



PRE-ARRIVAL INFO

Welcome!

Hello,

On behalf of the Office of International Student Services staff, welcome to the University of Minnesota Crookston and the surrounding community! We are pleased you will be joining us this next semester.

To help you in your preparations, we have prepared some information for you. Please review this information carefully as it covers many important topics including information on obtaining student visas, health insurance, and even what to expect in the way of weather.

To ease your adjustment to Crookston and ensure a smooth transition to U.S. university life, I recommend you attend the International Student Orientation and Welcome Weekend. These programs take place prior to the start of classes. Our philosophy is to help you connect to the University of Minnesota Crookston campus community and Welcome Weekend is an excellent way to do that.

International Student Services is committed to promoting, supporting and celebrating an international environment at the University of Minnesota Crookston. We look forward to having you be part of it!

Please plan to check in with our office during the scheduled orientation program. International Student Services is located in The Compass (170 Owen Hall). Our office hours are 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday - Friday (excluding holidays).

Have a safe journey and I look forward to seeing you in Crookston, Minnesota!

Sincerely,

Sok Leng Tan
Director, International Student Services

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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umcintl@umn.edu
www.umcrookston.edu/international



COMING TO

Crookston

IMMIGRATION

International students in the United States are obligated to abide by a specific set of regulations as stipulated by the U.S. government. The government agency that monitors adherence to these regulations is called the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

When you enter the U.S. on a student visa you are agreeing to follow specific laws to maintain your student classification. Therefore, please read the documents you have been issued related to your student status. This includes the Form I-20. Failure to abide by student regulations could jeopardize your educational plans



ENTERING THE U.S.

The visa issued by the consulate does not guarantee entry to the United States. The Department of Homeland Security has authority to deny admission at the port of entry. Therefore, be sure to have **ALL** your documents in order upon arrival, including **ALL 3 pages** of the Form I-20 or **ALL 2 pages** of the Form DS-2019. You will need to fill out all pertinent information regarding your arrival in the U.S. at kiosk upon arrival. Then, a Customs & Border Protection officer will review your travel documents and stamp your passport to indicate the entry date, location and non-immigrant classification and length of authorized stay. They will return your I-20 and passport. You will be able to retrieve the I-94 Departure Record from the website: www.cbp.gov/I94. Keep your documents in a safe place! Not only are these documents verification of your legal non-immigrant status while in the U.S., but they are also important for the purposes of obtaining work authorization and other benefits as an international student.

ARRIVING IN CROOKSTON

The airport located in Grand Forks, North Dakota is the closest airport serving the University of Minnesota Crookston. This airport is 35 miles from the University of Minnesota Crookston. If you fly into Minneapolis, Minnesota, please be aware that you will have another 6 hours drive to reach Crookston.

Taxis from the airport in Grand Forks to University of Minnesota Crookston cost approximately \$60.

There is a daily bus from Minneapolis/St. Paul to Crookston, Minnesota. Please check with Jefferson Lines for current prices and schedules: www.jeffersonlines.com.

TEMPORARY HOUSING

If you are in need of temporary lodging while looking for accommodations, you can contact the various hotels around the area. Please refer to the list below for some hotels. The costs listed are approximate per night prices and are subject to change.

Crookston Inn	218-281-5210	\$67
AmericInn	218-281-7800	\$73/\$92
Cobblestone Inn	218-470-1111	\$75

If you are staying on campus and arriving early, you can move on campus early and pay a \$15.00/night.

IMPORTANT DATES

As you plan your arrival, please note the following important dates:

- Welcome Weekend - August 19-21, 2020
- First day of courses Fall Term - August 25, 2020
- Last day of fall term - December 16, 2020
- First day of Spring Term - January 13, 2021
- Last day of Spring Term - May 8, 2021

Please refer to the link below for more detailed information concerning dates for the term: onestop.crk.umn.edu

ORIENTATION

During each fall and spring term, the Office of Orientation & Community Outreach and International Student Services sponsor an orientation and registration program for all international students. The orientation program provides you with the opportunity to receive assistance with academic advising, course registration, health services, exposure to the various facilities on campus, and to meet other international and American students, as well as faculty and staff. A full program schedule will be available on the first day of orientation.





FINANCIALS

FEES & EXPENSES

Estimated expenses for one academic year at University of the Minnesota Crookston are \$27,224. Please be prepared to pay initial expenses (for example housing, meals, books) of \$1,000. This amount may vary considerably if you intend to rent an apartment off campus. Some apartment complexes require a deposit of one month's rent.

Breakdown of Expenses

Tuition & Fees \$12,864

Room & Board \$9,076

Books & Supplies \$2,740

Health Insurance \$2,544

TOTAL: \$27,224

BANKING

Bank drafts drawn on banks outside Minnesota may be delayed up to 30 days; therefore it is recommended that you carry sufficient funds for your immediate needs in the form of traveler's checks or cash. If you choose to bring a bank draft, it is suggested that it be drawn on an U.S. bank, preferably within the state of Minnesota. Do not carry large sums of cash with you. Do not pack money in your luggage. To open a bank account you may be required to present a valid passport, I-94 and Form I-20 or DS2019. Some banks will request a social security number; however, it is possible to open a bank account by requesting the W-8 "Foreign Status" form from the bank representative.

