# INTERNATIONAL STUDENT HANDBOOK



KENNESAW STATE
UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF COMPUTING AND
SOFTWARE ENGINEERING

# Introduction

## Welcome to Kennesaw State University!

This handbook is designed to support you throughout your journey as an international student, from admission to graduation. Here you will find essential information on visa regulations, student resources, housing, employment, and more.








Note, the first 5 pages are for new students. If you are looking for a specific section or topic, please use “Ctrl+F” to find what you’re looking for quickly.




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# CCSE Graduate Student Communication Guidelines:

**QUICK LINKS:**

- ISSS RESOURCES (INCLUDING F-1 AND J-1 STUDENTS/SCHOLARS)
- CCSE INTERNATIONAL RESOURCES (APPLY, VARIOUS GRADUATE PROGRAMS, AND CONTACTS)
- CCSE RESOURCES (ADVISING, TUTORING, PLANNING YOUR CLASSES AND MORE)

CCSE is committed to the success of its students. A student should comply with the following guidelines when help or advice is needed.

**1. Support Staff**

- gradccse@kennesaw.edu: General questions about the program such as registration, academic hold, change of major, etc. should contact gradccse. It is the best practice to start with your graduate advisor (program coordinator) when you are unsure who to contact. DO NOT send mass/multiple emails to faculty or administrators.
- Mr. Michael Alvarez malvare5@kennesaw.edu - Program Coordinator, International Student Programs: provides support, guidance, and consultation on international student onboarding, community building, policy compliance, and other relevant activities.
- Eugene Fitzpatrick efitzpa4@kennesaw.edu is the grad advisor for MSAI and MSCS, and Dieh'l Martin dmart276@kennesaw.edu is the grad advisor for MSIT.

**2. Program Coordinators** They are your academic advisors who can help you with your study plan (what classes to register for), career development, and in depth or specific information about curriculum.

- MSAI program coordinator: Dr. Mahmut Karakaya, mkarakay@kennesaw.edu
- MSCS program coordinator: Dr. Yong Shi yshi5@kennesaw.edu
- MSCYBR program coordinator: Dr. Maria Valero mvalero2@kennesaw.edu
- MSDSA program coordinator: Dr. Austin Brown abrow708@kennesaw.edu
- MSIT program coordinator: Dr. Shirley Tian xtian2@kennesaw.edu
- MSSWE program coordinator: Dr. Reza Parizi rparizi1@kennesaw.edu

## 3. Department Chairs/Directors

They can help if you have issues with instructors of your class, or other matters not resolved by your program coordinators.

- Chair of Department of Computer Science (MSCS, PhDCS, & MSAI): Dr. Yong Pei ypei@kennesaw.edu
- Director of School of Data Science and Analytics (MSDSA & PhDDSA): Dr Sherry Ni sni@kennesaw.edu
- Chair of Department of Information Technology (MSIT & MSCYBR): Dr. Shaoen Wu swu10@kennesaw.edu
- Interim Department Chair of Software Engineering and Game Development (MSSWE): Dr. Tanmay Bhowmik tbhowmik@kennesaw.edu

## 4. Best Practices in Communication

- Please contact the corresponding personnel listed above whenever you have issues. If you aren't sure who to contact for your situation, please contact your program coordinator or gradccse@kennesaw.edu.
- **Please follow the appropriate communication chain when you have issues:** gradccse/program coordinators → department chairs/school director → associate dean for student success. Please **DO NOT break the chain** and **DO NOT send emails to multiple people at the same time**. This will only slow down the process. For example, if a student contacts the department chair/school director without contacting the program coordinator, the email will be simply forwarded to graduate coordinators.
- Email is usually the best way to communicate. Only use KSU student email. Allow 48 hours response time during weekday. Feel free to follow up if you do not get a response after 48 hours. The response time during weekend or holiday may be longer.
- Read email responses carefully and follow the suggested steps. If the answer is "no," it will never change to "yes" if you keep sending additional emails.
- Do not ask your peers what to do. Their situations might be different and/or the rules might change. Any questions related to your program, always contact your program coordinator first.

# New Students (ISSS)

- **Admissions** The first step in your journey to becoming a Kennesaw State University (KSU) student is to seek admission. The admissions requirements and process depend on your desired program. Please see the information on the Admissions site for information about how to apply for admission to your program.

- **Cost to Attend** Estimated fees are calculated in order for a prospective student to verify their funding for an F-1 I-20 and student visa. Students must show adequate funding for their first year of study, with an indication that their funding will continue to be available for future terms. Students admitted for the fall or spring semesters must show funding for one academic year, which is one fall semester and one spring semester.

- **Requesting an I-20** Admitted students who wish to study with an F-1 visa status at Kennesaw State University must first obtain a Form I-20 from the International Student and Scholar Services Office. The I-20 is a U.S. Department of Homeland Security document that indicates the student's eligibility to receive an F-1 visa and/or study in F-1 visa status. An I-20 is required to study on an F-1 status in the U.S.

- **Applying for a Visa** F-1 Student visas and J-1 Exchange visas are classified as non-immigrant visas. According to U.S. Customs and Border Protection, "A nonimmigrant visa (NIV) is issued to a person with permanent residence outside the United States, but wishes to be in the U.S. on a temporary basis for tourism, medical treatment, business, temporary work or study, as examples." If you wish to wish to come to KSU on an F-1 or J-1 visa and have received a Form I-20 or DS-2019 from our institution, you may apply for the F-1 or J-1 visa at a U.S. embassy or consulate.

- **Travel & Logistical Information** This is important information related to arriving and establishing yourself in the US.




# These next steps are the most important in this section:

- Review KSU Admission's Next Steps for Admitted Students webpage for information about setting up your access to email and OwlExpress (registration and payments), and other important student information.
- Review our "Current Students" links on the ISSS main page so that you understand the regulations for F-1 visa holders.
- **Plan to attend International Student Orientation**. All F-1 students are required to attend the International Student Orientation hosted by the Global Village. Orientation is usually held the week before classes begin.
- **Locate housing (*Secure housing before arrival to the USA*)**
  - If you need living accommodations provided by the University, you can apply online at KSU Housing. Keep in mind that only filling out the housing application does not guarantee that you will be granted on campus housing. You must also pay the required fees to hold your apartment/dorm room and receive a response indicating that you have secured housing. On-campus housing is very limited, so apply as early as possible so that you have the best chance of securing a room.
  - Kennesaw State University in partnership with Off Campus Partners provides an off-campus housing website and portal. This portal includes relevant off-campus housing information including apartment listings and roommate searches. Please note KSU cannot and does not endorse or recommend any local community.

- **Register for classes**
- Undergraduate registration
    - Failure to be enrolled in the required number of courses each semester may result in the loss of your visa status. Please refer to the Enrollment Requirements webpage for F-1 visa requirements. In general, undergraduate students must register for 12 credit hours, and graduate students must register for 9 credit hours. Only 3 of these required credits may be in an online course.
    - The Office of the Registrar website details the academic calendar, deadlines, processes for registration, and university policies.
- Pay your tuition and fees. See the Bursar's Office websites for important deadlines and policies, as well as information about payment methods.
- Prepare for your health insurance. All F-1 students are required to have health insurance. Visit the International Student Health Insurance webpage for the insurance policies and procedures. More info on health insurance can be found in the 'ISSS' section of this handbook.

