





INFORMATION SHEET – NORTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY EXCHANGE PROGRAM

1. General Information


Name of Institution		Northern State University
Website:		www.northern.edu
		http://www.northern.edu/academics/international-programs/international-students
Office of International Programs		NSU Box 1154 Aberdeen, South Dakota, USA 57401 Tel: 605-626-7802 Fax: 605-626-7673 Email: nsuiso@northern.edu
Office of International Programs	Director	Dr. Leigh Neys, Director Email: Leighs.neys@northern.edu Tel: 605-626-7839
Contacts For Inbound Program	 Exchange & Visiting Academic Advising	Ms. Stacey Schmidt Assistant Director, International Student Services Email: stacey.schmidt@northern.edu Tel: 605-626-7672
	 Health Insurance	Ms. Heidi Hepola Program Assistant Email: Heidi.hepola@northern.edu Tel: 605-626-7802
Contact for Outbound Program	All Areas	Mrs. Dominika Blum Study Abroad Coordinator Email: dominika.blum@northern.edu Tel: 605-626-3163
# of Exchange/Visiting Students	All Areas	Unlimited number of visiting students accepted each semester.

2. Academic Calendar

	Fall Semester	Spring Semester
Online Nomination Deadline By coordinator	April 15, 2019	October 15, 2019
Online Application Deadline By students	May 1, 2019	November 1, 2019
Semester Dates	August 26, 2019-December 18, 2019	January 13, 2020 – May 8, 2020
Housing	Check-In: 5 days before the semester starts Check-Out: Official End-date of Semester	Check-In: 5 days before the semester starts Check-Out: Official End-date of Semester
Orientation	August 21-23, 2019	January 8-10, 2020
Exam Period	December 12-18, 2019 Exams are different times than regular courses.	May 4 -8, 2020 Exams are different times than regular courses.

3. Application Process

Qualification	<div>1) Must be nominated by home university</div> <div>2) Minimum GPA 2.0</div> <div>3) Language Proficiency (English) – <u>Not required but recommended.</u></div> <div>IELTS 5.5</div> <div>TOEFL 61</div>
Required Documents	<div>After nomination, students need to fill out the online application through the link sent by Northern State University. Below documents must be uploaded in the online application.</div> <div>1) Online Application – link sent to home university</div> <div>2) Color Photo ID - .jpeg format preferred</div> <div>3) Passport – should be valid for at least 6 months</div> <div>4) Official Academic Transcript – English Version</div> <div>5) Language Proficiency Form</div> <div>6) Financial Affidavit – download from the online application</div> <div>7) Immunization Form – download from online application, students must present documentation of two MMR vaccinations. The first vaccination can not be given before their first birthday and the second one at least 30 days after the first. Please make sure to follow this rule.</div>

Immigration	<p>After student has completed their application, an acceptance letter and official I20 will be sent to the student via their home university coordinator.</p>  <pre> graph TD A[Get Accepted into a School] --> B[Pay Sevis Fee and Receive your I-20] B --> C[Complete F1 Visa Application form] C --> D[Schedule/Attend F1 Visa Interview] D --> E[F1 Visa Approval] E --> A </pre> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Student applies for F1 Student Visa 2) Go online and pay SEVIS Fee https://www.fmjfee.com/# 3) Complete Visa application 4) Schedule and prepare for your interview Following documents are required for your F1 visa interview: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A valid passport • Nonimmigrant Visa Application Form DS 160 • The application fee payment receipt • A passport photo • Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant F1 Student Status (Form I20) 5) Attend F1 Visa interview Sample questions of visa interview can be found at: https://www.internationalstudent.com/immigration/f1-student-visa/f1-visa-interview-questions/
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4. Academic Information

Courses

Students are able to take any course in or outside of their field of study while at NSU. Most upper level courses will require a pre-requisite, so these courses will be reviewed by academic advisors. Course listings can be found on the NSU website and will also be sent to students upon their acceptance. Syllabus for courses are available upon request.

English & Math Courses

We offer a number of courses in English and Math that do require pre-requisites to take the course. If a student is an English or Math major in at least their third year of the program, they will be able to take the courses without any prior placement exam. If a student is not in an English major at their home university and still would like to take ENGL 101, the student must have the minimum language requirement or pre-requisites on their transcript.

