

The University of New Hampshire and Office of International Students and Scholars Welcomes You!

This newsletter will give you information at a glance.
We encourage you to visit [our website](#) for more in depth information.

OISS

Thompson Hall, Room G15
105 Main Street
Durham, NH 03824

Telephone: (603) 862-1288

Email: oiss@unh.edu

Website: www.unh.edu/global

Facebook: www.facebook.com/unhoiss



Where Is UNH?

*About 1 hour by car to Boston, Massachusetts

*About 5 hours by car to New York City

*About 15 minutes by car to the Atlantic Ocean

How to Get to UNH

By Air

- ◇ Logan International Airport (Boston, Massachusetts)
- ◇ Manchester-Boston Regional Airport (Manchester, New Hampshire)

By Bus

- ◇ [C&J Bus Lines](#) from Boston to Portsmouth or Dover
- ◇ Taxi from Portsmouth or Dover to Durham: Seacoast Cab Inc. (603) 431-3320

By Shuttle

- ◇ [Mermaid Transportation](#) from Boston to Durham. Call (800) 696-2463 (in the U.S. only) to make reservations.
- ◇ [Flight Line, Inc.](#) from Boston or Manchester to Durham. Call (800) 245-2525 (in the U.S. only) to make reservations.

By Train

- ◇ [Amtrak](#) from Boston to Durham

By Car

- ◇ [Google Maps](#): 105 Main Street, Durham, NH 03824

Arrival & Orientation Information

For Students

You must attend a mandatory New International Student Orientation the week prior to the start of classes. This is a requirement of your non-immigrant status in the U.S.

For Scholars

Please contact the OISS after you arrive on campus to schedule an orientation meeting.

Port of Entry Procedures

F-1 and J-1 visas allow for entry to the U.S. up to (not more than) 30 days before the start date on the I-20 or DS-2019. H-1B visas allow for entry to the U.S. up to (not more than) 10 days before the start date on the I-797.

Please keep your passport and immigration documents with you in your “carry-on” bag!

During the flight

You will receive a CF-6059 Customs Declaration Form. **Ask for help** if you do not understand the form.

- ◇ Always use your full name, exactly as it appears on your passport
- ◇ Report your address as: 105 Main Street, Thompson Hall Room G15, Durham, NH 03824

You will submit this form to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officer at the first U.S. city in which you land. You will be asked why you wish to enter the U.S., and you should state that you will be a student/scholar at the University of New Hampshire. When the inspection is complete, the officer will stamp your passport. You must be entered in the correct visa status (for example: F-1, J-1, or H-1B).

When you arrive you must go to the <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/#/home> website to print out your electronic I-94 arrival information.

Applying for Your Visa

◇ You will use your Certificate of Eligibility (I-20, DS-2019) to apply for your F-1 or J-1 visa. Or, you will use your Approval Notice (I-797) to apply for your H-1B visa.

◇ F and J visa applicants must first pay a SEVIS fee. H visa applicants must pay a U.S. visa application fee. Check your Consulate's website for more information.

◇ Make sure to bring original documents showing your ability to cover your educational and/or living expenses in the U.S., such as original bank statements, award letters for assistantships and/or scholarships, or an Affidavit of Support from a sponsor. It is also important to show strong economic, social, and family ties to your home country.

◇ All applicants for a U.S. visa should anticipate longer processing times for their visa applications. Background checks are required. Security checks could delay the processing time for visa applications for as long as 60 days. Students from countries that have been determined by the U.S. Secretary of State to be sponsors of international terrorism should anticipate extremely close review of their immigration documents and a high likelihood of denial.

◇ Unable to attend? You must return your Certificate of Eligibility to OISS.



At the U.S. Consulate: Suggestions for a Successful Interview

- ◆ Practice English conversation. Organize your supporting documents to present to the officer.
- ◆ Be positive, clear and concise. Share your successes.
- ◆ Do not engage the consular officer in an argument.
- ◆ Discuss any professional interests, associations, memberships or other social ties you intend to maintain with your own country.
- ◆ Share how you will utilize your experience when you return to your home country.
- ◆ If you are a male applicant and your country imposes mandatory military service, state that you intend to fully comply with your country's laws concerning military service.
- ◆ If you are married, especially with children, and your spouse is remaining behind in your own country, address how they will support themselves in your absence.
- ◆ If your spouse is applying for a dependent visa, be aware that there are employment restrictions. F-2 and H-4 dependents are not allowed to work. J-2 dependents are eligible to work, but not in order to directly support the J-1 spouse.
- ◆ Address what your spouse intends to do with his/her time while in the U.S. Attending school full-time is a permitted activity for a J-2 or H-4 dependent, but not for an F-2 dependent.
- ◆ *Do not bring family members (other than accompanying dependents) to the interview.*
- ◆ If you are denied a visa, ask the officer to give you the reason why you were denied and for a list of documents he/she would suggest that you bring in order to reverse the decision.
- ◆ **For more helpful suggestions, please read this article published by NAFSA (Association of International Educators): [10 Points to Remember When Applying for a Student Visa](#).**

Paying Your Tuition Bill (for Students)

◆ Undergraduate tuition, fees, room, and board should be paid by the due date. Payments not received by the due date are subject to a late fee. Failure to pay all bills will result in non-registration, which is a violation of your immigration status. Bills must be accessed online via Webcat, which you can access through your [myUNH](#) account.

