



Office of International Education

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**Welcome Letter and Pre-Arrival Information
from International Student and Scholar Services**

October, 2009

Dear International Student:

The Office of Admissions has informed us that you have been accepted to the University of Colorado at Boulder to begin your studies this spring, 2010. Congratulations on your acceptance!

You may receive this letter from International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) before you have received your official letter of acceptance from the Office of Admissions. Your acceptance letter will also contain your I-20, (if you are an F-1 student), student number (SID), and personal identification number (PIN). If you have questions about your acceptance letter, I-20 or personal identification number, please contact the Office of Admissions directly at intladm@colorado.edu. International Student and Scholar Services plays no role in your acceptance. We, the staff of International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS), serve the needs of international students after they have been admitted to CU-Boulder. This Welcome Letter contains a checklist and pre-arrival information.

There are two essential things you need to remember. **First**, pay particular attention to **orientation dates and deadlines sent by your college or department**. **Second**, as an international student, **you are required by immigration law to "check in" at International Student and Scholar Services when you arrive in Boulder.**

► **What does "checking in" with ISSS mean?** Simply put, it means that your SEVIS record will be registered (validated) in the SEVIS electronic record-keeping system. When you enter the United States, a Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) officer at the airport reports your entry into the country to SEVIS. When you check-in at ISSS, an advisor will confirm your enrollment information to SEVIS. Failure to check in will jeopardize your status.

► **What is SEVIS and why is it so important?** SEVIS is an acronym for the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System. It is a web-based program administered by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to maintain information on F and J visa holders and their dependents living in the United States. It keeps an electronic record of your entry into the United States, academic progress, and departure from the United States. As an academic institution, we are responsible for making sure that the information we send to the DHS is complete, current, and correct.

► **Where do I check-in?** International Student and Scholar Services is in the Office of International Education, located in the basement of the Environmental Design Building, #25 on the enclosed map and also at: <http://www.colorado.edu/campusmap/map.pdf>. Enter the building through the center doors and come down to the basement.

► **When can I check-in?** Check-in sessions will be held Monday, January 4 through Thursday, January 7, twice a day (choose one): 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. On Friday, January 8, there will be one session at 10 a.m. Each session lasts about a hour. You will receive an information packet and a checklist of procedures to guide you through your first days here.

► **What do I need to bring with me when I check-in?** If you are an F or J student, please bring the following documents:

- passport
- visa
- current and any past I-20s or DS2019s
- I-94 Departure card (and those of any dependents, if they have accompanied you to the US)
- current address in Colorado, even if it is only a temporary one
- J-1 students, proof of insurance is required (see J-1 insurance information)

After you have presented your check-in information, your SEVIS record will be validated (registered). If your record is not properly validated, SEVIS will terminate your electronic record, and you will be considered to be in the US illegally. If you are in a visa status other than F or J, bring evidence of your visa status, such as your passport or visa.

► **I am not an F or J student. Do I still need to check-in?** Yes, please do. And you are also expected to attend the International Student Welcome Meeting on Friday, January 8. Even though you will not have a SEVIS record, we keep statistics of how many international students attend CU-Boulder in any given semester. At the Welcome Meeting, we review campus policies and tell you about fun activities, clubs, and organizations for international students that may be of interest to you.

► **When should I arrive in Boulder?** F1 and J1 students may enter the US up to 30 days before the start of date on your I-20 or DS-2019. All international students should plan to arrive in Boulder about a week before classes begin or in plenty of time to participate in these **required** activities:

- attend academic, departmental, or college orientation sessions
- go through the check-in process with ISSS
- attend the required International Student Welcome Meeting on Friday, January 8

The CU-Boulder campus is a beautiful place to pursue a challenging and rewarding education. We look forward to meeting you and serving you during your time here.

Cordially,

Larry Bell, Director, Office of International Education
Tina Tan, Director, International Student and Scholar Services
Janet Garcia, Associate Director and International Student and Scholar Specialist
Becky Sibley, Advisor
Paige Progar-Jaumann, Advisor
Maria Zellar, Sevis Manager and Immigration Specialist
Kim Schorr, Program Assistant



International Student and Scholar Services

Bringing CU to the World • Bringing the World to CU

Checklist

Now that you have been accepted to the University of Colorado at Boulder, there are a number of steps you need to take as soon as you receive your I-20 or DS2019. ISSS has prepared this checklist to help you.

[] **MAKE SURE YOUR PASSPORT IS VALID.**

Your passport must be valid for at least six months after the date you enter the United States.

If you are already in the United States, please contact an advisor in ISSS as soon as you receive this Welcome Letter. If you are transferring from another US institution to CU-Boulder (even if you received a degree at the other institution), you will need to complete the SEVIS transfer-in process for immigration purposes. Tell the advisor when you check-in that you are a SEVIS transfer student. A transfer of school or change of status procedure takes time and has deadlines, so please talk with an advisor right away.