## New Student Orientation:

**Congrats on your admission to one of the graduate programs in the College of Computing and Software Engineering!** Visit the link above for important information. The CCSE hosts a live new student orientation at the beginning of each semester, in addition to an online orientation with the information found here (International students will receive an invite to attend the online orientation).

## Steps for new graduate students:



- Meet your faculty, staff, & administrators.
- Create a study plan so you know what classes to take.
- **Get Registered** - Get a registration time ticket, then log into Owl Express to create your schedule & register for your classes.
- Get the books needed for your classes.
- Explore the Course Management System **D2L** where you will find course content, announcements, important dates for classes & more.
- Working in Graduate Assistantships, joining Registered Student Organizations (RSOs), & attending college events are great ways of networking & getting experience.
- **Bookmark the Student Resources Page** for quick access to critical information referenced throughout this handbook.
- Lastly, **remember to communicate (follow the communication guide)**, be prepared for your classes by staying organized & mindful of your time, get engaged with student clubs & campus events to make friends, & attend career assistance workshops to transition into the industry!

## Out of State/Country Tuition Waivers: Who is eligible?



- Fully admitted to a CCSE master's program
- Incoming student – 3.25+ GPA, automatic eligibility – 3.7+ GPA
- Existing student – 3.66+ GPA
- Request a tuition waiver using the application portal

**Detailed Graduate Info:** Our graduate degrees at the College of Computing and Software Engineering offer essential gateways to a world of professional possibilities, equipping you with the knowledge and skills to thrive in the rapidly evolving landscape of computing, software engineering, technology and more.

Whether you aspire to explore the intricacies of software engineering, specialize in the groundbreaking fields of data science or information technology, our experienced faculty and state-of-the-art facilities are dedicated to empowering you on your journey towards academic and professional success.

**25/26 Graduate Catalog:**
Academic policies at KSU are divided into 7 categories. Click this link to learn more about the various policies relevant to graduate students as well as the classes you're required to take for your degree.

**Graduate - College of Computing and Software Engineering:** Here you can learn more about Graduate advising. Programs which are at the graduate level (for students who have already obtained a Bachelor's degree) should be discussed with the assigned program directors.

Students interested in graduate study should contact the program director via e-mail to begin advisement. *Please remember to follow the communication guideline outlined at the top of this section.



**Graduate Assistantships:** Student Resources - Graduate College: Graduate assistantships at Kennesaw State University offer students an exceptional way to deepen their academic experience while gaining valuable professional skills. As a graduate assistant, you'll have the opportunity to work alongside faculty on meaningful projects, contribute to your field, and build your resume through hands-on experience. These roles not only help with financial support but also provide networking opportunities that can propel your career forward.

**Student clubs tied to CCSE:** Student Organizations - College of Computing and Software Engineering: The following are brief descriptions of Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) registered at KSU, managed by the KSU Department of Student Activities, which provides support for all RSOs, helping them to discover new ways to connect with their peers and the campus community. These RSOs are advised by CCSE faculty/staff. These are also unique opportunities to network, build towards your resume as you volunteer for an officer position, or simply to socialize and make new friends.



# International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS)

**General:**

Maintaining Status Maintaining your F-1 status is more than just having an I-20; it is making sure that you follow immigration regulations that govern F-1 status. As an F-1 student, you have certain responsibilities, benefits and restrictions that must be kept in mind to protect your status. When you lose your status because of failure to follow the immigration regulations, you end up losing your F-1 student benefits, including on-campus employment and OPT. Even more important, you could possibly become subject to arrest and deportation, and, in the future, your visa applications may be denied due to failure of previous immigrations regulations. According to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), depending on the type of violation, you could even be banned from coming back to the United States for a number of years if the immigration regulations are not followed. In order to enjoy your stay in the U.S. and to have a great experience as an international student, please take the time to learn about your immigration status and closely follow the immigration regulations.

| **My responsibilities as an F-1 student at Kennesaw State are to:** | |
|---|---|
| • Register full time every semester *(9 hours per semester for graduate, 12 for undergraduate, excluding summer unless summer is your first or last semester)*<br>• Maintain a current passport (valid for at least 6 months into the future at all times)<br>• Become familiar with immigration rules | • Request authorization from the ISSS office before dropping below a full course load<br>• Report all changes in address to ISSS@kennesaw.edu within 10 days<br>• Report all name changes, as well as changes in dependents and status, through the ISSS office<br>• Be aware of grace periods due to your F-1 status |

**My responsibilities as an F-1 student at Kennesaw State are (cont):**

- Request transfer to another school in a timely manner (student must fill out a transfer out form attached with an acceptance letter from their prospective institution)
- Report a change in your program of study (such as changing from one major to another) to the ISSS office and request a new I-20 reflecting the change
- Request an I-20 Extension at least one month before your I-20 expires
- Provide the ISSS office with any updates regarding passport extensions and visa renewals
- Check your Kennesaw State University email account regularly for communication from the International Student and Scholar Services advisors & KSU
- Request travel signatures at least two weeks prior to traveling

**Maintaining F-1 Status:**

| DO: | DON'T: |
|---|---|
| ✔Register as a full-time student every semester: (undergrad min 12, grad min 9) | **X** register for fewer than full-time credit hours without prior ISSS approval |
| ✔Limit online coursework | **X** take more than one online course per semester that counts toward full-time status. |
| ✔Maintain a valid passport at all times, ensuring it is valid for at least 6 months | **X** let your passport expire or fall below six months of validity while in the U.S. |
| ✔Request authorization from ISSS before dropping below the required full-time course load. (Request this in iStart) | **X** move or change your address without notifying ISSS within 10 days |
| ✔Report any change of address to ISSS by within 10 days of the change | **X** leave the U.S. without a valid travel signature on your I-20. |
| ✔Notify ISSS of any program or major change, request a new I-20 to reflect the update | **X** wait until the last minute to request I-20 extensions or travel signatures. |
| ✔Request a travel signature from ISSS at least two weeks before any international travel | **X** rely on friends/professors for immigration advice |
| ✔Apply for an I-20 extension at least one month before your current I-20 expires if you need more time to complete your program | |
| ✔Get ISSS authorization before working off campus | |

- **SEVIS** The Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) is a government database created to keep track of students in F-1, J-1 and M-1 status. Before you can apply for an F-1 or J-1 visa, a Designated School Official (DSO) or Alternate Responsible Officer (ARO) SO/ARO from Kennesaw State will need to issue an I-20 or DS2019 for you. This document is generated from SEVIS and has personal information, such as your name, your program of study and your finances. SEVIS is used to communicate information from your school to government entities. This information is used by the government for different reasons, such as visa issuance, driver's license issuance, to track down immigration status violators, for criminal investigations, etc.
- **Enrollment** All F-1 and J-1 students are required to be enrolled full time during the academic year: Fall and Spring semesters. During summer semester, international students are generally* not required to take classes because it's considered a break / vacation period. If you will be studying during the fall semester but not graduating, you can take the summer off and remain in the U.S. lawfully.
- **Health Insurance** All international students in the F and J visa categories at Kennesaw State University are required to have adequate health insurance at all times during their study in the U.S.
- **Registration Holds** The most common holds for new students are holds for proof of immunizations or for a final transcript. Please review the information on the Registrar's website for additional information about who to contact to resolve your hold.
- **Program Extension** F-1 students may apply for an extension of their status if they have not completed their program of study by their current I-20 expiration date. Approval of extension requests is at the discretion of the ISSS advisors. In order to preserve the integrity of Kennesaw State University federal certification to enroll F-1 students, the ISSS may deny extension requests that do not meet certain criteria.
- **Travel** Thinking about leaving Georgia to travel around the states? Want to take your summer to explore around or even outside the US? Make sure to reach out to ISSS for a travel signature and plan carefully so that you can return without any difficulties.

