Go Global with Fisher

The Ohio State University - Columbus, Ohio: From a Student’s Perspective

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This guide answers questions that past students wish they had known before arriving at Ohio State. The information provided is feedback solicited from previous exchange students to guide future students as they plan their exchange term at Fisher. Go Buckeyes!

ACCOMMODATIONS

Geography
- OSU’s main campus is situated just north of the central business district of downtown Columbus, which is the 15th largest city in America. Neighborhoods to the north, east, and immediate south of campus generally house primarily students and can be a great area for international students seeking an off-campus living experience.
- If you are planning to live in this area, you should choose your location wisely. For the most safe and geographically desirable accommodations, you are encouraged to live within the part of the city bordered by Summit Street to the East, West 8th and East 11th Avenues to the South, Hudson Street to the North, and Olentangy River Road to the West. It is also possible to live as far West as Northwest Boulevard and as far North as West North Broadway Street along Kenny, Fishinger and Olentangy River Road. However, the distance prevents one from walking and requires the use of public transportation or a car. Ideally you should search for accommodations as close to High Street and Fisher College of Business as possible.

On-Campus Housing
- In general, approximately to one-fourth of exchange students choose to live on the OSU campus.
- OSU has a requirement that all undergraduate first and second year non-commuter students live in residence halls. Consequently, on-campus housing opportunities for exchange students have shrunk. There are 56,000 students on OSU’s Columbus campus and only 8,800 available spaces in the residence halls. While it is difficult to get on-campus housing, it is not impossible. There are some important steps which dictate how likely you are to get such housing.
- First, you must apply to the exchange program as early as you can. Once nominated by your home school and contacted by Fisher College of Business Inbound Exchange Program Coordinator, immediately begin to obtain your required documentation and submit the application as soon as possible.
- Once you have applied and are admitted in the OSU student information system, you will receive instructions to activate your OSU email. You need an OSU email address in order to receive instructions on housing. A package will also be sent to your home address by the OSU Housing office shortly thereafter. Read it carefully and decide which option best suits you.
- Only a few of the 36 different residence halls are offered to Exchange students. The most common are the Neil Building and Jones Tower.
- The Neil Avenue Building is the Graduate and Professional building for those over 21 years old. It is located between West 9th and West 10th Avenues on Neil Avenue. Undergraduate exchange students over 21 years old are also placed here. It is a five-story building with efficiencies (for graduate students only), doubles and four-person apartments.
The Marketplace Campus Dining facility is located on the ground level of the building. Neil Building also has kitchen facilities in some rooms making it the only exception to the OSU Dining Plan requirement.

- Jones Tower is a newly renovated 14-story building located on Curl Drive barely 300 meters from the Fisher College of Business. The Fresh Express dining facility is located in the next building.
- OSU On Campus Housing Office website: http://housing.osu.edu/current.asp
- Dining Services website: http://diningservices.osu.edu/default.asp
- On Campus Housing costs are between $1,500-2,400 for each Academic Quarter. If you live in any building other than Neil Building, you will be required to purchase one of the OSU Dining Plans. These plans range from $1,000 to $1,600 per quarter depending on how many "swipes" are purchased. A swipe is equivalent to a single meal (breakfast, lunch, or dinner). Most students have suggested getting the 100 swipes per quarter option. This is the most common plan choice and seems to be an ample amount of meals. The first 2 weeks of the quarter you still have the option to change plans and add additional swipes.
- If you are bringing dependants, Buckeye Village family housing is located in a residential area northwest of the Fisher campus. It has playgrounds and dedicated university bus service running regularly to and from campus. Buckeye Village OSU housing costs $2,070 per Quarter.

