

Fall 2025 CHECKLIST for New Exchange Students

Now that you have been accepted to the University of Colorado at Boulder as an exchange student, you must take several steps as soon as you receive the DS-2019.

International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) has prepared this checklist to assist 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.

Pay Your SEVIS Fee

J-1 visa holders beginning a new program at CU-Boulder must pay a SEVIS fee to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) **before** a visa can be issued. Carefully review the following website for information about the [SEVIS fee](#) and to access the form you are required to fill out. See: [SEVIS Fee Payment Tutorial](#)

Apply for Your Visa

When you receive your DS-2019, apply at the nearest US embassy or consulate since the visa may take some time to obtain. You must make an appointment to go to the embassy or consulate. You must take your SEVIS fee receipt with you to your appointment.

Read Pre-Arrival Information

Please review the [ISSS new student website information](#) for all incoming international students. Please read it carefully since **not all the information applies to you as an exchange student**. If you have any questions, please email kim.schorr@colorado.edu

- Register for your courses: [CU Boulder Registration](#) on or after **to be determined**.
- Prepare your finances. See your financial requirements in your application.
- Prepare your [insurance compliance form](#) **You will be required to upload a similar form AFTER you arrive in the US**
- Prepare and bring your complete immunization records.
- Make your travel arrangements: If you are arriving in Boulder before your move-in date for your accommodation is available, and you need a place to stay, see a list of hotels here: [Boulder Colorado Accommodations](#)
- Choose the clothing you need for your first few months in Boulder. Read about Boulder's variable climate: [Boulder Colorado Weather](#)
- Apply to have an International Student Guide assist you if you want one. These continuing CU-Boulder students greatly help your first weeks in Boulder. For more information, see our website: [International Student Peer Mentor Program](#)

Travel Tips: You may arrive in the United States **up to 30 days** before your report date on your DS-2019. If you choose, you may remain in the U.S. for 30 days **after** the end date on your DS-2019. If you want to stay longer, please consult with ISSS about your options for changing your status.

Plan to arrive in Boulder by **Saturday, August 16, 2025**. Exchange students must attend the new student orientation sessions on **Sunday, August 17, 2025**.

First day of class: Thursday, **August 21, 2025**.

Expect the process at the [U.S. Port of Entry](#) to take time. Allow at least two hours to clear the port of entry and to transfer to your next flight.

Bring with you on board the airplane the following documents so you can present them if needed at U.S. Customs and Port of Entry upon arrival:

- Your passport
- SEVIS form DS-2019 (immigration document used to apply for your J1 visa)
- Evidence of your financial resources
- Evidence of your student or exchange visitor status, such as your acceptance letter
- Paper receipt for the payment of the SEVIS fee
- International Student & Scholar Services contact information
- Completed J-1 insurance compliance form and information on your policy (if you are a J-student).
- ISSS also recommends you carry a copy of your Fall 2025 class schedule.

ON-CAMPUS HOUSING: On-campus housing is extremely limited. You must apply early. <https://www.colorado.edu/living/housing/explore-apartment-style-and-residence-hall-living/bear-creek>

OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING: Make housing arrangements: Please review the [Off-Campus Housing & Neighborhood Relations website](#) for helpful information, including the [Ralphie's List rental database](#), the [Boulder neighborhood map](#), and the [Off-Campus Living Orientation](#). Our campus has a culture of off-campus living for most students who have not recently graduated from high school. We share this with you because we have a robust off-campus community surrounding our 2-mile campus and an office dedicated to supporting CU students seeking off-campus housing. We encourage you to contact [Off-Campus Housing & Neighborhood Relations](#) to understand the off-campus options and resources available.



Upon Arrival in Boulder. You Must Attend These Required Meetings:

1. **NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION:** You must arrive in Boulder **no later than Saturday, August 16, 2025.**
2. **Immigration Reporting Session:** Sunday, August 17, 2025. Time and place to be announced.

Please Mark These Dates and Times on Your Calendar and Plan to Attend:

The arrival date for exchange students is: Saturday, August 16, 2025	All J-1 students <u>may</u> arrive up to 30 days before the start date on your DS-2019. August 21, 2025
<u>NEW STUDENT WELCOME.</u> Exchange students are expected to attend orientation sessions the week before the start of class. The schedule is still in progress. ISSS will notify you of the schedule.	DO NOT BOOK your flights until you have received your DS-2019 and the orientation schedule.
First day of classes	August 21, 2025 (Thurs)
Labor Day (no classes)	September 1, 2025 (Mon)
Last Day to Drop a Class	September 5, 2025 (Fri)
Fall Break	November 24 - 28, 2025 (Mon-Fri)
Last Day of Classes	December 5, 2025 (Fri)
Final Exams	December 8 - 12, 2025 (Mon-Wed)

For details on important academic dates, please see the [CU Boulder Academic Calendar](#)