

## Important Pre-Departure Information for University of Missouri-Kansas City

Information updates and the electronic file with active links are available at ISAO's website: <http://www.umkc.edu/isao>. Please click on "Newly Admitted" and then click on "Preparing for UMKC."

### BEFORE YOU ARRIVE:

- **Mandatory E-Orientation:** The E-Orientation is designed to assist with your pre-departure preparations and give you a better idea of what to expect upon arrival. After completion of the E-Orientation, ISAO will receive an electronic confirmation of your participation. You must complete the E-Orientation before attending the Check-In session upon arrival.
  - Log-in to the E-Orientation at <http://www.umkc.edu/isao/eor/index.cfm>, and follow instructions.

### IMPORTANT DATES

- **Recommended Kansas City Arrival Dates** for FALL 2010:
  - Arrive on or before Monday, **August 16, 2010, for Fall sessions beginning on August 23, 2010.**
  - You must arrive in the U.S.A. on or before the start date on your I-20 or DS-2019.
  - You may not arrive in the U.S.A. more than 30 days before the official start date.
- **Mandatory Check-In**
  - After you arrive in Kansas City, please report to the International Student Affairs Office to complete the check-in process.
  - Bring your passport, I-20 or DS-2019, I-94 arrival card, **your current U.S. address even if it is only temporary**, Final Academic Credentials as listed on your admission letter, and immunization records with you to complete the International Student Check-In.
  - You will not be allowed to register for classes until Check-In is complete.
- **Check-In Schedule:**

Please e-mail our office at [isao@umkc.edu](mailto:isao@umkc.edu) to register for a mandatory Check-In session upon arrival.

  - July 26 - July 30 (Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.)
  - August 2 - 13 (Monday - Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.)
  - August 16 - 27 (Monday, Wednesday, Friday 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.)
- **International Student Orientation** for FALL 2010:
  - Attendance at orientation is **mandatory** for New and Transfer F-1 and J-1 students.
  - **Tuesday, August 17, 2010.**
- **English Proficiency Exam:** Upon arrival.
  - Mandatory for students with TOEFL scores less than 100 ibt, 250 cbt or 600 pbt or with less than 6.5 on the IELTS test.
- **Registration for Classes:** Upon arrival.
  - First day of classes for Fall 2010: Monday, **August 23, 2010.**  
First day of classes for Fall 2010 for ESL students depends on the session that will start your program.
  - UMKC's academic calendar for all other dates: <http://www.umkc.edu/registrar/acal.asp>
  - University Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday; closed on Saturday, Sunday and National Holidays.

**APPLYING for a U.S. Student VISA**

1. Sign the front page of your I-20 or DS-2019 and contact the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate for an F-1 or J-1 student visa appointment. Please visit <http://www.usembassy.gov/> for more information.
2. Pay the SEVIS I-901 fee. See <http://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901/> for information about this fee. All individuals applying for a student visa pay this fee unless they have paid it with a recent prior admission. The SEVIS I-901 fee payment receipt will serve as proof of your payment.
3. Obtain and complete a student visa application form. This form is available at the information counter of the U.S. Embassy/Consulate or on-line at <http://www.usembassy.gov/>.
  - Because the requirements to apply for a U.S. visa differ from country to country, you should contact the U.S. Embassy/Consulate in your country to obtain specific visa application information.
  - On-line at <http://www.usembassy.gov/> you can obtain detailed U.S. visa information for your country.
  - Please note: Many U.S. Embassies/Consulates now take approximately **four (4) to six (6) weeks** to process student visas.
  - Please note: Please have any fees you need to pay with you when you go to the Embassy/Consulate.
4. Go to the Embassy/Consulate or follow the mailing instructions given by the Embassy or Consulate to apply for a student visa. Along with the completed visa application, you must also bring or mail the following items:
  - The original I-20 or DS-2019 form and the admission letter sent by UMKC.
  - A nonrefundable visa application fee. See payment instructions on the application form.
  - A passport valid for at least six (6) months beyond your intended stay in the U.S.
  - Original school transcripts and public examination certificates, including a student copy of your TOEFL, IELTS, GMAT or GRE score report, if applicable.
  - Original documents of your sponsor's most recent salaries or tax forms. If you are producing fixed deposit certificates, you must provide evidence that your sponsor has had this money in deposits for a reasonable amount of time.
  - One set of all financial documents (Bank Verification).
  - Any evidence that demonstrates strong ties to your country or any other residence outside of the USA.
  - All other documents listed on the visa application.