[] **PAY YOUR SEVIS FEE**

F-1 and J-1 visa holders beginning a new program at CU-Boulder have to pay a SEVIS fee to the Department of Homeland Security **before** a visa can be issued. Carefully review these two web sites for information about the SEVIS fee and to access the form you will need to fill out.

<http://www.colorado.edu/oie/iss/iss/iss/sevisfee.html>

and

<http://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901>

- [] **APPLY FOR YOUR VISA** at the nearest US embassy or consulate as soon as you receive your I-20 or DS2019, since it may take some time to obtain. You will have to make an appointment to go to the embassy or consulate. You must take your SEVIS fee receipt with you to your appointment.

Read Preparing to come to Boulder to:

- [] REGISTER FOR YOUR COURSES. See **Orientations and Registration**, Section 2
- [] UNDERGRADUATES: Sign up for your **mandatory** academic orientation
- [] PREPARE YOUR FINANCES. See **Finances**, Section 3
- [] COMPLETE IMMUNIZATION RECORDS. See **Immunization Records and Health Insurance**, Section 4
- [] MAKE TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS. See **Travel to Boulder and Accommodations**, Section 5
- [] MAKE HOUSING ARRANGEMENTS. See **Housing**, Section 6
- [] PREPARE PACKAGES YOU WANT TO MAIL. See **Parcels and Personal Mail**, Section 7
- [] CHOOSE THE CLOTHING you will need for your first few months in Boulder. See **Boulder's Climate**, Section 8
- [] RETURN THE FRIENDSHIP HOST PROGRAM FORM if you want a friendship host. See **Programs for International Students**, Section 9.

Travel Tips

- You may arrive in the US up to 30 days before the report date on your I-20 or DS2019.
- Plan your travel so that you arrive BEFORE your college or department's orientation begins and BEFORE check-in at ISSS.
- Expect the process at the port of entry into the United States to take time. You will be fingerprinted and photographed. Allow at least two hours to clear the port of entry and to transfer to your next flight.
- Hand carry (or have in your carry-on bag) the following documents:
 1. your passport;
 2. SEVIS form I-20 or DS2019;
 3. evidence of your financial resources;
 4. evidence of your student or exchange visitor status, such as your CU-Boulder acceptance letter;
 5. paper receipt for the SEVIS fee;
 6. International Student and Scholar Services contact information.

When you arrive in Boulder:

[] **CHECK-IN WITH ISSS**

Please bring all of your immigration documents with you. If you are in F-1 or J-1 visa status, bring your current and all previous I-20s or DS2019, your passport, visa, and I-94 Departure Record (and those of any dependents, if they have accompanied you to the US). J-1 students must also present proof of insurance.

Mark these dates on your calendar!

Wednesday & Thursday,
orientation.
January 6-7

All new undergraduate degree candidates are required to attend an academic

Please sign up for your session: <http://www.colorado.edu/orientation/>

Wednesday, January 6

Residence halls open, but they don't all open at the same time. Read the dorm room assignment that you will receive from Housing and Dining Services to see what time you can move in.

If you are arriving in Boulder before your dorm room is available and you need a place to stay, see your hotel options in **Section 5, Travel to Boulder and Accommodations**.

Thursday, January 7
3 p.m. to 5 p.m.
International English Center
1030 13th Street

Take the **English Placement Exam** (if you are required to).

This English as a Second Language (ESL) placement exam will help determine your English reading, writing, and conversation skill levels and what additional, if any, ESL classes are recommended for you to take.

- ☐ College of Music students and College of Engineering Teaching Assistants must take the placement exam
- ☐ Arts and Sciences undergraduates need to check with the College to see if it is required.
- ☐ All others should check with their department about the necessity of taking the exam.

Friday, January 8
1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
RAMY 250

International Student Welcome Meeting

All international students, REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS, are **REQUIRED** to attend the International Student Welcome Meeting, where we will cover immigration regulations, safety issues, insurance, and activities in Boulder. Bring your questions! You will benefit tremendously from attending this meeting.

Monday, January 11

First day of classes

Monday, January 18

Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday. University is closed.

Wednesday, January 20

- ☐ Tuition and fee bills due
- ☐ Last day to submit immunization records

Monday, March 22 through
Friday, March 26

Spring break. Students are not in classes the whole week. University is closed on Friday.

Friday, April 30

Last day of classes

Saturday May 1 through
Thursday May 6

Final examinations begin on Saturday, May 2, but there are no exams on Sunday, May 3. Finals resume Monday, May 4.

Friday, May 7
8:30 a.m.

