



BEMIDJI
STATE UNIVERSITY

WELCOME INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PACKET



We hope you enjoy your time at *BEMIDJI STATE UNIVERSITY!*

On behalf of Bemidji State University, the International Program Center warmly welcomes you!

CHECKLIST FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

- ☐ Sign your I-20/DS-2019.
- ☐ Pay your SEVIS fee. THIS SHOULD BE DONE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO ENSURE THAT YOU HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO OBTAIN YOUR VISA AND MAKE TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS.
- ☐ Contact the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate to apply for a U.S. visa.
- ☐ Make flight arrangements to arrive in Bemidji (BJI) no more than three days before the orientation check-in date. Free airport pickup is provided for students living on campus.
- ☐ Complete and send in the Arrival Notification form.
- ☐ Set up your MyBSU e-mail account and StarID account.
- ☐ Complete the Residential Life application for on-campus housing.
- ☐ Bring your immunization records to orientation.
- ☐ Review the City of Bemidji website to familiarize yourself with the city: www.visitbemidji.com



PREPARING FOR TRAVEL TO BEMIDJI STATE UNIVERSITY

Congratulations again on your acceptance to Bemidji State University!

Please verify that the information on your I-20 (for F-1 visas) or DS-2019 (for J-1 visas) is accurate, make certain it has been signed by Bemidji State's Designated School Official, and sign your name where requested on the form.

PAYING YOUR SEVIS FEE:

As soon as you receive this packet, you should pay your SEVIS fee!

Unless otherwise exempt, you must pay a SEVIS I-901 fee to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. To pay the I-901 fee, go here: <https://www.fmjfee.com/i901fee/>. Be sure to **keep your receipt** because you will need to show proof of payment when applying for the visa.

Currently, citizens of **Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria or Gambia are not allowed** to pay the SEVIS fee online.

If you are a citizen of one of the previous countries, you must pay either by mail or at a Western Union office (if accessible).

More information can be found here:

<http://www.bemidjistate.edu/services/international/international-students/admitted-students/immigration-and-visas/sevis-fee/>

OBTAINING YOUR VISA:

As soon as you make your SEVIS fee payment, you should make your visa appointment.

Contact the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate for instructions on how to obtain your student visa. Apply for your visa early to provide time for visa processing.

- Visit the following website for complete information on applying for your visa from the U.S. Department of State:
 - o F-1 Students: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/study/student-visa.html>
 - o J-1 Students: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/study/exchange.html>

For visa interview tips, please see:

<http://www.bemidjistate.edu/services/international/international-students/admitted-students/immigration-and-visas/>

Canadian students are not required to obtain a student visa. You will need proof of payment of the SEVIS fee. Submit your I-20 to the U.S. Border Patrol when you arrive in the United States. You may be required to show evidence of sufficient funds and additional identification and/or verification of admission. Please make sure that all of your documents are readily available to you as you go through Border Patrol.

F-1 students in the U.S. who are transferring to Bemidji State University:

If you are transferring directly from another U.S. institution, please request to have your I-20 transferred to Bemidji State University. Once your SEVIS record has been released to BSU, we will then create a BSU I-20 for you to pick up upon your arrival in Bemidji. If you are planning to leave the U.S. before arriving at BSU, you will need to contact us to make arrangements to get your BSU I-20 prior to departing the U.S. You will need to use BSU's I-20 to re-enter the U.S.

ARRIVING IN THE UNITED STATES:

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) helps secure U.S. borders. At the U.S. port of entry, they make the final admission decision and, for international students and exchange visitors, determine the period for which they are authorized to remain in the United States. If you arrive by air, they will scan your passport to create an electronic I-94 record. If you are crossing a land border you will receive a paper I-94. The IPC will need a copy of your I-94.

Please come to the IPC once you arrive to print out the electronic version from the (CBP) website:

<https://www.cbp.gov/travel/international-visitors> or bring the paper copy to be scanned and returned to you.



WEATHER

You will experience four distinct seasons in Bemidji. The warmest month is July with an average high of 26° C. The coldest month is January with an average high of -9° C.

If arriving in January, bring or wear a coat or warm outer clothing in the event you are not able to purchase appropriate clothing right away.


AIRPORT PICKUP

We offer free shuttle service for new international students who will live on campus. Pickup is provided from the Bemidji Airport (BJI) only. You must notify the International Program Center for pickup by emailing or mailing the enclosed Arrival Notification form. We can't meet you if we don't know when you are arriving!

BECOMING A BSU STUDENT

SETTING UP StarID

All BSU students have a StarID and MyBSU account assigned. You will need to activate your StarID in order to apply for on-campus housing. If you applied to BSU with our online application, you may have already been assigned a StarID. Your StarID will be used as your log in to your MyBSU account once activated.



- 1 Go to <https://starid.minnstate.edu>
- 2 At the top, click on "StarID Self Service"
- 3 Click on "Activate StarID"
- 4 You will arrive at a page with these options:

STUDENTS
 - Tech ID (StudentID)
 - Email Address
 - Verification Code
 - State Employee Code
 - Library Card Barcode
- 5 In the Students section, click on "Email Address"
- 6 Enter the email address that you used when you applied to BSU, and a verification code will be emailed to you.
- 7 Check your email for the verification code and enter it in the box shown below:

Please enter the unique verification code and your email or last name.

Verification Code

Email Address OR Last Name
- 8 It will display your StarID in yellow at the top of the page and will ask you to create a password. Please write down your StarID and your password. You will need them in the future.

