Wesley College
International Programs

2019-2020
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT HANDBOOK
Between Acceptance and Orientation Day
Welcome to Wesley College and to Dover Delaware! We are so happy you chose to study with us. We look forward to sharing your experience here with you.

This handbook is designed to help you prepare for the adventure of before you arrive at Wesley College. Moving to a new place and starting classes at a new school is never easy, but we will work with you to make that transition as smooth as possible.

The International Programs Office is here to help you any way we can, so please contact us if you have any questions or concerns during your time here at Wesley. This is the chance of a lifetime and it will be over before you know it! Make every moment count and good luck in everything you do!

Rebecca Schrodin
Director of International Programs

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International Programs Office
InternationalPrograms@wesley.edu
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Dover, Delaware 19901
Phone: (302) 736-2411
WESLEY COLLEGE MISSION

Wesley College is a United Methodist institution of higher education that seeks to be among the finest student-centered learning communities in the liberal arts tradition. Consistent with our Methodist heritage, the College affirms meaning and purpose in life through justice, compassion, inclusion and social responsibility that enhance community life and respect for the environment. Wesley College exists to liberate and empower its students with The knowledge, skills, ethical attitudes and capacity for critical thinking needed to achieve personal and professional goals and to contribute to the local and global society.

WHAT IS THE WEATHER LIKE?

Weather at Wesley varies from season to season. Spring and autumn provide transitions of reasonable length and are similar, though spring is more wet. Summers are hot and humid, with 23 days per year reaching or surpassing 90 °F (32 °C).

WHERE IS WESLEY COLLEGE?

Wesley College and its athletic facilities are located on 50 acres in historic Dover, Delaware. Dover is the capital of the nation’s first state and has 35,000 residents. The campus is situated in Dover’s major residential community with stores and banks in easy walking distance and malls a short commute. In addition to being the site of many pre-Revolutionary War buildings and sites, Dover is also the home of Dover Air Force Base and Dover Downs International Speedway, which hosts two annual NASCAR races. The city has a number of fine eating establishments as well as a wide variety of fast food restaurants. Seafood is a specialty because of the city’s proximity to the Delaware and Chesapeake bays and to the Atlantic Ocean. New York City, Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C., are within a two to three hour drive of the campus.
**IMMIGRATION INFORMATION**

The processes before you get your visa!

**F-1 IMMIGRATION STATUS**

Once you are admitted to Wesley, the International Programs Office issues a certificate of eligibility called I-20 for F-1 students. This certificate of eligibility (also known as visa document) must be used to apply for a student visa at a U.S. Consulate or Embassy. After your student visa is issued, you can make plans to come to the U.S. (Note for Canadian citizens: a student visa is not required but you must obtain F-1 or J-1 status when you enter the U.S.)

- I-20 from Wesley College
- Nonimmigrant Visa Application form DS-160 (Online)
- A valid passport
- (1) Passport size photo meeting requirements
- Visa application fee receipt
- I-901 SEVIS fee receipt [www.fmjfee.com](http://www.fmjfee.com)
- Admissions Letter from Wesley
- Original Financial documents
- Documents to demonstrate a connection to your home country
- Check with your local embassy for any other required documents.

**WHEN & WHERE TO APPLY FOR AN F-1 VISA**

The International Programs Office recommends you apply for your F-1 visa once you obtain your I-20 at a U.S. consular office in your home country. Apply early! Some visa applications may require further administrative processing. This can add several weeks to the process.

The International Programs Office is unable to intervene on your behalf to speed up this process. The U.S. consular officer will determine whether you qualify for the student visa. No assurances regarding the issuance of visas can be given in advance. For U.S. Consular offices, visit [www.usembassy.gov](http://www.usembassy.gov).

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**REQUIRED DOCUMENTS WHEN APPLYING FOR AN F-1 VISA**

- I-20 from Wesley College
- Nonimmigrant Visa Application form DS-160 (Online)
- A valid passport
- (1) Passport size photo meeting requirements
- Visa application fee receipt
- I-901 SEVIS fee receipt [www.fmjfee.com](http://www.fmjfee.com)
- Admissions Letter from Wesley
- Original Financial documents
- Documents to demonstrate a connection to your home country
- Check with your local embassy for any other required documents.

