

## Welcome to Clemson Email Series Email #3 | December 17, 2024



Clemson Welcome Video 1

Thank you to everyone who read our first two *Welcome to Clemson* emails. We hope you found the information valuable and helpful.

Welcome to the third and final installment of our *Welcome to Clemson* email series! This series will give all new international students the vital information you need to best prepare for your arrival to the U.S. and arrival at either the main campus or one of our Innovation Campuses across South Carolina. As we mentioned in our last email, you can begin arriving to the U.S. using your F/J visas **on or after December 9, 2024.**

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### **International Student Arrival Guide:**

To help you prepare for your Clemson Experience, we developed our [International Student Arrival Guide](#), which offers resources to help you with the transition to living and studying at Clemson University.

### **International Student Orientation:**

Our office will host New International Student Orientation at the date, time and location below. This is a



separate session than Undergraduate and Graduate Student Orientations and will focus primarily on maintaining your immigration status as a Clemson University student. We will provide important information on course requirements, synchronous vs. asynchronous course enrollment, work authorization opportunities and timelines, etc.

Please mark your calendar to attend the session below. Our session will be provided both in-person virtually via Zoom.

### **New International Student Orientation:**

- Date:** Tuesday January 7, 2025  
**Time:** 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM (Eastern Time)  
**In-Person Location:** Watt Family Innovation Center, Room 208  
**Virtual Registration:** A Zoom link will be sent to your email once you register [HERE](#).

Please note that students pursuing degrees at innovation campuses away from main campus are not required to attend in-person and are encouraged to sign up and attend our orientation virtually.

### **Other Orientations:**

Clemson University will host other orientation sessions including [New Undergraduate Student Orientation](#), [New Graduate Student Orientation](#) as well as orientations for individual academic departments. We encourage you to review your academic department's website or contact your Advisor/Student Coordinator for information regarding their orientation sessions and plan your arrival accordingly.

### **SEVIS Check-in within the iStart Portal:**

One of the first items to take care of when you arrive in the U.S. is to complete your SEVIS Check-In using the [iStart Portal](#). Please note the following:

- SEVIS Check-In cannot be completed prior to your arrival in the U.S.
- You must first log in to [Clemson's VPN](#) or be on Clemson's on-campus network ([eduroam](#)) before accessing the iStart Portal.
- SEVIS Check-In is **critical** if you are a new Graduate Assistant (GA) and need to apply for a social security number (SSN) to begin your GA position. If you delay completing your SEVIS Check-In, it will delay your applying for and receiving your SSN.
  - Students paid by Clemson University must upload the [Employment Verification Letter \(EVL\)](#) completed by their hiring department to the SEVIS Check-In e-form.
- SEVIS Check-In is completed through the iStart Portal and does not require you to come in-person to International Services.
- You must submit **all four sections** of the SEVIS Check-In e-form.
- Information on how to complete your SEVIS Check-In can be found [here](#).

### **Late Arrivals, Deferrals, and Cancellations:**

It is recommended that all international students arrive no later than the start of the term, January 8, 2025. If you cannot arrive by this date, you must communicate with your academic department and professors to confirm whether you are permitted to arrive after the start of the term. For those students arriving more than 2 weeks after the start of the Spring term, you must gain authorization from your academic department, access Clemson's VPN, and log in to the iStart Portal to submit the [Late Arrival Support e-form](#) to receive authorization from our office. If you are unable to attend Clemson University



this Spring 2025 term, you will first need to request the deferral of your admission. Graduate students must request the deferral from their academic departments. Once approved, a new admission letter will be issued by Graduate Admissions. Once you obtain the deferred admission letter, please accept your new admission in the Graduate Admissions Portal, access Clemson's VPN, log in to the iStart Portal, and submit the [Deferral Request e-form](#) to defer your F-1 SEVIS record and I-20.