You may find the following tips to be useful when applying for a student visa:

- You must be honest when completing your visa application.
- You must prove that you have sufficient money to cover the entire cost of your education during your first year of study (and adequate funds for each subsequent year of study). You should provide as much financial documentation as possible to the Embassy/Consulate (such as detailed bank statements, property records, letters from you or your parent's employers, etc.).
- You must have a clear educational goal in mind when you apply for a visa. It is important for you to know about UMKC. Read the information we have sent you. If you have any questions, contact us. The consular official will be looking for specific

information about how you decided to attend UMKC. What process did you follow? Why did you choose UMKC over other institutions? Reasons may include but are not limited to: degree programs available; financial assistance, low cost of living expenses and tuition; location (metropolitan city but not a big city like Los Angeles, New York, etc.); you may have a friend who is currently enrolled; you might have met a faculty or staff member from UMKC. Think about all of this and anything else and be prepared to respond to the questions. In addition, you must have a clear employment objective when you return to your home country.

- If the Consular Official believes that it is your intent to immigrate to the U.S. rather than return to your country after your studies are completed, your visa will be denied. This is one of the major reasons for visa denials.
- You should not be discouraged if you are denied a visa. If you are denied a visa, the consular officer will notify you in writing of the specific reason. You then should reapply for a student visa when you can submit the needed items or documentation.

### TRAVEL TIPS

Many students find international travel to be fun and exciting. We want your trip to Kansas City to be safe and pleasant. For this reason, please observe the following travel tips:

- Hand-carry your passport, I-20 or DS-2019, admission letter, bank or funding verification, and any other official or original documents like transcripts or diplomas.
- Reconfirm your flight at least three days before leaving your country.
- To reduce jetlag, drink plenty of non-alcoholic fluids on the plane, and get some rest. Refrain from eating lots of foods that contain lots of salt and sugar.
- Never carry a large amount of cash. Carry your money, passport, immigration documents, and important documents with you on the plane. You should have at least \$1,500 in Travelers Checks when you arrive to cover initial expenses such as taxi or bus fare, meals, first rent installment, books and supplies. Bank drafts, other than negotiable Travelers Checks, will take one or two weeks to clear.
- If you need help, ask an airport employee.
- Never leave your luggage unattended.
- Be cooperative, patient and courteous when waiting in travel lines (queues).

### ARRIVAL INFORMATION and ASSISTANCE

If you would like to request for volunteer to pick you up from the airport, train station, or bus station; and/or if you would like to request temporary housing with a volunteer upon your arrival to Kansas City, please complete the “**Request Travel Pick-Up and Temporary Housing**” form online by visiting <http://www.umkc.edu/isao/arr/> Please submit your request at least two (2) weeks prior to your arrival.

Kansas City International (KCI) Airport is served by large airlines including American Airlines, Delta Airlines, Southwest Airlines, Midwest Airlines, United Airlines, Continental Airlines, and Northwest Airlines. Please make sure that Kansas City is your final destination (the airport code is **MCI**).

For transportation from the airport to UMKC, there are a number of methods available:

**FREE Transportation:**

- You can choose to have a volunteer for the International Student Affairs Office (ISAO) pick you up from the airport for free. Please complete the online-form on the ISAO website (<http://www.umkc.edu/isao/arr/>) to request a volunteer to pick you up. This option requires at least two (2) weeks advance notice. If your flight plan changes, you are delayed unexpectedly, or a volunteer is unable to pick you up, you may also utilize the airport shuttle or taxi.

**Super Shuttle:**

- The cost for ONE-WAY transportation on a Super Shuttle is approximately \$21.00 USD, plus tip. Additional passengers on the same trip are discounted. All major credit cards, cash and International Travelers Checks are accepted. You can arrange for the KCI Shuttle to pick you up by calling 816-243-5000 or you can make a reservation online at: <http://www.supershuttle.com/FareQuote.aspx>.