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PREPARING FOR YOUR ARRIVAL

FOR STUDENTS OUTSIDE THE U.S. (NEW INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS)

1. Review your I-20.
Contact the International Programs Office immediately at internationaladmissions@wesley.edu if a correction is needed.

2. Pay the SEVIS fee.
The Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) www.fmjfee.com

3. Contact the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate to schedule a visa appointment.
A list is of consulates is available at www.usembassy.gov.

4. Gather documents needed for the visa interview.
Follow guidelines provided in this handbook and requirements specific to the U.S. Embassy or Consulate where you will have your interview. We recommend that you read Frequently Asked Questions on Student Visas at travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/study-exchange/student.html.

5. Be prepared for your interview. This will be a short conversation and a review of your documents. Be sure you are able to explain why you want to study in the U.S. and why this is important for your future career.

6. Make travel arrangements AFTER you receive your visa.

7. Carry documents with you on the airplane.
Keep your I-20, passport, student visa, admissions letter, SEVIS I-901 fee receipt, and financial documentation with you when you travel. Do not put these immigration documents in your checked luggage. You will need to present these to a Customs and Border Patrol officer (CBP) when you enter the U.S.

FOR STUDENTS ALREADY IN THE U.S. COMPLETING A TRANSFER

1. Review your I-20.
Contact the International Programs Office immediately at internationaladmissions@wesley.edu if a correction is needed.

2. You do not have to pay the SEVIS fee again if the SEVIS record from your previous school was transferred to Wesley and your new I-20 from Wesley has your previous SEVIS record number.

3. If you are traveling outside the U.S. during the summer, you must use the I-20 issued by Wesley to re-enter the U.S.

4. Any other Transfer Situations?
Ask the International Admissions Counselor.

HELPFUL ONLINE RESOURCES

Study in the States studyinthestates.dhs.gov/ive-been-accepted

Paying for your SEVIS Fee studyinthestates.dhs.gov/paying-your-i-901-sevis-fee

Applying for a Visa to Travel to the United States studyinthestates.dhs.gov/applying-for-a-visa-to-travel-to-the-united-states

Get Ready to Go! studyinthestates.dhs.gov/get-ready-to-go

Arriving in the United States studyinthestates.dhs.gov/getting-to-the-united-states
1. Ties to Your Home Country
You must be able to show that you have reasons for returning to your home country that are stronger than those for remaining in the United States. "Ties" to your home country are the things that bind you to your home town, homeland, or current place of residence: job, family, financial prospects that you own or will inherit, investments, etc.

2. English
Anticipate that the interview will be conducted in English and not in your native language. One suggestion is to practice English conversation with a native speaker before the interview, but do NOT prepare speeches!

3. Speak for Yourself
Do not bring parents or family members with you to the interview. The consular officer wants to interview you, not your family.

4. Know the Program and How It Fits Your Career Plans
You should be able to explain how studying, researching, or teaching in the United States relates to your future professional career when you return home.

5. Be Brief
Because of the volume of applications received, all consular officers are under considerable time pressure to conduct a quick and efficient interview. They must make a decision, for the most part, on the impressions they form during the first minute of the interview. Consequently, what you say first and the initial impression you create are critical to your success. Keep your answers to the officer's questions short and to the point.

6. Additional Documentation
It should be immediately clear to the consular officer what written documents you are presenting and what they signify. Lengthy written explanations cannot be quickly read or evaluated. Remember that you will have 2-3 minutes of interview time, if you are lucky.

7. Not All Countries are Equal
Applicants from countries suffering economic problems or from countries where many students or scholars have remained in the United States as immigrants will have more difficulty getting visas. They are also more likely to be asked about job opportunities at home after their study, research or teaching in the United States.

