This Pre-Arrival Guide provides information about:
Early Arrival for International Students, the I-20 Application Process (for students who need visa support),
ISO Welcome, the Friends of International Students (FIS) Host Program, FAQ - Frequently Asked Questions,
Travel to Middlebury College and Important Deadlines.
Upon Arrival – Opening of School Programs

International students, including exchange students and U.S. students living abroad, begin their Middlebury experience with a series of programs run by various offices at the College. Some of the programs are optional, and some are required. International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) highly recommends that international students attend all of the available opening of school programs. In the past, students have shared with us that while they were hesitant to attend all programs at first, they were thankful to have done so because it allowed for a more gradual and thorough introduction to life in the U.S. and at the College. This section of the guide outlines the programs that we offer. (February entrants, see next page for information about your Early Arrival dates.)

Early Arrival (Highly recommended; registration with ISSS required)
Coordinated by International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS)
Thursday, September 3 – Monday, September 7, 2020

Early Arrival is a pre-orientation program that allows you, a new international student, extra time to recover from your travels around the world while learning about your U.S. visa status and the U.S. higher education system at Middlebury College. During Early Arrival, you will build connections with students, staff and faculty who will assist with your initial entry into the College and beyond. By participating in Early Arrival, you are allowed more time to acclimate to your new home in Middlebury, Vermont with peers experiencing a similar transition. Our hope is that these few days will help successfully launch you into the next phase of student life at Middlebury.

Early Arrival will cover specific topics such as your visa status and responsibilities, student employment options, cultural adjustments and tax planning. Participants will also enjoy organized and informal social activities. While the program is optional, most international students elect to participate.

To register for Early Arrival, please complete the Early Arrival Registration Form at: http://www.middlebury.edu/international/isss/earlyarrival.

MiddView (Required for all new students; no registration required)
Coordinated by the Office of the Dean of Students
Monday, September 7–Sunday, September 13, 2019

MiddView is our new student orientation program for new first-year, transfer and exchange students. All new students are required to participate in this program. This program covers a range of topics in an effort to introduce students to College resources and processes, and lead them into the school year. On the initial day of orientation, we invite family members to participate in a few sessions designated to address their specific questions, concerns and interests. While first-year students will participate in MiddView Trips at the end of the week, exchange and transfer students will take part in an off-campus adventure of their own. By June, we will post a detailed schedule on our website at: http://www.middlebury.edu/student-life/annual-events/Orientation.

ISSS Sponsored Events
Coordinated by ISSS
Dates to be determined

After the term begins, ISSS will host a variety of gatherings and workshops on topics that may be of interest to you. Many international students find these events help them continue making a successful transition to life at the College. These are also great opportunities to reunite with your international classmates and ISSS.
Students arriving in February

February Orientation (Required for all new international students entering in February)
Coordinated by International Student and Scholar Services and the Office of the Dean of Students
Tuesday, February 9 – Sunday, February 14, 2021

International students entering in February (a.k.a. “Febs”) will arrive on campus on Tuesday, February 9 for Early Arrival. That evening, our Feb mentors will host an informal dinner in the dining hall. On Wednesday morning, ISSS will offer important pre-orientation sessions aimed at addressing key topics that affect international students, such as maintaining status as a student visa holder, local culture, and employment.


February Orientation Trips (Optional); Registration opens in November
Coordinated by Middlebury Outdoor Programs (MOP)
Dates to be determined.

Various day trips allow incoming Febs to enjoy small group experiences in the local area. Trip descriptions will be available on the February Orientation Trips website by November at: http://www.middlebury.edu/student-life/annual-events/orientation/feb/foo.
Applying for a Form I-20

To enter the United States in a status that allows for study, non-U.S. citizens and non-Legal Permanent Residents of the U.S. must obtain a Form I-20 [Certificate of Eligibility for Non-immigrant (F-1) Student Status] issued from the Student Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS). For Middlebury College to issue your Form I-20, you must complete the Academic Year Form I-20 Application Form available on the ISSS website (see next page for web link).

Please note: Citizens of Canada and Bermuda need a Form I-20 and a valid passport; they do NOT need to apply for a visa at a U.S. Consulate. Instead, these citizens only need to present their valid I-20 and passport at the U.S. port of entry to enter the country in F-1 status.

