The Center for ESL (CESL), International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS), and everyone at the University of Kentucky (UK) would like to congratulate you on your acceptance into the ESL program. There are many things to do before you arrive at UK. Please read through this brochure carefully to learn more about all of the steps you need to take to prepare for your arrival.

Before you leave

Below are the steps you must complete before you arrive in Lexington, Kentucky. The steps will be described in more detail throughout the brochure.

☐ STEP 1: Pay SEVIS I-901 Fee online
☐ STEP 2: Schedule your visa appointment with the closest U.S. Embassy or Consulate
☐ STEP 3: Activate your Link Blue student account and UK email
☐ STEP 4: Plan your trip to Lexington, Kentucky
☐ STEP 5: Apply for housing
☐ STEP 6: Read health coverage information
☐ STEP 7: Review recommended immunizations
☐ STEP 8: Arrange airport transportation
☐ STEP 9: Arrive in Lexington and sign up for New Student Workshop

All steps can also be found on the ISSS Website: http://www.uky.edu/international/CESL/new
1 PAY SEVIS I-901 FEE
All F-1 and J-1 Non-immigrants are required by law to pay the SEVIS I-901 fee. The fee must be paid in order to arrange a visa appointment.

To pay the fee, go to: WWW.FMJFEE.COM

Don’t forget to print the receipt to keep with your I-20 and DS-2019

2 APPLY FOR US VISA
You should schedule your visa appointment for a visa interview at your nearest U.S. Embassy or consulate as soon as you can. Every Embassy or Consulate will have its own procedures for applying for a student visa, so be sure to follow the instructions on the website carefully. For general tips on preparing for your interview, please visit: bit.ly/visatips.

To find the website of the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate, visit www.usembassy.gov.
The Link Blue account is your UK student account. With your Link Blue account, you will be able to access your student bill, use computers in the library, complete homework, and you get your very own UK email address.

To activate ("turn on") your Link Blue account, please follow the instructions included with the packet.

Don’t forget your password! You will need it when you arrive at UK!
If you are not already in the United States you can legally enter up to 30 days prior to the start date on the I-20 or DS-2019. You will take an English placement exam and register for classes after you arrive. You may want to arrive in Lexington at least a few days before the orientation to adjust and rest before your exam.

The closest airport to the university is: Blue Grass Airport (LEX).

Please note: Immigration regulations state that you cannot arrive after the start date on your I-20 even for delays with obtaining your visa. If you cannot arrive by the beginning of check in/orientation week, contact International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) at ISSS@uky.edu.

See page 7 for important items you need to bring on the plane with you
If you are applying for on-campus housing, please go to this website for information: www.uky.edu/Housing/undergraduate/apply.html. This application should be submitted to the university before you arrive. The important thing to remember is that housing is not automatically reserved for students. Space is limited, so early application is recommended. There is no deposit required.

If you plan to live off-campus, please visit: www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/OCSS for helpful information as well as the Housing Locator.
All UK international students with F-1, J-1 or J-2 status are required to have health coverage. Upon arrival, all new ESL students will be required to complete a health coverage survey to determine their health plan coverage and payment.

Students with employer-provided or government-sponsored health plan that is compliant with the Affordable Care Act (ACA) will need to complete the Benefit Verification Process by the 10th day of classes. If the process is incomplete or the health plan does not meet the minimum requirements, students will be charged UK Student Health Plan.

All UK ESL students must complete this survey every Fall and Spring that they are enrolled in classes.

Review the vaccination and compliance policy at UK. We recommend that you update your immunizations before coming to UK.

More information can be found at: ukhealthcare.uky.edu/uhs/student-health/vaccinations
AIRPORT PICK UP

Taxi service from the Blue Grass Airport to UK’s campus costs about $20. For more information, visit: www.bluegrassairport.com/ground.html.

Community members are also happy to meet students at the Blue Grass Airport in the baggage claim area. This service is provided by the International Hospitality Program. To request a ride through the International Hospitality Program, please visit: www.uky.edu/international/airport_pickup. Please send your request at least 2 WEEKS before your arrival.
When you arrive in Lexington, follow the directions in your packet to SIGN UP FOR A NEW STUDENT WORKSHOP. Your LinkBlue account MUST be created to sign up.

During the workshop, you will learn about course registration, payment, placement testing, and mandatory orientation.

NEW STUDENT WORKSHOP AND ORIENTATION ARE MANDATORY

The workshop is required to report your arrival to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. If you do not complete the workshop, your visa status will be cancelled and you will be unable to register for classes.
When it’s time to travel to the U.S., carry these items with you on the plane. **DO NOT put them in your checked baggage.**

- Passport with valid F-1 or J-1 visa stamped on the inside
- Original I-20 (all 3 pages) or original DS-2019 (2 pages)
- Mandatory I-901 SEVIS fee receipt
- Letter of admission to UK
- Financial Documents—the bank statement/financial guarantee you provided with your application
- Immunization Documents
- Prescriptions for necessary medications
- $100 in cash and $1,500 in traveler’s checks (recommended)
HAVE QUESTIONS?
If you have any questions about the arrival process, please contact the International Student and Scholar Services at:

International Student and Scholar Services
Email: ISSS@UKY.EDU
Website: http://www.uky.edu/international/cesl

For the ESL Calendar, please see the following website:
esl.as.uky.edu/calendar-IEP