

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-KANSAS CITY

*The World Meets
Here*



PRE-ARRIVAL
INFORMATION

We're excited to meet you!

Welcome! We're excited you'll be joining us at the University of Missouri–Kansas City in the upcoming academic year! In this guide, you'll find information that will help you prepare for your travel to Kansas City and for success as a student at UMKC. As always, if you have any questions, please contact our office. We're happy to help you!

We look forward to seeing you soon!

International Student Affairs Office Staff

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Pre-Arrival Checklist

Before you arrive.	3
Once in Kansas City.	4
Take care of yourself.	5
Need help?.	5

Helpful Information

Applying for a U.S. student visa.	6
<i>Register for classes once you have your visa</i>	
Sign up for housing.	7
<i>On-campus living</i>	
<i>Off-campus apartments</i>	
Travel tips.	8
<i>Airline travel tips</i>	
<i>How to get from the airport to UMKC</i>	
<i>Where to stay</i>	
After you arrive in Kansas City.	9-10
<i>COVID quarantine information and general guidance</i>	
<i>Check-in session</i>	
<i>International Student Orientation</i>	
<i>Financial arrangements Payment of fees</i>	
<i>Financial aid and employment</i>	
Health care.	11
<i>Health care in the U.S.</i>	
<i>Health insurance and health care Eye care</i>	
<i>Dental care</i>	
Unable to attend UMKC?.....	12

Pre-arrival checklist



BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

- ❑ **REVIEW** your I-20 or DS-2019 form for accuracy and sign it with a pen.
- ❑ **APPLY** for F or J visa and schedule your interview: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas.html>
- ❑ **PAY** the SEVIS I-901 fee before the visa interview: fmjfee.com/
- ❑ **TAKE** the English language test (if your admission letter says that you need to.)
 - Test and test information are available online here: <https://info.umkc.edu/ali/homepage/future-students/caliope/>
 - Questions email: ali@umkc.edu
- ❑ **SCHEDULE** your flight to Kansas City
 - You MUST arrive no more than 30 days from the start date listed on your I-20 or DS-2019.
 - IF YOU ARRIVE TOO EARLY, you may be denied entry or be entered on a tourist visa, which will prevent you from enrolling in classes.
 - IF YOU ARRIVE LATE and UMKC did not authorize it by issuing a late arrival letter, you may be questioned at port of entry or prevented from entering.
- ❑ **SET UP your accounts:** Be sure you have access to Pathway, your UMKC email and Canvas.
 - Follow the instructions provided in an email sent to you at the time of your admission decision with the subject "Set up your UMKC Accounts."
 - You may wish to download the Secure Authenticate app to activate these accounts.
- ❑ **REGISTER** for an International Student Check-In session.
 - Check-In sessions are required for all F1 and J1 students.
 - You must be present in Kansas City at the time of your check-in session.
 - Refer to your email for links for registering for a check-in session.
- ❑ **ENROLL FULL-TIME** This is a requirement of your F/J student visa.

Due to COVID, enrollment in online courses is NOT restricted for the 2021/2022 academic year. You are required to be enrolled at least one course with a required in-person element.

 - ALI English classes ONLY: You are required to be in 12 credit hours.
 - Bachelor's students: You are required to be in 12 credit hours.
 - Master's and Doctoral Students: You are required to be in 9 credit hours.
- ❑ **PLAN** where you will stay in Kansas City
 - Know the address you are going to upon arrival in Kansas City and be sure you can cover all of your immediate expenses (transportation, hotel or rent costs.)
 - On-campus: Residential Life Office: 816-235-8840 or housing@umkc.edu
 - Off-campus: Research apartments in Kansas City. Know your rights and know what you are signing when you sign the lease. For helpful resources, visit umkc.edu/isao/future-students/student-housing/

ONCE IN KANSAS CITY

☐ **COMPLETE** recommended COVID quarantine

- If you have received an [FDA](#) or WHO authorized vaccine [get tested](#) 3-5 days after travel.
 - If your test is positive, isolate yourself to protect others from getting infected
- If you have not received an FDA or WHO authorized vaccine, [get tested](#) 3-5 days after travel and remain in quarantine for 7 days after international travel.
 - Remain in quarantine for the full 7 days even if you receive negative test results
 - If your test is positive or you choose not to get tested, quarantine for 10 days from the positive result or as recommended by your doctor.