Off Campus Housing

- Whether by choice or due to a lack of remaining housing, students who live off campus have some choices. Living off campus can be a great experience, provided you are willing to do some homework first.
- The basic thing to know is that most apartment landlords and rental agencies will not rent to you for less than a year. Leases for one year are standard here. Therefore, seek to sublet an apartment, room in a house, or other accommodation. This is a great option for inexpensive accommodation as well as the opportunity to make friends with OSU students.
- The area immediately around campus is home to many thousands of students. Most live within 15 minutes walking distance; others live along one of the local bus lines and rarely travel more than 25 minutes.
- Searching for an apartment can seem difficult if you are not familiar with the area and often the list of housing seems endless. In fact, there are some great resources available to you as exchange students which will make this process much easier.

How to Secure Accommodation

- Students currently living in the city can be very helpful in securing accommodation as they can answer specific questions about location. In the past, students have worked with their Fisher Exchange Network mentors to determine which housing options are appropriate.
- Your counterparts, the Fisher College of Business students going on exchange to your schools, will frequently have apartments they need to sublet while they are on exchange. Fisher College of Business staff can also be helpful, as well as past international students who have lived in Columbus. The Fisher Inbound Program Coordinator will compile a list of these opportunities and present them as a first-come, first serve opportunity for you to easily find a place to live.
- There is a Fisher Exchange Network Facebook group entitled the “Fisher Housing Exchange”, which provides a discussion group and posting site for past, present, and future exchange students, as well as domestic students wanting to advertise their sublets.
- You can look on the OSU Off-Campus website http://offcampus.osu.edu/ which is a reliable resource and the best place to start exploring your housing choices. There is a section with information for International Students which addresses many of your concerns.
- You will want to check the Sublet portion of the Off-Campus website, http://offcampus.osu.edu/off-campus-housing/sublet-resources/. Consider using the OSU Student Housing Legal
Clinic managed by the OSU Moritz College of Law. There you can also download a sublet agreement http://moritzlaw.osu.edu/shlc/docs/subleases.pdf if you find an apartment to sublet and if you do not have an available sublet agreement from the landlord.

- Facebook has another great application called Marketplace. Go to http://apps.facebook.com/marketplace and search for Columbus Ohio in the Postal ZIP Code: 43201 and within the minimum 5 mile radius (8 km).
- Remember to search for subleases primarily and screen what you find by the dates they are offered and how long they want you to sublet their place.
- Another place you can look for housing is http://columbus.craigslist.org/ and look under housing. Please use caution as it is unregulated and you should have someone local check out the location for you.
- Do not sign any subleases unless you are certain of your decision as this is a legally binding document.
- Your Fisher Inbound Program Coordinator or your Fisher Exchange Network student mentor can tell you if a given area is a good choice.
- If you live off campus, you still have the option to purchase a Dining Meal plan at http://diningservices.osu.edu/mealplans/

What to Expect

- When securing an apartment it is important to know if it is furnished. If this is not clear, ask!
- When subleasing, you should be aware that there is a vast range of student lifestyles all of which are represented at this university. In addition to location, you should consider learning about your potential roommates before making a decision.
- Some subleases will expect students to split the cost of utilities while others offer a flat monthly rate for rent with some or all utilities included. It is important to get an estimate of this expense as utilities can be quite expensive, especially for heating in the colder months or air conditioning in warm humid months.
- Rent ranges between $300 up to $900 a month.
- Most students sublet a room in a large older rented house, where 4-8 students live and share common areas such as a bathroom, laundry room, living room and kitchen. Others sublet one bedroom of a 2, 3, and even 4-bedroom apartment with other students. Also, some students find one person apartments to rent.
- Utilities are not always included but are often cheaper in the United States than they might be back in your country. Sharing cable TV, Internet, and utilities costs can reduce your burden. Cable TV starts at about $20 a month, Internet service is about $40 a month. Older homes, when it gets cold, are expensive to heat.
- Subletting a furnished place that includes household items is much less expensive than a non-furnished place.
- Get to know the area by researching apartment locations on websites such as Google Maps. If you use the following link with the search centered upon the Fisher College of Business, you will be able to enter the apartment address and see how long it takes on foot, by local bus, or car. Also, you can use the Streetview function to see a picture of the street and the exact house or building you are considering. Sometimes this is enough to get the feel for an area. Remember the whole area is mostly older homes, so exterior views may not reflect how the place looks inside. http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&source=s_q&hl=en&geocode=&q=2100+Neil+Avenue,+Columbus,+Ohio&aq=0
- Expect to pay up to two month’s rent for a security deposit. If you leave the place in the same condition you got it, you will likely get your deposit back.
- Sublease agreements through rental agencies or landlords often require that you pay an application fee, which is usually under $100.

