



**MURRAY STATE**  
UNIVERSITY

# Congratulations!

As a Racer, you'll receive endless opportunities to learn more, to do more and to become more. Whatever you dream to achieve, we'll make it happen. This is your time to shine!





*Welcome*

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS  
TO THE MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY FAMILY!**

## 1. LOG IN TO MYGATE PORTAL AND RACERMAIL

Now that you're admitted, it's time to get connected. You should have received an email from Murray State with instructions for setting up your accounts and passwords for the myGate portal and RacerMail. If you have already done this, you are ready to go. If you have not set up your account passwords yet, log into your application account at [getstarted.murraystate.edu](https://getstarted.murraystate.edu)

Look for the "Click here to get started" link in the myGate Portal Access section. When you click on this link, you will be asked to create a password that will be used for your RacerMail (Murray State email account), myGate (student portal) and other network accounts. The password must follow certain rules, so make sure you click on the arrow beside "Password Rules" for information on creating a valid password.

Within the myGate portal, you may apply for scholarships, housing, pay bills, register for classes, view grades and announcements, request transcripts and much more. The myGate portal also connects you to RacerMail, Canvas and the technology Service Catalog – all of which are necessary online tools for success at Murray State.

## 2. LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR FUTURE HOME

Murray State University is home to more than 10,000 students and regarded as one of the nation's leading public universities. For 28 straight years, Murray State has been recognized by U.S. News & World Report as a 'Top Tier' university in academic quality, and was recently recognized as the top four-year college in Kentucky by Schools.com. In addition, Forbes has included Murray State University on the "America's Best Colleges" list for eleven consecutive years. When you first set foot on campus and meet our students, faculty and staff, you'll know that Murray State is your home.

But what about Murray itself? With locally-owned specialty shops and restaurants – not to mention all the cultural centers on campus, including an arboretum, art galleries, museums, theatres, community concerts and more – there's something for everyone in Murray!

And, when it comes to making weekend travel plans, there are plenty of nearby options, too. Murray is a quick road trip from several major metropolitan areas, such as Nashville, St. Louis and Memphis. If you enjoy the great outdoors, we're just a 15-minute drive from Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area.

Ultimately, no matter where you call home, know that the Murray community will always welcome you with open arms. A city of about 20,000 residents, Murray has a kind, inviting feel that earned the title of "friendliest small town" from Rand McNally and USA Today, and is one of the fastest growing cities in Kentucky.





### 3. APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Murray State yearly distributes approximately \$44 million in scholarships, grants and tuition waivers. Be sure to apply for scholarships by logging into your myGate portal and clicking on the “Financial Aid” section. Visit: [mygate.murraystate.edu](http://mygate.murraystate.edu)

### 4. APPLY FOR STUDENT VISA

Sign your I-20 or DS-2019 and pay the U.S. Government SEVIS fee ([www.fmjfee.com](http://www.fmjfee.com)). Apply for an F-1 or J-1 visa at the nearest U.S. consulate or embassy.

### 5. MAKE TRAVEL PLANS & REGISTER FOR SHUTTLE

Make travel arrangements to arrive in Murray before orientation. There is no public transportation to Murray, but we offer a shuttle service on August 12 -13th from Nashville International Airport (BNA). If you need transportation to Murray, you must make the Nashville, Tennessee airport (BNA) your final destination and register for the shuttle in advance. Greeters will meet you at the airport, if we know your exact arrival information – time of arrival in Nashville, flight name and number. The shuttle will leave from a local hotel each day at 3:00 pm for Murray. Murray is a two hour drive from Nashville. The cost of the shuttle is \$100 and the fee will be billed to your MSU account. Register: [murraystate.edu/internationalorientation](http://murraystate.edu/internationalorientation)

### 6. REGISTER FOR NEW STUDENT

**ORIENTATION** Our orientation is now online--orientation is mandatory. Sign up for orientation at: [murraystate.edu/internationalorientation](http://murraystate.edu/internationalorientation) An orientation fee of \$100 will be charged to your student account. Students wishing to move into their residence hall before before orientation dates are charged approximately \$18 per night (subject to change).