◆ If you are receiving financial support from UNH or from your home country, be prepared to show an official letter of award upon arrival. Make sure all your financial agreements are in writing.

◆ If any of your bills are to be paid by third parties, follow the instructions via Webcat about setting an authorized third party payer.

Questions about tuition bills should be directed to:

UNH Business Services

Stoke Hall, 11 Garrison Avenue

Durham, NH 03824

Tel: (603) 862-2230

Fax: (603) 862-2626

Email: Business.Services@unh.edu



Housing

On-Campus

✦ First year undergraduate international students are required to live on campus.

✦ Once you commit your attendance at UNH, the Housing Department will send you an information packet. Pay careful attention to deadlines.

Special Housing:

-[Babcock](#): For students who are 21 years or older

-[Forest Park](#): Graduate & family housing

NOTE: Some housing facilities are open during holiday breaks. [Click Here](#) for more information.

Off-Campus

✦ Limited off-campus apartments are available in Durham, Newmarket, Dover, Lee, and Portsmouth. Monthly costs vary by town. Students typically use [Wildcat Transit](#) to get to UNH.

✦ [Click Here](#) to refer to off-campus housing options.



OFF CAMPUS
HOUSING



Local Accommodations

In case your travel plans require you to arrive in Durham before the residence halls are available, we have provided a list of local accommodations.



[Holiday Inn Express](#)

2 Main Street
Durham, NH 03824
(603)868-1234



[The Pines Guest House](#)

47 Dover Road
Durham NH 03824
(603) 868-3361

Health Insurance

For Students

UNH policy allows for **NO** exceptions to the requirement for all F-1 and J-1 students to purchase the [University of New Hampshire Student Health Benefits Plan \(SHBP\)](#). If you are accompanied by your family, they also should be covered by medical insurance. Medical care is very expensive in the United States, and this requirement is for your own protection in the event of serious illness or accident.

For Scholars

U.S. federal law requires all J-1 Exchange Visitors to obtain medical insurance for themselves and any family members who are accompanying them to the U.S. This insurance must meet all federal requirements and include provisions for emergency medical evacuation and repatriation of remains. Failure to obtain and maintain medical insurance for the duration of your J-1 program is cause for immediate dismissal from the program. It is necessary to make your health insurance arrangements before you come to the U.S.

[UNH Health Services](#)

✦ UNH provides a variety of health services on campus funded by a mandatory health fee. Health Services sends new students a packet of information and forms which must be completed and returned directly to their office. [Click Here](#) for more information.

Driving in New Hampshire

✦ If you plan to drive a car, you will be required to obtain a New Hampshire driver's license.

✦ If you have a license to drive in your home country, it is important to bring with you a **copy of your driving record and your current license**.

✦ You may refer to the [DMV website](#) for the exact procedures to follow in applying for a NH license, including what documents to bring from your home country.

✦ If you plan to buy a car here, it is strongly recommended that you also buy car insurance.



Bringing Your Family: What to Consider

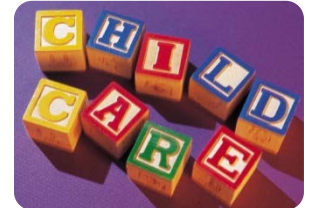
- ✦ School-age children (ages 5 to 16) are required to attend school. You will need to provide their official birth certificates, school records, complete medical history, and immunization records in order to enroll them in school. Please see current State of New Hampshire [requirements](#).
- ✦ Childcare centers (for younger children or after-school care) are expensive and usually have a waiting list.
- ✦ Family members who accompany need to be covered by medical insurance.
- ✦ You need to demonstrate your ability to cover their living expenses while in the U.S. OISS estimates expenses to be \$10,000 per year for the first family member and \$8,000 per year for each additional family member.
- ✦ U.S. consular officials require proof of your ability to cover these expenses for the duration of your stay.

Academic Information

Academic Calendar

General Guidelines

- ✦ Fall semester: late August to December
- ✦ Spring semester: late January to May
- ✦ Summer semester: mid-May to mid-August
- ✦ For more specific dates see [academic calendar](#)



Academic Advisor

Students will be assigned an academic advisor to help you plan your academic program. We recommend that you establish and maintain a good working relationship with your academic advisor, who can guide and assist you throughout your program.

Full Time Status

- ✦ International students must maintain their full-time student status. For undergraduate students, this means being registered for at least 12 credits each semester. For graduate students, the minimum required is 9 credits unless you have a full assistantship. Students with Graduate Assistantships must register for at least 6 credits.
- ✦ Scholars interested in taking courses should contact oiss@unh.edu for more details.

Employment Opportunities (for Students)

- ✦ F-1 and J-1 students are allowed to work, but ONLY on-campus. Students can ONLY work part-time (up to 20 hours per week).
- ✦ F-2 dependents are not allowed to work
- ✦ J-2 dependents are eligible to work with authorization from USCIS.



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