When You First Arrive

- It is quite important to arrange pickup of keys before traveling. In the past, students have found themselves unprepared upon arrival.
- If the arranged apartment is ready upon arrival, some roommates may be willing to pick up international students...
from the airport. In other cases, your Fisher Exchange Network mentor may be willing to pick you up.

- If these options do not work, and you are very confident in your navigation abilities, students have taken the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) bus. Check the COTA website http://www.cota.com/Bus-Tracker.aspx for available stops. There is the special #52 Airport-to-OSU bus just before the quarter begins and after it ends. Sometimes they do not run on your arrival day. In this case, it would be convenient to take a taxi to campus, which costs around $30.

- You are able to pay for your OSU campus dorm in the same way you pay your tuition, by credit card, wire transfer, check, or direct deposit from a US-based bank. Your remaining housing deposit (usually $200) is refunded when you finish your program here unless it is year-long (3 quarters). You should let Housing know when you are moving out and remind them 2 weeks before the quarter is over. They can refund your deposit to your credit card, or else a check will be issued and sent to your last address here, and that is the dorm. It will slow down refunds tremendously and OSU will not send money to a foreign country. You will need to have the money sent to a trusted person with a domestic US bank account in order to work out the details.

**DOCUMENTS**

**Passports**

- Passports are required and must be valid for 6 months beyond the date of your studies. Check the expiration date! In the past students have failed to realize their passports expire during their trip which can cause serious issues if you want to reenter the United States. When your exchange program is over, you cannot leave the country and hope to return on the DS-2019 document. For example, if you wanted to take a Caribbean cruise and come back to catch your flight, immigration will not let you back in unless you are from a visa waiver country (such as many Western European countries).

**Exchange Student Visa**

- You will receive the DS-2019 visa documentation and Notice of Admissions in your welcome package after your application to OSU is accepted which normally takes a few weeks. Then you must make an appointment at the US Embassy or Consulate as soon as possible. The visa enables you to arrive up to 30 days before classes begin and depart up to 30 days after final exams end.

**Proof of Financial Support**

- The US Department of State and OSU require that you provide proof of adequate financial support for your studies at OSU in the form of bank statements and letters of support. You must show you (or your sponsor) have the amount required per Quarter of your studies in the bank when applying. OSU doesn’t want to know how much money you have in total, just that you have at least the required amount. Have your bank use this type of language:

  “To OSU Admissions, (your name or your sponsors name) has more than the $5,600/$11,200/$16,200 required to support (___ their or …your name___) studies at The Ohio State University during the Autumn/Winter/Spring Terms (or from X Month to X Month).”

**Student Identification Card**

- All students will receive a BuckID. You will receive instructions on how to obtain your ID upon arrival. Carry it with you at all times! With most meal options you will have a dollar amount on your Buck-ID available for everyday purchases. These also allow you to “swipe” your meals. Many stores, restaurants, and book shops accept Buck-IDs and sometimes offer discounts when used. This card allows you to enter your on-campus housing and multiple buildings around campus.
Food and Drink

Grocery
- The closest grocery store is the Kroger supermarket on High Street. Depending upon where you live, there is also the Giant Eagle grocery store which has higher end foods. Near campus in various locations there are many ethnic food stores, though most require a bus trip. Also you can find organic and natural foods in many of these stores and the nearby Whole Foods store on Lane Avenue accessible by bus to the West of Fisher College of Business campus.