**Information about health insurance options for GRAs**

Your assistantship does not include funds to cover the cost of the student health insurance plan (SHIP). SHIP is mandatory; however, it can be waived if you show proof of other credible health insurance coverage. In contrast to the work performed by GTAs and GPAs, the nature of your research-related work as a GRA provides an option of an employment-based medical plan that is offered by the University System of GA. You can compare the two plans here to determine which one better meets your needs.

**Please note the timeline of events required to enroll in the USG GRA medical plan as an alternate to the SHIP (Student Health Insurance Plan):**

1. For international students, You should begin the process of applying for your social security number as soon as you are physically in the United States. You can learn more about the application process here. Important notes:
    - Initiating this process as soon as possible best facilitates your ability to enroll in the GRA medical plan since appointments with the SSA may not be readily available and there are established deadlines for both enrolling in the GRA medical plan and waiving SHIP.
    - Searching for appointment availability with multiple SSA locations will increase the likelihood of successfully meeting those deadlines.

2. HR will be able to enter you into our payroll system (OneUSG) within two business days of providing your social security number and completing all other aspects of the onboarding process. Contact Sam Garbe in HR (sgarbe@kennesaw.edu) if you are unsure of what steps you still need to complete.

3. You will be able to enroll in the GRA medical plan within three business days of HR entering you in our payroll system (OneUSG). See steps for enrolling below.

4. You will be able to waive SHIP once you can provide proof of enrollment into the GRA health plan (or other applicable coverage).

You can enroll in the GRA plan by logging into OneUSG connect using the instructions below. If you need assistance, please contact the USG Benefits hotline at 1-844-587-4236.

- Log into OneUSG connect with your netID and password at oneusgconnect.usg.edu.
- Click on “employee self-service” and a drop down will appear.
- Select “benefits” from the drop-down menu.
- At the next screen, click on the “manage my benefits” tile and you will be taken to a screen where you can make your election.

Once you have enrolled you can go here to waive SHIP (the student health insurance plan). For assistance with the waiver submission contact the Bursar’s office

**Important information regarding the GRA health plan:**
NEW GRAs will have an opportunity to elect coverage within 30 days of their start date as a “new” GRA.
Coverage will be offered twice a year (August and January). Each enrollment period is two weeks long.
Enrollment kits will be mailed to you and will include a comparison of the GRA and SHIP.
You are required to actively enroll each semester, even if you were enrolled for the previous semester.
You must also certify your tobacco-user status each semester.

***Enrolled in the GRA plan and need to access your member ID or other info to complete the SHIP waiver?**
You can register for online access to your account using your Empl ID and Date of Birth. Contact hrstudentemployment@kennesaw.edu to be provided with your Empl ID.
Link to website is here. And you will scroll down to select the Employee ID and follow the prompts.

# Employment Options

Students who receive an I-20 from Kennesaw State University and are maintaining F-1 status at our school are eligible to work on-campus with approval from the ISSS Office.

- If you have questions about any type of employment on campus, you are changing status to F1, or you have lost your F1 status, *ask the ISSS Office first* before accepting employment.

**On-Campus Employment**

In general, there are two kinds of on-campus jobs:

- Kennesaw State University (graduate assistantships, student assistantships, school library, etc.)
- Private Vendors / Companies who provide on-campus services to students, such as the bookstore and the cafeteria.

**Curricular Practical Training (CPT)** Curricular practical training (CPT) is employment or training pursuant to an internship requirement or internship elective which is an integral part of the established curriculum of the school, and which will be counted towards completion of your degree. ***For CCSE specific CPT, learn more here**

**Optional Practical Training (OPT)** Post-Completion Optional Practical Training (OPT) is off-campus employment authorization in a student's field of study for twelve months after completion of the academic program.

- Students in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) majors may also be eligible for an additional 24-month extension of OPT.

**STEM Extension** Optional Practical Training (OPT) can be extended for STEM majors for an additional 24 months after the initial 12 month OPT for a total of 36 months. The applicant must be in a currently approved 12-month OPT period.

**A Social Security Number** (SSN) is a 9-digit identification number, assigned by the U.S. government, that is used for tax reporting purposes. It is NOT employment authorization. Non-US citizens are legally required to provide a US SSN for wage/tax reporting and tax returns with the IRS

# LIFESTYLE

## ARRIVAL

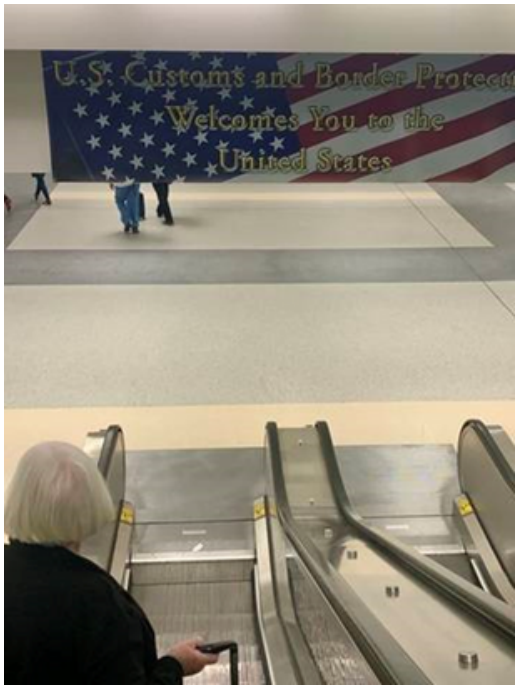
There are many ways for you to travel from the Airport to your point of stay, make sure to review the page after the transportation guide for instructions to join the ISF (International Student Foundation) for help finding temporary stay or even a free ride from the airport (*_as long as you have quick and reliable communication and let them know with at least 2 weeks ahead of your arrival_*)

**ISF New Student Sign-Up Link**

Here are **step-by-step** instructions for an international student flying into Atlanta's Hartsfield Jackson International Airport (or view video walkthrough):

### 1 Arrival at ATL Airport

1. Disembark the plane and follow signs to Immigration & Customs.



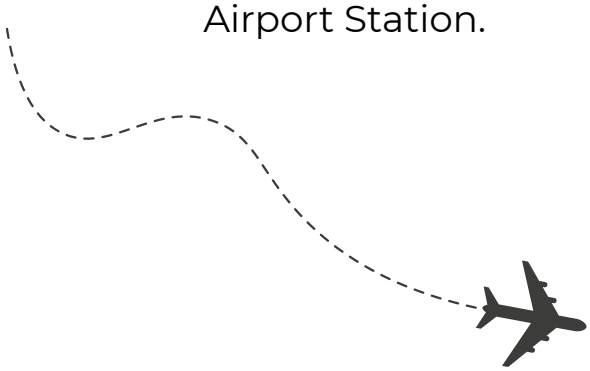

2. After clearing immigration, collect your checked luggage at the baggage claim.



3. Exit Baggage claim with your luggage.




4. Proceed through customs and follow the signage to the ATL SkyTrain and MARTA Airport Station.



## 2 Navigating Inside the Airport

*From here, your best option for getting around depends on your final destination. You should have an apartment/dorm ready for you to move your stuff in. Make sure to check the 'housing' section for instructions on how to find a roommate or rent an apartment.