8. Employment
Your main purpose in coming to the United States should be to study, not for the chance to work before or after graduation. You cannot work off campus. You must be able to clearly articulate your plan to return home at the end of your program. If your spouse is also applying for an accompanying F-2 visa, be prepared to address what your spouse intends to do with his or her time while in the United States. Volunteer work and vocational classes are permitted activities.

9. Dependents Remaining at Home
If your spouse and children are remaining behind in your country, be prepared to address how they will support themselves in your absence.

10. Maintain a Positive Attitude
Do not engage the consular officer in an argument. If you are denied a student visa, ask the officer for a list of documents he or she would suggest you bring in order to overcome the refusal, and try to get the reason you were denied in writing.
AFTER YOUR VISA APPOINTMENT

What happens after a visa is granted or denied?

VISA DENIAL

1. DON’T WORRY! YOU CAN REAPPLY!
2. Remember what the Consular Officer said after saying your visa was denied.
3. Talk to International Programs Staff: Let them know what was said by the Consular, and discuss a method to approach your next appointment.
5. Book another visa appointment.
6. DON’T GIVE UP! Some times visas take 3-4 times to get approved.
7. You may have to wait a semester to reapply for a new visa.
8. You are the only one who can prove you are just coming to the USA for studying. The International Programs office cannot help you at the Embassy.

VISA GRANTED

1. CONGRATULATIONS!!!!
2. Notify International Programs
3. Pay your $250 Deposit and $150 Housing Deposit (Undergraduates Only)
4. Book your flight to the USA according to Airport Pick Up Schedule! (Next Page)
5. Send International Programs your flight Itinerary in ENGLISH!
6. Immunization forms. Email will be sent Separately.
7. Housing:
   Living on Campus: Academic Interest Inventory must be filled out.
   Living Off Campus: Look into off campus housing online, send emails or make calls to find something in your price range.
8. DO NOT FORGET ANY IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS FOR ENTERING THE US!!!!!
AIRPORT ARRIVAL

Wesley College International Programs has one airport pick–up date from Philadelphia International Airport every semester.

**Every semester the airport pick up date varies. Please plan to arrive at Philadelphia International Airport between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm (Eastern Time) to be picked up by Wesley College.**

*We fully understand there are cheaper flights to other airports...*

If you decide to fly into another airport, please take a connecting flight or shuttle to Philadelphia International Airport during the above times to get the van to Wesley College. If you do not, you must pay for a car service to Wesley College, and the average price for a car service is $150 USD.

AIRPORT PICK-UP DATES WILL VARY PER SEMESTER. PLEASE CHECK YOUR EMAIL!

Please email the International Admissions Counselor your flight itinerary in ENGLISH! If you arrive before the above dates, be prepared to stay in a local hotel.

**Contact the International Admissions Counselor if you have any concerns or issues with your arrival.**

NEXT STOP CUSTOMS
IMMIGRATION PROCESS AT THE U.S. PORT OF ENTRY

What to expect when you arrive to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

DOCUMENTS NEEDED AT PORT OF ENTRY

1. I-20
2. Valid Passport
3. F-1 Student Visa
4. Financial Documents
5. Admissions Letter
6. I-901 receipt of SEVIS fee

LAND BORDERS PORT OF ENTRY

If you enter the U.S. by land, you will receive a paper form of the I-94. The I-94 card records your arrival and departure from the U.S.

AIR AND SEA PORT OF ENTRY

If you enter the U.S. by air or sea your arrival will be recorded electronically, and you can print your I-94 at https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov.

Traveling without all immigration documents needed to enter the U.S. might be reason to be denied entry. Entry to the U.S. is up to the discretion of the immigration officer at the port of entry.

TRAVEL TIP

Carry your documents with you because you will need to have access to these important documents at the port of entry. Do not pack documents in checked baggage.

I-515 A FORM

If you are granted entry to the U.S. after coming with insufficient documentation, you may receive an I-515A Form at the time of entry; which allows you to stay in the U.S. for 30 days. If you receive an I-515A form, you MUST come to the International Programs Office and meet with the DSO.

BIOMETRIC PROCEDURE

At the Port of Entry you should expect to experience U.S. VISIT’S biometric procedure: a digital, inkless finger scan and digital photograph.

