# Welcome Guide for New International Students



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## Welcome Letter from Penn State Global

## and the office of Student Services and Engagement

Dear New International Student,

Congratulations on your acceptance to Penn State Lehigh Valley! Penn State Global and the office of Student Services and Engagement will assist you in achieving your personal and academic goals while you pursue your studies at Penn State Lehigh Valley. We will advise you on immigration regulations as well as cultural and academic adjustment. We are here to help you plan your arrival to Penn State Lehigh Valley.

We especially look forward to meeting you at the New Student Welcome, Orientation and Engagement week where your attendance is mandatory.

Sincerely,

***Ryan Geiger***

Ryan Geiger, M.Ed.

Global Engagement Coordinator

***Tom Dubreuil***

Tom Dubreuil

Director of Student Affairs

## New International Student Checklist

Below checklist has been created to assist you in completing both important mandatory and recommended action items you must take during your first 30 days at Penn State Lehigh Valley. Any questions about the checklist can be directed to Director of Student Affairs Tom Dubreuil ([trd1@psu.edu](mailto:trd1@psu.edu)).

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| **Action Item** | **Information** |
| Obtain I-20 and F-1 Visa | Before you Arrive |
| Immunizations | Before you Arrive |
| Find Off-Campus Housing | Before you Arrive |
| Register for New Student Welcome | Before you Arrive |
| Sign up for Airport Pick Up on Sunday  August 13th This is the only day we will provide students with transportation | Before you Arrive |
| Sign Up for PSULV New International Student Orientation | Before you Arrive |
| I-94 record | After you Arrive |
| SEVIS Registration | After you Arrive |
| Open a Bank Account | After you Arrive |
| Sign Up for a Cell Phone Account | After you Arrive |

## New International Student Welcome and New International Student Orientation

New Student Orientation (NSO) for International Students

New Student Orientation dates will be between June and August the summer before you begin your fall semester at PSU-LV. You will receive an email mid to late April with steps to register for one of the New Student Orientation dates. You will also be given a task list to complete. Once you have attended your New Student Orientation, you will be able to schedule an appointment with a PSU-LV adviser on Starfish to discuss you academic plan and enroll in courses for the fall semester.

**NSO for International Students Step 1 Online Virtual Orientation will begin the following dates:**

**June 9, 2023**

**July 13, 2023**

**August 8, 2023**

You only need to select one NSO for International Student session to attend. Be sure to visit the

[[New Student Orientation website](https://orientation.psu.edu/nso)](https://orientation.psu.edu/nso)to access the NSO Task list. This is something all new Penn State students must do, and there is additional programming for new international students. NSO for International Students consists of three essential steps:

**STEP 1: Online Virtual Orientation**

**STEP 2: Online Virtual Academic Advising and Course Selection**

**STEP 3: In-Person Arrival and Welcome on Campus**

### New International Student Welcome

On Wednesday, August 16th, 2023 you are required to attend the Penn State Lehigh Valley New International Student Welcome, where you will hear about campuses resources and have the option to open a bank account and sign up for a cell phone account. Penn State Lehigh Valley will provide lunch and refreshments. You will be receiving an email about this event and therefore be sure to regularly check your PSU email account. You will have the opportunity to complete your SEVIS (I-20) Registration during this orientation.

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## Preparation for Arrival to Penn State Lehigh Valley

### Tuition and Billing

As an international student, it is important to familiarize yourself with tuition cost and how to pay your tuition and fees before your arrival to the United States. For more information on how to pay your tuition please visit: (<http://www.bursar.psu.edu/>).

### Financial

### Penn State is a public university that receives some funding from the government and from taxpayers. There is, at this time, essentially no financial aid available for international undergraduate students.  U.S. Citizenship or legal permanent residency is a requirement for federal funds; Pennsylvania residency is a further requirement for state funds.

### Financial Guarantee Requirement

### <https://global.psu.edu/node/296>

### Health Insurance

Health care in the United States can get very expensive and it is required that all international students studying at Penn State have active health insurance. For more information on how to sign up for health insurance prior to arriving to the United States, please visit: ([https://global.psu.edu/category/health-](https://global.psu.edu/category/health-insurance) [insurance](https://global.psu.edu/category/health-insurance)).

### Immunization

Penn State Lehigh Valley requires you to complete immunizations before arriving to the United States. This is very important and must be completed before arriving to Penn State Lehigh Valley. You can find important information on how to complete this requirement by visiting: (<https://studentaffairs.psu.edu/health/immunizations/imm_submission.shtml>).