| **Cheapest option**<br>MARTA TRAIN AND COBBLINC BUS<br>(slow) | **Fastest option**<br>UBER/LYFT<br>(expensive) | **Flexible option**<br>MARTA AND RIDESHARE |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Walk to the **ATL SkyTrain** (outside secure zone, upper level Domestic Terminal).<br><br>2. Take the SkyTrain one stop to the **MARTA Airport Station**<br><br>3. At Airport Station, purchase a **Breeze Card** ($2 fee, plus $2.50 for the trip) or single-ride ticket. | 1. Exit the airport and look for the rideshare section for pickup.<br><br>2. Open the app of the rideshare that you wish to select, compare prices (depending on the time of day, your fare could range from $60-120). *remember, it is customary to tip 15% as well* | 1. Walk to the ATL SkyTrain (outside secure zone, upper level Domestic Terminal).<br><br>2. Take the SkyTrain one stop to the MARTA Airport Station<br><br>3. At Airport Station, purchase a Breeze Card ($2 fee, plus $2.50 for the trip) or single-ride ticket. |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 4. Board either the **Gold** (to Doraville) or **Red** (to North Springs) line northbound toward **Lindbergh Center**<br>5. Ride approx. 30-50 mins<br>→<br>Marta CobbLinc<br>6. Exit at **Arts Center Station**; go to the bus bay.<br>7. Purchase/validate another $2.50 Breeze fare for the **CobbLinc** system.<br>8. Board **CobbLinc Route 10, 50, or RAPID heading to Marietta Transit Center / Marietta Pkwy**<br>-Make sure before boarding the bus, you confirm with the driver "Is this bus heading to the Marietta Transit Center and Marietta Parkway?"<br><br>9. Ride until the stop **"Rossbacher Way at East Visitor Parking",** approximately 60–80 minutes<br><br>From here, you are a 2-minute walk from the Marietta campus and within 15 minutes walk from many of the apartment complexes.<br>*For your safety, do not consider this option if you are arriving very late into the night.* | 3. Ride directly for 40-60 minutes to your destination.<br><br>OR<br><br>Alternative: Direct Shared Shuttle (Groome) from ATL to Shell Station – Kennesaw stop (close to the Kennesaw campus, but not Marietta)<br><br>Approx. $45–50, 40–60 min<br><br>Then from there have a friend pick you up or pay ~$15-25 for a rideshare anywhere between the Marietta/Kennesaw campus | 4. Board the **Red** (to North Springs) line northbound toward **Dunwoody**<br>5. Ride approx. 40-60 mins<br><br>From here, your Uber/Lyft will cost less than half of what it would cost if you left from the airport, and you beat nearly all of the difficult traffic.<br><br>(likely fair depending on time of day to anywhere near the Marietta campus is from $35-60)<br><br>*remember, it is customary to tip 15% as well* |

| OPTION | STEPS | EST. TIME | EST. COST |
|---|---|---|---|
| MARTA + CobbLinc Bus | Train → Bus → Walk | ~2.5 hours | ~$5 |
| Shared Shuttle (Groome) | Direct Airport → Kennesaw | ~50 min. | $40-50 |
| Uber/Lyft | Airport → Campus directly | 45-60 min. | $60-120 |
| MARTA + Uber | Train to Arts Center + Uber to campus | ~1hr 15 min. | $10-20+ |


Main Entrance
1100 S. Marietta Pkwy.
Marietta, GA 30060
Central Parking
East Economy
East Parking
Faculty/Staff Parking
Resident Parking
Shuttle Lot
West Parking
Electric Vehicle Charging Stations
ADA Parking
Motorcycle Parking
Visitor Parking
Reverse Vending Machine
Dining Locations
Academic and Administrative Buildings
Campus Housing
Sports Fields and Green Space
South Marietta Pkwy - 120 Loop
Nine Miles North To Kennesaw Campus
Cobb Pkwy - (Hwy 41)
Technology Way
Busbahrer Way
Lot P35
Lot P36
Lot P37
Recreation and Wellness Center
Lot P8
Joe Mack Wilson Student Center
Dance Theater
KSU Bookstore
Lot P2
Lot P51
Lot P30
Mathematics
Lot P3
Lot P4a
Lot P4b
Administration
Lot P4
Lot P38
Lot P9
Polytechnic Lane
Crawford Lab
Lawrence V. Johnson Library
Norton Hall
PD Parking
University Courtyard
3000
1000
2000
Science Lab Annex
Engineering Technology Center
Engineering Lab
Academic
Design 1
Design 2
Atrium
Deck P60
Housing and Residence Life Office
Marietta Community Nest
Howell Hall
Lot P10
Lot P12
Lot P11
Lot P14
Lot P13
University Commons
100
200
300
400
500
600
Overlook Road
Stingers
Lot P28a
Lot P28b
Hornet Village 100
Hornet Village 200
K Field
Lot P25
W. Clair Harris Ixcide Center
Stinger Loop
Architecture
Civil and Environmental Engineering
Lot P23
Gymnasium
Lot P21
Baseball Storage
Student Competition Team
Lot P22
S. Walter Kelly, Sr. Memorial Field
Wilder Communications
Nuesoft Technologies Field
Field #3
Lot P40
Koger Drive
Facilities Grounds Storage
Field #2
Soccer & Recreation Storage
Field #1
Lot P49
Lot P43
University Columns
Mountain View
South Path
University Columns Activity Center
South Cobb Drive
North
Facilities Administration
Lot P17
Facilities Cart & Active Fire Storage
Facilities Small Vehicle Storage
Facilities Grounds and Vehicle Shop
Facilities Large Vehicle Storage
Facilities Maintenance Shop
Facilities Central Receiving
Lot P18
Lot P19
KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY
Marietta Campus
visit the website at
www.kennesaw.edu/mobile
Kennesaw State University is a Smoke/Tobacco-Free University
LAST UPDATED 07/29/22

**Bringing Your Family**

We recognize that your family can be your biggest support system when you begin your education abroad journey! Please get to know the steps and checklist items if you are interested in bringing your spouse, child or dependent to the U.S. while you study. There are two distinct ways you can bring your family member with you to KSU.

**Inviting Family Members (different from Bringing your Family)**

If you have family members other than a spouse or child who wish to visit you while you are studying in the United States, they must enter the country either with a visitor visa (B-1/B-2) or through WB/WT status under the Visa Waiver Program (VWP).

Spouses and children are eligible to enter the U.S. as visitors for a brief period. However, if they intend to stay for an extended duration, it is advisable for spouses or children to enter on dependent visas specifically designated for that purpose.

Learn more about the process and procedures for having your family members visit you at KSU!

**Getting a Driver's License or Identification Card**

We recognize that your family can be your biggest support system when you begin your education abroad journey! Please get to know the steps and checklist items if you are interested in bringing your spouse, child or dependent to the U.S. while you study. There are two distinct ways you can bring your family member with you to KSU.

Make sure you meet the requirements to prepare ahead of time.

**Housing**

Kennesaw State offers a range of convenient on-campus and off-campus housing options designed to enhance your college experience. Our housing communities provide fully furnished rooms, ensuring that you have everything you need for a comfortable stay. Each community offers individual contracts and all-inclusive rates, simplifying the housing process for you.

