

Office of Global Engagement International Student Services



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Dear International Student,

Welcome to Rivier University!

Rivier University and particularly the team of Global Engagement, congratulate you for being accepted into one of our many great programs. We can't wait to welcome you!

You may feel overwhelmed and at times confused on what to do as soon as you receive your acceptance and I-20 Packet. Fear not, this guide is designed to help you organize your priorities and to get a sense of what you need to do after receiving the I-20, and what to prepare a before leaving your home country. It has in depth information such as, preparing for visa interview, fee structure, health insurance, weather in New Hampshire, and many more information that will be helpful to you personally, academically, socially and culturally. This guide is a quick reference of "What to Do Next," and the "Pre-Arrival Information," documents have been prepared for your convenience.

Please take advantage of the materials sent to you. If you have any question, please feel free to email globalengagement@rivier.edu. We are here to assist you! Good luck on your visa application.

We will see you soon! Safe travels!

The Global Engagement Team

Where is Rivier University?

Nashua and Rivier University

Nashua, New Hampshire, U.S.A.



Our town, described by the city's website as: "Nashua, the Gate City," is the second largest city in New Hampshire and is the center of a diverse and dynamic region of more than 175,000 people. The combination of an excellent quality of life and proximity to the White Mountains, the seacoast, and Boston makes Nashua an attractive growth center for New England.

"We are committed to supporting a climate for families to thrive, children to learn, businesses to succeed, and visitors to stay."

For more information about Nashua, NH please visit www.nashuanh.gov.

Office of Global Engagement

Staff and Location

Located in Memorial Hall (Number 12 on map) Room 123
Contact Information:
(603) 897-8782
globalengagement@river.edu

MEET THE OFFICE OF GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT TEAM

Dey Barriga

Director of International Student Services International Student Advisor (also known as Isa RU on FB) Principal Designated School Office, SEVIS 603-897-8781 dbarriga@rivier.edu

Ann-Marie Landry

Administrative Assistant 603-897-8782 alandry@rivier.edu

Suzanne Bartlett

Coordinator for International Student Records 603-897-8782 sbartlett@rivier.edu

Pre-Arrival Information

Pay for SEVIS I-901 Fee

Now that you have been accepted and issued an I-20, prepare to pay the SEVIS I-901 fee. Click here → https://www.fmjfee.com/i901fee/desktop/index.jsp?view=desktop

Print your receipt and bring it at your visa interview at the nearest American Embassy in your country.

Applying for Your Visa

- 1. As soon as you receive your I-20, you are eligible to apply for an F-1 visa.
- 2. Obtain a passport from the appropriate office of your government. During your stay in the United States, your passport must remain valid at all time for at least 6 months into the future.
- 3. Read all the information on the SEVIS Form I-20 A-B, especially page 3, where your legal responsibilities as an F-1 student in the United States are explained.
- **4.** Sign your SEVIS Form I-20 A-B on page 1. (Please review your I-20 information as soon as you received it).
- 5. Take your passport, SEVIS Form I-20 A-B, and financial documentation to the nearest United States Embassy or Consulate. The US Consular official will review your papers, and if all is in order, issue you an F-1 student visa which will permit you to enter the United States. Each visa has an expiration date.

NOTE: You much check your visa's expiration date before you depart for the U.S. If needed, you HAVE to renew your visa as soon as you plan to travel.

TIPS IN OBTAINING A SUCCESSFUL F-1 VISA

- You have the funds to cover all of your expenses for the duration of your stay in the United States. If your support is from personal and/or family funds, be prepared to show bank statements, letters of credit, and even proof of the annual salary and total available assets of yourself and/or your family. You must at least demonstrate that you meet the financial requirements indicated on your SEVIS Form I-20 A-B.
- You plan to return to your country after you complete your studies. To do this, you may have to show that you have a good reason to return home. You should demonstrate that you have strong ties (family, professional, financial, etc.) to your country and will return home.

NOTE: If you cannot prove these points to the US Embassy or Consular Officer, he/she may deny the visa. You may have to prove these points at two different locations: once at the US Embassy or Consular Office when you request your visa and then once again when you enter the United States with the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Arrival to the United States

- 1. When you travel to the United States, make sure you carry your passport, SEVIS Form I-20 A-B, and proof of financial support. Do not pack these documents into suitcases which are checked into the baggage compartments you may be required to show your documents before being allowed to claim your bags.
- 2. When you arrive in the United States, an Immigration Inspector will review your papers and may interview you as described above. He/she will check that you have a valid F-1 student visa in

your passport, will look at your SEVIS Form I-20 A-B, and may ask to see your financial documentation.