### Off-Campus Housing

Committing to studying in a foreign country is exciting however there are key items that must be completed before or soon after you arrive in the United States. Finding a place to stay is one of those important items that must be completed. Penn State Lehigh Valley does not have dormitory on campus. However, we have many safe and convenient off-campus housing options nearby campus. You will find information about those options on this website listed below. If you are interested in looking for a roommate, you must first create an account and a roommate profile by going to the website: (<http://lehighvalley.psu.edu/campus-housing-commuting-campus>).

If for some reason, you are not able to find off-campus housing prior to your arrival, you can arrange to stay at a local hotel. Although you are free to use any hotel, the two listed below are close to campus and offer a Penn State affiliated rate.

**When contacting them to reserve a room, mention you are a Penn State international student and ask about the Penn State rate.**

Homewood Suits By Hilton Allentown Bethlehem Centre Valley

<https://homewoodsuites3.hilton.com/en/hotels/pennsylvania/homewood-suites-by-hilton-allentown-> [bethlehem-center-valley-ABECVHW/index.html?SEO\_id=GMB-HW-ABECVHW](https://homewoodsuites3.hilton.com/en/hotels/pennsylvania/homewood-suites-by-hilton-allentown-bethlehem-center-valley-ABECVHW/index.html?SEO_id=GMB-HW-ABECVHW)

SpringHill Suites By Marriot Allentown Bethlehem Centre Valley

<https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/abecv-springhill-suites-allentown-bethlehem-center-> [valley/?scid=bb1a189a-fec3-4d19-a255-54ba596febe2](https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/abecv-springhill-suites-allentown-bethlehem-center-valley/?scid=bb1a189a-fec3-4d19-a255-54ba596febe2)

Travel and Transportation from Philadelphia International Airport

New international students have the option to fly into many surrounding airports such as Philadelphia International Airport, Newark International Airport etc. **However, Penn State Lehigh Valley will only offer free shuttle service from Philadelphia International Airport to Penn State Lehigh Valley campus only on Sunday, August 13th for flights landing anytime between 10am-12pm.** We will meet you at Philadelphia International Airport and the shuttle will depart the airport no later than 12pm to arrive to Penn State Lehigh Valley campus before 2pm. To reserve your free shuttle service, please email [trd14@psu.edu](mailto:trd14@psu.edu) before August 1st with your arrival time and arrival terminal letter information.

If you decide not to arrange your flight for arrival to Philadelphia International Airport on August 13th between 10am-12pm, be sure to take advantage of safe and convenient transportation systems listed below.

It is your responsibility to arrive on campus for our first event on August 16th. Therefore, it is recommended that you plan your arrival to Penn State Lehigh Valley campus prior to your departure. Unfortunately, there are not that many options to arrive on campus via train or bus and therefore it is recommended you look into the following options.

#### Taxis

Taxis can be picked up in Zone 5 of the International Philadelphia Airport at the Commercial Transportation Roadway by the baggage claim area.

#### Uber Philadelphia

For information on Uber please visit: [(https://www.uber.com/cities/philadelphia/](https://www.uber.com/cities/philadelphia/)).

Additionally, when booking flights keep in mind the following dates.

August 15, 2023 - All new international students required to attend a meeting at Penn State Lehigh Valley

August 21, 2023 - First day of classes

November 19 – 25, 2023 - Thanksgiving Break, no classes

December 8, 2023 - Last Day of Classes

December 11 – 15, 2023 - Final Exams

**No student will be excused from or allowed to take a final exam after a different time due to a booked flight.**

**To be safe, do not book flights home or elsewhere until after the last day of final exams, which is December 15th, 2023.**

## Penn State Learning Center and Disability Services

Student interested in learning center as well as disability services, please visit this website: (<http://lehighvalley.psu.edu/learning-center>).

## Penn State Lehigh Valley Campus Directory

You can find important contact information to your faculty and staff at Penn State Lehigh Valley by visiting following website: (<http://lehighvalley.psu.edu/campus-directory/results>).

## Lehigh Valley and Surrounding Cities

Penn State Lehigh Valley campus is only one-hour drive away from major cities such as Philadelphia and New York. Lehigh Valley city and surrounding cities such as Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton are only 15-minute drive away. Please visit the following websites for more information.

Discover Lehigh Valley: <http://www.discoverlehighvalley.com/travel-tip/>

Visit Philadelphia: [http://www.visitphilly.com](http://www.visitphilly.com/)

I LOVE NY: <http://www.iloveny.com/>