

*****EXCHANGE STUDENTS*****

Planning Your Departure Date: Mandatory and Optional Programs

IMPORTANT: Check the ISSO web site at www.towson.edu/isso after August 15, 2008, for a complete schedule of MANDATORY orientation programs and events. The following are anticipated orientation week programs.

You are required to participate in several programs prior to the start of the semester; therefore, **you must be here in Towson and available the entire week from Sunday, August 24 through Sunday, August 31.** There are many orientation programs planned and as an international student, you need to attend ALL of them.

- ❑ International Exchange Student Orientation—**Tuesday, August 26**
 - ❑ New International Student Program: International Student Information—**Wednesday, August 27**
 - ❑ New International Student Program: Getting to Know TU—**Friday, August 29**
 - ❑ Spring 2008 Semester Classes Begin on **Tuesday, September 2.**
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International Exchange Student Orientation (MANDATORY)

Tuesday, August 26 at 10 a.m. at the Administration Building, Room 244. Additional information will be available on the ISSO web site at www.towson.edu/isso

All international exchange students are **REQUIRED** to attend the International Exchange Student Orientation. At the meeting, the TU International Student Exchange Program coordinator will discuss your course schedule, exchange program requirements, health insurance, opening an online TU account, obtaining your TU identification card, etc. Exchange students have been pre-registered for University courses by Ms. Liz Shearer of the Study Abroad Office based on primary and alternate course selections you requested by mail.

New International Student Program: Day 1, International Student Information (MANDATORY)

Wednesday, August 27, from 1 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. in the Potomoc Lounge in the University Union

- Services and programs provided by the ISSO.
- Immigration Document Clearance: **Remember to bring your passport, Form(s) I-20, I-94 Arrival/Departure card, SEVIS fee receipt notice, and any other immigration-related documents.** You are REQUIRED by U.S. law to get your immigration status “cleared” by the ISSO at the beginning of the semester so that we can complete your Form(s) I-20 processing, solve any immigration-related problems, and photocopy your visa documents for your University record. This process will clear your university record of the "immigration hold flag" which will prevent you from taking classes, and will allow us to report your enrollment to the Immigration Service’s SEVIS database.
- Immigration Regulations Information Session: working, traveling, and maintaining legal status.



New International Student Program: Day 2, Getting to Know TU (MANDATORY)


Friday, August 29, from 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. in the Potomoc Lounge in the University Union

- Preparation for your adjustment to a new country
- Information about how to get involved in recreational and social activities
- Where to go for support with academic and personal concerns
- Beginning new friendships
- The academic culture in the U.S.
- Academic regulations and tips for success at Towson University
- Intercultural communication
- Crime prevention and personal safety in the U.S.

Programs offered by the International Student & Scholar Office (ISSO)

Optional Services and Social Events to Assist in Your Adjustment to Towson University!

The following optional events are planned by the ISSO to help you get settled at Towson University and in the Baltimore area. Please complete the enclosed “Optional Programs Reservation Form” if you would like to attend. Exact dates, times, and locations will be available on the ISSO web site at www.towson.edu/isso (look for “Admissions and Arrival”) closer to the beginning of the semester.

- **Shopping Shuttles:** There will be a number of opportunities to shop for household, electronic, personal, and grocery items needed to set up your new room or apartment. We will transport students in a van to a shopping area with a discount store, grocery store and bed/bath store all within walking distance of each other. Shopping shuttles are generally offered the first and second evenings after on-campus housing becomes available. 
- **Campus Tour:** See how the University Campus is organized and where the important offices, campus resources, and fun hang outs are located.
- **Library Tour:** A librarian leads a tour and explains in general how to use the library and its resources.
- **Bookstore Tour:** A returning student will explain how the bookstore is organized and how to select the correct books for your courses. Bring your course schedule and your payment method (check, credit card, or cash) to buy books before returning students arrive. This event is normally offered after TU CARES, so that you will know which course books to buy.
- **Social Night with Int'l Ambassadors:** International ambassadors are continuing students at Towson University, who are either international students or domestic students and are interested in helping to make your transition to life in the United States easier. New friends, free food, fun games!
- **Movie Night:** Enjoy watching a movie in downtown Towson with new friends.
- **Night Out at Bateman's Restaurant & Pub:** Come enjoy an evening at the one and only restaurant and pub on campus, the best place in Baltimore to eat chicken wings. Come early to enjoy drinks and snacks specials. Don't forget to bring some cash!
- **Washington, DC Trip:** The ISSO will coordinate a day trip to Washington, DC, where you will have the opportunity to visit the Smithsonian Institute, Washington, Jefferson, and Lincoln Monuments, and several memorials, and see The White House. **A \$20 fee includes round-trip transportation and guided tour. Don't forget to bring some extra money for food and shopping!**
- **New Student Welcome Party at PAWS:** Enjoy a sandwich dinner compliments of the ISSO at PAWS, Towson University's recreation center, which offers billiards, table tennis, big screen television, and snack bar. This will be a time to socialize with new international students, ambassadors, and ISSO staff.