On Campus
- OSU offers numerous dining halls and coffee shops in many buildings frequented by students. Fisher College of Business campus includes the Blackwell Hotel, which has an excellent high class restaurant, Bistro 2110. Lunches there are quite reasonable at $10 which includes buffet, drinks and desserts. Blackwell accepts meal swipes during their dinner shift as well. Note that because of the exceptional quality of the food one meal may be more than a few swipes. Meal swipes are not accepted any other time of the day.

Off Campus
- When you obtain your OSU Buck-ID card, you will receive a map which details over a hundred restaurants that border the university.
- Along with large chains such as McDonalds and Wendy’s, there are many places with specialty foods. Buffalo Wild Wings (also known as BW3) is a sports bar chain known for its chicken wings with many varieties of sauces. Five Guys is a restaurant which specializes in huge American burgers and fresh made French fries. Panera Bread is a chain where the European students go to find bread, coffee and pastries near campus. Every type of food can be found along High Street.
- For night owls (especially on the weekends) you will see lines out of the favorite eating spots. Cane’s is known for their chicken tenders and special Cane sauce. A Slice of New York has wonderful pizza made fresh. Also on Friday and Saturday nights are the Street Meat carts. Many places are open until 1-2am on Friday and Saturday nights.
- The tap water in Columbus is totally safe and drinkable. If you prefer, bottled water is not expensive here.

Socializing at the Bar
- The drinking age in the United States is 21 years old. You can expect to be asked to show an ID to verify your age at most establishments by campus.
- It is illegal to provide alcohol to someone under 21 years of age.
- There are many restaurants, bars, and nightclubs in the Short North, an artist gallery district located a kilometer or two South between Downtown and campus. The first Saturday of the month is an event called Gallery Hop. The art galleries stay open late and many people come from all over Columbus to walk up and down the Short North and have dinner.
- There is also the on campus sports bar at the Ohio Union, Woody’s, where you can watch games on the wall-to-wall televisions and enjoy food and drinks with friends.

Money

Using an ATM
- Though additional costs may be incurred, using an International Debit card at an ATM can be a quick and easy way to withdraw cash. Withdrawals will be made in US Dollars (at the card company’s daily exchange rate) but there is usually a $3-5 fee for such withdrawals. One should withdraw the daily maximum they can to reduce fees overall. Credit cards are accepted almost everywhere and ATMs are readily available and easy to find. It is best to check with your bank to estimate the additional expenses of foreign withdrawals.
- Commonly used local banks include: US Bank, Chase, Fifth/Third, PNC Bank, and Huntington Bank. Each has
slightly different offerings, and you should shop around which bank best serves your needs.

- Establishing a bank account in the United States is easy. In fact, it makes bill and rent paying easy and is often necessary for OSU payments as well. The OSU Bursar’s Office does not accept cash for payments. Most local banks offer free checking accounts and little is required to open such an account. Students will need their Passport, sometimes a letter from OSU, or proof of their local address such as a copy of their rental agreement or a billing statement with your address and name. The process of setting up banking usually takes about half an hour or less. Your bank will issue you temporary checks, but the bank debit card will usually be mailed to your address within two weeks.

Credit and Bank Cards

- Often in Europe you have a debit card in which spending is limited by your bank account. Be careful of high interest rates on credit cards. To rent a car for example, a European debit card does not work. The rental company cannot ensure it will have access to enough money to offset the risk of letting you rent the car. Many foreign credit cards work fine, but some may not work at all banks.

Transporting Money

- Though travelers’ checks may have once been the safest and most common way to manage money while traveling, they may not be your first option now. Some find them cumbersome to cash if you are not near a bank. Plus you have to pay a small fee to purchase them. However, if you use them correctly (recording and storing the check numbers far away from the actual checks), you are very well protected if something happens to your wallet. They are usually replaced within 24 hours if lost.

- American Express Travellers Cheques, for example, can be cashed at US Bank, Chase, Citibank, Fifth/Third, PNC, Sovereign, Sun Trust and many retailers. The banks listed usually do not charge a fee to cash them into local currency. You can also cash them at hotels and retailers such as Kmart, Macy’s, Sears and Walmart.

