



**Haenicke Institute for
Global Education**

WMU International Student and Scholar Services (I3S)

**Spring 2026 Travel Preparation Virtual Event
Thursday, December 11, 2025 | 9:00 am EST**

AGENDA

- Welcome and Introduction
- Hello from International Student Council
- Weather in Kalamazoo
- What to Pack
- Important Travel Documents
- Emergency Contact Information
- In-Person International Student Orientation
- Final Check-List
- Questions and Answers

Meet the Team- International Student and Scholar Services



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Meet the Team- International Student and Scholar Services



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Meet the Team- International Student and Scholar Services



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WMU International Student Perspective International Student Council (ISC)



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@ISC_WMU



WMU International Student Perspective International Student Council (ISC)



ISC
INTERNATIONAL
STUDENT COUNCIL



we provide
resources for
your success

fun events to
cultivate
diversity &
build
friendship

representing
all
international
students



Weather in Kalamazoo

Kalamazoo has Four Seasons – Be Ready for All of Them!

- Kalamazoo experiences warm summers, snowy winters, and unpredictable spring/fall weather.
- You will arrive in January when the temperature is cold; it's important to be prepared!





Weather in Kalamazoo

Spring and Summer Weather (April – October)


- From April to September, Kalamazoo warms up with average highs ranging from around 50°F (10°C) in early spring to 80°F (27°C) in midsummer.
- Nights are cooler in spring but become pleasant and mild by summer.
- The weather shifts from spring rains and blooming flowers to long, sunny summer days ideal for outdoor activities.

Weather in Kalamazoo



Winter Weather (November – March)

- Temperatures: In winter, temperatures usually range from about 20°F to 30°F (-6°C to -1°C). It's essential to dress warmly to stay comfortable.
- Snow: Kalamazoo often gets snow, especially from late November to March. This can create a lovely winter landscape, but it also means you should be ready for cold days.

A man with short dark hair, wearing an orange Western Michigan University sweatshirt, is holding a large white sign with a black 'W' on it. The background is a blurred indoor setting with a window and some plants.

A GUIDE TO PACKING WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

W

W

What to Pack?

Packing Guide

- Most students dress casually when going to class. In some situations, you may occasionally need to dress more formally to make a presentation in class or when attending business functions. A suit or other clothes appropriate for an office environment are recommended in these situations.

Spring/Summer Clothing

- Lightweight tops and T-shirts
- Shorts and light pants
- A light jacket or sweater for cooler evenings
- Comfortable walking shoes or sandals

Fall/Winter Clothing

- You might want to wait to buy these items in Kalamazoo
- A waterproof and windproof jacket to protect against snow and wind
- Thermal tops and leggings
- Fleece or wool sweaters and socks
- Scarf, hat, gloves
- Waterproof winter boots for snow



**WESTERN
MICHIGAN**
UNIVERSITY

Other Items

- Some cash and/or credit card for the first few days
- Bring your medications and doctor's notes
- Glasses or contact lenses
- Travel size toiletries (shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, etc.)
- If staying in residence halls, you may want to bring linens (Twin XL sheets, lightweight blanket, bath towel, pillow case, etc.)
- Personal electronics (cell phone, laptop, camera)
- Charger for your devices (adapter for USA outlets if needed, 120V is standard in USA)
- Travel and immigration documents (passport, I-20 or DS-2019)
- Any traditional clothing or comfort items from home



What Not to Bring

- Food from Home – U.S. customs prohibits travelers from entering the country with fresh fruit, vegetables and meat from other countries
- Large amounts of cash – Carry enough cash to spend for a few days until a bank account can be opened so money can be transferred from home
- Too much clothing – You may have limited storage space. Laundry facilities are easily accessible.
- Unmarked medications – Medications must be carried in the original pharmacy container, and must include a label. It is also advisable to bring an extra prescription with the generic name of the medication indicated along with a letter from a home physician stating the purpose of the medication.
- 240-volt appliances – These are not compatible with the 120-volt outlets used in the U.S.

Health Insurance

- You are automatically enrolled in GeoBlue.
- Watch for an email from customerservice@geoblue.com with instructions to access the portal.
- Insurance fee will appear on your student account.
- GeoBlue covers medical expenses but not vision or dental – be sure to visit your dentist and optometrist before you leave
- Download the GeoBlue Mobile App for easy access to your insurance information.
- You can print your ID card from the GeoBlue portal.
- For questions, email ias-insurance@wmich.edu.



DOWNLOAD THE APP WITH THIS QR CODE



- The student's ID card is accessible on the Portal
- Students can print their card in PDF format
- They can order new ID card by selecting "Order New"



Important Travel Documents

Before you travel, ensure you have the following important documents printed and ready:

- ✓ I-20/DS-2019
- ✓ Admission Letter
- ✓ Passport
- ✓ Proof of Registration (class schedule)
- ✓ Official Transcripts (if applicable)
- ✓ Emergency Contact Information (next slide)

Hand Carry: Keep these documents and your passport with you in your carry-on luggage during the flight.