If you are a non-U.S. citizen or non-U.S. Legal Permanent Resident and have a reason for not needing to obtain an I-20 or F-1 visa, please notify ISSS. If possible (and if you have not done so already), please provide us with a copy of any pertinent visa status or immigration documents so that we can update your records.

Students already in the U.S. in F-1 status also must submit the application and complete the I-20 SEVIS transfer process. If you are currently studying in the U.S. on an F-1 student visa, please be sure to note that on your I-20 application; special procedures for completing the I-20 transfer process will apply.

September Entrants: Please complete your I-20 application by June 1. We will strive to issue your I-20 along with instructions for obtaining an F-1 (student) visa within two weeks of receiving your completed application.

February Entrants: Please complete your I-20 application by November 1. We will strive to issue your I-20 along with instructions for obtaining an F-1 (student) visa within two weeks of receiving your completed application.

When ISSS sends your Middlebury College I-20, we will provide you with specific instructions about next steps. When we notify you by email that we mailed your I-20, ISSS will provide guidance about how to pay your I-901 SEVIS Fee (at least 3 days before your visa interview), and how to schedule a visa appointment at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate (ideally in your home country). (Please be aware that the U.S. Embassy or Consulate will not issue an F-1 visa more than 120 days prior to your I-20 program start date, found on page 1 of your I-20.)

In the meantime, we recommend that you check the website of the U.S. Consulate nearest you to learn more about the visa application process, including the process for making an appointment. For visa application guidance and wait times for obtaining a nonimmigrant student visa in your country, please see: https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/wait-times.html.

Please note: While you may receive your F-1 visa up to 120 days prior to your program start date, you may enter the United States in that visa status no more than 30 days before your program start date. Plan your travel accordingly.

Upon receiving your Form I-20 from Middlebury College, you should apply for a visa as soon as possible. Applying for a visa can take one month or more, depending on the country. If you are subject to administrative processing, the process could be delayed several weeks. If you are unable to obtain a visa in time to arrive in Middlebury by your intended start date, alert ISSS as soon as possible because you may need to request a deferral to a future academic term.

>>> For I-20 Application Instructions, please see the next page. >>>
I-20 Application Instructions

For Middlebury College to produce your I-20, you must submit the following four items:

1. **Completed Middlebury College I-20 Application Form** for Academic Year students located on the ISSS website at [http://www.middlebury.edu/international/isss/visas](http://www.middlebury.edu/international/isss/visas). Carefully read the I-20 Instructions first. You will need to have scanned copies of your financial documents and passport ID page to upload as part of the online submission process.

2. **Copy of your passport identification page** showing name, photo, date of birth and passport expiration date.

**Financial Documentation.** U.S. immigration law requires official certification that you have the necessary financial resources to pay for your tuition and living expenses for your first academic year in the U.S. Financial documentation includes both a bank letter and a financial sponsor letter. *(A letter of employment may be used in lieu of a bank letter.)* The bank and financial sponsor letters must adhere to the guidelines.

*If more than one person is providing funds, submit both a bank and financial sponsor letter for each person.*

3. **Bank Letter.** Provide a signed bank (or employment) letter. Electronic copies accepted. The letter must:
   - Be dated on or after **March 1 for September entrants**; (**February entrants: dated on or after August 1**);
   - Be on official bank or employer letterhead;
   - Include the account holder’s name (or the name of the employee);
   - Indicate the type of account. Funds need to be immediately available to the student, such as in a checking or savings account. Funds that are invested (mutual funds or tied up assets) cannot be used to show financial support. *(Employer letters must refer to annual salary sufficient to pay the estimated costs of the first year. Certificates of Deposit need to mature and be available on or before program start date.)*;
   - Indicate the balance of the account(s) from where the financial support will come.
   - Indicate the currency of funds, preferably in U.S. dollars (US$). If your bank cannot issue the letter with a currency conversion, the document must clearly state the currency of funds listed;
   - Be signed by an official of the bank or employer;
   - Be stamped with the bank or employer’s seal, if available;
   - Be written in English or have an official English translation attached;
   - Show available funds to pay the cost of your first year of study, as listed on your Financial Aid Notification.

★ If you receive financial assistance from Middlebury College, the bank letter must show funds to cover your family’s costs (i.e. Estimated Family Contribution or EFC) as listed on your Financial Aid Notification.

★ If you do not receive financial assistance from Middlebury College, the bank letter must show funds of at least $76,946 as the estimated total costs.