- Make sure you have enough cash on hand to deal with ground transportation and emergencies. Snow storms have stranded students on more than one occasion and it’s hard to be certain your credit/debit card will work here in the United States. Also travel with smaller denominations, such as $10 and $20 bills because $50 and $100 are more scrutinized.

Phone and Internet

Using a phone from home

- If planning to use a phone from home, do the homework with respect to cost. In the past students have realized that using devices such as Blackberries with international capabilities can be much more expensive than planned.

- An American SIM card will be necessary, and can be purchased at a phone store upon arriving.

- Recommended telephone carriers include:
  - T-Mobile http://www.t-mobile.com/
  - AT&T http://www.att.com/
  - Verizon http://www.verizonwireless.com/b2c/index.html

- The North American market differs from international markets in that the availability of unlocked phones is more regulated and less common. Phones and plans can be as cheap or expensive as you make them. National companies offer deals all of the time. One enters into a two year contract here and gets a heavily discounted phone (or even free). You should be aware that breaking such a contract has heavy penalties. You can choose from pay-as-you go plans with cheap phones, most commonly from T-Mobile, AT&T and even Walmart. Typically service with a data plan runs about $40-75 per month depending on usage.

- Also be aware that American cellular companies bill for both incoming and outgoing messages (also known as text or SMS) and phone call minutes.

- When calling home, use Skype… it’s FREE! http://www.skype.com/intl/en-us/home
Internet
• OSU and Fisher College of Business offer free internet access to students through kiosks, computer labs and wireless while on campus. Students will be provided with a login and password upon arrival. This gives access to not only internet, but also protected OSU web pages such as Buckeyemail, Buckeyelink, and Carmen sites.
• The Fisher internet access information will be provided at Fisher Orientation and OSU internet access is available through the OSU Office of Information Technology at https://oit.osu.edu
• Internet cafes do not exist in the Columbus area. Many major restaurants and coffee shops offer free wireless access.
• In-home internet connectivity is relatively easy through one of the local companies. You will have to pay a deposit if there is no local student you are renting from within your apartment. Common internet service providers include:
  • Time Warner Cable http://www.timewarnercable.com/midohio/
  • Wide Open West (WOW) http://www.wowway.com/
  • AT&T U-Verse http://www.att.com/u-verse/index.jsp?_requestid=3064319#fbid=p-aelLYToNa

Safety Tips
• Columbus is a busy, metropolitan city and one should always be aware of their surroundings.
• As in any city, theft does happen, and therefore using good practices to secure possessions such as a bicycle or locking your windows and doors at night are prudent security measures. When out late at night it is recommended to travel with a friend.
• OSU provides a Campus Student Safety Service to students who call and request it, such as if you are at the Main Library late at night and wish a ride home just off campus. Their hours change by academic term but call as soon as they open to schedule a ride at your desired time. You can also schedule a ride for both ways at one time.
• Campus Student Safety Service 614-292-3322
• OSU Campus Police: 614-292-2121
• Police/Fire/Medical Emergency Number: 911
• OSU Emergency Medical Center Number: 614-293-8333
• OIA 24 hour Emergency “Hotline”: 614-292-6677
• Columbus Police Non-Emergency Line: 614-645-4545

Travel
Arrival
• Busses:
  From the airport you can take the #52 COTA bus if your arrival date is just a few days before the quarter begins. The same holds true for departures. The regular city busses can be used but it is a rather difficult series of transfers taking often over an hour. The following are the #52 COTA Bus service dates:
  
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<td>November 22, 23, 26, 27</td>
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<td>December 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 31</td>
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Greyhound (http://www.greyhound.com/) bus travels to many more destinations across the United States. Remember, the United States is quite large so verify how long it takes and whether flying is a better option.

Taxi Cabs:
There are numerous taxi cab companies in Central Ohio. It costs a few dollars to drive around campus all the way up to $30-35 to drive to the airport or a shopping mall. If you are arriving with other future classmates, sharing a taxi is a good idea. The airport has a list of current taxi companies at the information desk.