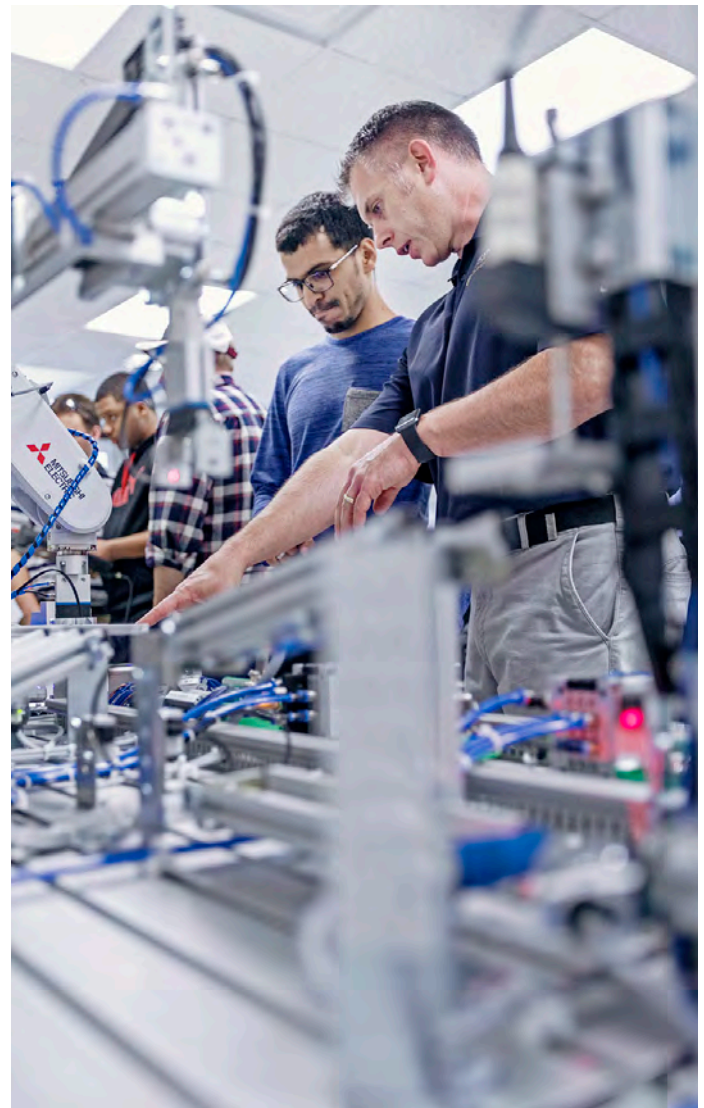
### 7. APPLY FOR HOUSING

Some of the best college memories are made while living on campus. Murray State’s residence halls offer a number of perks including common areas, on-site games and free laundry facilities. They’re also located a short walk from academic buildings, Winslow Dining Hall, the Wellness Center and our

athletics facilities. Plus, whether you live in an on-campus residential hall or off-campus, you’ll join one of Murray State’s eight residential colleges. Consider it your tight-knit community within the larger University community. You’ll meet fellow students, get connected to faculty and gain opportunities for personal and professional growth. Apply today via your myGate account. Graduate students and certain undergraduate students may also live off campus. Learn more about on-campus housing: [murraystate.edu/housing](http://murraystate.edu/housing)

### 8. BRING FINAL TRANSCRIPTS AND DIPLOMA

Don’t forget to bring official transcripts in order to complete your admission file during orientation. You will submit these sealed documents to the admissions office to finalize your admission.