Undergraduate students must request deferral from Undergraduate Admissions. Once approved, a deferral approval letter will be issued by Undergraduate Admissions. Once you obtain the deferred admission letter, please access Clemson's VPN, log in to the iStart Portal, and submit the [Deferral Request e-form](#) to defer your F-1 SEVIS record and I-20.

If you will not attend Clemson University and wish to cancel your F-1 SEVIS record, please email [is@clemson.edu](mailto:is@clemson.edu) requesting the cancelation of your record.

### **Applying for an SSN at the Social Security Administration:**

To receive a stipend for a GA position or to be paid for on-campus employment, international students must have an SSN. Applying for and receiving an SSN can be an issue for new students arriving on campus for the first time who need to begin receiving their stipend. Information on what an SSN is and the steps for applying can be found [here](#).

Some additional tips to assist in applying for an SSN:

- Complete your SEVIS Check-In and upload your completed [EVL](#) immediately upon arrival in the U.S.
- If you already have an SSN issued by the U.S. Social Security Administration (SSA), you do not need a new SSN. Once issued, an SSN does not expire and does not need to be renewed.
- You are required to apply in-person for a social security number at a local SSA office. There are SSA offices in Anderson, Greenville, Charleston and [other cities throughout South Carolina](#).
- You must take the [documents listed on our webpage](#) when you visit the SSA office.

### **Submitting Student Immunization Records:**

All new undergraduate and graduate students (domestic and international) are required to upload a completed Student Immunization Form along with supporting immunization documents to the [MyHealth-e portal](#). The immunization form and other information on this process can be found on their website [here](#). If you cannot upload to this portal, these documents can be mailed to Redfern Health Center, Clemson University, Box 344054 Room 34, Clemson, SC 29634-4054 or faxed to +1 864-656-0760.

### **Submitting Final Transcripts to the Graduate School:**

Final official transcripts are transcripts sent directly to Clemson University's Graduate Admissions Office from the issuing institution. Graduate Admissions accepts unofficial transcripts during the admission process, but official transcripts are required of applicants who are admitted and intend to enroll at Clemson. Please note:

- Your final official transcripts must be sent, in a sealed envelope, directly from the issuing institution to the **Office of Graduate Admissions, 220 Parkway Drive, E-209 Martin Hall, Clemson University, Clemson SC 29634**.
- The title of the degree earned and the date awarded must be noted for the transcript to be



considered final official.

- Official certificates or diplomas in sealed envelopes from the issuing institution should accompany any transcripts that do not note the degree earned and date awarded directly on the transcripts.
- Graduate Admissions will not accept faxed copies of transcripts as official.
- A transcript in an envelope that has been opened is no longer considered official.
- English translation of all international transcripts is required and more information on this can be found [here](#).
- Additional helpful resources for questions concerning submission of final official transcripts can be found [here](#) or by contacting [Graduate Admissions](#).

### **Submitting Final Transcripts to Undergraduate Admissions:**

Clemson University requires first-year undergraduate applicants to self-report their high school transcripts. Students who are admitted to Clemson will be required to send official transcripts prior to enrollment. After submitting your application, a link to the SRAR system will be available in your [Applicant Portal](#). Additional information on International Undergraduate Admissions can be found [here](#).

### **Upcoming Office Closure Dates:**

As we approach the Holiday Season, please note our office will be closed and our staff will be unable to respond to emails during the following dates:

- Monday, December 23, 2024 – Friday, December 27, 2024
- Wednesday, January 1, 2025

We hope you find the information in this email to be helpful and useful. Over the next several weeks, International Services will continue to send you additional information as part of our Welcome to Clemson series. This email series will contain various resources, videos, and helpful tips from offices and individuals across campus to help make your arrival and transition to Clemson as easy as possible.

If you missed the prior two email in this series, you can find it [here](#).

Take care,

**Lindsey Hill**, Director

**Taylor Rigot**, Associate Director

**Wasim Gendi**, International Services Advisor

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