*NOTE: If you indicated in your application to Middlebury that you did not intend to apply for need-based financial aid, please be aware that financial aid will not be available for you during your four years at Middlebury, even if your family’s circumstances change.* Your acceptance letter also refers to this.

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**February Entrants:** If you receive financial aid, your Financial Aid Notification shows Spring Term amounts only. To issue an I-20, we must see proof of funds to pay the costs for a full academic year. Therefore, you must show documentation for double the amount of your family contribution on your Financial Aid Notification.
4. **Signed Financial Sponsor Letter.** Electronic copies accepted.

The person(s) in whose name the bank funds are held (i.e. the account holder) must submit a letter that:

- Declares that, as your financial sponsor, they will cover the costs of the first year of your education with funds shown in the bank letter, and they intend to pay the costs of your entire enrollment at Middlebury;
- Refers to the relationship (parent, relative, etc.) between the sponsor and you;
- Is written in English or has an official English translation attached;
- Includes the account holder’s original signature and date.

Submit the online I-20 Application Form ([https://forms.middlebury.edu/international/issss/i20-application](https://forms.middlebury.edu/international/issss/i20-application)) with the required financial documentation and passport ID page by **June 1** (and by **November 1** for February entrants).

Keep copies of all financial aid and related documents submitted to Middlebury College with this application. The U.S. Consulate may ask you to present this documentation when you apply for your visa, and in some cases, you may be asked to show them to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security when you enter the U.S.

**Cost Overview.** Middlebury College bases its estimated total cost of attendance on the following calculation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estimate of student expenses for 2020–2021</th>
<th>Academic Year (September–May)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✓ Comprehensive Fee (tuition and room &amp; board)</td>
<td>$74,510 ($57,880 + $16,630)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Books and Supplies</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Student Activities Fee</td>
<td>$436</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Personal Expenses</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ESTIMATED TOTAL COST</strong></td>
<td><strong>$76,946</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Additional Expenses.** Students may need to consider the following additional expenses:

- **Health Insurance**
  
  If you do not have health insurance with a U.S. based provider that is comparable to the plan offered by Middlebury College, then you will need to purchase the insurance provided by Gallagher Student Health and Special Risk ([www.gallagherstudent.com/students/](http://www.gallagherstudent.com/students/)). Fees for the insurance plan for the next academic year will be confirmed soon. We estimate that the amount will be close to $2,500 for the year.

- **Taxes & Tax Liability**
  
  Students who receive any financial aid/awards from the College and/or earn income through authorized employment will need to file a tax return each year. Tax liabilities can exceed $500 per year.
  - For tax-related questions, contact the Middlebury Tax Office at [middleburytaxoffice@middlebury.edu](mailto:middleburytaxoffice@middlebury.edu).
  - For financial aid questions, please contact Student Financial Services at [sfs@middlebury.edu](mailto:sfs@middlebury.edu).

- **Official College Breaks: Travel and Lodging**
  
  The College campus is closed for December Recess each year, at which time all students must depart. All College services close, including the dining halls and libraries. *Any food, lodging or related expenses will be your responsibility.* It may be possible for students to submit a request (evaluated on a case-by-case basis) to Residential Life for consideration to remain on campus. Residence halls close at noon the day after Fall Term final exams end and reopen two days before Winter Term begins. Other breaks include Thanksgiving Recess, Spring Recess and summer break (June, July, August). For a list of dates, please see the College’s academic calendar at [http://www.middlebury.edu/academics/calendar/2020-2021](http://www.middlebury.edu/academics/calendar/2020-2021).

While ISSS is here to assist you, remember that you are responsible for completing all the necessary steps to obtain the documents you need to enter the U.S. to begin your studies at Middlebury College.

If you have any questions about this process, please contact International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS):

**Email:** issss@middlebury.edu or **Phone:** (802) 443-5858
Dear Newly Admitted International Students,

On behalf of the International Students’ Organization (ISO), we are thrilled to welcome you to our vibrant international community at Middlebury! Although Middlebury is a small liberal arts college residing in a tiny, picturesque town in Vermont, our school possesses an outstanding global outlook. As international students and students with international backgrounds, you play a critical role, bringing unique perspectives, cultural backgrounds and personal experiences from every corner across the globe.