Commencement at Folsom Stadium



International Student and Scholar Services

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Pre-Arrival Information Preparing To Come To Boulder

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Section 1

The ISSS Staff

International Student and Scholar Services is CU-Boulder's on-campus office that serves international students in several ways. **First**, we provide advising, programs, and assistance with immigration regulations and paperwork, social and cultural adjustment, personal and financial concerns. **Second**, we serve as advocates for international students. **Third**, we fulfill our responsibility for reporting information about our international students to the Department of Homeland Security and to institutes and organizations that compile statistics about international students in the United States.

The staff:

Tina Tan, Director, International Student and Scholar Services	tant@colorado.edu
Janet Garcia, Associate Director and International Student and Scholar Specialist	janet.garcia@colorado.edu
Paige Progar-Jaumann, Advisor	paige.jaumann@colorado.edu
Becky Sibley, Advisor	rebecca.sibley@colorado.edu
Maria Zellar, SEVIS Manager and Immigration Specialist	maria.zellar@colorado.edu
Kim Schorr, Program Assistant	kim.schorr@colorado.edu

Advising hours:

Walk-in advising is available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. during the academic year, and from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. during the summer. An advisor may ask you to make an appointment for an issue that requires more time.

How to contact us:

Electronic mail:	adviser@colorado.edu
Telephone:	(303) 492-8057
Fax:	(303) 492-5185
Street Address:	18 th Street & Euclid Avenue, Environmental Design Building, Basement, room 1B45
Mailing address:	123 UCB, Boulder, CO USA 80309-0123
Home page:	http://www.colorado.edu/OIE/iss/

Section 2

Registration and Academic Orientation

Course requirements and course descriptions are in the University of Colorado at Boulder Catalog web site:
<http://www.colorado.edu/catalog>

Registration information can be found at:
<http://registrar.colorado.edu/>
e-mail:
registrar@registrar.colorado.edu

Undergraduate academic orientation information can be found at:
www.colorado.edu/orientation

FIRST, you will receive a letter from the Office of Admissions accepting you to CU-Boulder. It will contain the following information:

- (1) your **student identification number**, which is a nine-digit number, separated by dashes, like this xxx-xx-xxxx;
- (2) your **personal identification number**, or **PIN**. Your PIN is a combination of letters, numbers, and characters

SECOND, you will receive your orientation materials and Invitation to Register. These materials will come to you one of two ways, depending on the college in which you are enrolled.

- (1) either directly from your school, college, or department; OR
- (2) from the Registrar's Office.

Some colleges require new students to attend an academic orientation or new student meeting before they can register, and other schools or departments allow students to register before coming to Boulder. Be mindful of the academic orientation dates sent to you in the information you receive from your college or department. If you are an undergraduate student, you are required to go to your college's academic orientation session. Plan your travel carefully so you arrive in time to attend. ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY!

Registration means enrolling in courses. Your Invitation to Register will give you a very specific period of time in which you can register for classes. Read the instructions very carefully. You will register for classes through ChooseCU.

When you register for each course, one of the following events will happen: You will be: (1) enrolled immediately; (2) put on a waitlist; or (3) denied enrollment. Make sure that you are enrolled for at least one class before your registration deadline ends and before you arrive on campus. You will have a chance to adjust (drop/add) your course schedule after you arrive.

When you finish the drop/add process, you must be enrolled full-time to meet immigration requirements. *Undergraduates must have at least 12 credit hours; graduate students must have at least 5 credit hours of graduate level courses.* Graduate students, you need to check with your department each semester to make sure you are enrolled full-time, because later on in your degree program, the minimum required credit hours can change.

Transfer students

The Office of Admissions will prepare an evaluation of your previous academic work which you can pick up from them in Regent Hall, if you haven't received it prior to arriving in Boulder. Take this transfer credit evaluation to your academic advisor for a determination of how these credits will apply towards your major and degree requirements at CU-Boulder. If you are an Arts and Sciences or Business transfer student, you will get your evaluation at orientation.

Graduate students

You should consult with an advisor in your department to determine if there will be an orientation session and which courses are recommended. You can then register in ChooseCU.

Exchange Students

If you are an exchange student coming to the University through a cooperative agreement with the University of Colorado and your home institution, **you will NOT attend a college or school orientation session.** Your student number and PIN are included with your acceptance letter that comes from ISSS. You should register through ChooseCU before arriving and enroll in at least one class.

Section 3

Finances

Planning your finances for the year:

You must plan carefully to have sufficient funds to cover the cost of an education in the United States. We estimate the total cost for a single international student to be \$40,800 per calendar year. The cost per academic year (nine months) breaks down as follows:

Tuition and fees: \$27,500

Living Expenses, including health insurance, housing, and food: \$11,550

Books and supplies: \$1,750

Possible additional expenses may include:

Living expenses if you stay in the US during the summer: \$3,850

Living expenses for your spouse: \$6,000 for 12 months

Living expenses for dependent children: \$6,000 EACH for 12 months.