On Campus
The OSU bus system is referred to as CABS (Campus Area Bus Service). It is open for any and all to ride. It runs at reduced hours after 7pm and on weekends and holiday breaks. http://www.tp.ohio-state.edu/CABS/

Public Transportation
Public transportation is available and relatively easy to use. The COTA (Central Ohio Transit Authority) Bus system is convenient around campus, however, it is time consuming for longer distance trips. Most people use a car for a longer trip. Bus routes can be found on Google Maps as well and on the COTA website: http://www.cota.com/Maps.aspx
Every OSU student has free access to the COTA bus system because of the mandatory $9 COTA fee students pay every quarter. To use public transit, you must show your BuckID. If not, you must pay $1.75 and they only accept exact change. The fare does include free transfers.

Bicycle
The most cost efficient way to travel around campus is by bicycle.
You must register your bike with OSU (http://tp.osu.edu/eservices/bicycle.shtml). There are certain places you can park the bike and not obeying these rules can result in fines or impoundment of your bike.
Be sure to lock your bike adequately. Locks can be purchased in many stores.

Rental Car
Renting a car if you are under 25 years old is going to be difficult. In many students’ experience the only company that will rent to this age group is Budget and expects extra daily insurance for drivers under 25 which can cost as much as the car rental itself.
Connect by Hertz rental company is a student friendly system for renting a car for a few hours or a whole day. The cars are positioned around campus so they are easy to access. You have to register for Hertz Connect and they currently have a free membership promotion for your first year. If you plan to do this, download and study the drivers guide from the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles as U.S. laws often differ from those in your countries.

Vacations
Port Columbus International Airport is a convenient way to get around the entire United States. With 15 airlines and 150 non-stop flights a day to 34 major airports, you can take a weekend getaway to Miami, Chicago, New York, Boston, Washington DC or Las Vegas quite easily.
You can look up airfares at Expedia.com, Travelocity.com, Hotwire.com, or Kayak.com. Always look for student discounts and remember to stay flexible on routes.
Southwest Airlines (http://www.southwest.com/) does not advertise on such wholesale websites so check their website directly as well.
MegaBus (http://us.megabus.com/) has very reasonable fares, and departs from Columbus to destinations such as Chicago, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, and Indianapolis.
**Health**

**Medication/Drugs**
- If you are under medical treatment, ask your doctor to write a prescription for the duration of your stay in the U.S. and negotiate with a pharmacist to get the required amount of drug. You may bring prescription drugs in the U.S. as long as you carry the prescription with you. It is better to have it translated into English when possible.
- You will easily find basic drugs in the state such as pain-killers, aspirin, vitamins, etc.

** Seeing a Doctor **
- If you have any health concern during your stay in Columbus, you can go to the OSU Student Health Center or to the OSU Hospital for emergencies. Visits to the OSU medical facilities are covered under the mandatory Student Health Insurance Program. More information on your coverage is available at [http://shi.osu.edu/posts/documents/2011-2012-shi-benefits-overview.pdf](http://shi.osu.edu/posts/documents/2011-2012-shi-benefits-overview.pdf)

**University Tips**

**Courses**
- When you select your classes, keep in mind the prerequisites. Also realize that OSU classes have maximum enrollments. The reason is because attendance is mandatory and overcrowding is not permitted. Your grade depends on solid attendance as well as active class participation.
- You should select your classes early so you can be registered by Fisher staff when you are admitted. This often takes a few weeks after you have submitted all documents and the application. Classes fill quickly so plan your course selection early. Sometimes another class section will be added if there are sufficient students on the waitlist. Also, certain classes are restricted to exchange students unless space becomes available due to graduating Fisher students who have priority.
- Check with your school about what class load you are expected to take, and what classes will be acceptable back home. While participating in the exchange program you will be required to take at least two Accounting and Business classes. The minimum class load here is 12 credit hours for Undergraduate students and 10 for Graduate students. Most Fisher classes are 4 credit hours. The maximum number of credit hours (also referred to as units on Buckeyelink) you can sign up for is 20.
- Class syllabi can vary by instructor here at OSU so make sure to check with the actual instructor of the course section you have been placed in for the syllabus to be used. You will be also be given the instructor’s syllabi on the first day of class.