☐ **REMAIN** up-to-date regarding COVID guidance for the university and the city:

- Masks are no longer required on campus or throughout the city of Kansas City for those who are fully vaccinated.
- Dining may still be restricted to carry-out at restaurants, though most have returned to in-person dining.
- Campus updates are available here: <https://www.umkc.edu/coronavirus/students/index.html>
- Kansas City updates are available here: <https://www.visitkc.com/coronavirus>

☐ **ATTEND** your REQUIRED check-in session through the International Student Affairs Office.

☐ **ATTEND** ISAO's International Student Orientation.

Orientation takes place the Thursday before classes start.

- For Fall 2021, the live orientation event will be held on Zoom on August 19. UMKC should resume in-person orientation for Spring 2020 on January 20th.
- Required materials and a short quiz will be available in Canvas.
- All new international students are REQUIRED to complete both elements of Orientation.

☐ **ATTEND** any other required orientation events.

- Students admitted to programs within the School of Computing and Engineering (SCE), Bloch School of Management or the Conservatory.

☐ **MEET** with your Academic Advisor

- A list of academic advisors can be found at: <https://www.umkc.edu/registrar/academic-programs/advising.html>
- You may need to call or email to set up an appointment.

☐ **GET your UMKC Student ID card:** Go to the One Card Office in the **Student Union at 5100 Cherry St., Kansas City, Missouri, 64110.**

- You must know your UMKC student ID number.
- Take your passport as proof of identification.

☐ **MAKE PAYMENT**

Cashiers Office: 5115 Oak St., Room 112.
816-235-1365, cashiers@umkc.edu

- Methods of payment:
<https://www.umkc.edu/cashiers/payments-and-billing/payment-methods.html>

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF

- ☐ **UPDATE** your local and mailing address in Pathway within 10 days
 - <https://umkc.umssystem.edu>
- ☐ **LOCATE** your health insurance card by visiting the Aetna website. Keep your card with you at all times.
- ☐ **REVIEW** the Student Health website in case you feel sick and need to visit:
 - info.umkc.edu/studenthealth/And UMKC's COVID-19 information to remain up-to-date:
 - <http://www.umkc.edu/coronavirus/students/index.html>
- ☐ **GET INVOLVED** and make friends through the Office of Student Involvement
 - info.umkc.edu/getinvolved/

NEED HELP?

International Student Affairs Office:

- 816-235-1113
- isao@umkc.edu
- <https://www.umkc.edu/isao/current-students/advising.html>

Campus Police:

- 816-235-1515

Police/hospital/fire department emergencies:

- Dial 911

Emergency Alert System:

- <https://www.umkc.edu/umkcalert/>

UMKC Women's Center:

- 816-235-1638
- info.umkc.edu/womenc/

Student Health:

- 816-235-6133

Counseling Health and Testing Center:

- 816-235-1635
- umkc.edu/counselingcenter/

IT Call Center:

- 816-235-2000
- callcenter@umkc.edu

HelpLine:

- 816-235-2222
- helpline@umkc.edu

Calendar

- Academic calendar: umkc.edu/registrar/acal.asp
- Event calendar: umkc.edu/calendar

Helpful Information



Applying for a U.S. student visa

Read your **I-20** or **DS-2019**, making sure that all of the information is correct and then sign the first page.

Visit ice.gov/sevis/i901 to pay your **SEVIS** fee and keep a copy of the receipt.

Determine which U.S. Embassy is nearest you using usembassy.gov and complete the visa application form (DS-160) found on your embassy's website. Once completed, you may schedule an appointment.

Gather copies of any materials submitted during the UMKC application process and the documents included in the admission packet. You may be asked to present them at your visa interview. Visit our student visa page for more details:

www.umkc.edu/isao/admitted-students/student-visa.html.

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

- You must have a clear educational goal in mind when you apply for a visa. The consular official will be looking for specific information about how you decided to attend UMKC. Reasons may include but are not limited to:
 - degree programs or research fields available
 - financial assistance/scholarship
 - low cost of living and tuition
 - you may have a friend who is currently enrolled
 - you might have met a faculty or staff member from UMKC.
- 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 official 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.

Once you have obtained your student visa, you may register for a check-in session and sign up for your classes.

- Watch your email for "Time to Register for UMKC Check-In" for information about how to register.

REGISTER FOR CLASSES

- **AFTER YOU HAVE REGISTERED FOR YOUR CHECK-IN SESSION:** You may contact your academic department directly to schedule an appointment with your academic advisor.
- Once registered, it is important to purchase books and supplies for your classes in order to be prepared for the first class. You can [schedule purchase and pick up of your books for your full schedule](#) through the UMKC Bookstore.
- The UMKC academic calendar for all important dates: <https://calendar.umkc.edu/academic-calendar/>.
- University office hours: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday; closed on Saturday, Sunday and national holidays.
- If you register for classes in advance of your arrival in the US, [your first tuition payment](#) will be due on the 10th of the month in which classes begin.