Study Load

In order to maintain a student's F1 status, students are required to take a minimum of 12 credit hours. Exchange students can take up to 18 credit hours on their exchange program. Any course that begins with a 0 (example ENGL 033 or READ 041) are considered remedial courses and are not covered as part of the exchange program. Students can take these courses, but will need to pay more for the course. Online courses are also NOT considered a part of the exchange program and students can take an online course, but will need to pay full price. Out of the 12 credit courses required, 9 of those credits MUST be in the classroom, not online.

Course Registration

Before coming to NSU, students will have a chance to register for their courses online. Students will receive an email asking them to review the courses schedule online and submit a list of courses they are interested in taking. The sooner the student does this, the better chance of options for courses they have as classes do fill and have limited seating. An academic advisor will then review the course interest form and enroll the student in the courses that work. The advisor will work closely with the student via online to finalize their schedule. Students will also have about 1 week after classes begin to make changes to their schedules.

Transcript

Official transcripts will be issued one month after the end of the program and 1 official transcript will be sent to the student's home university (students will pay \$9 on their student bill for this transcript). If students would like to have any additional official transcripts, they will need to contact the registrar's office at NSU prior to leaving to request one to be sent to their home address.

5. Campus Life

Housing

As an exchange student, you are required to live in a residence hall on campus. NSU has six different residence halls to choose from. A \$75 room deposit is required with their application. This deposit will be returned to the student when they complete the proper checkout procedure. If this procedure is not followed the student will not get the deposit back. Students can choose to have a roommate or have a single room which will cost more money. We cannot guarantee the student will live with an American student, but we will do our best to accommodate their requests. Students are able to request room changes after being on campus for at least one week. More information about housing can be found at: <http://www.northern.edu/campus-life/residence-life>

Meal Plan

All exchange students are required to purchase a meal plan. There are a variety of meal plan options. We recommend taking the lowest meal plan with more flex dollars that can be used in our bagel or convenience store on campus. Flex dollars carry over from fall to spring semester (not from spring to fall) and the meal plans do not carry over per semester. There is also a kitchen area in each residence halls to be shared by all students living there. More information on the meal plans can be found at: <http://northern.campusdish.com/>

Health Insurance

All international students attending school in South Dakota are required to purchase the State of South Dakota Board plan. More information about this plan will be sent later this summer. Students will receive more information on the enrollment process when they apply.

Work on Campus

Exchange students are allowed to work part-time on campus (up to 20 hours per week) in a student labor position. Must contact the International office for work approval. No work off campus is allowed. No internships are authorized during an exchange period.

6. Payment/Banking Information

Student Fees

Please find attached the cost of the fees for your exchange. Fees should be paid to the finance office within the first week of classes. It is best to transfer money to a bank account instead of carrying large amounts of cash with you.

Bank Account

We will help you when you arrive to open a US bank account if you would like. This account will help you to transfer money for your fees. There are a number of banks in Aberdeen and we will help you make the right choice for you.

7. Arrival To Aberdeen

Shuttle/Airport

For fall arrivals, we are going to try something new this year. All students will fly into the Minneapolis airport prior to Tuesday, August 20th where they will be able to spend an evening or more at a hotel that we will be working with and will let students know where. Then we will have a small orientation on the morning of August 20th at the hotel and then two buses will depart at approximately 11AM on Tuesday, August 20th, arriving at NSU around 5 PM that evening. If students are unable to make this work then they will need to fly directly into the Aberdeen airport.

Spring arrivals will all need to fly directly into the Aberdeen regional airport via Delta Airlines. We will greet each student at the airport and take to their residence halls.

Students will NOT be able to move into their residence halls any earlier than 5 days prior to the start of classes.

Temperature

If you arrive for the fall semester, you can expect warm temperatures ranging from 70F to over 100F during the day time and getting cooler in the evenings. Recommend shorts and light clothing with options for jackets and sweatshirts. The temperature will get cooler into the fall and snow will fall into late October. Spring arrivals should prepare for very cold temperatures ranging from 30F to negative 10F. The wind in South Dakota can be very cold making those temperatures feel colder. The beauty of the snow makes the cold temperatures not so bad!