Information about opening bank accounts will be provided during orientation.

IN-STATE & FLAT RATE TUITION

The University of Minnesota Crookston is pleased to be able to offer all students in-state tuition rates. International students will pay the same tuition and fees as Minnesota residents. This cuts your tuition and fees approximately in half. UMN Crookston has restructured the tuition policy in favor of a flat-rate tuition strategy which makes all credits above 13 per semester tuition-free. Students taking 13 or more credits will pay a flat tuition rate of \$5,219 per semester. Students taking 1 to 12 credits will be assessed \$401.46 per credit. Students who take advantage of the flat rate and graduate in four years will pay significantly less and save thousands of dollars. To graduate in four years at UMN Crookston, a student must complete 15-16 credits per semester on average.

SCHOLARSHIPS

There are four ½ tuition waiver scholarships available for returning international students. Students must be an international student studying at UMN Crookston on an F-1 visa; and completed one full semester and enrolled in the second semester with a total equivalent to at least 24 credits from UMN Crookston. Applicants must possess leadership skills, be involved with international activities on campus, and be an active UMN Crookston student overall. With a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above.

EMPLOYMENT

ON-CAMPUS

International students are permitted to work on campus up to 20 hours per week during the fall and spring terms and up to 40 hours a week during vacation periods. The current minimum wage for a student employee is \$10.00 an hour. However, some departments pay more than the minimum wage depending on the skill required for the job and the qualifications of the student. Please note that you may only apply for "non-work study funds" jobs. You are not eligible for "work study" funds, a type of federal financial aid. Also, non-work funds jobs are more limited, so it is better that you plan on NOT working.

OFF-CAMPUS

All international students are prohibited from accepting employment off campus without proper authorization. Authorization for off-campus employment is only available in special instances. In most cases, off-campus employment must be authorized through the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Engaging in unauthorized employment is a violation of your student status and can result in deportation proceedings.



SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

A Social Security Number (SSN) is required for students who intend to work at the University, whether as research assistants or as student workers, or off campus. In order to facilitate employment, an international student must obtain a SSN. Unfortunately, there is no way to apply for a SSN prior to your arrival in the U.S. In order to apply for the SSN, you must have a job and be able to show a valid passport, a valid Form I-20 and a valid I-94 Arrival/Departure Record. The nearest Social Security Administration (SSA) is located in Grand Forks, ND. When there is enough need, transportation will be arranged by International Student Services. Once the SSA approves and processes your application, a SSN will be assigned to you. The SSN card will be mailed to the address you noted on your application within four to six weeks. If you do not have a local address at the time of application, you may use International Student Services as your local mailing address.



HEALTH

HEALTH INSURANCE

All international students are required to possess University of Minnesota Crookston's student health insurance coverage. International students will be automatically billed for the University of Minnesota Crookston's student health insurance coverage. Information regarding enrollment in this plan will be available at Orientation. Insurance must be obtained during the registration period and coverage must be maintained while enrolled at the University of Minnesota Crookston.

Costs for the Plans - 2020-2021

- Student: \$2,544
- Spouse: \$6,300
- One child: \$5,412
- Two or more children: \$6,744

These charges are billed semester by semester. More information about health insurance coverage can be found at: shb.umn.edu/students-and-scholars/shbp-dates-cost.

In addition, all students who register at the University are eligible for the services offered at the Health Center located on campus. There may be minimal charges for these services.

Finally, have copies of any important records, medical information, or prescriptions with you when you arrive. Prescriptions should be written in generic terms. Dental costs in the U.S. are quite expensive and are not covered by the mandatory health plan, so you may want to have a dental examination before you get to the U.S.

IMMUNIZATION

Minnesota State law requires that all students attending Minnesota universities be immunized for Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) and Diphtheria/Tetanus (DT). Students need to provide official documentation of these immunizations prior to or upon arrival at the University of Minnesota Crookston.

It is University of Minnesota policy that all students complete a health screening prior to attending classes. This health screening includes the submission of the medical history form and, in particular, verification of immunization records to ensure compliance with Minnesota State Law.

We require all international students to provide official proof of immunizations, not just the date. Please complete the medical history form: www.crk.umn.edu/sites/crk.umn.edu/files/medical-history-form-dec-19.pdf and **bring all immunization documentation** with you.

POLICIES

SMOKE FREE & TOBACCO FREE CAMPUS

The University of Minnesota Crookston has been a Smoke-Free/Tobacco free campus since January 1, 2009. This means that smoking and using tobacco on-campus grounds is not allowed. This move has been made to make UMC a healthy place to work, study, and live. The official policy is as follows:

Effective January 1, 2009 smoking, tobacco use, and tobacco sales (including the use or sales of smokeless tobacco products) are prohibited on University owned, operated, or leased properties and in University owned, leased, or operated vehicles by employees, students, or visitors.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns about this policy. We have identified several options to help those wanting to quit smoking or stop using tobacco. We can connect you up with support resources here.