As Middlebury’s International Students’ Organization, our goal is to empower members of the community in order to cultivate a strong, open-minded and multicultural environment. Whether this is through cultural events and performances that highlight diverse traditions, or monthly tea gatherings where we discuss key global issues, the ISO invites students to engage with the global perspectives and experiences that brighten our college community. We are also dedicated to making Middlebury your “home away from home” through outings to must-see Vermont destinations and international menus in the dining halls. In this way, Middlebury truly is a small town with a global community. The ISO is here to make your transition to Middlebury as smooth as possible, and to support you throughout your next four years.

We are sure you will have many great options as you receive acceptance letters from the United States and around the world. In terms of academic rigor and prestige, Middlebury is comparable to any other highly selective institution in the United States, and its study abroad programs across the globe are second to none. There are many opportunities for academic, personal and professional development here. Most importantly, we are a welcoming campus full of smiling faces, where intimate relationships among students, faculty and staff members make you feel comfortable. It is now your turn to embark on this important journey. The ISO wishes you the best as you choose where to spend your undergraduate years. Please feel free to reach out should you have any questions, or if you would like to introduce yourself. Also, be sure to check out our Instagram @midd.iso!

We hope to hear from you soon and to see you on campus next year!

Warmly,

Middlebury College International Students’ Organization
small town, global community
iso@middlebury.edu • go.middlebury.edu/iso • middISO


Friends of International Students (FIS) Host Program

Are you interested in experiencing life with a U.S. family?
Do you want to be able to go off-campus periodically for a change of scenery?
Do you want to have an opportunity to get to know people in the local community?

If so, we invite you to participate in the Friends of International Students (FIS) Host Program, established in 2001. The FIS Host Program matches Middlebury College international students (broadly defined) with a local family. Hosts may be individuals, couples or extended families. Often our hosts have some ties to the College as alumni, faculty or staff. Our hope is that you will form a friendship that will last beyond your first year at the College.

The host program experience begins with an informal questionnaire in which students and potential hosts are asked to convey their expectations for the program. Ultimately, the program is what you and your host family make of it. Some families and students meet weekly for lunch, while others meet periodically throughout the year and primarily during vacation periods. ISSS considers the information on the questionnaires and then matches students with families that have similar interests as well as similar expectations of the program. While we encourage all international students to participate, the program is optional.

The matching of students and families occurs in early October (in early March for February entrants). Students meet their host families for the first time at an informal reception arranged by ISSS. After that, you and your host will make arrangements and plans on your own. From holiday celebrations to concerts to touring the local area, the possibilities for new experiences with a host family are endless. Sometimes the benefit is simply having a quiet place to cook and enjoy a family meal.

In the students’ words:
“My family has been absolutely fantastic—I love them to pieces and they have made such a difference to my time here.”

“The dinner on Saturday was sort of like an escape from seeing the same people and the same places over and over. I felt much better afterwards…I think the host family program is wonderful, thank you.”

“My host is my family away from home.”

“It was, for me, a brilliant experience, which I would recommend to anyone. They should not think of the hosts as ‘parents’ but as ‘friends.’ ”

We hope you will consider participating in the FIS Host Program. Please share with us any information that is not addressed in the questionnaire, but that you think we may find helpful in our search to find the best host for you. Many students also include a hand-written letter and a picture for their future hosts with their applications.

To participate in the FIS Host Program, please complete the student questionnaire located on the ISSS website at http://www.middlebury.edu/international/isss/fis ideally by August 1 for September entrants and February 1 for Feb entrants. We will still accept applications after that date; however, we will not be able to guarantee a match in your first term. If you have any questions, contact ISSS by email at isss@middlebury.edu.

Send your completed PDF in an email to isss@middlebury.edu, or print your PDF and mail it to: Middlebury College—ISSS, 84 S. Service Rd.—Suite 200, Middlebury, VT 05753 U.S.A.

If you have any questions, contact isss@middlebury.edu.
FAQ - Frequently Asked Questions

When will I get my I-20?
ISSS will strive to issue visa-related documents within 2 weeks of receiving a complete Form I-20 Application (see the I-20 Application Instructions for details). If you have special circumstances that necessitate receipt of an I-20 before early June (or before early December for Febs) please make that request in writing and include details regarding your situation. We evaluate requests on a case-by-case basis and will do our best to accommodate your needs.

How do I apply for an F-1 (student) visa?
ISSS will send complete instructions on applying for an F-1 visa with your I-20. In short, you must first obtain a Form I-20 from Middlebury College. Then, you must schedule an interview with a U.S. Embassy or Consulate to apply for the visa. To find the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate, refer to: https://www.usembassy.gov/.

