



SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS COLLEGE

Welcome to The Woods! We look forward to welcoming you to our community in person this August. International students often have questions about coming to The Woods and the U.S. to study. You may find the following suggestions helpful as you make your final plans. If you have additional questions you may email us at:

jmalloy@smwc.edu or ecoley@smwc.edu.

Before you leave home (Checklist):

- ✚ Promptly email all information (New Student Information Sheet, Health Form, Housing Form, Travel Form, and any other forms) to campuslife@smwc.edu. (Please make sure the Health Form is filled in *English* only. In the Housing Form, under item 2, you can fill in Roommate Preferences if you know who you want to share a room with. We cannot adjust room arrangements after you arrive on campus. Bring your original health form with you to Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College.
- ✚ Purchase international insurance. This insurance needs to **begin** the day you arrive at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College and needs to continue until your departure in May. It is important that you purchase the correct insurance. Please look at the information in the insurance section of this letter for more specifics on how to acquire coverage.
- ✚ Tell your friends and family how they can contact you – let your family know you will contact them upon your safe arrival.
- ✚ Leave copies of important documents (passport, Visa, I-20) at home in the event of lost luggage while traveling.

Finances:

Here are some things to consider when you think about money, travel and living in a foreign country.

- ✚ Obtain a major credit card (Master Card/Visa etc) before you leave home. It will be more difficult for you to get one when you are here. You can also use it, with your family's cooperation, to withdraw money when you are here.
- ✚ Do **not** travel with or keep large amounts of cash on your person, in your luggage or your hotel room. A better option would be to use traveler's checks or credit cards.
- ✚ The Orientation Team will take you to a local bank soon after you arrive. Once you have opened a bank account here, for a small fee, your family will be able to wire transfer money directly to your personal account.
- ✚ Special insurance is required (see next topic) to cover high U.S. medical expenses.

Insurance:

Certain, very specific, insurance is required for international students at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College. Insurance coverage from your home country is not adequate for U.S. medical costs and they do not cover repatriation or medical evacuation in case of serious illness or injury. As indicated in the expense section of your I-20, you will be required purchase insurance prior to your arrival. The insurance must begin on August 18, 2012 and needs to be thru May 4, 2013. The Office of Campus Life will request proof of the purchase of insurance once you arrive from the airport. Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College recommends the following insurance plan, as it meets our minimum requirements.

Insurance Company	Insurance Plan	Website
International Student Organization	Compass Gold	http://www.isoa.org

Packing:

You will go shopping the first few days of arrival to purchase bulky items such as bed linens, room furnishings, desk lamps, alarm clocks or heavier clothing if needed. The weather in Indiana varies from cold and snowy in winter (December to March) to warm and humid in the summer (June to September).

Students on campus dress in a very casual manner—jeans, slacks or shorts in warmer weather. You may wish to have one or two more dressy outfits available also. Sweaters, hats, gloves, scarves, boots and heavy coats are needed in the winter.

You will have an opportunity to share your culture while you are here. International students often bring cultural items, traditional dress or small gift items from home. Pictures of home and family decorate your room and are nice for you to share with us!

Arrival procedures:

Please complete the travel form located at <http://www.smwc.edu/student-life/international-travel-form/>. On the day of your arrival, a College representative will meet you at the airport. Details will be sent to you via email.

Help after orientation:

SMWC has many resources for international students. Some of the resources include: the Campus Life staff, Academic Advisors, Learning Resource Center and Tutors, Personal Counselor, Campus Minister and others. The campus is very friendly and you will find your professors, other students or any staff member eager and willing to help you.

U.S. Government requirements for F-1 students:

There are some requirements for international students on an F-1 visa that we will discuss in more detail during continued orientation. Here are some important points to consider now.

- ✚ You must take 12 credit hours of class every semester.
- ✚ You may not work except on campus.
- ✚ You may not leave the U.S. without the signature of a Designated School Official from SMWC.

Hall closings:

The residence in which you will live and campus food service will close during Christmas Break, Spring Break and possibly a few shorter breaks during the Academic Year. Most students plan to travel or visit friends during breaks. If you need housing during campus closings you will need to contact the Campus Life office. Kitchens are available but you will need to purchase and cook your own food at these times if you stay.

Sincerely,

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