



International Student Pre-Arrival Guide

Office of Global Engagement
International Student Services



TRANSFORMING HEARTS AND MINDS TO SERVE THE WORLD

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Office of Global Engagement

Dear International Student,

Welcome to Rivier University!

We are delighted that you chose to join our university. My name is Dey Barriga, Senior Associate for Global Engagement and your International Student Advisor.

Firstly, let me on behalf of 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 prepare before leaving your home country. It has in depth information such as pricing for accommodation, weather in New Hampshire, etc. 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. Believe me, they are answers to your questions.

Good luck on your visa application. We will see you soon!

Take care,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V. Barriga", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Vladimira (Dey) Barriga
Senior Associate for Global Engagement
International Student Advisor (ISA)

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 120

Contact Information:

(603) 897-8782

globalengagement@river.edu

MEET THE OFFICE OF GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT TEAM

Dey Barriga

Senior Associate for Global Engagement

International Student Advisor

Principal Designated School Office, SEVIS

603-897-8781

dbarriga@rivier.edu

Sherry Durfey

SEVIS Specialist

603-897-8784

sherry.durfey@rivier.edu

Pavani Padala

Graduate Student Assistant

603-897-8783

dbarriga@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 2, where your legal responsibilities as an F-1 student in the United States are explained.
4. Sign item 11 on page 1 of the SEVIS Form I-20 A-B.
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 i94.cbp.dhs.gov 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 prandazza@rivier.edu 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 – www.thebayridgeapts.com

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 – www.movetoforestridge.com

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

- Royal Crest Apartments – www.royalcrestnashua.com

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
www.holidayinn.com
9 Northeastern Blvd, Nashua
(603) 888-1551
Cost: \$89.00 daily plus taxes

Radisson Hotel
www.radisson.com
11 Tara Blvd, Nashua
(603) 888-9970
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. You could purchase the Rivier University Health Insurance policy or shop around for the best rate, as long as you have appropriate medical coverage.

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.InternationalStudentInsurance

Below are resources for health insurance:

Price range may vary.

- Lower 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 globalengagement@rivier.edu 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 120.

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

Timeliness & Punctuality: 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.

Greeting & Smiling: 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.

Small Talk: 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)

Eating: 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.

Personal Space: 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.

Bodily Functions: 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.

Courtesy: 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

Cell Service: 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.

Electronics: 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<p>Sylvia Trotter Hall</p> <p>By appointment</p>	<p><i>Business</i> Dr. Amir Toosi (603) 897-8490</p> <p><i>Computer Science</i> Dr. Vladimir Riabov (603) 897-8613</p>
Business Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<p>Adrienne Hall 1st Floor</p> <p>8:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday – Friday</p>	<p>Last name begins with A-G: (603) 897-8214</p> <p>Last name begins with H-R: (603) 897-8675</p> <p>Last name begins with S-Z: (603) 897-8488</p>
Campus Ministry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serves the spiritual, social and personal needs of the campus community, providing opportunities where values are challenged and faith is affirmed 	<p>Dion Center 1st Floor</p> <p>8:00 am to 3:00 pm Monday – Friday</p>	<p>For more information, please call or email Mary Jane Silvia (603) 897-8577 msilvia@rivier.edu</p>
Career Development Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual assistance with career or major planning internship options, job search information, etc. 	<p>9:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday – Friday</p>	<p>Call or e-mail to schedule an appointment (603) 897-8246</p>
Counseling Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counseling and support to students facing a range of issues and challenges • Individual and group counseling sessions 	<p>9:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday – Friday</p>	<p>Call or Drop-in to schedule an appointment (603) 897-8251</p>
Disability Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help students with documented disabilities secure the accommodations they need to succeed academically 	<p>Sylvia Trottier Hall Room 310</p> <p>8:00 am to 3:00 pm Monday – Friday</p>	<p>Darcy Murphy (603) 897-8650</p>
Health & Fitness Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide fitness room orientations to new students, faculty and staff 	<p>Mendel Hall Molloy Hall Muldoon Fitness Center</p> <p>Open during the academic year from Monday – Friday</p>	

OFFICE	SERVICES	LOCATION & HOURS	CONTACT
Information Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 1st Floor, Room 106 7:00 am – 11:00 pm Monday – Thursday	Hotline (603) 897-8469
Multi-Cultural Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing a supportive network for minority students on campus as well as the minority citizens in the southern New Hampshire area 	Dion Center 1st Floor 8:30 am to 3:00 pm Monday – Friday	(603) 897-8676
Public Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue parking permits • Issue University ID's • Motor vehicle lockouts • Motor vehicle jump starts • 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
Regina Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circulation/checkout services • Online Library tutorials • Research services • Inter-library loan • Group study rooms • Quiet study spaces • Computers and printers available for patron use • IT/Computer tutorial online • Drop-in Library instruction sessions • Educational Resource Center (ERC) in the Benoit Education Center (2nd floor) 	2 Clement Street Regina Library Hours: Monday – Thursday: 8:00 am – Midnight Friday: 8:00 am – 8:00 pm Saturday: 10:00 am – 6:00 pm Sunday: 11:00 am – 11:00 pm	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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official transcripts • FERPA student consent forms • Enrollment verifications • Final Exam schedules • Graduation (Commencement) information 	Adrienne Hall Room 213 8:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday – Friday	(603) 897-8213

OFFICE	SERVICES	LOCATION & HOURS	CONTACT
Writing and Resource Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides professional and peer tutoring assistance to students • Provides academic support for students working on writing tasks in courses across the curriculum writing 	<u>Drop-in hours:</u> Monday: 9:00 – 10:00 am 5:00 – 7:00 pm Tuesday: 9:00 – 11:00 am 1:30 – 2:30 pm 5:00 – 7:00 pm Wednesday & Thursday: 9:00 – 10:00 am 5:00 – 7:00 pm Friday: 9:00 – 11:00 am 1:00 – 2:00 pm	(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!