**Textbooks**
- College textbooks are quite expensive in the U.S., averaging $100 to $150 per class. Students can buy their textbooks from many different sources. Bookstores are located at the following locations:
  - OSU Bookstore in Central Classroom Building (basement level)
  - Long’s (Barnes & Noble) at Gateway (corner High and 11thAve.)
  - SBX (Student Book Exchange) 1806 North High St.
  - UBX (University Book Exchange) 10 East 15th Ave.
  - College Town 1770 North High Street
  - Buckeye Books 2060 North High Street
- Finding used books is always the goal. Make sure you check with the instructor which exact edition they want you to use.
- Online resources that students use to rent textbooks include Amazon.com and Chegg.com. Students also go to half.ebay.com for textbook purchasing and selling.
Mentors

- Fisher has a program in which incoming international students are paired with a Fisher student mentor who will help with questions before arrival and may even be able to pick you up from the airport. This organization is called the Fisher Exchange Network (FEN). Students are encouraged to reach out to each other early as they will often be among the first acquaintances you make in Columbus.
- FEN organizes student social events throughout the quarter such as attending sports events as a group, going to cultural sites, or meeting your mentors for dinner.

Orientation

- The OSU Office of International Affairs (OIA) conducts mandatory Check-In and Orientation events. Orientation is a great way to meet other new international students. You will also attend Fisher International Programs Office (IPO) orientation where Fisher specific information will be presented. Orientation is the first step in building a community of friends and peers while studying at OSU.

Career Fairs

- During the fall academic term, career fairs are common. Career and recruiting fairs can be a great way for students to build networking skills and learn about companies might like to work with in the future. Additionally, in some rare cases, internships may be possible for certain students.

Facilities

- Ohio State offers a large number of athletic facilities located around campus. The best facility is the Recreation and Physical Activity Center (RPAC) located near the football stadium and holds the record for the largest gym in the country. The RPAC offers weight and cardio training, basketball, squash, billiards, racquet ball, boxing, golf, and ping pong among other sports. A number of classes are offered including yoga, spinning, and hip-hop dance. Also the RPAC also houses an aquatic center with Olympic-level facilities.
- The Jesse Owens North, South and West are smaller options that offer weight and cardio training, basketball, and other options.
- The Adventure Recreation Center (ARC) is located on west campus and offers two indoor soccer fields, basketball courts, weight and cardio training, and a phenomenal climbing wall.
- The William Oxley Thompson Memorial Library has been recently renovated into a premier university library. With 11 floors, it has been designed to be totally student laptop friendly and provides a great space to study. Additionally, there are 14 other specialized libraries on campus.
- The Ohio Union, is the student activity building dedicated to providing the OSU community with a magnificent facility to conduct social and educational events. It also houses retail space, restaurants, and student administrative offices for such vital things as your Buck-ID.

Dress

- Ohio State students dress in a wide array of styles. While many students wear sweats to class to later visit the gym, business students tend to dress more professionally.
- Bring business casual clothing for more formal events. For men, that means a polo/dress shirt with chino/suit pants and dress shoes or loafers. For women, a skirt or smart pants, worn with a blouse or a turtle neck sweater. Jeans, tee-shirts or shorts are not appropriated for business casual events.
- If interested in interviewing for internships, attending business functions, or being involved in Fisher student organizations, a suit may be necessary.
- Bring warm winter clothes with you. Ohio has a continental climate. Freezing temperatures and snowfalls can be expected from November to April.
**Additional Contact for Further Questions**

Joyce Steffan  
International Programs Office/CIBER  
250 W. Woodruff Ave.  
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