International Students Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ’s)

1. Am I required to attend the International Student Orientation?

Yes. All international students studying at Kalamazoo College for the first time are expected to attend the orientation. This includes first year students, visiting international students, and transfer students.

2. When is the International Student Orientation?

The International Student Orientation typically begins the Thursday before first year orientation, which usually starts the following week Wednesday.

3. What am I going to do during International Student Orientation?

You will attend required information sessions including immigration regulations, adjusting to the academic system, work regulations, expectations for scholarship recipients. You’ll also have the opportunity to go shopping and visit the Lake Michigan beach at South Haven. Another event typically scheduled is a walking tour of downtown Kalamazoo. Social events and some free time are also scheduled. Representatives from a local bank will also visit campus to help you open an account.

4. Will I be in a temporary room during International Student Orientation?

No, you move directly into the room that is assigned to you for Fall Quarter.

5. Will I have time to go shopping and buy necessities during the orientation week?

Yes, you will have time to shop and buy necessities. Shopping trips are included in the schedule and transportation is provided.

6. What airport should I plan to fly into?

Please arrive at Kalamazoo-Battle Creek Airport in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Members of the orientation planning team, who will bring you to campus and help you get settled in your room, will meet you at the airport.

7. When can I register for Fall semester? How?

Registration for new students takes place during New Student Orientation, after International Student Orientation. Your faculty academic advisor will instruct you on how to register for courses on-line.

8. What is the requirement for Proof of Immunizations?

Entrance Medical Record including Medical History, Tuberculosis Self Screening Form, Immunization History, and copy of insurance card are due to the Student Health Center by August 1st. Incomplete Entrance Medical Records will result in an inability to participate in athletics, LandSea, move into residence halls, and start classes. https://reason.kzoo.edu/healthcenter/entrancemedical/

9. What will my mailing address be?

Your physical address will be Name, Hicks Center, Box # (your assigned box number), 1200 Academy Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49006 USA.
10. Where can I send packages to myself before I arrive?

Address your packages: Your name Kalamazoo College, Student Development Office
1200 Academy Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49006 USA

11. Will I be able to stay on campus during vacation periods?

Yes, college housing is open for international students during breaks. There is no additional charge for vacation housing during winter break and other short-term vacation periods. Your name must be placed on the Break List before break starts.

12. Do I have to fulfill the language requirement?

All degree-seeking students must complete K’s language requirement or demonstrate equivalent competency by examination in a designated second language.

13. My visa in my passport expires before the end of my academic program—what should I do?

The visa permits you to apply for admission into the US and need not remain valid for the entire length of time you’re in the US, as long as you’re maintaining status and your other documents (I-94 and I-20 or DS-2019) show D/S (duration of status). Keep in mind if you choose to travel outside the US after your visa expires, you will need to make an appointment with a US Consulate or Embassy to apply for a new visa before returning to the US. See Travel Outside of the U.S. on the Center for International Program’s website at http://www.kzoo.edu/cip/

14. Do I need to apply for a Social Security Number (SSN)?

In order to work on-campus or off-campus, you will need an SSN. If you do not wish to work, and have received a scholarship or fellowship, you will need either an SSN or Individual Tax Identification Number. Please see https://www.irs.gov/individuals/article/0,,id=96287,00.html.

Keep in mind that to open certain bank accounts, purchase a cell phone plan or apply for a US driver’s license, you must have an SSN.

15. I’m planning on traveling outside the US over Winter (or Spring or Summer) break. What do I need to do?

Depending on your destination, you may need a visa to enter and visit certain countries. You also need a travel endorsement on your I-20 or DS-2019 before leaving the US. You can get this in the CIP. Please plan ahead and visit the CIP at least one week before you plan to leave. Also, make sure you return to campus BEFORE classes start. Lastly, be sure to take all documents with you: passport, I-94, and I-20 or DS-2019. If your visa will expire before you plan to return to the US, please see Travel Outside of the U.S. on the Center for International Program’s website at http://www.kzoo.edu/cip/

16. Am I allowed to work?

Yes. As an F-1 or J-1 visa holder, you are permitted to work on-campus ONLY. During the academic term, you are able to work a maximum of 20 hours/week. During vacation periods, you may work up to 40 hours per week. To work off-campus, you need special permission from USCIS at http://www.immigrationdirect.com/