A U.S. Embassy or Consulate can only issue an F-1 visa up to 120 days before a program start date. We recommend that you check the consulate website, in advance, to learn more about the visa application process, including the process for making an appointment. F-1 visa holders may only enter the U.S. up to 30 days before their program start date.

More information regarding the visa interview and preparing for entry into the U.S. is available from the U.S. Department of State at https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/students – under the “Prepare for My Arrival” section.

How long will it take to get my F-1 (student) visa?
Waiting times vary by country. In some cases, it only takes a week. In other countries it may take more than a month. For an estimate of current visa wait times at the Embassy nearest you, please refer to the U.S. Department of State’s website at https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/wait-times.html.

For additional information on visas to the United States, visit https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en.html.

What fees do I pay with my visa application?
You are responsible for paying the visa application and reciprocity fees, which varies by country. For a list of fees, visit: https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/Visa-Reciprocity-and-Civil-Documents-by-Country.html.

Prior to the visa appointment, you must show evidence that the SEVIS I-901 Fee was paid. ISSS will send additional information regarding the SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System) fee with your I-20. For more information regarding the SEVIS fee, please see https://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901/.

When can I enter the United States using my new F-1 (student) visa?
You may enter the U.S. up to 30 days prior to the program start date noted on your I-20. However, please be aware that our transportation service from the Burlington International Airport to Middlebury College is only available on Arrival Day – Thursday, September 3, 2020 (Tuesday, February 9, 2021 for Febs) – for students who have registered for Early Arrival. You may move into your Middlebury College room on Arrival Day—no earlier. If you wish to arrive to the U.S. prior to Arrival Day, you are responsible for your own transportation and accommodations.
Students who register for Early Arrival must fully participate in the program and must stay in their on-campus rooms beginning on Arrival Day. Students who register for Early Arrival and fail to arrive on campus by Arrival Day (without prior permission from ISSS) may not be allowed to participate in the program.

Students wishing to enter the U.S. prior to the 30-day grace period must enter in another visa status, usually in “visitor” status as a tourist. Yet, individuals in tourist status may not enroll in courses full time. So, you would need to change from tourist to F-1 student visa status prior to the start of the term, which will likely require departing the U.S. and re-entering.

Changing from tourist to student visa status within the U.S. is not always possible, and can be time-consuming, expensive and risky. We strongly advise you to enter the U.S. in F-1 student status within the 30-day pre-arrival period allowed by your I-20 to avoid this situation. If you have questions, contact ISSS in advance of your travels to discuss your plans.

When is Early Arrival for students entering in February?
Early Arrival for International Febs will begin with arrival day on Tuesday, February 9, 2021. ISSS will host sessions for international Febs on Wednesday, February 10, 2021.

Can I arrive early to Middlebury College?
If you have registered for Early Arrival, you will have access to your Middlebury College room on Thursday, September 3, 2020 [Tuesday, February 9, 2021 for Feb entrants]. Students are not given permission to stay in their rooms prior to this date. If you wish to arrive to the U.S. earlier, you are responsible for your own travel arrangements and lodging. Family members will need to find off-campus accommodations if they accompany you. (View local off-campus accommodations at: https://www.middlebury.edu/college/admissions/visit-us/in-person-visits#lodging-and-restaurants.)

Does Middlebury provide transportation from the airport?
ISSS coordinates transportation from the Burlington International Airport to the Middlebury College campus for new international students who have registered for the Early Arrival pre-orientation program. Airport pick-ups will commence the morning of the designated Arrival Day and will continue throughout the day and evening. See the Travel to Middlebury College section of this pre-arrival guide for more details about the timing. ISSS will request travel itineraries via email a month before your arrival date. ISSS will provide more information about the transportation service to students who register for Early Arrival by mid-August (and mid-January for Febs).

Can I talk to someone at Middlebury College from my country?
There are students from over 75 countries at Middlebury College, and even if there is not a student from your country, there will certainly be someone from your region of the world! If you are interested in getting in touch with a current Middlebury student from your area of the world, please contact the International Students’ Organization (ISO) at iso@middlebury.edu.

Does Middlebury College have a host family program?
Yes. The Friends of International Students (FIS) host program is a hospitality program whereby international students have an opportunity to become friends with a local family. Information about the FIS program is included in this pre-arrival guide. ISSS and students who have been matched through the program encourage you to participate (see also: http://www.middlebury.edu/international/isss/fis).
Can I pay my enrollment deposit online?
Yes. To learn more about paying your deposit online, please visit the Admissions website for newly admitted students: http://www.middlebury.edu/admissions/admitted_students.

