

Stanford University

Welcome Class of 2019!

From Bechtel International Center



From:

Bechtel International Center

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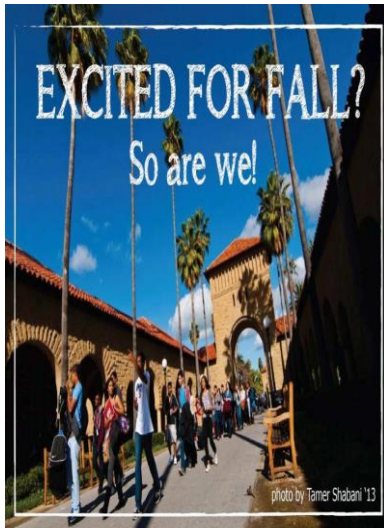
Welcome!

Dear Incoming Student,

On behalf of the Bechtel International Center and the International Student Orientation team, we are delighted that you have accepted admission to Stanford University. We look forward to meeting you in September and are sure that your time at Stanford will be academically rewarding and positively life-changing.

If you haven't already signed up for ISO (International Student Orientation), please do so right away. This will help us organize ISO better. Please click [here](#) to open the form we would like you to complete.

Please read on to find important information you should know before your arrival to Stanford in September. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us.



Health Information

All international students are required to enroll in Cardinal Care, but you may apply for an exception if you have an insurance plan with benefits that meet or exceed minimum standards set by the university.

When you arrive on campus, you will have to take the PPD Skin Test for TB at the Vaden Health Center. PPD is the standard method of screening for TB in the United States, and this is standard procedure for international students from most countries.

TB screening appointments can be made by signing in with your Stanford ID number at <http://vadenpatient.stanford.edu>

Visa Information

We are currently preparing I-20/DS-2019 documents for international undergraduates from whom we have received the Declaration of Finances form. If you sent us your form, you may have already received your I-20/DS-2019. Others should be receiving theirs soon. If, after sending in your Declaration of Finances form, you do not receive your **I-20 by July 10**, please email John Pearson (john.pearson@stanford.edu). If you haven't already submitted your Declaration of Finances, we urge you to do so as soon as possible. If you do not have this form, you should contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. Bechtel International Center does not have this form.

Before your visa interview, you also need to pay the SEVIS Fee. Information was provided with your I-20 and can also be found on the Bechtel International Center web site:

http://icenter.stanford.edu/students/new/visa_info.html

If you have any problems in applying for a student visa, please contact John or Shalini at the emails listed on the front page.

Travel Information

When you travel to the US, make sure that you have the following four items in your hand baggage:

- I-20/DS-2019
- Passport
- Stanford letter of admission
- Documents showing evidence of funding

DO NOT pack any of these into your luggage that will be checked.

You may also want to consider attending one of the pre-departure orientation programs organized by EducationUSA offices around the world:

<http://educationusa.state.gov/your-5-steps-us-study/prepare-your-departure>



Travel Information, continued

This will give you the opportunity to meet other students who are coming to study in the US, as well as get answers to some general questions you may have. Useful pre-departure information can be found here:

<http://www.tsa.gov/traveler-information>

When you enter the U.S. you will have to go through the US-Visit Program, which is designed to help the US Immigration Service track entry and exit from the U.S. You will be photographed and fingerprinted in a

process that takes a very short period of time. Please don't think you are being singled out: all nonimmigrant visa holders to the U.S. have to participate in the US-Visit Program.

If you are entering the United States for the very first time, you may also be required to go through the Secondary Immigration. You may be required to fill out a questionnaire about your parents' date and place of birth. Thus it will be advantageous to keep such information handy. Again, this practice is also fairly normal.

International Student Orientation

We have planned a special orientation and welcome program for you upon your arrival, and we strongly recommend that you attend. For three and a half days before the university-wide New Student Orientation (NSO) program starts, you will have a chance to meet your fellow international undergraduates from all across the world and make many new friends. This will help you adjust to life at Stanford so you can maximize your Stanford experience from your first month on campus.

International Student Orientation officially begins on Saturday, September 12th at 8:30 AM and continues through Tuesday, September 15th when New Student Orientation begins. You won't want to miss this opportunity to get an insider's look at Stanford and the US and have lots of fun, so book your tickets accordingly. The ISO calendar will soon be posted on our website. You will be able to move into your dorm room after 2 pm on September 12th.

One of the key events during ISO takes place on Tuesday morning (September 15th) when Bechtel staff will meet with you to go over basic immigration issues, and assist you in removing your enrollment hold. This enrollment hold can only be removed at Bechtel, so it is very important that you attend this meeting.

Please let any accompanying family members who may be accompanying you to Stanford know that they are invited to a Welcome Reception at the Bechtel International Center on Saturday September 12th at 6:30 p.m. There will also be an informal discussion with Bechtel staff on Sunday morning. These events will give family members an opportunity to both meet Bechtel staff, as well as ask any questions they may have about life at Stanford.

In order to help us better plan for orientation we would like to get an approximate count of who will be attending, so we request you to RSVP by July 10th to let us know your plans using the [form](#). Please complete submit it by July 10th. There is no additional fee for attending the International Student Orientation, but please note that you must complete this sign-up in order to attend ISO.

Also note that regardless of when you arrive at Stanford, the earliest date that you can move into your dorm room at Stanford is after 2 PM Saturday, September 12th. Please do not arrive to Stanford University prior to the start of ISO as housing will NOT be available prior to September 12th. If you arrive before September 12th, you will need to make your own housing arrangements. Information about area hotels is available at: <http://www.stanford.edu/dept/visitorinfo/plan/stay.html>

You will find useful information as well as details about frosh orientation and answers to some frequently asked questions on the Bechtel International Center website at:

<http://icenter.stanford.edu/students/new/orientation.html>

You can also contact staff at Bechtel should you have further questions.



Final Reminders

The International Student Orientation (ISO) team will maintain a mailing list where you can post your questions about dorms, campus life, academics, orientation, or just settling down in general. You are welcome to send an email to any one of the coordinators whenever you have any questions or concerns regarding an issue that has either not yet been addressed on the FAQ page or that you aren't clear about. The list will be monitored on a daily basis, and a coordinator will respond to questions as soon as possible. We ask that you subject the email "ISO Inquiry" so that we make sure to address these emails as soon as possible.

Know that Stanford has a great academic advising program that will be available to you once you arrive on campus, so don't stress about planning your classes. A copy of the Stanford Academic calendar for 2015-16 is available here:

<https://studentaffairs.stanford.edu/registrar/academic-calendar-1516>

Once again, we are delighted you have chosen to attend Stanford. Please visit the Bechtel International Center website

(<http://icenter.stanford.edu/students/new/orientation.html>) for updates on orientation and FAQs. It won't be long until September and we look forward to welcoming you to Stanford. Have a great summer!

With very best wishes,

John, Shalini, Denley, Shalmali and Calum