We’re excited to meet you!

Welcome! We’re excited you’ll be joining us at the University of Missouri–Kansas City in the upcoming academic year! In this guide, you’ll find information that will help you prepare for your travel to Kansas City and for success as a student at UMKC. As always, if you have any questions, please contact our office. We’re happy to help you!

We look forward to seeing you soon!

International Student Affairs Office Staff

---

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**Pre-Arrival Checklist**
- Before you arrive.................................................................3
- Once in Kansas City...............................................................3
- Register for classes...............................................................4
- Take care of yourself............................................................4
- Need help?.............................................................................4

**Helpful Information**
- Applying for a U.S. student visa..............................................5
- Sign up for housing...............................................................5-6
  - On-campus residence halls and apartments
  - Off-campus apartments
- Travel tips.............................................................................6-7
  - Airline travel tips
  - How to get from the airport to UMKC
  - Where to stay
- After you arrive in Kansas City..............................................8-9
  - Check-in session
  - International Student Orientation
  - English proficiency exam
  - Register for classes
  - Financial arrangements
  - Payment of fees
  - Financial aid and employment
- Health care...........................................................................10
  - Health care in the U.S.
  - Health insurance and health care
  - Eye care
  - Dental care
- Unable to attend UMKC?.......................................................11
**Pre-arrival checklist**

### BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

- **REVIEW** your I-20 or DS-2019 form for accuracy and sign it.

- **APPLY** for F or J visa after getting I-20 or DS-2019 and schedule your interview: [https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas.html](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas.html)

- **PAY** the SEVIS I-901 fee before the visa interview: [fmjfee.com/](https://fmjfee.com/)

- **SIGN UP** for a visa check-in session at UMKC: [travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas.html](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas.html)

- **SCHEDULE** your flight to Kansas City
  - You **CANNOT** arrive more than 30 days from the start date listed on your I-20 or DS-2019.
  - If you **ARRIVE TOO EARLY**, you may be denied entry or be entered on a TOURIST VISA which will prevent you from enrolling in classes.
  - You **SHOULD NOT** arrive later than the start date listed on your I-20 or DS-2019.
  - If you **ARRIVE LATE**, and if UMKC did not authorize it by issuing a late arrival letter, you may be questioned at port of entry or prevented from entering.

- **PLAN** where you will stay in Kansas City: You **MUST** plan ahead and be sure you have the ability to cover all of your expenses.
  - On-campus: Residential Life Business Office: 816-235-8840 or [housing@umkc.edu](mailto:housing@umkc.edu)
  - Off-campus: Research apartments in Kansas City. Know your rights and know what you are signing when you sign the lease. For helpful resources, visit [umkc.edu/isao/future-students/student-housing/](https://www.umkc.edu/isao/future-students/student-housing/)

### ONCE IN KANSAS CITY

- **REGISTER FOR AND ATTEND** your REQUIRED check-in session: You will need to bring the following items to your session:
  - Passport
  - I-20 or DS-2019
  - Immunization records (if available)
  - The address or temporary address of where you will be staying in Kansas City
  - Your I-94 record (if available): [i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/#/home](https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/#/home)

- **TAKE** the English Language test at the Applied Language Institute (ALI) if your admission letter says that you need to. They are located at 5301 Rockhill Road, Kansas City, MO 64110. Phone number: 816-235-1233; email: [ali@umkc.edu](mailto:ali@umkc.edu)
  - For information on test times, please visit: [umkc.edu/ali/placement_tests.asp](https://www.umkc.edu/ali/placement_tests.asp)

- **GO TO** ISAO’s International Student Orientation. Orientation takes place the Thursday before classes start. This is an all-day event. ALL NEW INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND. You will receive an email regarding registration for orientation.

- **GO TO** any other orientations required.
  - Students admitted to programs within the School of Computing and Engineering (SCE), within the Bloch School of Management or the Conservatory.

- Graduate students interested in assistantships are encouraged to attend a cultural orientation that talks about graduate teaching assistantship (GTA) eligibility. For more information, contact the School of Graduate Studies at [umkcsgs@umkc.edu](mailto:umkcsgs@umkc.edu).
REGISTER FOR CLASSES

- **MEET** with your Academic Advisor
  - A list of academic advisors can be found at: umkc.edu/registrar/majors-degrees/advising.asp
  - You may need to call or email to set up an appointment or to find out walk-in advising hours.
  - If you are a master’s student in the School of Computer & Engineering (SCE), you will meet with your academic advisor during the SCE Orientation.