Can I pay charges on my college bill (i.e. tuition) through an electronic transfer of funds?
Yes. Please contact Student Financial Services (SFS) by email at sfs@middlebury.edu for instructions.

Does my enrollment deposit count towards my family contribution and my College bill?
Yes. The deposit you submit to reserve your place at the College will be applied to your College bill. Therefore, it is treated as part of your family contribution. When completing the I-20 Application, you may provide evidence that the deposit was paid, which will serve as documentation of that portion of your family contribution.

Do I need to bring the full amount of my family contribution with me?
We highly encourage you to do so, if you can. When Student Financial Services (SFS) calculates your financial need and determines if you will receive assistance, they consider the estimated total costs of your first year at Middlebury. This includes items that the College bills for, and your own personal expenses. The comprehensive fee and the student activities fee will appear on your College bill. Other expenses (such as books, supplies, personal items, clothing, and travel) are items that you will need money for throughout the year. You will need to have funds available to pay for those expenses when you make those purchases. Additional expenses may also include health insurance, taxes and tax liability and food/lodging/travel during College breaks (as outlined previously in this pre-arrival guide).

How can I buy the Student Health Insurance?
We expect students to have a U.S.-based health insurance policy. For information on purchasing the Student Health Insurance from Gallagher Student Health and Special Risk, see the Student Health Insurance website at http://www.middlebury.edu/offices/administration/vpfin/finance-office/bsnsvcxs/student_insurance. Insurance through Gallagher Student Health costs an estimated $2,500 per year, which includes medical evacuation and repatriation. You can find detailed information on the policy and how to register on the website noted above.

** Note: Health insurance fees are not included in the estimated total costs for Middlebury College. **

Where can I open a bank account?
You will be able to open an account within the first several days you are on campus. For more information about banking in the U.S. go to our website at http://www.middlebury.edu/international/iss/middlebury-students/banking.

Do I need to purchase a computer?
Many students choose to have their own computer for convenience. Yet, it is not necessary to have one when you begin your studies at Middlebury. There are many computers available for student use on campus. If you are interested in purchasing a computer, detailed information regarding computer needs and costs is available at http://mediawiki.middlebury.edu/wiki/LIS/Computer_purchase_guidelines.

Please also note that Middlebury College students are licensed to install and use certain software products on their personally owned computers. To learn more click on the Software link found on the technology webpage at: http://www.middlebury.edu/offices/technology/help/technology.

How can I find out important dates and vacations in the College calendar?
You may consult the College calendar at http://www.middlebury.edu/academics/calendar/2020-2021.
**How can I buy a cell phone?**

- **Carriers and Coverage:** Verizon Wireless and AT&T offer the best reception and service plans for the Middlebury area. For details on other cellular carriers’ coverage (Sprint PCS/Nextel/Tracfone), please visit their websites. There are Verizon Wireless and AT&T vendors located in Middlebury. To purchase other plans, you may need to go to Burlington. Students should understand that reception may be poor in a few campus locations due to College building design and off-campus due to Vermont’s terrain and limited cell tower coverage.

- **Plans:** Phone carriers may require you to have a U.S. Social Security Number or pay a large deposit to enroll in a plan. However, you do not need to enroll in a plan! You can go to a phone store and purchase a “pay-as-you-go” option. This means you pay a set monthly fee for a certain amount of talk/texting and data. For example, you could pay $50/month for unlimited talk/texting. You could renew each month, if you want, without being obligated to commit to a contract.

- **Phones:** You can purchase a new phone from a phone store, but it will be expensive if you do not enroll in a plan. Many students choose to purchase an unlocked phone online on websites like Amazon – or from reputable refurbished phone stores – and then take the unlocked phone to a carrier, like Verizon Wireless or AT&T, to purchase a “pay-as-you-go” option. If you plan to use a service provider, such as Verizon Wireless, then you must have an unlocked phone that works with their service. Please check with the service provider before purchasing an unlocked phone.

**When can I start working on campus?**

During Early Arrival, the Student Employment Office (SEO) will share information about obtaining on-campus employment. SEO will post academic year job openings online beginning the first day of classes, with additional opportunities listed, as they become available. New students may begin work after they secure a position and once they complete the on-boarding processes. This can be as early as the first week of classes.