Emergency Contact Information

In case of an EMERGENCY (if you are in the U.S. and have a **police, fire or medical emergency**)

Call 911 immediately

In case of an **IMMIGRATION EMERGENCY** (such as a border or port of entry issue)

During normal WMU business hours (Monday-Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.)
Call (269) 387-5865 and ask to speak with an immigration advisor (PDSO or DSO).

After hours and during WMU closure

Call Kalamazoo County Consolidated Dispatch at (269) 488-8911 and ask to be directed to a WMU Public Safety officer.



Emergency Contact Information

Provide the following information when you call for an emergency situation:

- Identify yourself as a Western Michigan University student
- Name
- WIN (WMU student ID number)
- Country of Citizenship
- Current Location
- Description of the situation



In-Person International Student Orientation

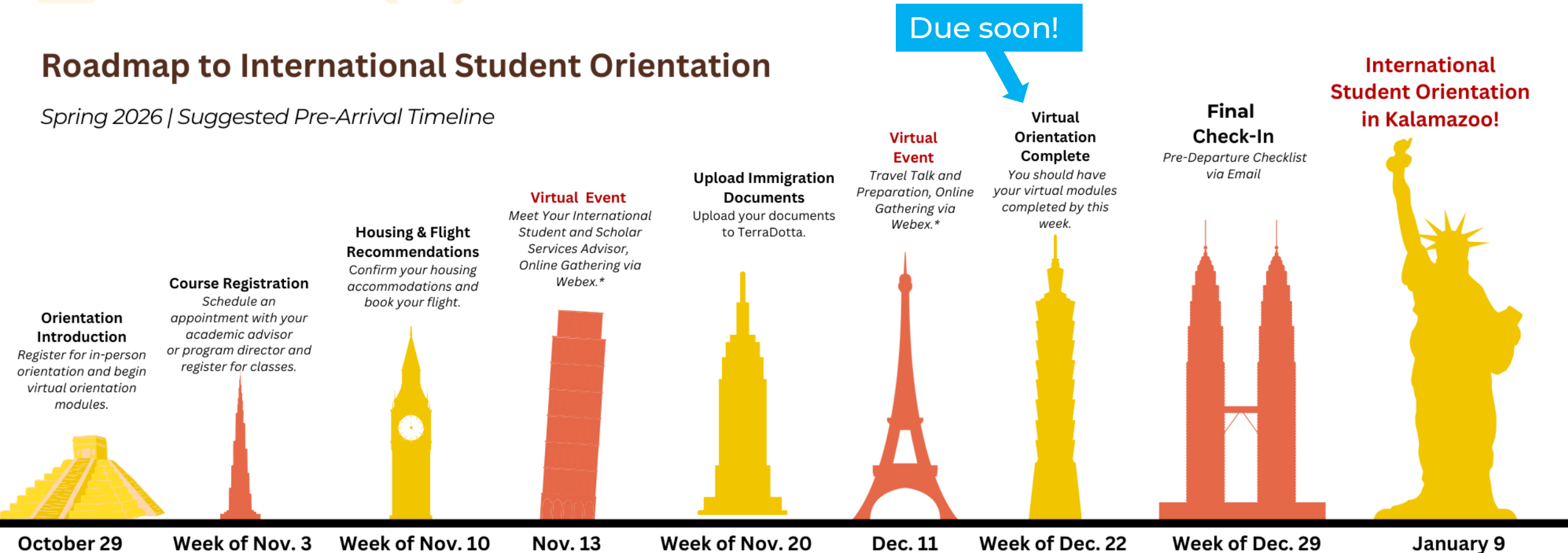
- In-Person Orientation will be held on **January 9, 2026**
- To Register for Orientation:
<https://wmich.tfaforms.net/218051?eid=a1ITO0000005au412AA>
- WMU Offers Airport and Bus Station Pickups on **January 8 and January 9**
- For more information on transportation and pickup services, visit:
<https://wmich.edu/internationaladmissions/orientation#transport>
- For additional information, visit:
<https://wmich.edu/internationaladmissions/orientation>



In-Person International Student Orientation

Roadmap to International Student Orientation

Spring 2026 | Suggested Pre-Arrival Timeline



Spring 2026 International Student Orientation is underway. Check your email for pre-departure tasks and information.

Email communications began October 29. Email updates will be posted on our website at wmich.edu/international/orientation each Monday.

Contact us at ois-info@wmich.edu if you are not receiving our emails.



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Final Checklist

- Have you obtained your visa?
- Have you bought your flight ticket to Kalamazoo?
- Have you secured your housing?
- Have you contacted your academic advisor?
<https://wmich.edu/advising>
- Have you registered for classes?
<https://wmich.edu/registrar/students/registration>
- Have you completed virtual orientation?
https://rise.articulate.com/share/t0xAFp7La7z5nmBlxTSdxlhYS5u_08rh
- Have you registered for in-person orientation?
<https://wmich.tfaforms.net/218051?eid=a1ITO0000005au412AA>
- Have you turned in your official transcripts?
- Have you completed the “Immigration Responsibilities Request” in Terra Dotta? <https://iss.wmich.edu>



Questions and Answers

Thank you for attending!