With high-speed Wi-Fi available throughout, you can stay connected and make the most of your academic and personal pursuits. Our dedicated housing and residence life personnel are available round-the-clock, providing continuous support and striving to create a memorable and meaningful on-campus living environment.

Get to know the valuable amenities available to you as an international student at KSU!

- On campus housing
- Off campus housing *(click on tab that says ‘roommate’)

## BIG OWL BUS

CLICK ABOVE TO LOOK UP BUS ROUTES

## UITS

(UNIVERSITY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES)

FOR ALL YOUR TECHNOLOGY NEEDS, INCLUDING INTERNET CONNECTIVITY CONCERNS

## COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

OFFERS A VARIETY OF COUNSELING SERVICES FREE OF CHARGE FOR CURRENTLY ENROLLED KSU STUDENTS, SUCH AS 24/7 MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT



## CARE SERVICES

PROVIDES ACCESS TO FOOD, TEMPORARY HOUSING, AND OTHER SUPPORTIVE SERVICES, SUCH AS EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS TO UPHOLD A STUDENT'S ACADEMIC OR PROFESSIONAL LIFE

## HEALTH SERVICES

PROVIDES PRIMARY CARE SERVICES YEAR-ROUND BETWEEN 8:30 AM AND 5:00 PM, MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY.

CALL 470-578-6644 TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT.

YOU NEED TO HAVE ACTIVE HEALTH INSURANCE OR PAY OUT OF POCKET TO ACCESS HEALTH SERVICES. THERE IS FREE ON-CAMPUS FLU SHOTS, STD TESTING AND MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

## STUDENT RESOURCES

EASY ACCESS TO SEVERAL IMPORTANT SITES FOR A STUDENT LIKE THE KSU MAIL, VIRTUAL PLATFORM FOR ALL COURSES (D2L), TALON CARD (KSU ID CARD), AND ON-CAMPUS DEBIT CARD-K-CASH

## CAREER PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

HELPS YOU FIND AND PREPARE FOR PART-TIME AND FULL-TIME JOBS, ON-CAMPUS POSITIONS, INTERNSHIPS, VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCES USING RESOURCES LIKE THE HANDSHAKE CAREER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

# Good Places to eat near campus



**Bikes & Barrels - Biryani N Grills**: Very fancy (can be pricy) and high quality biryani. Amazing interiors, great spot for a date.
**Hyderabad Biryani and grills**: Also a bit pricy but very authentic and a student voted favorite.
**Swapna Indian Cuisine:** All the way at the bottom of Cobb Parkway, very delicious and vibrant food. Spicier than other options.
(Nigerian) **Mama J Nigerian Restaurant** (1482 Roswell Rd, Marietta)
(Chinese) **Wei Sichuan Authentic Chinese Cuisine** (35 South Marietta Pkwy SW,

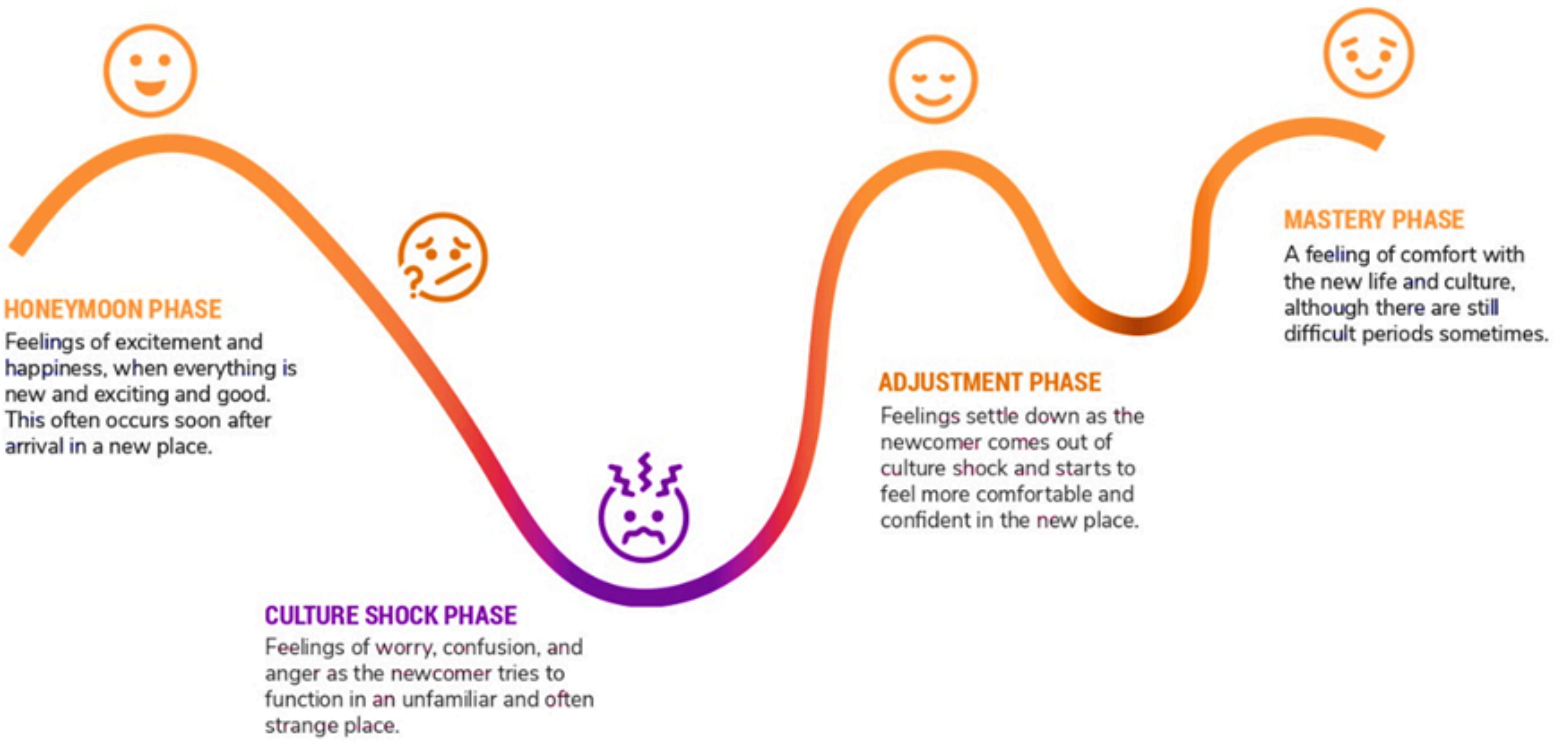
## International markets (all within 15 minutes of campus):

**Taih Tropical African Food Market**: Very clean Afro-Caribbean grocery store. Rich in culture.
**Nazareth Grocery:** Mediterranean grocery. Also has a butcher next door called Tripoli.
**Nam Dae Mun:** A personal favorite. East and Southeast Asian (Thai/Viet/Cambodian) specialty. A few different locations near Marietta campus.
**Talpa Mercado**: Classic Hispanic market. Look for fresh tamales, agua frescas, and fresh fruit. A few different locations near Marietta campus.
**Mercado Real:** Mexican market with an attached restaurant. Eat and then shop!
**Ideal Tropical Foods:** African/Caribbean food market. Lots of spicy goods to be found here.
**Shivam:** A little bit of everything, nothing specific, but they do have good produce!
**Unicco Supermarket:** Brazilian market that specializes in specialty beef cuts. Try the Guarana soda!
**Aghdas Market:** Persian supermarket, some of the best tea options around.
Vatan International Grocery: Middle Eastern Groceries, including Persian specialties.
**Punjab Grocery:** Indian and Pakistani specialty.
**Barat Bazaar:** Specifically Indian, very close to Bikes & Barrels.