## 9. Complete Online Orientation Prior to Arrival

Online orientation is mandatory for all new international students. Online orientation will cover areas such as course registration, adjusting to campus life, getting a student ID card, arranging housing, purchasing health insurance, purchasing meal plans, discussing immigration regulations that govern your visa, and working on campus. We look forward to welcoming you to one of the friendliest towns in America!

## 10. TAKE THE MATH PLACEMENT TEST

If you are an undergraduate student, you will be required to take the KYOTE Math Placement test during orientation. The KYOTE Placement Exams are free. A calculator may be used on the KYOTE Placement Exams, but the calculator must not have a computer algebra system installed on it.

## 11. FEE PAYMENT

Students and parents have several payment options available to pay the balance of their Murray State student account. Options for payment include bank or credit card and international wire transfer. It is

important that you have the necessary funding for your studies beforehand, as you will not be allowed to take courses without payment or enrollment in a payment plan.

## 12. PARTICIPATE IN GREAT BEGINNINGS

Great Beginnings are on the horizon for you here at Murray State and the best way to begin your Racer journey! An annual tradition at Murray State, Great Beginnings gives all new students the opportunity to familiarize themselves with campus and the community, easing the transition to campus life. From Exploring Murray to the Hypnotist (a campus favorite!), and going to a campus-wide water balloon fight, students find themselves making new friends and getting to know campus better.

Students living on campus will all have a Great Beginnings Leader who will help to guide you through all the fun and educational events happening in the first few weeks of classes. We find it important to get involved when you get to campus, so start things with a Great Beginning! For more information and move-in information, visit [murraystate.edu/greatbeginnings](http://murraystate.edu/greatbeginnings)

## 13. START YOUR STUDIES

Classes begin on August 19th. Go to class ready and energized to start your studies in your new home.



# Checklist

- LOG IN TO MYGATE PORTAL
- LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR FUTURE HOME
- APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS
- APPLY FOR STUDENT VISA
- MAKE TRAVEL PLANS & REGISTER FOR SHUTTLE SERVICE
- REGISTER FOR NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION
- APPLY FOR HOUSING
- BRING OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS AND DIPLOMA
- ATTEND ORIENTATION ON JANUARY 6TH OR 7TH
- TAKE THE MATH PLACEMENT TEST
- FEE PAYMENT
- PARTICIPATE IN GREAT BEGINNINGS
- START YOUR STUDIES

# WELCOME

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

*College is an experience unlike any other. And at Murray State, you'll have unique opportunities to have fun, get involved and be a part of something unforgettable. Murray State offers academic and personal growth opportunities as well as personalized campus services to help you achieve your dreams. Our International Student Office has dedicated staff to assist new and current international students throughout their studies.*

### HELPFUL CONTACT INFORMATION:

Admission Status and Updates: [msu.intl.ap@murraystate.edu](mailto:msu.intl.ap@murraystate.edu)  
Scholarship and Tuition Information: [msu.intl@murraystate.edu](mailto:msu.intl@murraystate.edu)  
Arrival, Housing, and Orientation: [mbrown@murraystate.edu](mailto:mbrown@murraystate.edu)

Shuttle Service: [bmckibben@murraystate.edu](mailto:bmckibben@murraystate.edu)

### IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

August 12th and 13th- Nashville Airport Shuttle Service for Students  
Complete online orientation prior to arrival

August 19th- Classes Begin for the Fall 2025 Semester

### REGISTER FOR SHUTTLE SERVICE AND MANDATORY ORIENTATION:

[www.murraystate.edu/internationalorientation](http://www.murraystate.edu/internationalorientation)

Institute for International Studies  
Murray State University  
169 Blackburn Science Building  
Murray, Kentucky 42071  
USA

Daytime Telephone: +1 270 809 4152  
Office hours: 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Monday to Friday

Ms. Misty Brown Lanham  
Senior International Advisor  
[mbrown@murraystate.edu](mailto:mbrown@murraystate.edu)  
+1 270 809 2964

