

Welcome!

We are glad you have chosen to come to Carnegie Mellon University! Use this brochure, along with our online *Settling In Guide* (bit.ly/oieguidecmu) as you prepare to travel to the United States and during your first weeks on campus.

The Office of International Education (OIE) will provide more details during orientation. In the meantime, please visit our website or contact our office with questions. We look forward to welcoming you upon your arrival!

Warm regards,
OIE Staff



About OIE

OIE is committed to supporting, promoting, and celebrating individuals in an intercultural environment.

We work with international students, faculty and staff, academic departments and students interested in studying abroad, to support and facilitate international education & exchange, to ease the transition to Carnegie Mellon and the US and to assist people with obtaining and maintaining legal status in the US.

Contact Us

Phone: 412-268-5231
Email: oie@andrew.cmu.edu
Web: www.cmu.edu/oie



Office Location:
5000 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Office Hours:
Monday — Friday
8:30 am to 5 pm (EST)

OIE's location is Cyert Hall, Suite 101.

Driving in Pennsylvania

Non-immigrant visitors to Pennsylvania (PA) may drive for up to one year using their home country license and an international driving permit. The international driving permit must be obtained in the home country **before** traveling to the US and may be used for car rentals or car sharing. Only non-immigrants who have authorization to live in PA for at least one year or more are eligible to apply for a PA driver's license, obtain a PA identification card or purchase a car in PA.

If you will be living in another state, you will need to review driver's license eligibility criteria for that state. For more information, visit <https://www.usa.gov/visitors-driving>

Tips for a Successful Transition!

- Read emails, web and printed materials carefully prior to arrival and once you arrive on campus.
- Ask questions — if you aren't sure who to ask, start with OIE and we can help direct you.
- Don't wait until the last minute — especially with immigration issues as some processes may take more time than you expect.
- Get involved and participate in campus/community life — meet people, and go to events and activities.
- Take good care of yourself — eat well, get enough rest, exercise, attend to your emotional and spiritual needs, socialize, learn new things, and have fun!
- Recognize that adjusting to a new place, new people and/or new ways of doing things takes time.

Carnegie Mellon University
Office of International Education

Arrival and Orientation Information



Visit our website!
www.cmu.edu/oie

Preparing to Come

This package contains your I-20 or DS-2019 Certificate of Eligibility, or H-1B approval notice, which you will use to apply for the US visa. You will also use this document at the port of entry to obtain your US immigration status for your stay at Carnegie Mellon University (CMU).

Review your document carefully. If your personal information is not accurate, contact OIE (oe@andrew.cmu.edu).

For F-1/J-1 students and scholars, note that you should only use the CMU I-20/DS-2019 Certificate of Eligibility to obtain a visa and enter the US if you plan to be a student or visiting scholar at CMU.

The checklist in this brochure will guide you through your pre-arrival preparations. Read this information carefully and attend to the items that apply to you. More information about preparing to come, arrival and making a life at CMU can be found at: bit.ly/oielaidecmu

Review these resources carefully to ensure a smooth arrival to campus!

Immigration regulations **require** international students and scholars in F/J status to “check-in” with OIE. This check-in process will be completed at OIE orientation. OIE will collect the information from you that is required by law and provide you with more detailed information about campus and immigration regulations. **You must attend an OIE orientation to complete your immigration check-in.**

OIE will send orientation instructions to students by email approximately one month prior to classes. Scholars should follow the instructions in the letter accompanying their DS-2019/H approval. **Failure to complete the immigration check-in will result in the loss of your legal US immigration status.**

Arrival Checklist:

☐ Check your I-20 or DS-2019

If any information is incorrect OR if you decide not to attend CMU, email oe@andrew.cmu.edu.

☐ Review answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the OIE website (bit.ly/oielaidequestions)

This link provides answers to common questions on topics including names of majors on I-20s, visa applications, health insurance, tuition, etc.

☐ Read the Settling in Guide (bit.ly/oielaidecmu)

Review next steps for your visa application, travel plans, and adjusting to life at CMU.

☐ Pay the SEVIS fee (F-1/J-1) and print out the receipt (www.ice.gov/SEVIS/i901)

☐ Obtain a US visa sticker

- **Note:** Citizens of Canada and certain contiguous territories/adjacent islands are exempt from obtaining a visa sticker.
- Schedule a visa appointment at www.usembassy.gov
- Review tips for obtaining a visa at bit.ly/comingtocmu
- Review additional resources at bit.ly/studyexchangedos and <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov>
- **Tip: Do not** enter the US with a visitor visa or visa waiver if you plan to study or work at CMU. Tourists/visitors cannot legally study in the US.

☐ Make travel arrangements to the US after you secure your visa

Students and scholars in F-1 or J-1 status may enter the US no more than 30 days prior to the start date on the I-20 or DS-2019. H-1B scholars may enter the US no more than 10 days prior to the start date on the H-1B approval notice. If you have a visa delay/denial, please let us know

☐ Print your I-94 entry record after you enter the US (bit.ly/I-94Record)

Entering the US, a Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Officer will stamp your passport with the arrival date, classification (F-1/J-1/H-1B), and expiration date of your status. Check the website above to access your I-94. Verify that your information is correct, and print a copy for your records. If you cannot find/retrieve your I-94, or if any of the information is incorrect, we will assist you in correcting the document at OIE orientation. If you enter the US at a land crossing (from Canada or Mexico), you will receive a paper I-94 stamped with the date and port of entry.

☐ Check your email/OIE website for orientation details and updates (bit.ly/oielaideorientation)

☐ Complete OIE Orientation and Immigration Check-in

☐ Read ALL emails from OIE

☐ Like us on Facebook! (<https://www.facebook.com/CarnegieMellonUniversityOIE>)