# CULTURE SHOCK

## U-CURVE OF CULTURAL ADJUSTMENT

The graph below shows the common phases of cultural adjustment that most people experience when moving to or visiting a new place. It is important to note that the length and intensity of each phase will vary, and that a newcomer may skip a phase altogether (such as those who plan to move on to another destination and do not go through the honeymoon phase) or go through the U-Curve, or portions of the U-Curve, several times.




Adjusting to a new environment is a gradual process, and each individual experiences it at their own pace. Cultural adaptation commonly follows a series of stages: Honeymoon, Crisis, Recovery, and Adjustment. These stages often influence a person's emotional state, as shown in the "U-curve" diagram above.

**Stay Open-Minded and Curious:** Embrace new experiences and be open to learning about American culture and customs. Join in as many on-campus events as you can.

**Build a Support Network:** Connect with other international students who are experiencing similar adjustments. Be it from an RSO, an on campus event, class, or even a mutual friend, try to open yourself to opportunities to meet others.

**Communicate and Ask for Help:** Don't hesitate to ask for help or clarification if you don't understand something. If you would like suggestions for a group or rec team to join, look for the beginning of semester community engagement recruitments or reach out to Michael Alvarez.

**Take care of your health and mental wellbeing:** Take care of your well-being by engaging in healthy activities like exercising, meditating, or enjoying hobbies that help reduce stress. Don't hesitate to access campus health services for support with both physical and mental health needs. Stay up to date with your health visits and make sure you can keep moving forward at your best.

**Stay Connected to Home:** Maintain regular contact with family and friends back home to feel connected and supported. Facetime/Zoom can help a lot, and shopping at international markets for that taste of home can help your mind adjust to your environment.

**Understanding Cultural Differences:**

- ***Personal Cleanliness*** People in the United States are sensitive to body odor. Americans take a shower about once a day and use deodorants after showering. Perfume/cologne is used only on special occasions and in very small quantities. Be careful with strong perfume, since many people have allergies. Americans also change clothes daily. It is considered "unclean" to wear the same shirt/dress for several days in a row.
- ***Tipping*** Tipping is a cultural norm widely acceptable in the United States and it maybe something new to you. If you eat at a sit-down restaurant with a server, you are expected to leave a tip of 15-20 %.
- ***Time Management*** Time is very important for Americans. If you have any appointment (business or friends), you must arrive on time or best about 10 minutes early. If you are going to be late, you must call to tell how late you will be. Being late more than 10 minutes is considered very rude in America. If you are taking a class, you need to be on time or early. You do NOT call to let the teacher know you are late, but you enter very quietly and try not to disturb the class in any way.
- ***Personal Space*** People in the United States feel comfortable when they speak with each other and the space between them is about one meter. This is called their comfort zone.
- ***Messaging Styles*** In the States, it's common and culturally acceptable to get straight to the point in a message. While we often begin with a greeting, we also include our request or reason for reaching out in the same message. Sending just "Hello" and waiting for a response before continuing the conversation can feel inefficient or even confusing to Americans. In some cultures, starting with a greeting and waiting for a reply before stating your request is considered polite. But in American communication combining the greeting with the purpose of the message is seen as respectful and is culturally the norm
- ***Remember You're Learning*** Give yourself some grace and don't beat yourself up if you make a mistake or blunder! Most Americans understand that you're unfamiliar with the local culture, and a short sincere apology will quickly put the incident behind you.
- ***Ask Questions*** We were raised being told there's no such thing as a stupid question, and most people are happy to explain things you're wondering about.

## Fun things to do around Atlanta (that are free or very affordable):

**1. Kennesaw Mountain Battlefield Park**: Seventeen miles of interpretive trails, monuments and a museum help visitors understand the Battle of Atlanta during the American Civil War (1861-1865).

**2. Atlanta BeltLine:** Take a walking tour of the BeltLine, a set of walking & biking trails, parks, public art installations and planned transit options connecting 45 of Atlanta's midtown and downtown neighborhoods. Paid guided tours are also available.

**3. Atlanta Contemporary Art Center:** Their doors are always open for free to the public. Enjoy a stroll through modern art and enjoy extras like lectures, special events, and events for children.

**4. Atlanta Monetary Museum/Federal Reserve Building:** Self-guided tours explain the history of money and the Federal Reserve's role. No fee to access the building.

**5. Carter Center:** Take a free stroll through the grounds to see the Circle of Flags from all 50 states, a rose garden, Japanese garden and koi pond. The Jimmy Carter Presidential Library & Museum costs $12 for adults ($10 if you have your student ID); children under 16 are free.

**6. Centennial Olympic Park:** On warm days, kids cool off by cavorting in the Fountain of Rings. Relax in the well-groomed park that pays homage to the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. Free events all year.

**7. Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area:** a fast natural habitat (starting in Georgia mountains, going through Atlanta, Alabama and reaching Florida) following the Chattahoochee River with several access points. You can hike, fish or canoe in various places. Parking is $5.

**8. David J. Sencer CDC Museum:** Learn about the history of the Centers for Disease Control and how scientists work to crack the cases of mystery diseases. Admission and parking are free on weekdays.

**9. Fernbank Science Center:** Visit the observatory & exhibits for free; Experience the universe in 10k with planetarium shows ($10 adults, $5 students)

**10. Georgia Capitol Museum and Tour Program:** See government in action under the Gold Dome, constructed from 1884-1889. The museum includes historic flags and artifacts. Admission is free.

11. **Governor's Mansion: Tours** of the 18-acre estate and 24,000-square-foot mansion with antique furnishings offer lessons in history, from 1780-1820. Admission is free for everyone on the second Sunday of each month from 12 - 5 p.m. 22

12. **High Museum of Art:** Atlanta's premier art museum has more than 11,000 pieces, from African and folk art to photography and decorative art.

13. **Historic Oakland Cemetery:** After wandering around trails and historic parks, walk down to the Oakland cemetery. Built in 1850, it is filled with interesting gravestones and many of Atlanta's founders.

14. **Lake Allatoona:** Take a break and enjoy a lazy afternoon on Lake Allatoona. Explore the area and see what you and the kids can find! (parking is $5)

15. **Little Five Points:** This place has lot of fun, quirky shops that you can browse around in. No need to spend any money just soak in the culture!

16. **Buford Highway Farmers Market:** This international market is a bit of a drive, about 25-45 minutes from the Marietta Campus depending on traffic on 285, but is well worth the trip for those hard to find items that remind you of home.

17. **Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site**. The site includes a museum, the house he grew up in, a serenity lake and the Ebenezer Baptist church where he preached. Admission is free.

18. **Movies in Central Park in Atlanta:** has free movies that play throughout the summer! Make sure to check the schedule, bring a blanket, and enjoy the movie!

19. **Piedmont Park:** Children can play on a work of art or the restored Noguchi Playscape with slides, swings and seesaws. Take Fido for off-leash fun in the dog park area. Cool off in the free Legacy Fountain Splash Pad, and swim for free in the swimming pool 3-5 p.m. weekdays Memorial Day through Labor Day.