**Taxi:**

- The cost for ONE-WAY transportation via taxi is \$40 to \$60 USD, plus tip.

**Hotels Near UMKC:**

- Best Western Seville Plaza Hotel, **Tel: 816-561-9600**, 4309 Main Street, Kansas City, MO
- Holiday Inn Express-Westport/Plaza, **Tel: 816-931-1000**, 801 Westport Road, Kansas City, MO
- Holiday Inn, Kansas City, **Tel: 816-753-7400**, 1 East 45<sup>th</sup> Street, Kansas City, MO

The Average cost per night at a local hotel will be \$75 to \$100 USD (Identify that you are with UMKC to get special rates).

**LUGGAGE**

Be aware that airlines have a maximum weight requirement per suit case. Airlines also charge to check luggage per bag.

- If you have a great deal of luggage to bring with you to Kansas City, you may want to ship some items to the University before you leave your country.
- If you wish to send any boxes or packages to Kansas City, please use the following address:

YOUR NAME  
C/O International Student Affairs Office  
University of Missouri-Kansas City  
5235 Rockhill Road  
Kansas City, Missouri 64110 U.S.A.

**MAKING CONNECTIONS ON FACEBOOK**

You can join The International Student Affairs Office and its International Student Ambassadors fan page. Come and visit our fanpage at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Kansas-City-MO/UMKC-International-Student-Affairs/95374984370>. Once, you have become a fan, you can chat with our ambassadors and post comments. The International Ambassadors look forward to hear from you!

## HOUSING INFORMATION

**Admission to the University does not guarantee that you will receive University housing. You are responsible for arranging your own housing.**

- Students are not required to live on campus.
- We recommend that you make housing reservations before coming to Kansas City.
- You will need to contact **Residential Life** directly to reserve your on-campus housing: contacts are listed under “Housing Information” at <http://www.umkc.edu/isao>
- Some Nationality Groups will help individuals from their nationality group find housing. Please contact your Nationality Group through links on the ISAO website. UMKC

### RESIDENCE HALLS AND ON-CAMPUS APARTMENTS

- On-campus residence halls with single, double and suite-style rooms.
- Visit our new Oak Place apartment web site at <http://www.oakplace.info/> or call 816-561-0847
- A meal agreement is required with the campus cafeteria.
- UMKC Housing Office, Tel: 816-235-8840; Cherry Hall, Tel: 816-235-2800; Oak Place Apartments, 816-561-0847, Email: [housing@umkc.edu](mailto:housing@umkc.edu), Fax: 816-235-1419.  
Web: <http://www.umkc.edu/housing/>; ISAO web: <http://www.umkc.edu/isao/housinginfo.htm>

- **Apartment Websites**

Here are a few apartment search options you can browse.

- Relocation Central: <http://www.relocationcentral.com/>
- Apartments.Com <http://www.apartments.com/>
- Apartment Search.com <http://www.apartmentsearch.com/>

Numerous off campus housing opportunities are available that are located near the campus. Rented rooms and apartments (usually unfurnished) are available in a variety of price ranges.

- For more off-campus rental apartments and houses, contact the Welcome Center at <http://www.umkc.edu/welcome/>.

## FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

It is **important** that you review all cost estimates listed on your UMKC I-20 or DS 2019.

- These estimates are the *minimum* projections in most cases; actual costs will vary according to your life style.
- Remember the tuition amounts on your immigration document reflect full time enrollment for fall and spring semesters only (12 credit hours per semester for Undergraduate students and 9 credit hours per semester for Graduate students). You may choose to enroll in more courses; however, this means higher total tuition costs.

**Do not expect or depend on financial aid or part-time employment to meet your educational expenses.** On-campus employment is competitive and is not guaranteed.

