

So You Are Coming to UM-Flint as an Exchange Student?

Here are some IMPORTANT things you need to know:

Deadlines. America is a very achievement-oriented society. When a date or time is set as a deadline, do not be late in submitting or adhering to that deadline. This includes application documents, registration, assignments, etc.

Course Registration. Once you receive your acceptance packet, you will be provided with instructions on how to register for courses approved on your *Learning Agreement*. Do not delay in registration for courses; classes fill up very quickly and if you wait to late, you will be not be able to join the class you wish.

Housing & Amenities. The rooms come with amenities such as beds, tables, chairs, etc. Personal furnishings such as pillows, sheets, blankets, towels, rugs, lamps, plates, cups, knives, etc. are not provided and must be brought by the student. You may purchase linens for your bedroom and bathroom by visiting www.rhl.org/mfl. Your bed is an extra long twin size which requires extra long twin sheets (39" by 80"). You may find other valuable items as you browse the linen page. Have your linens shipped to your housing option prior to you arrival! Please be sure to include your name on the shipment.

U.S. Classroom Culture. You may be surprised at the differences between U.S. classroom structure and the classroom structure of your country. For example, faculty members in the U.S. tend to be less formal than in many countries. "It is not uncommon for professors to be on a first-name basis with students, especially at the graduate level. In addition, students and faculty often dress very informally and it is not unusual for faculty to roam the classroom while talking or to sit on the edge of a table in a relaxed posture.

U.S. classrooms "tend to reflect a more Socratic ideal, where teacher and student interact a great deal in pursuit of knowledge" (Anderson and Powell, 1991). This is especially true in smaller classes. "Students are expected (and often required) not only to know the content of their courses, but also to think independently about it, come to their own conclusions, and to express their own perspectives and opinions in class and in their written work. If they disagree with the instructor or their classmates, they are able to express this in class."

Many international students do not expect the high amount and frequency of classes, homework, tests, quizzes, and group projects. In addition, classroom participation plays an important role and often affects the grades you receive for the class.

It is considered VERY serious when academic conduct rules are not followed. Plagiarism and cheating are two common types of academic misconduct that can result in very severe consequences, including failed grades or expulsion.

Additional information about U.S. classroom culture will be provided at the International Student Orientation.

Books. For most courses, a set of books will be re. It is the responsibly of each student to purchase the books required for the course. Books can be VERY expensive, ranging from \$20 to \$250 per book. For one semester, expect to spend up to \$600 on books. For wallet-friendly options, consider buying used books or renting book. To determine what books you will need for a specific course, visit www.umflint.bncollege.com/.

References: NAFSA's U.S. Classroom Culture



We look forward to meeting you!

Arrival Checklist

- Register for classes online
- Get U.S. J-1 Visa
- Confirm housing arrangements
- Provide arrival information to International Center
- Provide arrival information to housing
- Complete any home university requirements
- Bring enough cash to exchange into dollars
- Arrive in time for International Student Orientation!



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