- 3. Your passport will be stamped with F1/DS (Duration of Status) when you successfully entered the United States. Make sure you examine your passport before leaving the officer at the Port of Entry.
- 4. You will be instructed to print your I-94 after your arrival. Please visit <u>i94.cbp.dhs.gov</u> to retrieve your I-94 number.

Housing/Accommodations

On-campus Housing:

- 1. Visit the Rivier University Student Life website at www.rivier.edu.
- 2. Email Paula Randazza at <u>prandazza@rivier.edu</u> to reserve a room and inquire about the earliest accommodation date.

Price Range: Rivier Housing Rates

Off-campus Housing:

It is strongly recommended that you make your housing arrangements before you depart your country. This is your responsibility. Below are resources for off-campus housing. Please inquire and apply online with Bay Ridge Apartments, Forest Ridge Apartments, or Royal Crest Apartments. Apartments can be shared with friends.

• Bay Ridge Apartments – <u>www.thebayridgeapts.com</u>

Apt #	# Bedrooms	Price per Month*
Apt 12CHDI	2	\$1,230.00
Apt 22CHDI	2	\$1,232.00
Apt 34BAYG	2	\$1,280.00
Apt 08CHDF	2	\$1,335.00
Apt 32BAYL	2	\$1,345.00

^{*}terms and conditions apply

• Forest Ridge Apartments – <u>www.movetoforestridge.com</u>

One Bedroom - \$1,025.00 Two Bedrooms - \$1,160.00

Royal Crest Apartments – <u>www.royalcrestnashua.com</u>

Apt #	# Bedrooms	Price per Month*
Apt 046-02	1 bed	\$968
Apt 077-08	1 bed	\$999
Apt 044-05	1 bed	\$999
Apt 072-11	2 bed	\$1103
Apt 066-07	2 bed	\$1103

^{*}terms and conditions apply

NOTE: Off-campus housing resources are NOT affiliated with Rivier University. It is your responsibility to learn the terms and agreement of your lease.

Temporary Housing:

If you wish to stay in a temporary place, there are options discounted to Rivier students.

Holiday Inn Radisson Hotel
www.radisson.com
9 Northeastern Blvd, Nashua
(603) 888-1551
(603) 888-9970

Cost: \$89.00 daily plus taxes Cost: \$79.00 daily plus taxes

If checking into hotels for the first time, please secure your belongings (travel and financial documents). Do not let any stranger in your room. In the case of an emergency, dial 911 and identify yourself, your location and describe the situation calmly.

Health Insurance

Health insurance is mandatory for all F1 students. You will be required to present proof of insurance at the immigration check-in with your ISA. Listed below are health insurance companies for you shop around for the best rate, as long as you have appropriate medical coverage. You should contact them directly to sign-up.

Examples of required coverage:

- 1. **Medical Coverage:** This dollar amount sets the minimum limit of eligible medical expenses that your insurance plan will pay. It can range anywhere from \$50,000 worth of coverage to an unlimited amount.
- 2. **Repatriation of Remains, also known as the Return of Mortal Remains:** Provides financial assistance in the event of death while outside of your home country. This coverage will provide the proper planning, logistics, and financial coverage for your family members.
- 3. **Emergency Medical Evacuation:** Another important aspect of international student health insurance is emergency medical evacuation. This type of coverage provides financial assistance in the event that the local facilities in which you fall injured or ill do not have the capacity to give you proper care.

Source: www.International Student Insurance

Below are resources for health insurance:

Price range may vary.

- Lewer Agency jcrawford@lewer.com
- HTH mbelko@hthworldwide.com
- International Student Protection http://www.intlstudentprotection.com/

- ISO Insurance http://www.isoa.org/
- The Harbor Group http://www.hginsurance.com/plus international overview 13.asp
- USI Affinity Travel Insurance Services http://www.travelinsure.com/what/susahigh.asp

Recommendations before Leaving Your Country

You should meet with your local Physician to get the following medical test before your departure:

- Meningitis vaccine, only one needed
- Measles, mumps, rubella vaccine series of two
- Hepatitis B series of three
- Tuberculosis Screening and Mantoux (skin) test
- Physical Exam
- Dental
- Vision (Extra Pair of Eye Glasses or Contact Lenses)
- Any important Medication with Prescription

Documents to Carry With You:

- Passport with F-1 non-immigrant visa
- SEVIS I-20
- A copy of your SEVIS I-901 Fee Receipt
- Evidence of financial resources (financial support provided to the university for I-20 issuance)
- Rivier University Acceptance Letter

What to Pack

Because of the changing seasons, it is important to be prepared for all different types of weather. Warm clothing for winter, light jackets for spring and fall, medications, and other personal items you wish to bring with you. It is recommended to get your country traditional wear which can be worn in University cultural events.