- ☒ All CU students must have health insurance coverage for yourself and for your dependents. Carefully research the cost of insurance to see what plan serves you (and your family) the best - budget for the cost of insurance premiums, so that you are not surprised by unexpected medical bills.
- ☒ If you will be buying groceries, the cost varies, depending on whether or not you have a family and where you shop. For a single person, groceries can cost as much as \$275 per month.
- ☒ Campus apartments or family housing costs vary, anywhere from \$598 to \$1,153 per month, depending on where you live.
- ☒ Room and board rates in a residence hall run from \$4,930 to \$6,206, depending on which dormitory you have selected and how many roommates you have. Costs increase around five percent to ten percent each year.
- ☒ If you live off-campus, expect to pay around \$600 per month for an efficiency apartment to \$1,600 per month for a house in Boulder county. Rent will be cheaper if you live with a roommate or roommates.
- ☒ If you are an F or J student, you will have to pay a SEVIS fee to CU-Boulder, and it is not the same as the one you paid to the Department of Homeland Security before you got your visa. The CU fee is \$22 per semester, and is included in your tuition and fee bill.

If you are an F or J student, it is possible for you to work on campus, but you will need to have a Social Security number to be paid (see "Social Security Number", below). On-campus employment is limited to low-paying jobs, so you should plan to have enough money to cover your tuition and living expenses.

Planning your expenses for the first few weeks of school:

It is very important that you have sufficient funds available to you as you prepare to come to Boulder so you can meet your immediate expenses. Bring funds that are readily negotiable, such as traveler's checks, a certified bank draft on a bank with a correspondent US bank, or an internationally approved credit card or automatic teller machine card.

You will need about \$12,000 your first few weeks of school to cover the following expenses. These figures are only estimates, and can vary widely.

Transportation to Boulder from the airport	\$10 to \$100, depending if by bus, van, or taxi
Accommodations for a few days	\$300, hotel (\$65 to \$200/night) or hostel (\$20 to \$45/night)
Food and living expenses	\$100, varies considerably
On-campus housing	Included in your tuition and fee bill
Off-campus housing	\$900, varies depending on rent and required deposits
Books and supplies	\$850
CU health insurance	\$1052 for one person; much more if you have dependents
Enrollment deposit	\$200
PLUS tuition and fees	

The Bursar's Office has implemented an electronic billing system, called "CU Bill & Pay." All tuition and fee billing will be done online - you will not receive a paper bill in the mail. Students will receive an e-mail notification at their colorado.edu address when bills are available to view and pay through CU Connect. In addition, students may now grant access to authorized payers (up to five people) who will also receive an e-mail notification when bills are available to view and pay on the new CU Bill & Pay site. To access this site, follow the instructions at <http://www.colorado.edu/bursar/#>

The Bursar's Office site also has a link to help you calculate your tuition and fees. Go to <http://www.colorado.edu/bursar/now/bef/index.html>

You cannot use a credit card to pay your tuition, and it is due in full by Wednesday, January 20, 2010. For payment options, including wire transfers, see: <http://www.colorado.edu/bursar/now/pmt.html>

If you have an appointment as a teaching assistant or research assistant, you will not receive your first month's paycheck until you have been issued a Social Security number and have been placed on the University payroll. See "Social Security Number," below. More specific instructions about obtaining a Social Security number will be available when you check in with ISSS: you cannot apply for a Social Security number from your home country. You must check in with ISSS.

Confirm with a representative from your department exactly what they will pay towards the cost of your tuition, fees, and health insurance. Keep in mind that your department will not buy insurance for your dependents. For details on graduate

tuition and fees, go to:

<http://www.colorado.edu/bursar/now/tuitfeebill.html>

Banking:

Establish a checking account at a Boulder bank so that you can pay bills and not have to carry large amounts of cash with you. If you have substantial amounts of money paid to you in lump sums, you may want to establish a savings account or invest in short-term certificates of deposit so that your money will earn interest until you need it. If you have questions before you arrive, we suggest contacting one of these banks. These banks do not require a Social Security number to open an account, although they may require proof of a residence in Colorado.

US Bank (two locations)

1600 28th Street
Boulder, CO 80301
phone: (303) 444-7017
1495 Canyon Boulevard
Boulder, CO 80302
phone: (303) 449-8172
<http://www.usbank.com>

Wells Fargo

1242 Pearl Street
Boulder, CO 80302
phone: (303) 442-0351
<http://www.wellsfargo.com>

First Bank

1650 30th Street
Boulder, CO 80301
<http://www.efirstbank.com>

Chase Bank 10 locations

To see their service list and locations, see www.chase.com

When you arrive in Boulder, arrange for your bank to send funds to the Boulder bank of your choice. Then ask the bank in Boulder to open a checking account for you so that your funds will be immediately available. Money sent to a bank in Boulder must first clear through another bank in the United States. Find out from your bank at home which US bank will be used for this transfer of funds so you can trace the deposit if it does not arrive promptly in Boulder. After your funds arrive, you can make any necessary changes to your account, such as putting some funds in a savings account or other investment account. **When you open your account, make sure to fill out a W8-BEN form.** Your bank will have the form. It shows the bank that you should not be taxed on the interest you earn on your account.