- **ENROLL FULL-TIME** This is a requirement of your F/J student visa.
  - ALI English classes ONLY: You are required to be in 12 credit hours, only three can be online.
  - Bachelor: You are required to be in 12 credit hours, only three can be online.
  - Master: You are required to be in nine credit hours, only three can be online.
  - Doctorate: You are required to be in nine credit hours, only three can be online.

- **SET UP** your accounts: Be sure you have access to Pathway, your UMKC email and Canvas.
  - Issues with your password or access? You can call 816-235-2000 or email callcenter@umkc.edu.
  - You will need to know your single sign on (SSO) ID.
  - You may need to download the Secure Authenticate app to activate these accounts.

- **GET your UMKC Student ID card**: Go to the One Card Office in the Student Union at 5100 Cherry St., Kansas City, Missouri, 64110.
  - You must know your UMKC student ID number.
  - Take your passport as proof of identification.

- **MAKE PAYMENT**  
  Cashiers Office: 5115 Oak St., Room 112, 816-235-1365, cashiers@umkc.edu
  - Methods of payment: umkc.edu/finadmin/cashiers/methods-of-payment.asp
  - Payment due dates: umkc.edu/finadmin/cashiers/payment-due-dates.asp

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF

- **UPDATE** your local and mailing address in Pathway within 10 days
  - pathway.umkc.edu

- **LOCATE** your health insurance card by visiting the Aetna website. Keep your card with you at all times.

- **REVIEW** the Student Health website in case you feel sick and need to visit:
  - info.umkc.edu/studenthealth/

- **GET INVOLVED** and make friends through the Office of Student Involvement
  - info.umkc.edu/getinvolved/

NEED HELP?

International Student Affairs Office:
  - 816-235-1113
  - info.umkc.edu/ISAO/current-students/international-advising/

Campus Police:
  - 816-235-1515

Police/hospital/fire department emergencies:
  - Dial 911

Emergency Alert System:
  - umkc.edu/umkcalert/

UMKC Women’s Center:
  - 816-235-1638
  - info.umkc.edu/womenc/

Student Health:
  - 816-235-6133

Counseling Health and Testing Center:
  - 816-235-1635
  - umkc.edu/counselingcenter/

IT Call Center:
  - 816-235-2000
  - callcenter@umkc.edu

HelpLine:
  - 816-235-2222
  - helpline@umkc.edu

Calendar
  - Academic calendar: umkc.edu/registrar/acal.asp
  - Event calendar: umkc.edu/calendar
Applying for a U.S. student visa

Read your I-20 or DS-2019, making sure that all of the information is correct and then sign the front page.

Visit ice.gov/sevis/i901 to pay your SEVIS fee and keep a copy of the receipt.

Determine which U.S. Embassy is nearest you using usembassy.gov and complete the visa application form (DS-160) found on your embassy’s website. Once completed, you may schedule an appointment.

Gather copies of any materials submitted during the UMKC application process and the documents included in the admission packet. You will want to keep them together in one place, as you’ll present them at your visa interview and again at port of entry, upon arrival to the U.S. Visit our student visa page for more details: info.umkc.edu/ISAO/admitted-students/student-visa.

You may find the following tips to be useful when applying for a student visa:

- You must be honest when completing your visa application.
- You must have a clear educational goal in mind when you apply for a visa. The consular official will be looking for specific information about how you decided to attend UMKC. Reasons may include but are not limited to: degree programs available; financial assistance, low cost of living expenses and tuition; location; you may have a friend who is currently enrolled; you might have met a faculty or staff member from UMKC.
- If the consular official believes that it is your intent to immigrate to the U.S. rather than return to your country after your studies are completed, your visa will be denied. This is one of the major reasons for visa denials.
- You should not be discouraged if you are denied a visa. If you are denied a visa, the consular official will notify you in writing of the specific reason. You then should reapply for a student visa when you can submit the needed items or documentation.

Sign up for housing

Admission to the university DOES NOT guarantee you will receive university housing.

You are responsible for arranging your own housing and must apply for UMKC housing separately.

- Students are not required to live on campus.
- We recommend you make housing arrangements before coming to Kansas City.
- Some nationality groups will help individuals from their nationality group find housing. Please contact your nationality group through roogroups.umkc.edu.
UMKC RESIDENCE HALLS AND ON-CAMPUS APARTMENTS

- Residence halls provide on-campus accommodation with single, double and suite-style rooms. A meal plan is required with the campus cafeteria. For on-campus apartments, visit info.umkc.edu/housing. For those living in UMKC apartments, meal plans are an option but are not mandatory.
- UMKC Residence Life Business Office
  Tel: 816-235-8840; email: housing@umkc.edu
- Web: umkc.edu/housing
- Links to guides for Missouri and Kansas landlord tenant laws and what to expect in a good leasing contract can be found at info.umkc.edu/ISAO/future-students/student-housing

OFF-CAMPUS APARTMENTS

Numerous off-campus housing opportunities are available that are located near campus.