Sign up for housing



Admission to the university DOES NOT guarantee you will receive university housing. You are responsible for arranging your own housing and must apply for UMKC housing separately.

- Students are not required to live on campus.
- We recommend you make housing arrangements before coming to Kansas City.
- Some nationality groups will help individuals from their nationality group find housing. Please contact your nationality group through roogroups.umkc.edu.

UMKC RESIDENCE HALLS AND ON-CAMPUS APARTMENTS

- Residence halls provide on-campus accommodation with single, double and suite-style rooms. A meal plan is required with the campus cafeteria.
- For those living in UMKC apartment, meal plans are available, but are not mandatory.
- Explore on-campus housing options here: www.umkc.edu/residential-life/housing-options/index.html
- UMKC Residence Life Business Office
Tel: 816-235-8840; email: housing@umkc.edu
- Web: umkc.edu/housing

OFF-CAMPUS APARTMENTS

Numerous off-campus housing opportunities are available that are located near campus.

You can explore off-campus housing options, as well as review roommate and sublease search postings by other students here: offcampushousing.umkc.edu/

Traveling tips



You **MUST** arrive in the U.S. **BEFORE** the start date listed on your I-20/DS-2019, but **DO NOT ARRIVE** more than 30 days **BEFORE** your start date.

Note: The Kansas City International Airport code is MCI

AIRLINE TRAVEL TIPS

We want your trip to Kansas City to be safe and pleasant, so please observe the following:

- Be aware that airlines have a maximum weight requirement per suitcase. Airlines may also charge to check luggage per bag.
- 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.
- Never carry a large amount of cash. You should have a means to cover initial expenses such as taxi or bus fare, meals and initial housing.
- If you need help, ask an airport employee.
- Never leave your luggage unattended.

HOW TO TRAVEL FROM THE AIRPORT TO UMKC

Here are several options:

Super Shuttle:

The cost for ONE-WAY transportation on a Super Shuttle, for up to three people, is between \$39 USD and \$79 USD, plus tip. Please note that fare quotes are dependent on destination zip code. All major credit cards and cash are accepted. You can arrange for the Super Shuttle to pick you up by calling 816-243-5000 or you can make a reservation online:

<https://www.supershuttle.com/>.

Taxi:

The cost for ONE-WAY transportation via taxi is \$40 to \$100 USD, plus tip. Please note that final charge is based on miles traveled to destination.

Rideshare:

Rideshare programs like UBER may also be used from the airport, with cost ranging from \$25 USD to \$85 USD.

WHERE TO STAY

There are several hotels within 2.5 km of UMKC. The average cost per night at a local hotel starts at around \$150 USD. Tell them you are a UMKC student for possible discounts:

- **InterContinental Kansas City**
816-756-1500
401 Ward Parkway, Kansas City, MO 64112
- **Holiday Inn Country Club Plaza**
816-753-7400
1 E. 45th St., Kansas City, MO 64111
- **Marriott**
816-531-3000
4445 Main St., Kansas City, MO 64111
- **Best Western Plus Seville Plaza Hotel**
816-561-9600
4309 Main St., Kansas City, MO 64111
- **Sheraton Suites Country Club Plaza**
816-931-4400
770 W. 47th St., Kansas City, MO 64112
- **Embassy Suites Kansas City-Plaza-Hilton**
816-756-1720
220 W. 43rd St., Kansas City, MO 64111

After you arrive in Kansas City



COVID QUARANTINE INFORMATION AND GENERAL GUIDANCE

The [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) has updated recommendations related to COVID testing and quarantine. You are asked to:

- For people [fully vaccinated](#) with an [FDA-authorized vaccine](#) or a vaccine authorized for emergency use by the [World Health Organization](#):
 - [Get tested](#) with a [viral test](#) 3-5 days after travel.
 - If your test is positive, [isolate](#) yourself to protect others from getting infected.
 - Self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms; isolate and get tested if you develop symptoms.
- After travel information for **unvaccinated people**:
 - [Get tested](#) with a [viral test](#) 3-5 days after travel **AND** stay home and self-quarantine for a full 7 days after travel.
 - Even if you test negative, stay home and self-quarantine for the full 7 days.
 - If your test is positive, [isolate](#) yourself to protect others from getting infected.
 - If you don't get tested, stay home and self-quarantine for 10 days after travel.
- **If you are living in on-campus housing, 10 day quarantine is required regardless of test results.**

We recommend making your travel plans to be able to comply with CDC guidelines without causing disruption to beginning your studies.