Another banking option is Elevations Credit Union, the University of Colorado Federal Credit Union, which has several branch offices in Boulder County. The main office is conveniently located in the University Memorial Center (student union) on central campus: UMC Room 172, telephone (303) 443-4672. Boulder branch offices include the Diagonal Branch, Baseline Branch, and Table Mesa Branch. There are also branch offices in Lafayette, Longmont, and Erie.

You may open a temporary account at Elevations Credit Union without a Social Security number, but you will have to show a copy of your application receipt, (which requires proof of employment) and a letter from ISSS verifying your eligibility for a Social Security number.

For general information, go to
<https://www.elevationscu.com/>

To send a secure e-mail, go to
http://www.elevationscu.com/contact_us
/

Their mailing address is:
Elevations Credit Union
PO Box 9004
Boulder, CO 80301 USA

Social Security Number:

You cannot apply for a Social Security number (SSN) until you: (1) have checked in with ISSS;
(2) have been in the United States for at least 15 days;
(3) are enrolled full-time;
(4) have a letter verifying employment.

ISSS will provide you with more specific instructions for getting your Social Security number after you arrive. Most international students receive their Social Security card in two to four weeks after submitting an application.

Enrollment Deposit:

New international students, except students admitted to the Interdisciplinary Telecommunications Program (ITP), Law School, and Leeds MBA program, are excused from paying their \$200 enrollment deposit at the time of admission. It will be included in your tuition and fee bill, which is due Wednesday, January 20, 2010. The enrollment deposit is a one-time charge and will be refunded to you when you graduate or if you withdraw.

Financial Assistance:

International Student and Scholar Services does not make financial aid awards. No financial assistance is available to you other than what has already been offered. **You must have sufficient funds to attend CU-Boulder, and if you don't, you should not come.** Failure to carefully plan and budget could result in the termination of your studies. You will not qualify

for a job that would cover the cost of an education at CU- Boulder, and US Citizenship and Immigration Services monitors non-immigrant student employment very closely.

Section 4

Immunization Records and Health Insurance

Immunization Records

Colorado state law requires all students who are enrolled for one or more classes and born on or after January 1, 1957, to provide proof of immunization for: two rubeola (measles); two rubella (German measles); and two mumps vaccinations. If you can't verify your immunizations, you will need to be re-immunized. Hepatitis B and Meningitis vaccines are strongly recommended for new international students, but not required. Medical, religious, and personal exemptions are allowed by law.

The University requires that all incoming international students and students with risk factors for Tuberculosis (TB) be tested for it. The Wardenburg Health Center on campus uses the Tuberculosis Information Form to screen students for risk factors. Students deemed to be at risk must be tested. If test results are positive and treatment is needed, free care is available through the Colorado Department of Health.

New students must submit immunization information by Friday, February 26, 2010. This is an important deadline, because you will be assessed a \$25 fee and a HOLD will be placed on your student record (which means you will not be allowed to register for classes) if you neglect to submit immunization records.

Wardenburg Health Center's web site is: <http://www.colorado.edu/healthcenter/index.html> You can download and print immunization forms and instructions by clicking on "New Students or New Patient" and then "Immunizations."

Medical Insurance Requirement

All students and their dependents ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE HEALTH INSURANCE to cover the cost of medical treatment.

Medical care is not paid for by the government, and it is expensive if you don't have insurance. When you seek medical care, you are responsible for paying the bill, regardless of whether or not you have insurance, and you are responsible for paying any costs that are not covered by your insurance company. You may choose one of the plans made available by the University, or may waive the University insurance and choose a plan of your own. Regardless, you will have to show proof of insurance coverage.

The packet of information you will receive when you check-in with an advisor in ISSS will have information about Wardenburg Health Center services, an explanation of each insurance plan, and enrollment instructions. If you want to find out more about Wardenburg before you come to Boulder, visit the Wardenburg Health Center's web site. Check the website frequently, as they often update the information.

If you choose a plan OTHER THAN those offered by the Wardenburg Health Center, you will have to WAIVE the Wardenburg plan. Instructions for how to do this will be available when you check-in.

You may bring an insurance plan with you from your home country. If you decide to buy insurance from a private insurance company, search the internet for companies that offer insurance coverage and services to international students.

Attention J-1 students: J-1 students **must** have proof of specific J-1 insurance coverage **upon arrival at CU**. Be sure to read about the required insurance (see: <http://www.colorado.edu/OIE/ISSS/j1.insurance.html>) and be prepared to present a copy of your insurance policy to ISSS at check in.

