Congratulations and Greetings from WMU!

International Admissions and Services (IAS) is pleased you have chosen Western Michigan University (WMU) for furthering your academic studies in the United States. Of its approximately 25,000 students, WMU hosts more than 1,500 international students from 95 countries. WMU’s community is committed to furthering international understanding and you will be a valuable asset to this process. Have a safe journey to Kalamazoo. We look forward to meeting you at the International Student Orientation and Registration Program (ISORP). ISORP will be held on Monday, August 26 through Friday, August 30, 2013 in the Bernhard Center East Ballroom.

Check out the online orientation information at www.wmich.edu/internationaladmissions/orientation

Welcome to WMU!

Start Preparing Now

- Obtain your passport and U.S. visa as soon as possible.
- Make travel arrangements to Kalamazoo.
- Make arrangements for funds to be sent in advance or to be brought with you.
- Make arrangements for a place to stay during ISORP. (Read the information about temporary housing).
- Advise your friends and family of your temporary mailing address.
- Visit the International Admission webpage to learn more about life at WMU.

ISORP IS MANDATORY

ISORP was designed specifically to assist newly admitted international students in adjusting to WMU. University departments and staff make special arrangements to meet you, share important information, and answer questions during orientation. Attendance at ISORP is mandatory. Please do not miss any orientation sessions. Currently enrolled WMU student leaders will assist you through orientation. Students who miss ISORP sessions or who are granted any exemption will still be considered responsible for the information provided during ISORP. Please read this newsletter carefully. It will answer many of your questions regarding WMU and ISORP. Welcome to WMU!

HOW TO CONTACT IAS

Office Phone: (269) 387-5865 Monday-Friday 8 a.m.—5 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time
Fax: (269) 387-5899 Monday-Friday 8 a.m.—5 p.m.
Emergencies Only: Maran Subramain, Program Coordinator (269) 387-3966
e-mail: intl-activities@wmich.edu
ORIENTATION INFORMATION

WHEN

ISORP will begin on Monday, August 26, 2013 at 8 a.m. and continue through Friday, August 30. Attendance each day is required. Fall classes begin on Tuesday, September 3.

WHERE

ISORP will be held in the Bernhard Center East Ballroom (see map on back page).

WHAT

Please bring all your immigration documents to ISORP including your passport with visa, your I-20 or DS-2019, and your printed electronic arrival/departure record (I-94) which can be accessed at www.cbp.gov/I94.

SCHEDULE

ISORP registration will be open from 8 to 10 a.m. in the Bernhard Center East Ballroom. The opening session will begin promptly at 10 a.m. You will receive a complete schedule of ISORP activities during registration. ISORP sessions will include:

- Academic advising
- Course registration
- Grading
- Advising on transfer credits
- U.S. immigration rules & regulations
- Medical insurance and health care
- Campus tours
- Shopping trips
- Social activities with other students

COST

All newly enrolled international students will be assessed a mandatory $175 fee for Fall ISORP services and meals. Housing and meals are not included. Free breakfast is provided every morning.

TRAVEL PLANS

We recommend that new students arrive 1-2 days prior to ISORP to rest and adjust to the time change. Plan to fly directly to the Kalamazoo Airport (airport code: AZO). Even though Chicago and Detroit appear to be nearby, both are at least three hours away by car. Transportation from the Kalamazoo Airport will be provided free of charge starting August 19, 2013. Please locate the transportation desk in the baggage claim area for further information.

TEMPORARY HOUSING

Students with a WMU apartment contract: Please check in with the WMU Apartment office Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., for move-in procedures. The office is open until 5 pm. Find more at www.wmich.edu/apartment

Students with a residence hall contract: If you have a residence hall contract, you may move in early starting Sunday, August 25. You will be charged an early move-in fee of a little more than $20 per day until August 30, when halls officially open.

** Note: Students will not be able to move in earlier than the move-in date for apartments and residence halls. If you are planning on arriving before the move-in dates provided above, you will need to find other arrangements until the specified move-in date.

Students without a housing contract: You will need to make a reservation with a hotel before and during ISORP. We suggest the Holiday Inn hotel below. You may call directly, or make a reservation online. Click on the website’s “sleep” tab, then the “reserve” tab, enter the dates desired, and then click on the “Have a group Code?” tab and enter the group code “IAA” to receive a discounted rate. WMU will provide a shuttle service to campus during ISORP week for those students staying at the hotel. Be ready at the hotel door between 7:30 and 8:00 a.m.