Dr. Bill McKibben  
Dir. for Int'l Enrl & Retention  
[bmckibben@murraystate.edu](mailto:bmckibben@murraystate.edu)  
+1 270 809 3089

[www.murraystate.edu/international](http://www.murraystate.edu/international)



*Opportunity afforded*



### **Requirements for “home-country” health insurance:**

All students must have health insurance. You can purchase insurance from your home country, or purchase insurance during orientation through: [www.isoa.org/murray\\_state\\_university](http://www.isoa.org/murray_state_university)

New and returning students should make sure that if they are using insurance from their home-country that their policy meets the following minimum requirements. Failure to meet these basic requirements will delay your enrollment in classes. You will have to buy the insurance plan provided through the university.

1. The policy must be written by the carrier, in English, and premium rates must be in U.S. dollar amounts.
2. The policy must include in-patient and out-patient coverage for both accident and illness.
3. The policy must have a deductible of no more than \$500 per individual, per accident or illness.
4. The policy must state a maximum benefit of no less than \$100,000 per accident or illness. The policy must provide no less than \$50,000 provision for medical evacuation to a student’s home country.
5. The policy must provide no less than \$25,000 provision for repatriation (after death, removal of remains to a student’s home country).
6. The policy must clearly state coverage dates from the first day of classes for the semester applying until the end of the semester

### **How to pay the SEVIS fee after receiving your I-20 or DS-2019:**

All persons applying for an F-1 visa must now pay a \$350 non-refundable fee to the U.S.

Government. Those with J-1 visas must pay \$220. The process for payment is explained below:

1. You will receive your I-20 or DS-2019 from Murray State. If you have access to a credit card and the internet, visit the following site: [www.fmjfee.com](http://www.fmjfee.com).
2. Complete the online form I-901 as instructed on the web page. (You will need your I-20 or DS-2019, your passport, a major credit card, the address you wish the receipt to be mailed to, along with other information such as birthday and country of citizenship.)
3. After completing the online application and submitting the form you will be prompted to pay with a credit card or check (it is hoped that Western Union may be an option in the near future as well. Please contact us if Western Union would be a better option).
4. Once you have completed the whole process you will be prompted to print out an online receipt. **MAKE SURE THAT YOU DO THIS.** The paper receipt may take as much as 4-5 weeks to reach you if it reaches you at all. Take this online receipt with you to your visa interview if you have not received the official mailed receipt prior to your interview date.
5. Once you have completed this process it will take approximately 3 working days (Monday through Friday, excluding holidays) for the consulates to be updated.
6. You may make your visa interview prior to paying the fee but you must complete the above process at least 3 working days before the interview to make sure the consulate is updated before your interview.
7. Remember that this fee is non-refundable and is in addition to the visa fee that will be charged when you go for your visa interview.

# Steps for the online housing application

- 1** Students must have a university issued M# (ID #) before they can begin the online application process. Students will be issued an M# upon being admitted to the university.
- 2** The online housing application is accessible through myGate. Students will need to log into myGate to begin the process.
- 3** Once a student has successfully logged into myGate, he or she will need to click on the navy blue money tab at the top of the screen.
- 4** The online housing application link is located at the bottom of the page on the right-hand side.
- 5** Click on the blue online housing application link.
- 6** Click on the white application link at the top of the screen.
- 7** Students will be asked to make payment of the \$150 housing deposit.
- 8** Students will be asked to enter their M# throughout the process, so they are advised to keep it handy.
- 9** Students may go back into the application to make any necessary changes (i.e., to request a specific roommate or to change building preferences) after they have begun the process.
- 10** Students may request one specific roommate on the application; however, in order to find a roommate to request within the system, the student they are trying to request as a roommate must have also started the online application.



**MURRAY**

**STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Housing/Residence Life**

206 Stewart Stadium • Murray, KY 42071-3351

Phone: 270.809.2310 • Fax: 270.809.3578