Section 5

Travel to Boulder and Accommodations

Arriving in Denver through Denver's International Airport

Boulder is about 45 minutes from Denver International Airport.

About DIA: The airport's main terminal is characterized by a large canopy of "peaks" that were constructed to resemble the peaks and valleys of the nearby mountains. There are two sides to the main terminal, called the Jeppeson Terminal -

carriers are organized by Terminal West and Terminal East – separating traffic into three levels: The upper level is for departures and arrivals, the mid-level is for ground transportation, and the lower level is for passenger pick-up. The gates are arranged along three concourses connected to each other and to the main terminal by a train.

Hospitality Ambassadors and Airport Guest Services are plentiful, and staff provides customer service, information booths, airport paging, directions, and help with the often expected mishaps, like lost luggage. They can direct you to the Ground Transportation Information Center, but if you need some additional directions getting to campus, feel free to call ISSS (303) 492-8057 during business hours. The cost of a local call from a pay phone is 50 cents.

The Ground Transportation Information Counter is located on Level 5 of the Jeppeson Terminal. You can get to Boulder by bus, shuttle, or taxi.

Bus Service: <http://www.rtd-denver.com/skyRide/>

The Regional Transportation District's (RTD) bus service to and from DIA is called the skyRide. All buses leave from Level 5, Island 5, outside Door 506 at Terminal West and outside Door 511 at Terminal East. The skyRide bus from DIA to Boulder is Route AB. You can check departure times for each route at Island 5 in the shelter at either Terminal East or Terminal West OR at the skyRide counter in DIA located on the west side in the Ground Transportation area Level 5, outside Door 506. Exact fare is required on boarding the bus or you can buy a ticket from the skyRide counter. As of this writing, the fare is \$12.

If you need information when the skyRide counter is not open, RTD kiosks are conveniently located in the main terminal on both the north and south sides of the fountain, behind the car rental counters. The kiosks are easy to use and allow you to check route and schedule information and view maps.

If you have on-campus housing, ask the driver to let you off at the University Memorial Center (UMC). ISSS is a short walk from the UMC. The enclosed map shows our location and the location of the residence halls. If you arrive between 5 p.m. and midnight, go directly to your residence hall's main office.

If you are meeting someone or need to find a hotel, stay on the bus until the terminal at 14th and Walnut Streets. Most hotels provide a shuttle service from the bus station to their hotels, or you can call a taxi at 303-777-7777. Be prepared to pay \$7 to \$10 for a taxi, and tip the driver at least 15 percent, plus an extra \$1 to \$2 for each piece of luggage.

Van and Taxi Service: <http://www.bouldersupershuttle.com/> Telephone: 303-227-0000.

BoulderSuperShuttle provides van service from DIA to major hotels in Boulder County, and to destinations on campus like the University Memorial Center and Hallett Hall for a fee of \$27. Cash and major credit cards are accepted. Door-to-door service is also provided throughout most of Boulder County, but it will be more expensive. You need to have a ticket before you can board a van, but you do not need to make a reservation. To get a ticket, check-in at the BoulderSuperShuttle ticket counter, Level 5, near baggage claim in the main terminal. A counter service agent will issue you a ticket and direct you to the correct loading area. Vans depart every hour at ten minutes past the hour – 6:10 a.m. through 12:10 a.m., 7 days a week. Vans leave on the half-hour during busy afternoon and evening hours.

Yellow Cab taxis are a convenient but expensive way to get to Boulder. If you arrive when the buses and shuttles are not running, you may decide to take a taxi. Of course, taxi fares are calculated with the use of a meter, which is "activated" by the driver. From DIA to Boulder, you can expect to pay AT LEAST \$95 for metered fare, plus additional charges for non-metered rates for things like oversized or too much luggage and toll charges. Then you will have to add a tip. You can find a taxi in the transportation area across from the baggage claim area outside the airport. Call (303) 777-7777 if you are unable to find a taxi outside the airport.

The Yellow Cab taxi company is affiliated with the Boulder Super Shuttle, so they share the same web site.

If you arrive at DIA late in the evening, it may be a good idea to stay in Denver and come to Boulder the following day. Ask one of the Airport Guest Services staff members at DIA to give you recommendations about hotels near the airport. Also, you can look at this website to get an idea of what is available: <http://www.flydenver.com/guide/local/hotels.asp>

Suggested lodging after you arrive in Boulder:

If you need a place to stay and want to be close to campus, look into the following hotels:
University Inn, 1632 Broadway, (303) 417-1700;

Quality Inn and Suites, Boulder Creek, 2020 Arapahoe, 1-888-449-7550 or (303) 449-7550;
New West Inns, 970 28th Street, 1-800-525-2149 or (303) 443-7800.