Airport Pickup

- For international travel, your arrival airport is Boston Logan Airport.
- For travel within the United States, your arrival airport will either be Manchester/Boston Regional Airport (which is close to Nashua) or Boston Logan, whichever flights are less expensive.

You can arrange an airport pick-up directly with www.flightlineinc.com or call 800-245-2525 for pickup at either Boston Logan Airport or Manchester Regional Airport. The cost will be approximately \$50 per

passenger, depending upon the amount of luggage you are traveling with. You must request pickup within 7 days of arrival.

If you need assistance with airport pick-up, please email <u>globalengagement@rivier.edu</u> 7 days prior to arrival.

Upon your arrival

When you arrive to Nashua, New Hampshire

Schedule a time to meet with your International Student Advisor, Dey Barriga for mandatory visa check in. She can be reached by phone at 603-897-8781, or by email at dbarriga@rivier.edu.

Check-in is mandatory at least 7 days prior to Orientation and is located in Memorial Hall, Room 123.

Preparing for the Weather in New Hampshire

According to the U.S. Weather Bureau, the average monthly temperature in Concord, NH is:

January: 21 degrees F, -6 degrees C

February: 23 degrees F, -5 degrees C

March: 32 degrees F, 0 degrees C

• April: 44 degrees F, 7 degrees C

May: 56 degrees F, 13 degrees C

June: 65 degrees F, 18 degrees C

July: 70 degrees F, 21 degrees C

August: 67 degrees F, 19 degrees C

September: 60 degrees F, 16 degrees C

October: 49 degrees F, 9 degrees C

November: 38 degrees F, 3 degrees C

December: 25 degrees F, -4 degrees C

Orientation/Checking in

Mandatory orientations are scheduled at least one week before the beginning of each term/session. Plan to arrive before the orientation. You need to contact your International Student Advisor before you make travel plans.

Getting started (Course registration, email account)

Things to be done as a priority after your Visa:

• Set up your email account. You'll receive a communication from University after your visa, with a Welcome letter and instructions to set up your email account. Keep responding to the emails.

- Make an appointment for the course registration. Courses are shown in http://www.rivier.edu/registrar/schedules.aspx. Check the availability of subjects you are interested in and meet the academic advisor for course registration.
- Get knowledge of how to use CANVAS. More details will be provided on Orientation day.

Social / Cultural Norms

<u>Timeliness & Punctuality</u>: Americans are time-driven. It is common to see them frequently checking the time and making specific appointments. Especially in New England, people go at a faster pace and are very concerned with being on time. It is a sign of respect to be somewhere exactly when you say that you will, or even a few minutes earlier. It is seen as rude and impolite to be late. If being late occurs, it is important to inform the person you are meeting that you will be late. Students are expected to be on time for class and for appointments. Your grade may be affected negatively if you are late multiple times.

<u>Greeting & Smiling:</u> In the United States, it is not uncommon to smile at strangers and even say "hello, how are you?" It may seem superficial, but it is normal and friendly. Sometimes this may lead to a conversation, but most of the time it is just something that people do in passing. Smiling or a "hello" does not mean that a person is flirting, requesting an advance towards them, or even considering you a friend. If someone looks directly at an American and smiles, they will very likely return the glance and smile back. When meeting someone new, it is polite to shake their hand and make eye contact or nod your head.

<u>Small Talk:</u> Small talk is talk about simple, everyday topics. Americans may do this while waiting at a bus stop with strangers, with others in their classroom, or even with friends. There are both appropriate and inappropriate topics to discuss.

Topics that are often safe to discuss: The weather, one's commuting experience and cars, classes and jobs, sports, music, movies, fashion, shopping, and clothes

Topics that are considered rude: Money, how much one earns, family, religion, weight, age (if a person is older than 30)

<u>Eating:</u> Most foods are not eaten with the hands; utensils are used. There are some exceptions such as hamburgers, hot dogs, and French fries. It is polite to chew with your mouth closed; we do not show the food we are chewing or talk with food in our mouths.

<u>Personal Space</u>: This is a very important social norm. Unlike countries with a higher population density, Americans feel the need for personal space. We think of it as having our own bubble surrounding us. When you are speaking to a person, it is a good general rule to be about an arm's length away, or 18 inches. If people feel that their personal space is being violated, they may feel uncomfortable or even threatened.

