID and password. ECU asks students to please fill out the records prior to attendance.

Visit https://shs.ecu.edu online for more information.

College/University Vaccine Requirements and Number of Doses

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vaccine Required</th>
<th>Doses Required</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tetanus, Diphtheria, and/or Pertussis Tdap</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diphtheria, Tetanus, and/or Pertussis</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polio</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Mumps</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubella</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hepatitis B</td>
<td>3</td>
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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 test or blood test for TB must be performed in a United States facility. Please note: ECU Student Health Services administers the blood test for TB for 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 offered through Student Blue from Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina, or students may elect to keep their current health insurance coverage if they are already covered by an individual plan or through a parent’s plan. Each student must opt out of the ECU provided insurance at the beginning of the semester. Proof of insurance must be provided to opt out. Please keep in mind that the Student Health Center must review it for eligibility.

Orientation
There will be 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 such as sheets (twin size/extra-long), pillowcases, pillows, bedspreads, blankets, towels, and room furnishings (desk lamps, area rugs, etc.). If you plan to bring electrical appliances (computer, hair dryer, etc.), you should note that current in the United States is 110–112 volts, 60 cycles, and that outlets require two flat-pronged plugs.

**Food:** While you are not permitted to enter the United States with many food products (See [www.aphis.usda.gov/travel/](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/travel/) for further information), 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 are not able to bring with you.

**Clothing:** Because of the seasonal variations in the climate, you should bring both lightweight and heavyweight clothing, as well as rain apparel. Temperatures here may 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 do not own any. 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, pants, 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.

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### Average Temperatures in Greenville, North Carolina (°C)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>High</th>
<th>Low</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AUGUST</td>
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<tr>
<td>MARCH</td>
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<tr>
<td>JULY</td>
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<td>18</td>
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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. Please note: Items shipped before your arrival are sent at your own risk.
**Pre-arrival Checklist**

**After Obtaining a Visa**

- **Set up your PirateID and e-mail account**
  Your PirateID, student ID, and e-mail address are included in your acceptance letter.

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

- **Submit your campus housing contract**
  Freshmen are required to submit a campus housing preference, as well. Transfer and graduate students must notify the Office of Global Affairs if they would like on-campus housing at least two months prior to the beginning of the semester.

- **Submit your final official transcripts**
  Enrolling students must submit their final official transcript from all institutions attended before the start of the upcoming academic year.

- **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 visit their website at www.ecu.edu/studenthealth.

- **Insurance Information**
  If you already have insurance, please make sure that it meets ECU’s requirements. Currently insured students must waive out of ECU’s insurance. Students must also be registered for classes to be able to start the waiver process. For more information, please visit their website at www.ecu.edu/studenthealth.

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**Arrival Checklist**

- **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 and East Carolina University phone numbers.

- **Transportation**
  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. Our office only offers airport pick-ups on specific days.

- **Check in at the Office of Global Affairs**
  Upon arrival at East Carolina University, check in at the Office of Global Affairs located in the International House at 306 East Ninth Street. Our staff looks forward to welcoming you and assisting you with your initial needs.

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

- **Attend orientation**
  Attend the mandatory orientation, and bring the required documents.

Enjoy your time in Greenville! We hope you will consider East Carolina 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.
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. 17-1104