

Congratulations on your acceptance to one of the best universities in the United States. You are among a very select group of students who will soon become active members of Vanderbilt's international community of more than 1,500 international students, scholars, and their dependents, representing more than 100 countries.

International students have always been an integral part of Vanderbilt's student body. For all but two years since the University opened its doors in 1875, Vanderbilt has enrolled students from other countries. Vanderbilt's first class included students from Mexico and Germany and an American resident of China. Since then, international students have participated in almost every facet of the University community, setting standards and breaking barriers. In 1973, the first woman to receive a PhD in the School of Engineering was a student from Taiwan. Vanderbilt graduate Muhammad Yunus of Bangladesh won the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize, a prime example of the success Vanderbilt graduates experience.

Vanderbilt University and International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS) welcome you and hope that your academic and co-curricular pursuits are both challenging and rewarding.

The enclosed information is designed to ease your transition to Vanderbilt. Please read it in its entirety as it answers many frequently asked questions and offers helpful advice to help you prepare for your journey. With this letter, you should receive:

- I-20 or DS-2019
- SEVIS Fee Information sheet
- Immigration information, in "Immigration Documents & Classifications"
- Travel, arrival, and housing information, in "A Look Ahead"
- Visa interview tips in "Ten Points to Remember When Applying for a Nonimmigrant Visa"

For *additional information*, visit <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/iss/prostudents.html>.

For campus, community and other resources, visit <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/iss/handbook.html>.

All international students **must** check in with ISSS upon arrival to Vanderbilt. Check-in is Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Please bring your I-20 or DS-2019, passport, and I-94. If you have dependents with you in the U.S., remember to bring their documents as well. ISSS is located in the [Student Life Center](#) at 310 25th Avenue South, Suite 103.

Mandatory International Student Orientation is Thursday, August 21st, 2008. Please mark this important event on your schedule now, as presenters will discuss information critical to your stay at Vanderbilt and in the U.S.

Again, congratulations! We look forward to greeting you personally and having you as a member of the Vanderbilt community. We encourage you to participate actively in the wide range of programs and activities. If you have any questions please stop by or call ISSS, we are here to help you.

Sherif Barsoum, Director, International Student and Scholar Services

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ORIENTATION
- All students are required to attend orientation -
August 21st, 2008 – 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Student Life Center- Commodore Ballroom

NOTE: If you decide not to attend Vanderbilt, you must return the enclosed I-20 or DS-2019 to ISSS immediately.