Rates vary, depending on where you stay. Some budget hotels have rooms for around \$65 per night, but it is not uncommon to pay anywhere from \$110 to \$250 per person per night in a Boulder hotel. For a complete list of accommodations in Boulder, go to <http://www.bouldercoloradousa.com/>

The Boulder International Hostel rents rooms from \$20 to \$45 per night. Reservations are required. It is located at 1107 12th Street, very close to campus. Their website has directions on how to get to the Hostel from DIA. To write them, use the following address:

Boulder International Hostel
PO Box 1705
Boulder, CO 80306-1705 USA

Telephone: (303) 442-0522; fax: (303) 442-0523
Web page: <http://www.boulderhostel.com>
E-mail: boulder.hostels@mail.com

Section 6

Housing

Housing choices include CU residence halls, CU apartments, CU family housing, or off-campus rooms or apartments.

☐ University Residence Halls

RESIDENCE HALLS RESERVATION CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AT BOULDER
158 UCB
BOULDER CO 80309-0158 USA

Telephone: 1-303-492-6673; fax: 1-303-492-4646
E-mail: reservations@housing.colorado.edu
<http://housing.colorado.edu/>

Residence halls, or dormitories, are co-ed, which means that both men and women live in the same building. In some dormitories, men and women live on separate floors; in others, men and women live in separate wings; and in some, men and women live on the same floor. But men and women do not share a room or bathroom facilities. Most of the rooms are double occupancy, which means that two people live together. Meals are provided by the residence hall dining room, and you can choose your meal plans. No residence hall rooms are reserved specifically for international students. If your first choice is not available, you can put your name on a wait-list for the next semester.

Undergraduates can apply for a room in a residence hall online, after you are admitted by accessing your MyCUBoulder account at mycuboulder.colorado.edu. You need two things before you can set your IdentiKey: (1) your student identification number (SID); and (2) your personal identification number (PIN). Both your SID and your PIN will come from the Office of Admissions with your official letter of acceptance.

Once you have set your IdentiKey password, you can apply for housing online at: <http://housing.colorado.edu>. If you have difficulty with this process, e-mail the Housing and Dining Reservation Center at reservations@housing.colorado.edu.

If you prefer to complete and return a paper application, you may request that an application be mailed to your home address by contacting the Reservation Center at reservations@housing.colorado.edu. Return your completed application as quickly as possible.

If you arrive before the residence halls open, you may have to take temporary housing in one of Boulder's hotels or the hostel. For information see *Section 5, Travel to Boulder and Accommodations*. If you are unable to find a temporary place to live, notify an advisor in ISSS.

☐ Bear Creek Apartments at Williams Village

3275 Apache Road, Boulder, CO 80303

You can apply to live at Bear Creek Apartments through the Housing Department (<http://housing.colorado.edu/>).

Bear Creek Apartments are located next to the Williams Village dormitories south and east of campus. To be eligible to live in Bear Creek Apartments, you must be a non-freshman University of Colorado at Boulder student.

Bear Creek Apartments can be leased for either nine months or 12 months. Room types range from single efficiency units to four bedroom units with two baths. Each building has study lounges, business centers, assigned parking, laundry facilities, high-speed internet services, satellite television, utilities, and furnishings. It is about a 15 to 30 minute walk to campus from Bear Creek; bus transportation to and from campus is provided.

❑ University Family Housing

FAMILY HOUSING OFFICE

1350 20TH, BOULDER CO USA 80302-0061

<http://housing.colorado.edu/>

Telephone: (303) 492-6384

All Family Housing apartments are within a 15 minute walk to campus. Some complexes are along Boulder Creek to the north and east; one complex is close to the Engineering Center. Family Housing's priority is to provide housing for families, married couples, and single parents. There are also a limited number of units for graduate students or undergraduate students who are over 21 years old, and for CU-Boulder staff, faculty, and visiting scholars. There are studio, one-, two-, and three-bedroom units, either furnished or unfurnished. Rent in these units varies, depending on which building you choose and how large the apartment is. No pets or smoking. These apartments are popular and can fill quickly, so apply early. If you have not yet been assigned a unit by the time you arrive, you can put your name on a wait-list and be contacted when a place becomes available. The on-site staff at the Family Housing Office manages the apartments, assigns all leases, and collects rent.

Note: The application for residence halls and apartments are different than the application for family housing.

The application is available at http://housing.colorado.edu/fh/app_info.cfm

❑ An off-campus room, apartment, or house

Finding a room or apartment off-campus in the spring semester can be a challenge, because fall semester students rarely vacate their rental property. To get an idea of what Boulder's rental market is like, look in the classified section of the local newspaper, *The Daily Camera*. www.dailycamera.com/ Although it is a good idea to look through these advertisements before you arrive, you will have to wait until you get here before you can actually choose a room or an apartment. You will want to see the property before you make your decision, and you will also need to pay the required deposits and sign lease papers in person.