20. **What do YOU think should be the 20th attraction in Georgia? Reach out to Michael Alvarez with your best suggestion!**

# KSU International Students' advice:



"Don't underestimate how much people here rely on cars. If you don't plan to have a car, make sure you get housing that is within walking distance of campus. You will probably end up buying a car at some point, so plan for it if you can. Health care in the US is expensive... The mandatory student health insurance is pretty good, but a policy from your home country may be a better deal. If you do decide to get your own insurance, you will have to apply for a "health insurance waiver". Make sure the insurance is "ACA compliant". Check the ISSS website for information on health care and requirements for a health insurance waiver. It may be annoying, but this is time and effort well spent."
*Timo, Germany*

"Go out there and make connections. Do not isolate yourself!" *Iye, Nigeria*

"The U.S. is a culturally rich and diverse country, so take this opportunity to learn from people of various backgrounds and perspectives. Immerse yourself in the local community, join student organizations, and engage in campus activities to make new friends and create a support network... remember to balance academic pursuits with self-care and well-being." *David, Brunei*

"It will take some time to adapt to the new culture. You will get culture shock, but you will do alright after you understand the new way of life. Don't be too hard on yourself if you are not accepted by everyone you meet." *Amos, Ghana*

"The educational system is different, but professors and colleagues understand your situation and are always willing to help. Don't hesitate to ask for help or clarification." *Heyam, Jordan*

# KSU Traditions



## Scrappy Owl Mascot

The embodiment of KSU — he's loyal, confident, and a little smug. Scrappy has been KSU's beloved owl for years, and he's always ready to welcome you with open wings and Owl Eyes.

Find Scrappy at the various "Scrappy Hours" located on either campus!

## Hooty Hoo and Owl Eyes:

You may have noticed this in the introduction. Used as a greeting, exclamation, or battle cry, yelling "Hooty Hoo!" is our favorite way to show everyone KSU's radiant energy and relentless spirit

Owl Eyes, coined by our very own Scrappy the Owl, serve as a symbol that unifies us without having to say anything at all.






## Black and Gold Fridays

On the day that Kennesaw State unveiled its inaugural football uniforms, it also included an official declaration that every Friday will be "Black and Gold Friday". Students, faculty, staff and the surrounding community are encouraged to wear black and gold to display their school spirit.

## The War Chant

YOU DON'T WANT TO GO TO WAR.
WITH THE OWLS.
WITH THE OWLS!
YOU DON'T WANT TO GO TO WAR.
WITH THE OWLS.
WITH THE OWLS!

Click the soundwaves to hear KSU fan chants

KSU WAR CHANT

KSU FIGHT SONG

# Driving in the USA

**Laws in Georgia:**

- Never drive without a license or with an expired license.
- Carry your passport with you and a copy of your I-20 when driving as a way to prove that you are legally here.
- Your driver's license from your country is valid for only 30 days in Georgia. Police will check your passport to see when you entered the country.
- You must maintain insurance in your name for the car that you will be driving. Your proof of insurance must be with you at all times. Police will accept a picture of your instance policy from your phone. o If you purchase a car, your car must be registered with the State of Georgia. Your registration must be renewed every year on your birthday.
- Before renewing your registration, if your car is more than 3 years old, your car must pass an emission inspection, which is offered at many gas stations and costs between $20.00-25.00.
- If you see police lights behind you, you must pull aside from the road and stop your vehicle as soon as possible. Do not leave your vehicle. Turn off the radio, lower the driver's window, keeps hands visibly on the steering wheel, and follow the instructions of the police officer.

**Driving in the USA- Cultural Tips:**

- Remember that in most cases you can make a right turn even when the light is red.
- If you are a slow driver, move to the right lane.
- If you hear sirens, move to the right and stop your vehicle.
- Stop in front of or behind a school bus with the stop sign extended.
- If you park in the wrong place, you can get a parking ticket or your car can be booted or towed. Parking tickets are paid online. If you wait longer than a week, the parking ticket will increase.
- Driving in the HOV lane is reserved for electric cars or cars with two or more passengers.
- Some left lanes are pre-paid fast lanes. Check the signs before entering them.
- If you get a traffic ticket, it is best to pay it online if the ticket is not for a serious offense. If you have to go to court, best practice is to plead "no law".
- Never drink or use narcotics and drive. You can go to jail for that and be deported.
- Use your blinker often and try NOT use your horn.
- Be nice on the road, and do not get into arguments.

# Buying a Car

If you do not plan to study in the US for longer than a couple years, it is worth learning the public transportation routes (both CobbLinc and the KSU Owl Bus) and utilizing taxis/rideshares sparingly. But for those who know they will be staying for extended studies, you may want to consider purchasing a vehicle for flexibility. Below are recommendations towards this process:

**1. Determine Your Budget and Consider Costs:** Include the price of the car, insurance, taxes, registration fees, and maintenance, and consider the most extreme circumstances. Financing Options: If you need financing, check if you are eligible for a car loan as an international student.

**2. Research Vehicles and Find a Car Identify Your Needs:** Determine what type of car suits your needs (e.g. smaller car for fuel efficiency, SUV for carrying multiple people, etc). Dealerships vs. Private Sellers: Decide if you want to buy from a dealership or a private seller. Dealerships often provide more assurances, but private sales will be cheaper. Vehicle History Report: Obtain a vehicle history report from services like Carfax to check for accidents, title issues, and service history.

**3. Inspect the Car:** Always test drive the car to check its condition and ensure it meets your expectations. Have a trusted mechanic inspect the car for any hidden issues, especially if buying from a private seller.

**4. Negotiate the Price:** Know the market value of the car to negotiate effectively. Be prepared to negotiate the price based on the car's condition and any issues found during the inspection.

**5. Complete the Purchase:** Obtain a bill of sale that includes the car's details, sale price, and signatures of both the buyer and seller. If needed, get a temporary tag from the Georgia Department of Revenue to legally drive the car until you get permanent plates.

**6. Register the Car and Gather Documents:** You will need the bill of sale, signed title, proof of insurance, and your identification documents. Visit the County Tag Office: Go to your local county tag office to register the car. You will need to pay registration fees and applicable taxes.

# How to Open a U.S. Bank Account as an International Student (Step-by-Step)




**Why is a U.S. Bank Account Important?**

- Safely store and access your money.
- Pay bills (like rent, phone, tuition) easily.
- Receive paychecks or refunds from the university.
- Avoid high foreign transaction or ATM fees.

## Step 1: Gather necessary documents

| Document | Purpose |
|---|---|
| Passport | Proof of identity |
| Visa (F-1/J-1, etc) | Immigration status |
| I-20 or DS-2019 | Proof of student status |
| I-94 (arrival record, printable online) | Confirmation of legal entry |
| Student ID or Acceptance letter | University affiliation |
| Proof of US address (lease, utility bill, university letter) | Verify local residency |
| Secondary ID (if available) | Optional but helpful (foreign drivers license) |
| Social security Number | **Not always required:** Some Banks will allow you to open an account without one if you are not working in the US |









Here's a helpful **TIP**: Call the bank ahead of time to confirm what documents they require. Policies vary by institution.

## Step 2: Choose the Right Bank and Account Type

You'll need to choose both a **bank** and the **type of account**.

Common Banks with International-Friendly Services:

- Bank of America
- Chase
- Wells Fargo
- PNC
- TD Bank
- Local credit unions or banks near campus (sometimes partner with your school)

Types of Accounts:

- Checking Account: For daily transactions (debit card, paying bills).
- Savings Account: For storing money and earning a small amount of interest.