FOR CANADIAN CITIZENS

Canadian citizens do not need to apply for a visa at a U.S. Consulate, but must enter the U.S. in F-1 status.

Canadian citizens will need the following to enter the U.S. as students:
- Canadian passport
- The original I-20
- I-901 SEVIS fee payment
- Financial documents
- Proof of ties to Canada

After successful entry to the U.S., Canadian international students must complete the International Programs Office check-in process.

VISA & SEVIS FEES

Nonimmigrant Visa Application Processing Fee
travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/fees/fees-visa-services.html

Visa Issuance Fee: If the visa is issued, you may need to pay an additional visa issuance reciprocity fee. Please consult the visa reciprocity table at travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/fees/reciprocity-by-country.html

Once you obtain your new I-20 from Wesley consult the “Who pays – or does not pay – the I-901 SEVIS fee and when is it paid?” www.ice.gov/sevis/i901/faq
You will then enter the area above. You will see a representative from Wesley College holding a sign that either says your name or Wesley College.

After you meet the representative from Wesley, you will be picked up by the Wesley College Van!

And we follow the schedule below!

**SCHEDULE FOR THE DAY OF ARRIVAL:**
1. Pick up students from airport!
2. Get your first American Meal!
3. Shopping at Walmart/Target (Groceries, Linens, SIM Card, etc.)
4. Home Sweet Home at Wesley Dorm, Hotel, or Apartment.

**NEXT DAY:**
International Student Orientation

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**TRAVEL TIP!**
Carry your new address information with your immigration documents when you travel because you will have to provide the specific address of your destination, especially if you are taking are car service.

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**Suggested list of what to Buy at Walmart!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sheets and Comforters</td>
<td>Carpenter, Malmberg, Zimmerman Dorms - Standard Twin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gooding, Williams, Roe Dorms - Extra Long Twin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pins</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toiletries</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleaning Supplies (Paper Towels, Clorox Wipes, etc.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Supplies</td>
<td>Plastic Cup/Plate/ utensils for dorm room eating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIM Card</td>
<td>Water/Juice</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**HOME SWEET HOME**

- **If you are an Undergraduate Student able to live on Campus:**
  We will move you into your dormitory.

- **If you are an Undergraduate Student unable to live on Campus or Arrive Early or Graduate Student:**
  If you have found housing and are able to move in, we will take you to your new home.
  If you have not found housing or not able to move in, we will take you to one of the hotels below.

**YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYING FOR YOUR HOTEL!**

**HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS IN DOVER**

- **Redroof Inn**
  652 N Dupont Hwy, Dover, DE 19901
  www.redroof.com
  Phone: (302) 730-8009

- **Comfort Inn & Suites**
  764 Dover Leipsic Road, Dover, DE 19901
  www.choicehotels.com
  Phone: (302) 677-0505
The day after your arrival we do an International Orientation Session. The sample schedule below gives us an idea of what to expect of the day. An updated schedule will be given to you the day of orientation. This is a mandatory event for new students. If you cannot make it for some reason, you will have to schedule an appointment with the International Programs Staff to go over all of the material.

**International Student Orientation Sample Schedule**

**Section 1 - Dulany 005 (Language Development Center)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11:30am</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30pm</td>
<td>President Welcome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:45pm</td>
<td>Provost Welcome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00pm</td>
<td>Welcome and Introductions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Check In/Maintaining your Status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:45pm</td>
<td>Computer/IT Update</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>Security Overview</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Section 2 - Informational Walking Tour of Campus**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2:30pm</td>
<td>Academic Advisement &amp; Academic Resource Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:45pm</td>
<td>IT - Brief Tour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00pm</td>
<td>Security - ID Cards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30pm</td>
<td>Business Office</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Following International Student Orientation there is a Domestic Orientation that all new students at Wesley have to attend. The Orientation is not mandatory for international students, but is recommended to attend. You can meet roommates, classmates, and friends that you will be working and bonding with throughout your time here at Wesley.
WELCOME TO WESLEY COLLEGE!