



Greetings from Western Michigan University!

Welcome to [International Student Orientation](#). Orientation contains two **mandatory** parts: a virtual portion, which students complete at their own pace and finish prior to arrival in the U.S. and an in-person event on WMU's campus **January 9**. Click on [this link](#) to begin virtual orientation. Click on [this link](#) to register for the in-person event. **Join** the [Spring 2026 Orientation WhatsApp group](#) to connect with your fellow students and WMU staff.

Meet your International Student and Scholar Services Team

Mark your calendars now for a virtual event on **November 13** from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. EST ([timezone converter](#)) via WebEx. No pre-registration is required; simply click on the [WebEx link](#) to join. Discussion topics will include:

- Introductions
- Immigration Requirements
- Health Insurance
- Document Submission
- Academic Advising
- Travel and Housing Tips
- Next Steps

Read below for key information on Course Registration, Housing, Immigration and Health Insurance.

Course Registration:

Undergraduate international students **must** schedule an appointment with their academic advisor to enroll in courses. This is to ensure you are taking the right classes and that you maintain in good standing with the university. You may use the link in the "[Academic Advising for Undergraduate Students](#)" in the virtual orientation module to schedule an appointment.

Graduate international students will self-register via GoWMU. **Before** you register, we **highly recommend** you connect with your advisor. Check out the "[Registration and Advising for Graduate Students](#)" module for more information. Note: At the graduate level 3.0 credit hours is considered half-time or part-time, and 6.0 credit hours is considered full-time.

ESL Students or Students of the Center for English Language and Culture (CELCIS) **must** attend English language placement testing before registering for classes. CELCIS staff will contact you about online placement testing a few weeks prior to your arrival.

Housing:

Information about your move to campus is in the "[On Campus Living and Dining](#)" module. New international students living in residence halls can move-in on **January 8** starting at 9 a.m. Information and move-in dates for those living in campus apartments or in Spindler Hall will be emailed to your student accounts. [Click here](#) for more information from Housing and Residence Life about move-in for Spring 2026.

Students should prepare to arrive at WMU **BEFORE January 9** so that they are prepared and well-rested on orientation day. Students must have a housing plan prior to their arrival to the United States.

For more information on off-campus and on-campus housing, including a glossary of key terms related to housing in the U.S., visit the "[Housing Options](#)" module.

For a list of hotels in Kalamazoo area, visit <https://wmich.edu/visit/hotels>

Students who are having trouble finding accommodations can ask for help in the [WhatsApp chat](#) for suggestions.

Immigration:

There are two primary immigration requirements.

1. Prior to arrival, all international students must log into their [Terra Dotta portal](#) to access the Immigration Responsibilities Assessment request to review important information related to the maintenance of their immigration status.
2. Upon arrival at WMU, all international students must complete a Check-In request on the [Terra Dotta portal](#). This request will ask you to acknowledge your obligation to maintain your immigration status and walk you through the upload of your immigration documents (signed Form I-20 or DS-2019, most recent I-94, visa stamp and passport). International Student and Scholar Services will use this information to register your SEVIS record.

Health Insurance:

Western Michigan University automatically enrolls all international students in the international student health insurance plan. WMU has contracted with GeoBlue as its health insurance provider for international students for the 2025-2026 academic year. The plan is designed to meet your health care needs, regardless of age or preexisting conditions.

Insurance premium **costs will be incorporated into your WMU tuition and fees**. Health insurance coverage in the U.S. is often complex and specific to your situation. To better understand your plan and how to use your health insurance effectively, follow the recommendations on our [website](#).

Virtual Orientation Continues:

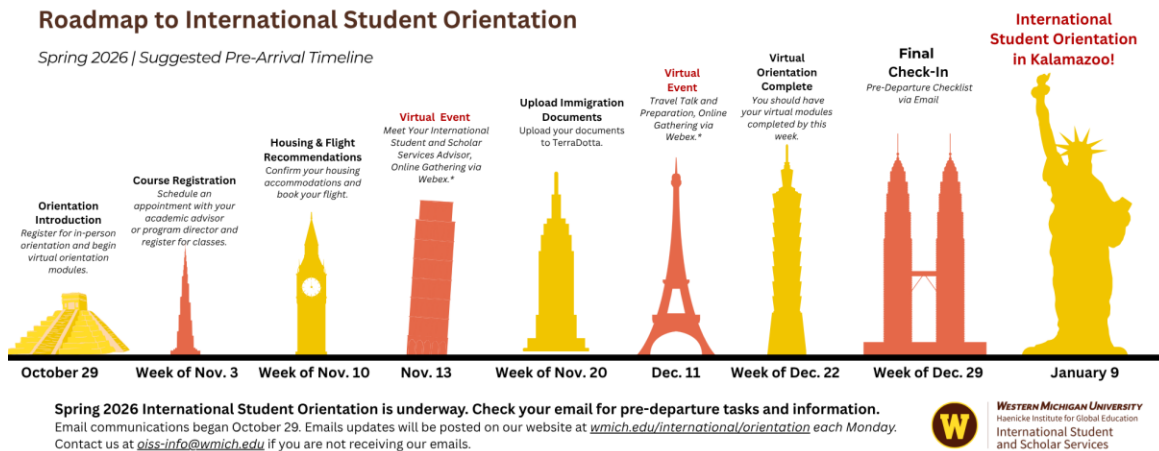
Good luck as you continue working on your [virtual orientation modules](#) and TerraDotta assignments. Stay on track to make your arrival as smooth and easy as possible. See our suggested timeline on the roadmap graphic below. Continue on and complete topics early if you wish.

We look forward to meeting you!

WMU International

Roadmap to International Student Orientation

Spring 2026 | Suggested Pre-Arrival Timeline



Questions?

- First, ask your peers in the Spring 2026 Orientation WhatsApp group. Join [here](#).
- For additional support regarding immigration, contact us at oiiss-info@wmich.edu
- For additional support regarding orientation, contact us at hige-orientation@wmich.edu.
- Consult the "Roadmap to International Student Orientation" **above** for our suggested pre-arrival timeline.

If this is your first orientation email, please do the following to continue:

- [Check our website](#) and read our past email communications.
- [Complete the virtual orientation modules](#) and gain access to your WMU email and [Elearning](#).

- Join the [Spring 2026 Orientation WhatsApp](#) group to connect with your fellow students, orientation leaders, and WMU staff.
- Undergraduate students: Use the link in the "[Academic Advising for Undergraduate Students](#)" module in the virtual orientation portal to schedule an appointment with your academic advisor and register for classes.
- Graduate students: Check out the "[Registration and Advising for Graduate Students](#)" module for information on registering for classes and connecting with your advisor or director.
- ESL Students / English as a Second Language Students will be registered for classes after completing a placement test and attending the in-person orientation. Questions about placement testing or registration can be directed to the Center for English Language and Culture for International Students (CELCIS) staff at caroline.g.huffman@wmich.edu or eva.copija@wmich.edu.
- Register for in-person orientation on **January 9** using [this link](#).

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WMU International Team

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