



Important Dates and Arrival Information

Fall 2026

Attendance is mandatory at the events below.

August 12: J-1 International student orientation

August 16: F-1 international students arrive on campus

August 17 - 19: F-1 international orientation

August 19 - 25: First Year Experience/New Student Orientation

August 26: Undergraduate courses begin

The University provides free transportation to campus from the Nashville airport at set times on Sunday, August 16th.

Please contact Travis Parker, International Student & Scholar Advisor, if you have any questions.

Be sure to check out the list of [accommodations and important dates](#) for future planning.

Entering the U.S. and Customs & Border Protection (CBP or "Customs") Arrival Informatio

The below information is made available to you so that your travel to and preparations for Sewanee can be as smooth as possible.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) will allow you to enter the U.S. no more than 30 days before your program start date. Plan extra time for flight connections, especially in the U.S., in case you miss a flight or are delayed at US Customs (CBP).

If you are detained at a P.O.E. (Port of Entry) for secondary inspection, entering could take longer than planned. Secondary inspection, once rare, is becoming more common for F and J visa-holders and could cause a delay in your arrival. If you have any changes in your flight schedules and arrival times, please call or email Travis Parker as soon as possible.

When traveling to the U.S., you should bring the following documents with you, in your carryon. You will need these at the Port of Entry.

1. Admission letter
2. I-20 (F students) or DS-2019 (J students)
3. Passport valid for at least six months after you enter the U.S.
4. Original financial documents: Any emails/letters from Sewanee stating your funding amount, as well as a bank letter or statement of personal funds
5. Copy of the SEVIS I-901 Fee Payment Confirmation
6. Copy of your DS-160 Confirmation
7. Sewanee's Health Insurance Brochure

J-1 Students Only: Letter of agreement or exchange from your university, or the letter nominating you for the exchange. If you are a Language House Director, you will need the Sewanee faculty letter offering you the Language House position.

Orientation

F-1 and J-1 International Student Orientation is mandated by USCIS. Orientation will introduce you to campus, review important governmental regulations, and provide you with the opportunity to buy any necessary personal items to help you settle into campus (e.g. clothes, toiletries, electronics, household, linens, etc). Once you arrive on campus, we will help you settle into your room in your residence hall. We will provide meals for you, starting the first morning of international student orientation so **please be prepared to buy your meal(s) during your travel to campus.**

The first activity of international orientation will be your SEVIS check-in, which is required by

SEVP in order for you to remain in status. During this check-in, we will print your electronic I-94 Arrival and Departure document and make copies of necessary documents. Please bring the following with you to the check-in:

• I-20

- • Passport with U.S. F-1 visa
- • Original, personal financial documents
- • Local address and phone number

Residence Halls

The residence halls, theme houses, and language houses are of various ages and in various states of refurbishing. Some residence halls offer suite-style living, while others have more traditional arrangements. Please visit the [Office of Residential Life](#) to learn more about your specific residence hall. We **HIGHLY** recommend purchasing or packing your bed linens in advance as your residence hall room will not have towels or linens when you arrive. If you would like to purchase linens in advance, you can do this online. Should you like to mail anything to Sewanee in advance, we would like to arrange to have your items put into your Residence Hall. Please plan for your items to arrive by Thursday, August 5th, and address your items to the following address:

Sewanee SPO - 'YOUR NAME'

Attn: Office of Global Citizenship - Travis Parker 735 University Avenue
Sewanee, TN 37383

Health Insurance

All F-1 and J-1 international students will automatically be enrolled in Sewanee's [international health insurance](#) plan from August 1 - July 31 of each academic year they are enrolled. Visit [LewerMark](#) for more information.

TIP: Print or save this form for your records.