UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-KANSAS CITY

The World Meets Here

PRE-ARRIVAL INFORMATION
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

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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 and schedule your interview: https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas.html

☐ PAY the SEVIS I-901 fee before the visa interview: fmjfee.com/

☐ TAKE the English language test (if your admission letter says that you need to.)
  • Test and test information are available online here: https://info.umkc.edu/ali/homepage/future-students/caliope/
  • Take advantage of a lower testing cost of $30 by taking the test prior to your travel to the US (60-14 days before classes start.)
  • Questions email: ali@umkc.edu

☐ SCHEDULE your flight to Kansas City
  • You MUST arrive no 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.
    • IF YOU ARRIVE LATE and 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
  • Know the address you are going to upon arrival in Kansas City and be sure you have the ability to cover all of your immediate expenses (transportation, hotel or rent costs.)
    • On-campus: Residential Life Office: 816-235-8840 or 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/

ONCE IN KANSAS CITY

☐ COMPLETE recommended COVID quarantine
  • Get tested 3-5 days after travel and remain in quarantine for 7 days after international travel.
  • Remain in quarantine for the full 7 days even if you receive negative test results
  • If your test is positive, quarantine for 10 days from the positive result or as recommended by your doctor.
  • If you do not get tested for COVID, please remain in quarantine for 10 days after international travel

☐ REMAIN up-to-date regarding COVID guidance for the university and the city:
  • Currently, masks are required on campus, in businesses and public transportation throughout the city.
  • Dining may be restricted to carry-out at restaurants
  • Campus updates are available here: https://www.umkc.edu/coronavirus/students/index.html
  • Kansas City updates are available here: https://www.visitkc.com/coronavirus

☐ REGISTER for and attend your REQUIRED check-in session: https://cf1.umkc.edu/isao/services/students/check-in/login.cfm

☐ ATTEND ISAO’s International Student Orientation. Orientation takes place the Thursday before classes start.
  ▪ For Spring 2021, the live orientation event will be held on Zoom on January 14.
  ▪ Required materials and a short quiz will be available in Canvas.
  ▪ All new international students are REQUIRED to complete both elements of Orientation.

☐ ATTEND any other required orientation events.
  • Students admitted to programs within the School of Computing and Engineering (SCE), Bloch School of Management or the Conservatory.

☐ MEET with your Academic Advisor
  • A list of academic advisors can be found at: https://www.umkc.edu/registrar/academic-programs/advising.html
  • You may need to call or email to set up an appointment.
ONCE REGISTERED FOR CLASSES

☐ **ENROLL FULL-TIME** This is a requirement of your F/J student visa.

Due to COVID, enrollment in online courses is **NOT** restricted for the Spring 2021 semester. You are required to be enrolled at least one course with a required in-person element.

- ALI English classes ONLY: You are required to be in 12 credit hours.
- Bachelor’s students: You are required to be in 12 credit hours.
- Master’s and Doctoral Students: You are required to be in 9 credit hours.

☐ **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


TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF

☐ **UPDATE** your local and mailing address in Pathway within 10 days

  - [https://umkc.umsystem.edu](https://umkc.umsystem.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/](http://info.umkc.edu/studenthealth/)

  And UMKC’s COVID-19 information to remain up-to-date:

  - [http://www.umkc.edu/coronavirus/students/index.html](http://www.umkc.edu/coronavirus/students/index.html)

☐ **GET INVOLVED** and make friends through the Office of Student Involvement

  - [info.umkc.edu/getinvolved/](http://info.umkc.edu/getinvolved/)

NEED HELP?

**International Student Affairs Office:**

  - 816-235-1113
  - isao@umkc.edu
  - [info.umkc.edu/ISAO/current-students/international-advising/](http://info.umkc.edu/ISAO/current-students/international-advising/)

**Campus Police:**

  - 816-235-1515

**Police/hospital/fire department emergencies:**

  - Dial 911

**Emergency Alert System:**

  - [https://www.umkc.edu/umkcalert/](https://www.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/](http://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](http://umkc.edu/registrar/acal.asp)
  - Event calendar: [umkc.edu/calendar](http://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 first 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 may be asked to present them at your visa interview. 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 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 or research fields available
  - financial assistance/scholarship
  - low cost of living and tuition
  - 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 roomgroups.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 apartment, meal plans are available, 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
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.

Note: The Kansas City International Airport code is MCI

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 may 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.
• 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.

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: https://www.supershuttle.com/.

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 2.5 km of UMKC. 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

COVID QUARANTINE INFORMATION AND GENERAL GUIDANCE

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has updated recommendations related to COVID testing and quarantine. You are asked to:

- **Get tested** 3-5 days after travel and remain in quarantine for 7 days after international travel.
  - remain in quarantine for the full 7 days even if you receive negative test results
  - If your test is positive, quarantine for 10 days or as recommended by your doctor
    - F1 and J1 students have health insurance through UMKC upon enrollment and backdated to January 1st.
    - Students can also reach out to UMKC Health and Wellness for guidance in seeking medical treatment
- If you do not get tested, please remain in quarantine for 10 days after international travel

We recommend making your travel plans to be able to comply with CDC guidelines without causing disruption to beginning your studies on January 19. The first two weeks of classes for the semester have been moved entirely online. While this may make it easier for you to complete your quarantine period, we still recommend arriving as soon as possible so you are registered for classes and have access to the necessary materials by the time classes start on January 19th.

UMKC, as well as the city of Kansas City and surrounding areas, also require the use of masks or face covering in shared spaces where social distancing is not possible. This includes inside campus buildings and local businesses and in vehicles with others from outside your household, such as when using public transportation. We also encourage following recommendations regarding social distancing, hand washing, avoiding high-risk gatherings, and avoiding vulnerable at-risk populations for fourteen days after travel.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO FOR MY CHECK-IN SESSION*?

After you arrive in Kansas City, you MUST complete the check-in process with the International Student Affairs Office.

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

- Passport
- I-20 or DS-2019
- I-94 card or printed electronic I-94 from https://i94.cbp.dhs.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.

*Check-In Sessions will be hosted on Zoom for Spring 2021

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.

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: https://calendar.umkc.edu/academic-calendar/.
- 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/cashiers/payments-and-billing/payment-schedules.html
- 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: umkc.edu/cashiers/tuition-fees/index.html

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+ (or equivalent IELTS, PTE, or GTEC speaking score) 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 joining you in Kansas City, you should 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 enroll: 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. You are 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 international students and scholars.

- Costs for this insurance are included in expenses listed on your I-20 or DS 2019.
- For coverage details, see info.umkc.edu/ISAO/admitted-students/health-insurance
- Bring an adequate supply of your personal medication with you so that it will not be necessary to see a doctor during the first few hectic weeks of settling in. Bring copies of your doctor’s prescription(s) and a letter from your physician describing your condition(s, as they may be requested or required at port of entry during your travels.

EYE CARE

- Please note that the UMKC student insurance does not cover the cost of eye care.
- 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.

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. You can visit Aetna’s UMKC website for more details: aetnastudenthealth.com/en/school/890439/index.html

- 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 this semester 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.

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

Our staff in the International Student Affairs Office welcomes you to UMKC!