ALCOHOL FREE

The University of Minnesota Crookston is a "dry" campus. That means that the possession and consumption of alcohol beverages and/or possession of any type of alcohol containers is not permitted on University premises, which include the grounds, residence halls and parking lots.

AUTO INSURANCE

You are required by law to have adequate automobile insurance in order to legally drive a vehicle in the State of Minnesota. Automobile insurance is available through a number of reputable companies in the U.S. Students with automobile insurance coverage from non-U.S. companies should determine whether the policy includes coverage while driving in the U.S. and whether that coverage is accepted by the Minnesota DVS.

DRIVER'S LICENSE

To obtain a Minnesota driver's license, contact the Minnesota Motor Vehicle Services at 612 N Broadway St Suite 207, Crookston (218-281- 5423). The "Minnesota Driver License Manual" can be obtained online at: dps.mn.gov/divisions/dvs/forms-documents/Documents/Minnesota_Drivers_Manual.pdf.

The Minnesota DVS will usually require a nonresident alien, including non-immigrant students, to provide documentation of their current student status with a valid passport, Form I-94, Form I-20 or Form DS-2019.





STUDENT LIFE

ID CARD

A University of Minnesota Crookston identification card (U Card) identifies you as a student of the University of Minnesota. It is needed to access University resources. Your first U Card can be obtained at the U Card Office (9 Hill Hall). Please bring your passport and be prepared to have your picture taken. Replacement cards are \$25. You will get your U card during orientation.

GETTING AROUND TOWN

T.H.E. BUS (Tri-Valley Heartland Express Bus) provides general public transportation and has daily bus routes in Crookston. The bus drops off and picks up students on campus. Buses run starting at 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. To schedule a ride, call their dispatch office at (800) 201-3432 or (218) 281-0700 between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Calling them a day in advance is a good idea. Students ride for a reduced fee by showing your U Card.

There is also a taxi in town. Ampride Taxi can be scheduled by calling (218) 281-7929.



COMPUTER

All students enrolled at UMN Crookston are provided with: a university notebook computers; pre-installed software; access to laser printers; power and LAN connections in classrooms, residence halls, and lounges; assistance from the Computer Help Desk; e-mail system; student Web page account; online library card catalogs; and World Wide Web access. Students do NOT need to bring their own computers, as notebook computers are provided. Students are assessed a technology fee to cover these costs. Bringing your own computer DOES NOT exempt you from this fee.

IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS

As an international student, you are required to abide by the laws pertaining to your immigration status. You must have at least 12 credits of courses for fall and spring term. You also need to keep International Programs informed of your local address at all times. Also, you may not work without prior permission. All of this will be covered during orientation.

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

Joining clubs and organizations is a great way to become involved in campus and community life. Likewise, it is great way to meet new people who share common interests. You can find out more about the different clubs at: crk.collegiatelink.net/organizations.

Multicultural International Club

The Multicultural International Club is a school-recognized organization that lends support to all students interested in multicultural and international events, cultures, and issues. Club members are committed to heightening personal and campus awareness of, appreciation of, and respect for cultural diversity. Club members encourage world citizens to share with one another the wealth of their cultural heritage and experience. In addition, the club plans and implements cultural retreats, seminars, educational and recreational trips and the traditional International Dinner. Examples of activities are ski trips, ice-fishing, ice-skating, Festival of Nations, and the list goes on. If you want to meet people from different countries and cultures, come to the Multicultural International Club and celebrate diversity. Please bring a traditional outfit and pictures of your home place when you arrive on campus. There will be several times throughout the year where we may be asking international students for these items.

WEATHER

The climate consists of four distinct seasons, ranging from warm summers to very cold winters. Minnesota weather can be very hot in the summer (up to 38° C) and very cold in winter (down to -38° C). During the spring and fall, temperatures can range from -15° to 32° C, depending on the month and the average temperatures of the year. Warm clothing is needed for outdoors during the winter months, but the buildings are kept warm during the cold season.

CLOTHING

You might want to shop for some of your clothing after you arrive, especially winter clothing. You will need good quality winter clothes that can be purchased at a reasonable price in Crookston. Plan on bringing about \$300.00 to purchase these winter items. Also, come prepared with a lighter weight coat for use in fall and spring. September can be chilly (about 15° C), particularly for those who come from warm climates. In the U.S., students dress casually for classes. It is not unusual to find every kind of apparel imaginable. Men wear slacks or jeans, and shirts or sweaters. They also wear shorts or cut-off jeans in warm weather. The majority of women on campus wear sweatpants or jeans, and blouses or sweaters, but some wear dresses and skirts as well. Sweatshirts are also common for both men and women.

Small Campus. Big Degree.