Tips:

- Ask about student checking accounts (they usually waive monthly fees).
- Avoid banks that charge for international wire transfers or have high minimum balance requirements.



## Step 3: Visit the Bank in Person

Even if the bank has an online setup, it's usually better to visit in person as a first-time international student.

- A bank employee (called a "banker") will assist you. Greet them politely.
- You will be asked to present your documents.
- They may ask:
  - "Are you currently working in the U.S.?"
  - "What is your major or field of study?"
  - "Do you plan to receive money from home or work while in the U.S.?"
  - "Would you like to open a savings account too?"

Social Norms:

- Be polite and professional. Smile, shake hands if offered, and thank them.
- Ask questions if something is unclear. It's normal and encouraged.
- Don't feel pressured to open multiple accounts or buy extra services like credit cards if you're not ready.

## Step 4: Set Up Online Banking and Receive Your Debit Card

Once your account is opened:

- You'll receive a debit card (some banks print it on the spot, others mail it within 5–10 business days).
- You'll get online/mobile banking access (ask for help downloading the app and setting up your login).

Security Tip:

- Set a strong password.
- Enable two-factor authentication (2FA) if available.

## Step 5: Deposit Money into the Account and keep the account safe.

Deposit methods include:

- Cash (in person at a branch or ATM).
- Wire transfers from your home country.
- Mobile check deposits.
- Direct deposit (for jobs or university refunds).

Ask the bank for your account number and routing number. You'll need these for transfers and direct deposits.



## Keeping your bank account information safe

| DO | DON'T |
| --- | --- |
| • Check your account weekly to watch for errors or fraud.<br>• Log out of banking apps when done.<br>• Use bank ATMs to avoid fees and fraud. | • Never share your PIN or online banking password.<br>• Don't respond to suspicious emails or texts pretending to be from your bank.<br>• Avoid using public Wi-Fi when banking online. |

## Tips:

- Keep your address and phone number updated with your bank.
- Maintain any minimum balance if required.
- Know your monthly fee policy—many student accounts waive them, but some may start charging after graduation.
- Close the account properly if you plan to leave the U.S. permanently.
- Overdraft protection: Ask if your account comes with it or how to avoid overdraft fees.
- Using Zelle or Venmo: These apps are common in the U.S. for sending/receiving money. Zelle is often integrated into banking apps.
- Foreign transfers: Ask about the cost and time to send/receive international wires.



Some banks may offer **credit cards** in addition to opening a checking or savings account. If you are planning to stay in the states indefinitely, building your credit will become important. **Do thorough research** about what credit is, and what the best credit card offer may be for you before getting one!

## Local Branches and ATMs (Marietta Campus):

**Wells Fargo (Barrett Parkway)**
Address: 850 Barrett Pkwy, Kennesaw, GA 30144 (~2.6 mi from Marietta Campus)
Services: Full-service branch, drive-thru, ATM (24 hr)

**Bank of America (West Cobb)**
Address: 3590 Dallas Hwy SW, Marietta, GA 30064 (~5 mi)
Services: Financial center with drive-thru & walk-up ATMs, multilingual interface

**LGE Community Credit Union (Marietta)**

- Address: 590 Commerce Park Dr, Marietta, GA 30060 (~4 mi)
- Services: Full branch, coin kiosk, credit-union benefits

**Renasant Bank**

- Address: 1320 Johnson Ferry Rd, Marietta, GA 30068 (~6 mi)
- Services: In-branch ATM, drive-thru, personal & business banking

**United Community Bank**

- Address: 200 Cherokee St NE, Marietta, GA 30060 (~3 mi)
- Services: Branch & ATM, drive-up, community-focused banking



* Most branches open ~9 AM and close around 4–5 PM on weekdays, limited or no weekend hours.
- Have your student ID plus any current U.S. address or housing info.

# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

**Where do I go when I have a question that isn't answered here?**
You can reach out to your advisor, Michael Alvarez at malvare5@kennesaw.edu, or the International Student and Scholar Services Office (ISSSO) at isss@kennesaw.edu.

**Is there some place online that lists student resources I can use?**
https://www.kennesaw.edu/ccse/resources/index.php

**When is the final payment deadline for the upcoming semester?**
The best place to find this information is from the Academic Calendar located on the Registrar's website. These calendars also tell you other important dates you need to be aware of for current and future semesters (like when you can register or the deadline to withdraw from a class), so make sure you check them regularly!

**Are there any financial aid options available to me?**
While you probably aren't eligible for federal aid (which includes grants, loans, and work-study programs offered by the U.S. Department of Education), you can still potentially get scholarships if you qualify for them. The easiest way to look for scholarships is on ScholarshipUniverse, which you can access at https://kennesaw.scholarshipuniverse.com/. However, you may also be able to find other scholarships or funding opportunities by searching on Google.

**I'm a Graduate student and looking for ways to get work experience while in school. Are there any jobs I can do at Kennesaw State?**
Yes! The College of Computing & Software Engineering hires a lot of Graduate Teaching Assistants and Graduate Research Assistants each year. This is a great opportunity to enhance your resume, especially if a faculty member is working on a specific project. Check out our web page on financial assistance programs to learn more and find additional employment possibilities.

**I heard about OPT/CPT. Where can I learn more about this?**
OPT = Optional Practical Training and CPT = Curricular Practical Training, and the best place to start will be on the ISSS web pages about these. For most students, CPT is the most applicable option, and you can potentially use an internship to count towards your degree requirements by taking the CSE 4983/7983 CSE Computing Internship course.

**I keep getting a "Prerequisite and Test Score Error" when I try to sign up for a class. How do I get past this?**
Check the current catalog at www.catalog.kennesaw.edu to see what prerequisites a course is looking for to make sure you have met it. If you have, contact your advisor.

**Do I have to complete all prerequisites in 1st Semester, or can I complete them later?**
All prerequisites must be completed during your first and second semester.

**Can I submit the hard copies of my Transcript and Graduation certificate after reaching the KSU campus/ USA?**
Yes, but it "must be in a sealed envelope from the University" as mentioned in our emails sent to you. for other questions, contact Graduate Admissions Office at ksugrad@kennesaw.edu

**Do I need to register for the courses before coming to the USA?**
No; however, it is best that you register for courses as soon as possible because classes fill up rather quickly.

**Does BOB (Big Owl Bus) have a pick-up service from Atlanta Airport?**
Unfortunately, the college does not a pick-up or drop-off service to the Atlanta Airport. Please review the section of this handbook for ways to arrive from the airport. Also check the BOB route map and schedule for bus timings around the campus.

**What if I am not able to attend the International orientation?**
Please contact ISSS office and they will send you more information. isss@kennesaw.edu

**Who can help plan and register my course registration?**
Students plan and register themselves, but if assistance is needed, speak to your program coordinators before you email Melinda Ross at gradccse@kennesaw.edu.

**Where can I find the email for the ISSS office, Michael Alvarez, or Melinda Ross's?**
All emails, website and important phone numbers are in this handbook.

**I have a HOLD on my account, I cannot register, what should I do?**
First check what the hold is for. Immunization holds should be directed to immunizationsvc@kennesaw.edu. Other holds should be directed to the Graduate Admissions Office at ksugrad@kennesaw.edu or call 470-578-4377.




KENNESAW STATE
UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF COMPUTING AND
SOFTWARE ENGINEERING