

PRE & POST ARRIVAL CHECKLIST

For New International J-1 Exchange Visitors

Pre-Arrival Checklist

You've received your DS-2019, next steps:

- Pay the SEVIS I-901 fee.** Visit fmjfee.com to pay for this fee. Be sure to print a copy of the SEVIS fee payment receipt.
Note: This is different than the SEVIS Maintenance fee paid to SMU.
- Apply for J-1 Visa.** Complete the online Visa Application form, pay the DS160 fee, and schedule your appointment.
- Prepare to Enter the U.S.** Plan for health insurance, initial expenses, baggage, temporary housing, and medical records prior to departing your home country.
- Arrive in the U.S.** Plan to have the necessary documents available to show the officer at the U.S. port of entry and plan travel from the airport to SMU.



Tip: Review the Exchange Visitor Post Arrival Handbook on the ISSS website for more information and resources about SMU and Dallas.

- Obtain Adequate Health Insurance.** Ensure that you and all dependents (if applicable) have health insurance that meets at least the minimum requirements.
Note: Benefits eligible Exchange Visitors should reach out to BenefitsU@smu.edu.
- Secure Housing.** Use an apartment search on the internet to search for apartments near SMU. Keep in mind some apartments are accessible via the SMU Express bus.

Post-Arrival Checklist

Welcome to Dallas, Texas!

- Gather required information:**
 - DS-2019 Form
 - J-1 Visa and Passport
 - I-94 Arrival Record
 - U.S. Phone Number
 - U.S. Address (can be apartment or hotel)
 - Copies of all immigration documents of J-2 dependents, if applicable
 - Health Insurance Compliance Form
(found on the ISSS website)
- Attend the required Government Check-in Session before beginning program activities:** Email internationalscholars@smu.edu to schedule a check-in appointment.
- Attend Employee Orientation with Human Resources** *(Only for benefits-eligible employees)*
- OBTAIN SMU ID:** Visit SMU Parking and ID Services (Hughes-Trigg Student Center) to pick-up your SMU ID Card.

For more detailed information on the ISSS website, scan below:

