Preparing for Your Arrival 2016-2017

Choosing Travel Dates

It is very important for you to plan your travel using Kalamazoo College’s calendar. Campus housing will open on Thursday September 1, 2016 for NEW international students. (For ALL RETURNING students, campus housing will open on September 10, 2016 at 9AM). We cannot provide accommodation for students who arrive early!

NOTE: Kalamazoo College expects all visiting international students accepted in the UPEP program to have made definite plans for their return travel to their home universities at the end of the academic year. We recognize that individual plans for family visits or internships (as well as airline booking practices) may make it difficult to arrive in Kalamazoo with return travel already purchased. It is the responsibility of each UPEP visiting international student to ensure that s/he has return transportation home.

Early Arrival Accommodation

See also the Lodging and Dining page on the K Admission site: http://www.kzoo.edu/college/?p=location&s=lodging

Transportation to Campus

The Kalamazoo—Battle Creek International Airport (AZO) http://azoairport.com/ and the Kalamazoo Transportation Center (train & bus station) are the closest transportation hubs to Kalamazoo College. New international students who are attending International Orientation can request free transportation from the Kalamazoo—Battle Creek International Airport or the Kalamazoo Transportation Center to campus on the arrival date of September 1, 2016. Arrival information must include airline, (or bus or train company) flight/train/bus number, scheduled time of arrival and originating city and this information must be received by the Center for International Programs by August 19, 2016. You can email your form to ISA@kzoo.edu.

For students who choose to travel to campus on their own:
Leisure Limousine and Sedan provides transportation from the airport (AZO) and will have a staff member at the desk in the baggage claim area in the airport (AZO). It is $25 (not including tip) to the K campus. Their number is 269-381-5460 and the agent is Lori. [http://www.leisurelimos.com/default2.asp?active_page_id=244](http://www.leisurelimos.com/default2.asp?active_page_id=244)

If you travel to campus on your own, please contact our Office of Security, located in Hicks Center, for your dorm room key. The phone number is 269-337-7321.

**International Student Orientation**

International Student Orientation is mandatory for all J-1 and F-1 visa students. You should arrive on campus and can move into your dorm room on Thursday, September 1, 2016. Required sessions will begin on Friday morning, September 2.

Sessions will include information about U.S. culture, academic expectations in the U.S. and at Kalamazoo College, cultural adjustment, health issues specific to international students as well as money and tax issues. F-1 and J-1 students will attend additional sessions explaining visa regulations. The confirmed International Student Orientation schedule will be posted later this summer.

Following the International Student Orientation, F-1 degree students will participate in the First-year Student Orientation on starting on September 7, 2016.

**Packing**

The weather in Kalamazoo will likely be quite warm during your first month here and then become cooler starting in late September. By November, temperatures may drop to freezing. It will be necessary to have warm clothing and a winter coat. A coat in the U.S. will cost about $80 to $200 depending on the thickness and quality. Consider your suitcase space and your budget to decide whether you will buy winter clothes here or bring them with you.

The Center for International Programs and the Office of Admission will provide each International Student Orientation participant with a blanket and pillow when they arrive.

Bed linens/sheets, however, will not be provided. If you would like to purchase bed linens/sheets on your own, you may wish to consider one of the following websites:

- [www.rhl.org/kal9](http://www.rhl.org/kal9)
- [http://www.dormco.com/Twin_XL_College_Dorm_Bedding_s/20.htm](http://www.dormco.com/Twin_XL_College_Dorm_Bedding_s/20.htm)

Mattresses in the residence halls measure 36” x 79.5”, (91.44 cm x 201.93 cm) which is longer than standard sized mattresses and require extra long sheets. You can order your towels and sheets before you arrive and have them shipped to the CIP.
The address is:

YOUR NAME
Center for International Programs, Kalamazoo College
1200 Academy Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49006
(Telephone if they ask: 269-337-7133)

We do not recommend bringing electronics or appliances like hair dryers that require adapters or transformers. US electricity is 110-volts, 60 Hz. Everyday items can be purchased in Kalamazoo. Depending on where you live, it may be much cheaper to buy a laptop and other electronics in the U.S. You can check www.target.com to see price examples.

Kalamazoo has several large retail stores where you can purchase clothes, linens, items for your room and book supplies. During Orientation, students will have the opportunity to go shopping at Target. Groceries, clothing, things for your dorm room, school supplies and more can be found at Target, and international students typically receive a one-time discount on all non-grocery items purchased during this visit.

If you are flying, check baggage restrictions for your airline. Airlines charge high fees for overweight baggage. Also keep in mind that you will be very tired upon your arrival. Be sure you can carry your baggage.

**Carry all of your immigration documents with you. Do not put documents in your checked baggage as you will need to present these documents as you go through Customs upon arrival in the U.S.** You may also experience flight delays that prevent you from arriving on campus at the expected time. It is wise to have medications, a change of clothes and any necessary toiletry items in a bag that you keep with you on the plane.