## PAYMENT OF FEES

- All fees are payable at the time of registration.
- UMKC students may also arrange a five (5)-installment payment plan with the Cashiers Office.
- If a bill is to be sent to a government sponsoring agency or institution, please present your sponsor’s guarantee letter for payment to the University Cashier upon registration.
- For additional information about University fees, see the following site:  
<http://www.umkc.edu/adminfinance/finance/cashiers/>

## FINANCIAL AID AND EMPLOYMENT

- University funded financial aid is limited, and the aid that does exist is available almost exclusively to graduate students in the form of graduate assistantships.
- Those graduate departments that have assistantships will generally not consider an international student for an award until after a semester or a year of study at UMKC.
- International students awarded graduate assistantships that include teaching responsibilities must satisfactorily complete an English language screening and training program before undertaking teaching assignments.
- Authorization for part-time employment on the UMKC campus is available. Although sometimes hard to find, on-campus jobs in various university offices and departments can be located if a student has work skills and experience.
- Working off campus without permission from immigration or ISAO is **illegal for F-1 and J-1** students. U.S. Immigration law prohibits all U.S. employers from hiring anyone who does not have a verifiable, legal permission for employment, and international students cannot apply for such employment permission until they have completed **one full academic year of study in the degree field** (not including English as a Second Language).

## HEALTH CARE in the USA

**IMMUNIZATION:** Bring a copy of certified medical documents that have been *translated into English* that show the immunizations that you have had.

- We strongly recommend that you are immunized before coming to the U.S.A.
- For International students, UMKC requires proof of immunization against:
  1. Measles
  2. Mumps
  3. Rubella
    - i. Commonly known as MMR vaccination
- If you have children and are bringing them with you, you need to have copies of their immunization record.
- If your children are eligible to attend school while they are here, they must prove that they have had the following immunizations before they will be allowed to enter school in the U.S.A:  
Polio, Mumps, Measles, Rubella, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus vaccinations and a test for Tuberculosis.

## HEALTH INSURANCE and HEALTH CARE

- Health insurance is mandatory for the protection of you and your family.
- All students and scholars attending UMKC are **REQUIRED** to purchase UMKC health insurance as a part of the enrollment and registration process each term. The student is billed automatically upon registration for classes.
- The University's insurance plan covers or exceeds all typical insurance options outlined by the U.S. Government as requirements for foreign students and scholars.
- Failure to purchase and maintain health insurance may result in the termination of your immigration status held.
- See "Health Insurance" on the [ISAO website](#) for coverage details.
- The costs of this insurance are included in the expenses listed on your I-20 or DS 2019 form.

**PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS**

- The insurance offered to you through UMKC will not pay for any treatment associated with an illness for which you were treated in the last 12 months if it costs more than \$3500; this is called a *pre-existing medical condition*. Therefore, if you have a recurring medical problem that requires a doctor's attention, it is important that you be checked and tested before you come to the U.S.A.
- Bring an adequate supply of medication with you so that it will not be necessary to see a doctor during the first few hectic weeks of settling in. Bring copies of your doctor's prescription(s) and a letter from your physician describing your condition(s).

**EYE CARE**

- At this time, a visit to the eye doctor costs about \$45.00 to \$100.00 USD, and eyeglasses can cost \$200.00 USD or more.
- If you have any eye condition that requires more than corrective eyeglasses, then there will be additional costs.
- To save money, have your eyes examined before you leave home and bring a copy of your prescription with you (written in English), so that you will not have to go to another doctor to replace lost or broken eyeglasses.
- Please note that the UMKC student insurance does not cover the cost of eye care.

**DENTAL CARE**

- Dental care in the U.S.A. is very expensive and is not covered by UMKC student health insurance.
- If you have access to a dentist at home, we suggest that you have your teeth cleaned and fixed before you leave.
- The UMKC School of Dentistry offers excellent Dental Health Care at a reduced rate for UMKC students if you need dental care in Kansas City.

**DEFER YOUR ADMISSION**

- If you are unable to attend UMKC for the semester to which you were admitted and you would like to defer to a future semester, please email [isao@umkc.edu](mailto:isao@umkc.edu) with your request to defer. Please include your name, student ID, and the semester to which you would like to defer. Failure to defer attendance may delay a later admission or complicate the creation of a new form I-20 document.

**The staff members of the International Student Affairs Office at UMKC  
welcome you to your new campus!**

International Student Affairs Office (ISAO)  
University of Missouri-Kansas City  
5235 Rockhill Road, Kansas City, MO 64110

Tel: **816-235-1113** • Fax: 816-235-6577  
Email: [isao@umkc.edu](mailto:isao@umkc.edu) • Web: <http://www.umkc.edu/isao>