



English as a  
Second Language  
International

UMD

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA DULUTH

Driven to Discover™

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# Pre-Arrival Handbook

Building a better global community  
by connecting people and cultures  
through international language study

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# Arrival Checklist



## **Congratulations! You have received your ESLI acceptance! What do you do now?**

*This Pre-Arrival Handbook contains all the information you need to successfully arrive to your ESLI campus. Below is checklist to guide you.*

- ✓ Pay your SEVIS fee and obtain your F-1 student visa
  - Detailed information found on page 4
- ✓ Book your flight
  - Remember, you cannot arrive more than 30 days prior to the start of the term
- ✓ Make Arrival Arrangements using ESLI's online [Arrival Preparation Page](#).  
From this page, you can:
  - Inform ESLI of your arrival day and schedule airport pick-up
  - Apply for housing
  - Submit any required immunization forms
  - Pay a tuition deposit and housing deposit (if applicable)
  - Ask questions!
- ✓ Travel to and Enter the United States
  - Detailed U.S. customs information found on page 11
- ✓ Join us at your ESLI campus for orientation. We can't wait to meet you!

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# Obtaining your Visa



**After your acceptance to your school, follow these steps to obtain your F-1 student visa for study in the United States:**

**1)** Get a Form I-20: Once you receive acceptance to an SEVP-certified school and provide evidence of financial support, as well as any other supporting documents, that school’s designated school official will send you a Form I-20, “Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Status.”



- 2)** Pay the I-901 Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) Fee. [Click here to pay.](#)
- 3)** Apply for a visa to travel to the United States: You can apply for a visa to travel to the United States at your designated U.S. embassy or consulate. [Click here to find the U.S. embassy in your country.](#) Be sure to follow their instructions.
- 4)** Prepare for your visa interview. [Click here for guidance.](#)
- 5)** Once your visa is approved, you may make preparation to enter the U.S.
- 6)** If your visa is denied, you may reapply for another interview according to the Embassy’s instructions. You may need to defer your attendance contact ESLI at our [Arrival Preparation Page](#) select Defer/Cancel option.

# Making Arrival Arrangements



## Travel Safety

If your travels require for you to overnight in your port of entry city:

- Book your hotel before you leave your home country
- Ask your hotel about whether they have a shuttle service from the airport
- Be careful who you trust for help at the airport.
- If you want to take a taxi, make sure that your car has a clearly written 'TAXI' sign
- Ask your driver how much the ride will cost before you start to drive.



## Airport Pickup

- To make life easy, ESLI offers airport pick-up service, for a fee.
- ESLI will pick you up from Duluth International Airport (DLH)
- Please schedule your pick-up after purchasing your ticket on our Arrivals Preparation Page at [Arrival Preparation Page](#). You will receive confirmation from ESLI.
- When you schedule your pick-up, you will be able to download an airport map and other important information

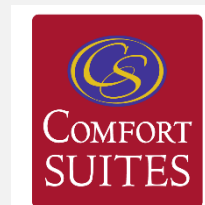
**Please note that arrivals later in the evening will require a hotel room**



## Hotels

You may find it necessary to book a hotel room for the first few days after arriving in your campus' city. Here are the ones we recommend:

- **Comfort Suites** 408 Canal Park Drive  
(218) 727-1378 • (800) 517-4000
- **Fitger's Inn** 600 East Superior Street • Fitger's  
Brewery Complex (218) 722-8826 • (888)  
FITGERS (348-437





## Housing Options

- UMD offers excellent options for on-campus housing.
  - [Check out the options!](#)
- Please submit your application at ESLI's [Arrival Prep Page](#).



## Meal Plan

- UMD's [Dining Services](#) provides several meal plans for students for students:
  - who live on-campus as well as
  - those living off-campus.





## Insurance

- Health insurance is mandatory while studying in the U.S. or Canada. All ESLI students are required to have insurance through the plans offered at their campus.
- **Important:** Insurance does not cover all medical expenses! Contact your ESLI program director for more information.