- Rented rooms and apartments (usually unfurnished) are available in a variety of price ranges.
- Off-campus search tools:
  
  rent.com
  apartments.com
  apartmentsearch.com

For more off-campus rental apartments and houses, contact the UMKC Real Estate Office at umkchomes.com or 816-235-1133.

Traveling tips

You MUST arrive in the U.S. BEFORE the start date listed on your I-20/DS-2019, but DO NOT ARRIVE more than 30 days BEFORE your start date.

AIRLINE TRAVEL TIPS

We want your trip to Kansas City to be safe and pleasant, so please observe the following:

- Be aware that airlines have a maximum weight requirement per suitcase. Airlines also charge to check luggage per bag.
- Hand-carry your passport, I-20 or DS-2019, admission letter, bank or funding verification, and any other official or original documents like transcripts or diplomas.
- To reduce jetlag, drink plenty of non-alcoholic fluids on the plane and get some rest.
- Never carry a large amount of cash. You should have a means to cover initial expenses such as taxi or bus fare, meals and initial housing.
- If you need help, ask an airport employee.
- Never leave your luggage unattended.
AIRPORT AND ARRIVAL INFORMATION
Kansas City International airport code is MCI.

HOW TO TRAVEL FROM THE AIRPORT TO UMKC
Here are several options:

Super Shuttle:
The cost for ONE-WAY transportation on a Super Shuttle, for up to three people, is between $39 USD and $79 USD, plus tip. Please note that fare quotes are dependent on destination zip code. All major credit cards and cash are accepted. You can arrange for the Super Shuttle to pick you up by calling 816-243-5000 or you can make a reservation online: supershuttle.com/FareQuote.aspx.

Taxi:
The cost for ONE-WAY transportation via taxi is $40 to $100 USD, plus tip. Please note that final charge is based on miles traveled to destination.

Rideshare:
Rideshare programs like UBER may also be used from the airport, with cost ranging from $25 USD to $85 USD.

WHERE TO STAY
There are several hotels within 1.5 miles/2.5 kilometers of the UMKC campus. The average cost per night at a local hotel starts at around $150 USD. Tell them you are a UMKC student for possible discounts:

• InterContinental Kansas City
  816-756-1500
  401 Ward Parkway, Kansas City, MO 64112

• Holiday Inn Country Club Plaza
  816-753-7400
  1 E. 45th St., Kansas City, MO 64111

• Marriott
  816-531-3000
  4445 Main St., Kansas City, MO 64111

• Best Western Plus Seville Plaza Hotel
  816-561-9600
  4309 Main St., Kansas City, MO 64111

• Sheraton Suites Country Club Plaza
  816-931-4400
  770 W. 47th St., Kansas City, MO 64112

• Embassy Suites Kansas City-Plaza-Hilton
  816-756-1720
  220 W. 43rd St., Kansas City, MO 64111
After you arrive in Kansas City, you MUST report to the International Student Affairs Office to complete the check-in process.

You may sign up for check-in sessions at info.umkc.edu/isao/tag/umkc-check-in/.

WHAT DO I BRING TO MY CHECK-IN SESSION?

- Passport
- I-20 or DS-2019
- I-94 card or printed electronic I-94 card from cbp.gov/I94
- Current address in/near Kansas City (even if it is only temporary) — If you do not give us a US address, you will NOT be able to register/enroll for classes.
- You will not be able to register for classes until you have attended a check-in session.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ORIENTATION

Attendance is required for all new and transfer F-1 or J-1 students

- Orientation is held on the Thursday before the start of classes.
- Failure to attend orientation will prevent registration for classes for the next semester.

DON’T FORGET TO TAKE AN ENGLISH PROFICIENCY EXAM

Take the exam upon arrival at the Applied Language Institute (ALI).

- Please review your admission letter to determine if you are required to complete the English proficiency exam.

REGISTER FOR CLASSES

- You must register for and attend a check-in session before you will be able to register for classes.
- You may contact your academic department directly to schedule an appointment with your academic advisor.
- Once registered, it is important to purchase books and supplies for your classes in order to be prepared for the first class.
- The UMKC academic calendar for all important dates: umkc.edu/registrar/acal.asp.
- University office hours: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday; closed on Saturday, Sunday and national holidays.
FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

It is important you review all cost estimates listed on your UMKC I-20 or DS 2019.