Eye Contact: It is polite to make eye contact when you are speaking with someone. If you do not, the person may think that you are uninterested. However, it is important not to stare. Staring is considered incredibly rude. When a person holds their gaze on a stranger for longer than a few seconds, the person may feel uncomfortable; this is not considered polite and some people may even react negatively.

<u>Bodily Functions</u>: One should not pick their nose in public or scratch at their private parts. These behaviors may be greeted with looks because it is not socially acceptable. Also, when sneezing, it is important to sneeze into your elbow, a tissue, or your sleeve. It is also not polite to pass gas in public or to spit in front of others.

<u>Courtesy:</u> In the U.S., we frequently use the words "please" and "thank you." It is kind and often, but not always the way that you treat a stranger determines the way that they treat you.

More Etiquette Resources: http://www.etiquettescholar.com/index.html

Banking

While in the United States, you will need to manage your finances, and a bank checking account helps you do that. Many banks will provide special services or accounts for students. There are various banks in the Nashua area. A checking account in the U.S. enables you to have a place where you can deposit money that you receive which may be paid to you by check or deposited directly into your checking account. It enables you to spend money too—by writing checks, using a check card or going online to pay bills or to make purchases. A checking account will also provide you with an accurate, monthly record of your finances—what was deposited and what was spent or withdrawn. Plus, it is safer than carrying cash and more efficient than purchasing money orders.

Visit banks in person carrying your passport and student ID. Compare the services and costs of several banks before choosing one.

Local banks:

Bank of America

Multiple Locations in Nashua: 157 Main St Nashua, NH – 1 (800) 432-1000 310 Daniel Webster Hwy, Nashua, NH 370 Amherst St, Nashua NH

Santander Bank

223 Main St, Nashua, NH - (603) 579-0901

Citizens Bank

238 Main St. Nashua, NH - (603) 594-7700

St. Mary's

14 Spruce St Nashua, NH – (603) 669-4600

Cell Service/Electronics

<u>Cell Service</u>: While some students may come to the U.S. with a cell phone from their home country, many students elect to switch to a U.S. carrier since it will be more affordable and convenient. There are a number of providers in the area (Metro PCS, Verizon, T-Mobile, AT&T, and Sprint) that provide cellular phone service.

<u>Electronics</u>: If you plan on bringing any electrical appliances or computer equipment, please remember that the electrical requirements in the USA are 110V and require two flat-pronged plugs. Adapters can be found in local stores. However, appliances such as hair dryers, alarm clock, etc. can be purchased locally for not much more than the cost of the required adapters.

Public Transportation

GETTING TO CAMPUS

U-PASS: Rivier University students, staff, and faculty can use Nashua Transit busses for free! Simply present your Rivier ID card to the transit driver when you board the bus. The pass is valid to use at all



times the bus is running and is available to take you to any of the stops in Nashua. There's a stop conveniently located in front of the Regina Library.

Contact Nashua Transit at (603) 880-0100 for times and details of transit service.

Nashua Transit Station (NTS) HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday - Friday 6:00am - 10:45pm Saturday 9:00am - 10:45pm

TRANSIT CENTER

Monday - Friday 8:00am - 5:00pm Explore Boston via the Boston Express: http://www.bostonexpressbus.com/



Driver's License

Driver License Application Requirements:

- F1 Visa
- Valid I-20 form
- Valid Passport
- Valid I-94 form
- Valid home country driver license with "LMV" License of Motor Vehicles
- No objection letter from Home country License office
- Letter from International Student Advisor
- SSN card or denial letter

If you do not have proof of previous vehicle operation, a valid home country driver license or valid U.S. driver license, you will be required to complete approved driver education course.

- You must first submit all required documents to the Non-U.S. Citizen Driver License Officer
- Upon the approval of the documents go to the Bureau of Driver Licensing to apply for a driver license
- F-1's CAN ONLY APPLY FOR A DRIVER'S LICENSE AT THE CONCORD, NH OFFICE

You must bring the required documents to:

Department of Safety

Division of Motor Vehicles at 23 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03305

Shopping / Food / Entertainment

Food

- Cafe India Restaurant and Bar
- Food and Fashion of India
- India Palace Restaurant
- Kashmir Indian Cuisine
- Kurry Masala Express
- Priya Indian Cuisine
- Udupi Indian Restaurant

Entertainment / Pleasures / Things to do

Movies:

- AMC Tyngsboro 12
- Chunky's Cinema Pub
- Red Box

Hospitals/Urgent Care:

- Southern New Hampshire Medical Center at 603-577-2000
- St. Joseph Hospital
- Immediate Care of Southern NH
- Health Stop

*If you need to see a doctor, please contact your ISA for assistance. In case of medical emergency, dial 911. State your name, location, and speak slowly while describing your emergency.