LOGGING INTO MyBSU AND E-SERVICES

Once you have your StarID, you can use it to log into your MyBSU account. At MyBSU, you can check your student email and access e-services, online classes and more. Go to www.bemidjistate.edu/mybsu/. Your username is starid@live.bemidjistate.edu, and your password is the same as the one set up for your StarID.

ARRANGING YOUR ON-CAMPUS HOUSING

You are required to live on campus in one of our residence halls for your first year at BSU, unless you are over the age of 21 or married. Residential Life at BSU is committed to creating a caring, fun and respectful environment. Please visit the Residential Life webpage at www.bemidjistate.edu/services/reslife/ to see our many options for on-campus housing and meal plans.

Housing is available in the BSU residence halls during all breaks. If you wish to stay at BSU during breaks you should discuss this option with your Residential Life staff.

Steps to applying for housing online:

- 1** Make sure you are logged into MyBSU.
- 2** Click on "e-services" under your name
- 3** Click on the blue "go to e-Services"
- 4** Select "Housing and Dining" in the left column (you may be prompted to wait 10 minutes while your new account is being created).
- 5** You will have to sign in again with your StarID (no "@live" included) and password. You will then be directed to the StarRez portal.
- 6** In the green bar, select the appropriate semester and continue with your application. If you have questions, please contact the Housing & Residential Life Office at 218.755.3750 or reslife@bemidjistate.edu

Please note that as a new international student your pre-payment of \$150 is not required. You will make your payments during the week of orientation.

HEALTH INSURANCE

You will be required to purchase the insurance plan offered through BSU before enrolling in classes, regardless of any other health coverage plan.

You must be prepared to pay for your health insurance during orientation. Bemidji State University bills for your insurance coverage annually.

HEALTH SERVICES

BSU has a Student Center for Health and Counseling to attend to your health care needs. You are encouraged to use this facility. The Student Center for Health and Counseling is convenient and helpful. Medicines and treatments are available at a low or no cost.

IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENT/TB TESTING

Minnesota State Law states that all students born after 1956 and attending Minnesota colleges and universities must be immunized for Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) and Diphtheria/Tetanus (Td).

Complete the Immunization Records form and return it to the BSU Student Center for Health and Counseling. All students are also required to have a TB test upon arrival. Please be sure to bring your immunization records with you when you arrive in Bemidji. A link to the Immunization Records form and further information on this requirement can be found at:

<http://www.bemidjistate.edu/services/international/international-students/admitted-students/immunization/>



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ORIENTATION

During orientation, we give you all the information you need to be successful at BSU. Some of our topics include class registration, maintaining your immigration status, health and safety, and navigating the American classroom. We also have many fun activities to get you acquainted with campus and with the other students at Bemidji State. Attendance at orientation is mandatory. Please make arrangements to arrive before the orientation start date.

ENGLISH AND MATHEMATICS ASSESSMENTS

During International Student Orientation, all international students will take a test to determine their English level. Depending on your test score, you may be required to enroll in either Intermediate Academic American English or Advanced Academic American English your first semester. Students enrolled in an Academic English course will test again at the end of the semester to see if continued enrollment is necessary. An Accuplacer test will also be offered during orientation. This math placement test is required for all F-1 students and any J-1 students who will enroll in a math course during their time at BSU.

PAYMENTS

The first two payments for new international students are due the Friday before classes begin. They are: 1) the total amount of your health insurance, and 2) a \$300 down payment on tuition and fees OR enrollment in our payment plan. This deadline is meant to give you time to learn about our payment procedures and ask questions. In future semesters, your bills will be due 15 business days prior to the semester start date.

BANKING

You are encouraged to establish a bank account upon arrival in Bemidji in order to keep your money safe. Banking information will be provided to you during orientation and is available before orientation in the IPC. You should have immediate access to \$5,000 USD upon arrival for things like health insurance, registration and housing deposits. You will also need spending money for food, personal items and unplanned events. Please keep your money in a secure place prior to arranging your bank account. Any amount over \$10,000 USD must be declared.

TRANSFERRING CREDITS

If you are transferring courses/credits to Bemidji State University from a U.S. college or university, a degree audit report (DAR) will be provided to you only after you have sent your arrival notice. Your DAR will include those classes and/or credits that have been accepted in transfer. You will then need to meet with the chair of your academic department for a discussion on how your transfer courses may apply to your major.

To transfer courses/credits from a non-U.S. college or university, we require all students to have their coursework evaluated by a professional credit evaluation agency. BSU will accept evaluations prepared by any National Association of Credentials Evaluation Services (<http://www.naces.org/members.html>) member. Once we receive your arrival notice and evaluation, your DAR will be provided.



CLASS REGISTRATION

Once we have received your Arrival Notification form, the IPC will sign you up for your first few required classes. At international student orientation, we will talk about class registration in detail and how to effectively schedule your classes to keep you on track for your major. Afterwards, you will have a chance to change your default schedule to better meet your interests and needs.

CONTACT US



BEMIDJI
STATE UNIVERSITY

BEST DECISION EVER!

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM CENTER BEMIDJI STATE UNIVERSITY

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MINNESOTA STATE

A member of the colleges and universities of Minnesota State, Bemidji State University is an affirmative action, equal opportunity educator and employer. If you need an accommodation, contact the Disability Services Office at 218-755-3883. If an interpreter is needed, a two-week notice is requested.