UMKC, as well as the city of Kansas City and surrounding areas, no longer require the use of masks or face covering in shared spaces. This includes inside campus buildings and local businesses and public transportation. Private businesses, places of worship, and medical facilities may have their own mask and social distancing requirements still in place and you should abide by any posted notifications at the entrances of the locations you visit.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO FOR MY CHECK-IN SESSION*?

After you arrive in Kansas City, you **MUST** complete the check-in process with the International Student Affairs Office.

You may sign up for check-in sessions using the link in the email provided to you with the subject "Time to Register for UMKC Check-In!"

- Passport
- **I-20** or **DS-2019**
- **I-94 card** or **printed electronic I-94** from <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/i94/>
- Current address in/near Kansas City (even if it is only temporary) — If you do not give us a US address, your active status on your visa cannot be registered.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ORIENTATION

Attendance is required for all new and transfer F-1 or J-1 students

- Orientation is held on the Thursday before the start of classes.
- Failure to attend orientation will prevent registration for classes for the next semester.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

It is important 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 lifestyle.
- 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 nine 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. Approximately 25-33% of your total bill may be due upon enrollment. All due dates are available at umkc.edu/cashiers/payments-and-billing/payment-schedules.html
- UMKC students may also arrange a four (4)-installment payment plan with the Cashiers Office.
- If a bill is to be sent to a government sponsoring agency or institution, please ensure your sponsor's financial support letter is on record with the university cashier.
- For additional information about university fees, see: umkc.edu/cashiers/tuition-fees/index.html

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.
- International graduate students may not be eligible for an assistantship until they have completed a semester or a year of study at UMKC.
- International students awarded graduate assistantships that include teaching responsibilities must submit a TOEFL Speaking score of 24+ (or equivalent IELTS, PTE, or GTEC speaking score) and complete a training program before undertaking teaching assignments.
- All F1 students are authorized for part-time employment on the UMKC campus. On-campus jobs in various university offices and departments may be available and posted on Handshake: umkc.join.handshake.com

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Working off-campus without permission from immigration or ISAO is illegal for F-1 and J-1 students. United States 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 their degree field (not including English as a second language).

Health care



HEALTH CARE IN THE U.S.

Bring a certified English translation of your immunization record.

- We strongly recommend that you are up to date with your immunizations before coming to the U.S.
- For students living on campus, UMKC requires proof of immunization against **measles, mumps, and rubella and meningitis**.
- If you have children joining you in Kansas City, you should have copies of their immunization record.
- If your children are eligible to attend school while they are here, they must prove they have had the following immunizations before they will be allowed to enroll: **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. You are billed automatically upon registration for classes.
- The university's mandatory insurance plan covers or exceeds all typical insurance options outlined by the U.S. government as requirements for international students and scholars.
- Costs for this insurance are included in expenses listed on your **I-20 or DS 2019**.
- For coverage details, see info.umkc.edu/ISAO/admitted-students/health-insurance
- Bring an adequate supply of your personal 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), as they may be requested or required at port of entry during your travels.

EYE CARE

- Please note that the UMKC student insurance does not cover the cost of eye care.
- A visit to the eye doctor costs about \$45 to \$100 USD and eyeglasses can cost \$200 USD or more.
- If you have an eye condition that requires more than corrective eyeglasses, there will be additional costs.

DENTAL CARE

- Dental care in the U.S. is very expensive and is not covered by UMKC student health insurance.
- There is an option to purchase dental insurance from the same provider, Aetna, on a self-contracted plan. You can visit Aetna's UMKC website for more details: aetnastudenthealth.com/en/school/890439/index.html
- 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.

Unable to attend UMKC? Defer your admission.

If you are unable to attend UMKC this semester and you would like to defer to a future semester, please email isao@umkc.edu with your request to defer. You MUST include your name, student ID, and the semester to which you would like to defer.

Have questions? Contact us.

One of the ways you can ask questions and talk to our ambassadors is by contacting us through our [Facebook page](#).

You can also contact us at 816-235-1113 or isao@umkc.edu. We look forward to hearing from you!

*Our staff in the International Student Affairs Office
welcomes you to UMKC!*



International Student Affairs Office (ISAO)

University of Missouri-Kansas City

Student Success Center, G-04

5000 Holmes Street, Kansas City, MO 64110

Tel: 816-235-1113 Fax: 816-235-6502

isao@umkc.edu | umkc.edu/isao