If you have decided to look for a room or apartment off-campus, the Off-Campus Student Services office, (OCSS), located in the University Memorial Center (UMC) room 313, has information about rooms and apartments for rent and can help you find what you are looking for. Their website is <http://www.colorado.edu/OCSS> .

For additional help and guidance, you may pick up a copy of the *Renter's Handbook*, printed for your convenience, and available free of charge, in the lobby of International Education.

Section 7

Parcels and Personal Mail

Inform friends and family of your address as soon as you know where you will be receiving mail.

You may have **FIRST CLASS MAIL** sent to you in care of International Education, BUT ONLY FOR THE FIRST FEW WEEKS OF SCHOOL. Mail will be forwarded to your Boulder address for only a short time after classes begin.

DO NOT have bulk rate or surface rate correspondence, parcels, magazines, books, mail from your home university, or mail from professional organizations sent to you in care of International Education. We have no place to store mail or parcels, and this kind of mail cannot be forwarded to you.

If you will be living in a residence hall, **have mail and parcels sent directly to your residence hall address.**

In the past, students have purchased dormitory linens, including bed sheets, from a vendor off the internet, and had them shipped in care of the Office of International Education. It has caused some problems for us because we do not have a place to store them. We do not recommend buying linens from a vendor, as attractive as it may sound; if you are going to live in a residence hall, you can buy sheets for your bed after you arrive in Boulder. Several stores in Boulder carry sheets that fit residence hall beds.

We suggest that you send any unaccompanied baggage by air freight or by parcel post, since previous students have experienced fewer delays, less damage and theft, and less paperwork by this method. Insure all packages against loss or damage. Mark all packages of clothing and personal effects as "USED" in order to avoid having to pay US Customs charges.

Boulder, located at the base of the eastern side of the Rocky Mountains, enjoys a relatively mild climate, even though it is a little over a mile above sea level. When you arrive in December or January, the weather likely will be cold and windy. Most light snow falls melt within a couple of days. Once or twice in the winter we might get a heavy snow of a foot or more. Spring temperatures are unpredictable and snow as late as April is not unusual. Summer maximum temperatures are in the low 90 degree F range (about 32 degrees C).

You will need both warm and cold weather clothes, but bring cold-weather clothes with you. You can have warm-weather clothes sent to you later on or you can buy them as you need them.

Section 9**Programs for International Students**

There are numerous clubs to join and activities for international students. Some club memberships are based on nationality or culture; others a mix of students from all over the world. Current members will be happy to share information about their group, so feel free to contact the students listed at: <http://www.colorado.edu/oie/iss/programs.html> An overview of international student programs is listed below; a flier with more details about each will be included in your check-in materials.

Boulder Friends of International Studentswww.colorado.edu/oie/iss/bfis/index.htm

Some of your most rewarding experiences will be the ones outside the classroom or campus environment, when you become friends with local people and learn about American customs, lifestyle, and traditions. **Boulder Friends of International Students** (BFIS) provides this opportunity.

BFIS is a friendship organization of volunteers in the Boulder community. Members help students settle into life in Boulder, and hope to build friendships and share cultural insights with their international student. You will not live with your host, but you may get together from time to time for various activities, like meeting for coffee or a meal, attending a sporting or cultural event, sharing holidays, or conversation. Participation is voluntary, but if you do ask to be matched with a friend, **we expect you to see your friend at least every month.**

To be matched with a BFIS host, please complete and return the attached BFIS application form. There is no fee to be matched. After you have been assigned a suitable host, you will receive a letter with information about your friend. BFIS will try to match you before you leave your home country, but you may not be matched until you arrive. If you have not received a letter with information about your host before you leave home (or if you decide at the last minute you would like to have a host), please tell an advisor when you check-in.

CU-International <http://www.colorado.edu/studentgroups/cu-international>

CU-International is a group of student volunteers who plan and lead activities for international students, scholars, and faculty. They also provide support and service to international students experiencing sudden and unusual difficulties. Members are both international and American students. New students meet CU International members for the first time during check-in at ISSS. They are friendly students who answer questions, organize campus tours, and plan dinners and other events where students can meet each other.

A CU International event offered during the fall and spring semesters when classes are in session is the popular **International Coffee Hour**. On Friday afternoons, all CU students, faculty, and staff are invited to an informal gathering at the University Memorial Center (UMC).

International Festival

The International Festival is a celebration of the many cultures and countries represented on the CU-Boulder campus. It is held on a Saturday afternoon, April 24, 2010. It's like a carnival, where international students showcase their country and culture through displays, performances, and samples of food. The Festival is very popular and people who attend number in the thousands. The Festival is organized by a committee of international students with the guidance of an ISSS staff member.