## Emergencies

- If you need **non-emergency** medical attention upon arriving in the U.S. it is strongly recommended that you choose from one of the providers on the in-network list. Out-of-network providers may not take student insurance. Please contact your program director for further assistance.
- If you need **emergency** medical attention upon arriving in the U.S. or Canada, dial 911.



## Immunizations

- Immunizations are required at ESLI-UMD
- Please go to the [Arrivals Preparation Page](#) to download and submit your required immunization forms, prior to your arrival.



## Prescription Drugs

Students bringing prescription medication into the USA should bring a letter from their doctor stating what it is, what medical condition it is for, and the quantity in their possession. **The note must be in English.** Be aware that some medications used in other countries are considered illegal in the USA and are not permitted and could be confiscated. Check with the U.S. embassy or consulate regarding such items.



## Climate

- The weather in Duluth varies quite a bit throughout the year.
- The summer months, June through much of September, are often very warm and breezy.
- In winter months there are wind chills and frequent snow accumulations.



**Summer 21-30° C**



**Winter -4 to -17° C**



## Money & Banking

- Bring \$200-500 USD cash or traveler's checks.
- There is one bank ([TCF Bank](#)) located right on campus and several others within walking distance.
- It is also possible to have money transferred electronically to [TCF Bank](#) from other countries once you have set up an account.



## Transportation

- All UMD students ride the **DTA bus** for FREE with their U-card!
- **Bulldog Taxi**- 218-428-0911.
  - ESLI-UMD students will receive 50% off your total cab fare!







## Restaurants

- [At Sara's Table Chester Creek Cafe](#)
- [Duluth Grill](#)
- [Hanabi Japanese Cuisine](#)
- [New Scenic Cafe](#)



## Shopping

- [The Mt. Royal Shopping Center](#) is located at the corner of Woodland Avenue and St. Marie Street. It has a grocery store, a public library, restaurants, and Great Clips for Hair.
- [The Kenwood Plaza Shopping Center](#) on the corner of Arrowhead Road and Kenwood Avenue has a grocery store, laundromat, restaurants, UPS store, and auto-repair shops.
- [The Whole Foods Coop](#), located at 610 East 4th Street, Duluth, 728-0884 sells organic food, as well as spices, rice/grains/beans that are not available anywhere else.



# What to Pack



Here are some items you might want to either bring with you or buy as soon as you arrive:



## Clothing

- Pack at least two changes of clothes in your carry-on
- American students usually wear casual clothing in the classroom (jeans, t-shirts, sneakers)
- Clothing for different types of weather, it changes often in the U.S.
- Formal outfits for any special events or ceremonies
- Traditional clothing from your home country for cultural events on campus



## Toiletries and Cleaning

- Soap, shampoo, and so on
- Tooth brush and tooth paste
- Shower curtain and shower hooks
- Shower shoes (on-campus housing)
- Laundry detergent
- Laundry bag
- Paper towels
- Dish Soap



## Bedding and Linens

- A pillow
- Bed sheets
- Blankets
- Bath Towel



## Other

- Electrical outlet adapter/converter
- Backpack or book bag
- Pictures from home
- Cultural items for events on campus
- Basic kitchen supplies (plate, cup, utensils, pot/pan)
- Laptop computer

# Entering the United States



## Before you leave for the United States, make sure that you have:

- ✓ Passport
- ✓ Visa
- ✓ I-20 "Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status."
- ✓ Acceptance letter from your school
- ✓ ESLI acceptance/welcome letter (make sure you note your school's Director/DSO contact information)



Make 2 copies of your documents. Leave one copy with your family at home and keep a copy with you.

***Do not put any of these documents in your checked baggage!***

**-Immigration officials may conduct a limited search of any electronic devices at the Port of Entry.**

**-Some students may be subject to a [Secondary Inspection](#) upon entry in the US.**

This is common procedure in which you will be asked additional questions and/or asked to provide more documentation.

- ✓ You will be asked to go with a CBP officer in to separate interview room
- ✓ Remain calm.
- ✓ Cooperate with CBP officers