ISSS recommends that new students plan to work only 5–10 hours per week (or less, depending on course load) during the first term. The pay rate for student positions is about $11/hour, depending on the position and your experience. (Students may also pursue on-campus summer employment and housing during the summer break. Summer contracts are usually due in mid-April.) You can familiarize yourself with the Student Employment Office by visiting: [www.middlebury.edu/offices/business/seo](http://www.middlebury.edu/offices/business/seo).

International students with visas (F-1 and J-1) are not allowed to engage in off-campus employment without prior authorization. Doing so could result in the loss of your good standing in the U.S. and disrupt your ability to continue studying at Middlebury. During Early Arrival, ISSS will discuss employment regulations and maintaining your visa status, as well as some of the off-campus employment authorizations available to you.

**Can you explain more about taxes and tax liability?**

All international students in a non-resident alien tax status are required to file tax forms with the U.S. federal government by mid-April each year, regardless of whether they earned source income during the tax year (January 1-December 31). To file taxes means to submit documents, either via mail or electronically, to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), to report income, calculate tax liability, remit payments and/or request refunds. The IRS, a bureau of the U.S. Department of Treasury and federal tax collection agency, helps individuals understand their tax responsibilities while also enforcing the law (i.e. pay your taxes or face penalties).
You can expect to pay taxes on income earned in the U.S., including wages from employment and a portion of your grants/scholarships from Middlebury College if you receive financial aid above the direct educational costs (tuition). The amount of tax you owe will depend on the amount of funds you earn/receive and the tax treaty (if any) between your home country and the United States. Taxes may represent an additional expense of $500, on average, per year. It is your responsibility to file your income tax forms annually and to pay your taxes (if applicable) in a timely way.

ISSS works closely with the Tax Office to communicate relevant tax information to our international students. Middlebury College and the ISSS team together offer tax filing support before taxes are due each year. We contract with Sprintax, a tax preparation company, to provide a software program and resources to assist international students and scholars with filing their tax returns. For questions about taxes, contact the Tax Manager at middleburytaxoffice@middlebury.edu.

**Still have questions?**

For more information and answers to other questions you may have, please visit our website at: [http://www.middlebury.edu/international/issss](http://www.middlebury.edu/international/issss).
Travel to Middlebury College

Transportation from Burlington International Airport, in Burlington, Vermont, to Middlebury College will be arranged by International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) on Early Arrival - Arrival Day.

The transportation service will only be available at set times on the designated Arrival Day for students who registered for the Early Arrival pre-orientation program and the shuttle service.

- We encourage students to arrive at Burlington International Airport (airport code: BTV) between 11:00 AM to 10:00 PM on Arrival Day (Thursday, September 3, 2020).
- If you are unable to schedule your arrival during these times on Arrival Day, please contact us at isss@middlebury.edu before you book a flight.

You will receive more information about requesting transportation to campus and confirming your travel itineraries via email from ISSS in August for September entrants (and in January for February entrants).

International students studying at Middlebury on an F-1 (student) visa are eligible to enter the country up to 30 days before their program start date. If you choose to arrive in the U.S. earlier than on your designated Arrival Day, you will be responsible for your own food and lodging during that time.

Contact us at isss@middlebury.edu, if you have any questions about your travel logistics.
Important Deadlines

All forms referenced below are online at:

www.middlebury.edu/international/isss/earlyarrival
www.middlebury.edu/international/isss/visas
www.middlebury.edu/international/isss/fis

September Entrants:
- Early Arrival Registration (highly recommended)
- I-20 Application (required) – Due June 1
- Friends of International Students (FIS) Host Program Questionnaire (highly recommended) – apply by August 1 (or by the ISSS deadline after you arrive on campus)

February Entrants:
- Early Arrival Registration form (highly recommended)
- I-20 Application (required) – Due November 1
- Friends of International Students (FIS) Host Program Questionnaire (highly recommended) – apply by February 1 (or by the ISSS deadline after you arrive on campus)

International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS)

Service Building, 2nd floor
Middlebury College
Middlebury, Vermont 05753 U.S.A.

Phone: 802.443.5858
Email: isss@middlebury.edu
Web: www.middlebury.edu/international/isss
Arrival Day at the Welcome Center
&
Night at the Grille

We hope you will join us for Early Arrival 2020/2021!