Student Services

At a Glance

Office	Services	Location & Hours	Contact
Academic Advising	 Help students plan their course of study. Help evaluate core requirements. Choose courses based on major programs of study. Assist with any scheduling or coursework issues. 	Sylvia Trotter Hall By appointment	Business Dr. Amir Toosi (603) 897-8490 Computer Science Dr. Vladimir Riabov (603) 897-8613
Business Office	 Online payments available from Checking or Savings Mail check payments to Rivier University, Attn: Business Office, 420 South Main Street, Nashua, NH 03060 Pay in person at the Business Office or by phone in a credit card payment 	Adrienne Hall 1st Floor 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mon – Fri	Last name begins with A-G: (603)897-8214 Last name begins with H-R: (603)897-8675 Last name begins with S-Z: (603)897-8488
Campus Ministry	 Serves the spiritual, social and personal needs of the campus community, providing opportunities where values are challenged and faith is affirmed 	Dion Center 1st Floor 8:00 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday – Friday	For more information, please call or email Kristin Nelson. (603) 897-8577 knelson@rivier.edu
Career Development Center	Individual assistance with career or major planning internship options, job search information, etc.	9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday – Friday	Call or e-mail to schedule an appointment (603) 897-8246
Counseling Center	 Counseling and support to students facing a range of issues and challenges Individual and group counseling sessions 	9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday – Friday	Call or Drop-in to schedule an appointment (603) 897-8251
Disability Services	Help students with documented disabilities secure the accommodations they need to succeed academically	Sylvia Trottier Hall, Room 310 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday – Friday	Darcy Murphy (603) 897-8650

Office	Services	Location & Hours	Contact
Health & Fitness Center	Provide fitness room orientations to new students, faculty and staff	Mendel Hall. Molloy Hall. Muldoon Fitness Centre. Open during the academic year from Monday through Friday.	
Information Technology	 Obtain Rivier e-mail account General Computing Lab Network Connection in Residence Halls Emergency Notification System Online Training Center to support Office 2007 & 2010, Microsoft Word, Outlook, PowerPoint, Access, and Internet Explorer 7 	Sylvia Trottier Hall	Hotline (603) 897-8469
Multi-Cultural Affairs	 Providing a supportive network for minority students on campus as well as the minority citizens in the southern New Hampshire area 	Dion Center 1 st Floor 8:30-5:00 Monday- Friday	(603) 897-8676
Public Safety	 Issue Parking Permits Issue University ID's Motor Vehicle Lockouts Motor Vehicle Jumpstarts Missing Property Emergency Medical Assistance Escort Service Lost & Found Reporting a crime 	Dion Center 1st floor Officer on duty: 24 hours a day/7 days a week	(603) 897-8888 (603) 888-1666 24 hour monitored phone line

Office	Services	Location & Hours	Contact
Regina Library	 Circulation/Checkout Services Online Library Tutorials Research Services Interlibrary Loan Group Study Rooms Quiet study spaces Computers and printers available for patron use IT/Computer tutorial online Drop-in Library Instruction Sessions Cho Educational Resource Center (ERC) in the Benoit Education Center (2nd floor) 	2 Clement Street Regina Library Hours: Mon – Thurs: 8:00 a.m. – Midnight Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Sunday: 11:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.	Call: (603) 897-8256 Text: (603) 244-3167 Chat or e-mail with a Librarian through the library website – click on the "Need Help?" button
Registrar's Office	 Official Transcripts FERPA Student Consent Forms Enrollment Verifications Final Exam Schedules Graduation (Commencement) Information 	Adrienne Hall Room 213 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday- Friday	(603) 897-8213
Writing and Resource Center	 Provides professional and peer tutoring assistance to students Provides academic support for students working on writing tasks in courses across the curriculum writing 	Drop-in hours: Monday: 9-10, 5-7 Tuesdays: 9-11, 1:30- 2:30, 5-7 Wednesday: 9-10, 5-7 Thursday: 9-10, 5-7 Friday: 9-11, 1-2	(603) 897-8580 (603) 897-8581

Do not hesitate to contact the Office of Global Engagement at 603-897-8782 or email globalengagement@rivier.edu.

Good luck on your visa interview and your journey to the United States of America!