Holiday Inn—Kalamazoo, 2747 S 11th St Kalamazoo, MI 49009
Phone: 269-375-6000
www.holidayinnkz.com

YOUR TEMPORARY MAILING ADDRESS

YOUR NAME c/o ISORP
International Admissions and Services
4255 Ellsworth Hall
Western Michigan University
Kalamazoo, MI 49008 –5246 U.S.A.
PREPARING FOR YOUR STAY AT WMU

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

WMU Residence Halls provide safe on-campus housing and opportunities to meet other WMU students. Be sure to indicate your preference on your housing request forms. Permanent accommodations will be available starting Sunday, August 26. All questions about residence hall reservations and contracts should be directed to the WMU Residence Life Office.

Please apply online at http://www.wmich.edu/housing

Residence Life
Western Michigan University
1903 W. Michigan Ave.
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5312
Phone: (269) 387-4735
Fax: (269) 387-4786
rl-info@wmich.edu

Transfer/graduate/sophomore and above students are eligible to live in WMU Campus Apartments. Apply online at: www.wmich.edu/apartment

WMU Apartments
Western Michigan University
1903 W. Michigan Ave.
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5312
Phone: (269) 387-2175
Fax: (269) 387-4786
ca-info@wmich.edu

FINANCES

WMU's total cost of attendance per academic semester may be found at http://wmich.edu/tuition. Do not rely on working in the United States. Like most U.S. schools, WMU has little financial aid for international students. If you have a government scholarship, bring enough money for two months to pay for rent, food, books, deposits, and warm clothing. If privately sponsored, bring enough for your first semester's tuition, fees and living expenses. Payment of the full balance on your student account is due on the first day of classes each semester. Carry with you international travelers checks or a bank draft payable to WMU. Tuition and fee rates are reviewed by the university in August each year.

ABOUT YOUR MEALS

During ISORP you will be provided with daily breakfast and lunch during your first day at no extra cost. However, you will be responsible for your meals for the rest of the week. Dining halls will be open starting Friday, Aug. 30.

TRANSFER CREDITS

If you expect to receive advanced transfer credits, it is helpful to bring extra copies of your transcripts, diplomas or certificates. A syllabus or course description is also helpful and sometimes required.

ENGLISH REQUIREMENTS

If your admission letter states that you are required to enroll in ENGL 3600 or 3610, your admission counselor will register you for this class prior to the beginning of the semester. This course counts toward the bachelor's degree only and cannot be waived. You must receive a grade of "C" or higher to pass this course.

HEALTH CARE & MEDICAL INSURANCE

Western Michigan University requires all international students to have comprehensive medical insurance. You will be automatically charged for insurance at WMU unless you bring insurance from your home country that meets WMU's approval. Students not wishing to purchase insurance through WMU must have private insurance that meets all waiver requirements listed on the Student Insurance section of www.sindecuse.com. They must go to the WMU page of www.aetnastudenthealth.com and complete a waiver application. All insurance inquiries should be directed to the Sindecuse Health Center Insurance Manager, at: she-usip@wmich.edu, (269) 387-3266.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO F-1 & J-1 STUDENTS

An I-901 (SEVIS) fee for F-1 students of $200 and J-1 students of $180 has been implemented by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The fee must be paid and fully processed prior to your visa interview. Please read all immigration documents carefully. By signing your copy of the form I-20 or DS-2019 and accepting your U.S. visa, you agree to all terms and conditions set forth by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. For details, visit www.ice.gov/sevis/faq.htm. International Students May Experience Delays at U.S. Ports of Entry As of May 2, 2013, due to heightened security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers are verifying the status of F-1 and J-1 nonimmigrants in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) before admission at port of entry. As a result, it has been reported that many students and exchange visitors are referred to secondary inspection, where their SEVIS record will be reviewed. Due to these new entry procedures, F-1 students and J-1 exchange visitors entering the United States should plan to spend potentially a couple of hours in the secondary inspection process and plan flight connections accordingly. Additional information will be furnished when available.

ORIENTATION ATTENDANCE CONFIRMATION

Please confirm that you will attend orientation at the following website:

international.wmich.edu/rsvp/isorp-rsvp

If you have any further questions please contact: intl-activities@wmich.edu

FURTHER INFORMATION ON LIFE AT WMU

The International Student Handbook is full of valuable information. Find it here: international.wmich.edu/handbook