- These estimates are the minimum projections in most cases; actual costs will vary according to your lifestyle.
- Remember the tuition amounts on your immigration document reflect full-time enrollment for Fall and Spring semesters only (12 credit hours per semester for undergraduate students and nine credit hours per semester for graduate students). You may choose to enroll in more courses; however, this means higher total tuition costs.
- Do not expect or depend on financial aid or part-time employment to meet your educational expenses. On-campus employment is competitive and is not guaranteed.

PAYMENT OF FEES

- All fees are payable at the time of registration. Approximately 25-33% of your total bill may be due upon enrollment. All due dates are available at umkc.edu/finadmin/cashiers/payment-due-dates.asp.
- UMKC students may also arrange a four (4)-installment payment plan with the Cashiers Office.
- If a bill is to be sent to a government sponsoring agency or institution, please ensure your sponsor’s financial support letter is on record with the university cashier.
- For additional information about university fees, see the following site: umkc.edu/adminfinance/finance/cashiers

FINANCIAL AID AND EMPLOYMENT

- University funded financial aid is limited, and the aid that does exist is available almost exclusively to graduate students in the form of graduate assistantships.
- International graduate students may not be eligible for an assistantship until they have completed a semester or a year of study at UMKC.
- International students awarded graduate assistantships that include teaching responsibilities must submit a TOEFL Speaking score of 24+ and complete a training program before undertaking teaching assignments.
- All F1 students are authorized for part-time employment on the UMKC campus. On-campus jobs in various university offices and departments may be available and posted on Handshake: umkc.join.handshake.com

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Working off-campus without permission from immigration or ISAO is illegal for F-1 and J-1 students. United States immigration law prohibits all U.S. employers from hiring anyone who does not have a verifiable, legal permission for employment, and international students cannot apply for such employment permission until they have completed one full academic year of study in their degree field (not including English as a second language).
HEALTH CARE IN THE U.S.

Bring a certified English translation of your immunization record.

- We strongly recommend that you are up to date with your immunizations before coming to the U.S.
- For students living on campus, UMKC requires proof of immunization against **measles, mumps, and rubella and meningitis**.
- If you have children and are bringing them with you, you need to have copies of their immunization record.
- If your children are eligible to attend school while they are here, they must prove they have had the following immunizations before they will be allowed to enter school in the U.S.: **polio, mumps, measles, rubella, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus vaccinations and a test for tuberculosis**.

HEALTH INSURANCE AND HEALTH CARE

- Health insurance is mandatory for the protection of you and your family.
- All students and scholars attending UMKC are **REQUIRED** to purchase UMKC health insurance as a part of the enrollment and registration process each term. The student is billed automatically upon registration for classes.
- The university’s mandatory insurance plan covers or exceeds all typical insurance options outlined by the U.S. government as requirements for foreign students and scholars.
- Costs for this insurance are included in expenses listed on your **I-20 or DS 2019**.
- Failure to purchase and maintain health insurance may result in the termination of your immigration status held.
- For coverage details, see [info.umkc.edu/ISAO/admitted-students/health-insurance](http://info.umkc.edu/ISAO/admitted-students/health-insurance).

EYE CARE

- At this time, a visit to the eye doctor costs about $45 to $100 USD, and eyeglasses can cost $200 USD or more.
- If you have an eye condition that requires more than corrective eyeglasses, there will be additional costs.
- To save money, have your eyes examined before you leave home and bring a copy of your prescription with you (written in English), so that you will not have to go to another doctor to replace lost or broken eyeglasses.
- Please note that the UMKC student insurance does not cover the cost of eye care.

DENTAL CARE

- Dental care in the U.S. is very expensive and is not covered by UMKC student health insurance. There is an option to purchase dental insurance from the same provider, Aetna, on a self-contracted plan. The information can be accessed through ISAO’s website by clicking on the “Health Insurance” link on the left. Or, you can visit Aetna’s UMKC-specific website for more details: [aetnastudenthealth.com](http://aetnastudenthealth.com/)
- If you have access to a dentist at home, we suggest that you have your teeth cleaned and fixed before you leave.
- The UMKC School of Dentistry offers excellent dental health care at a reduced rate for UMKC students if you need dental care in Kansas City.
Unable to attend UMKC? Defer your admission.

If you are unable to attend UMKC for the semester to which you were admitted and you would like to defer to a future semester, please email isao@umkc.edu with your request to defer. You MUST include your name, student ID, and the semester to which you would like to defer.

Have questions? Contact us.

One of the ways you can ask questions and talk to our ambassadors is by contacting us through our Facebook page. facebook.com/UMKCInternationalStudentAffairsOffice

You can also contact us at 816-235-1113 or isao@umkc.edu. We look forward to hearing from you!

Our staff at the International Student Affairs Office welcomes you to campus!