

REGISTRATION

Registration instructions will be given at the International Student Orientation. If you fail to attend the Orientation, you should report to the International Student and Scholar Services office, (International Center, Room 411) with your passport and immigration documents any time after 8:30 a.m. when you arrive on campus. Registration and late registration dates are listed on your I-20 or DS-2019 and on the Pre-Arrival Update.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding your admission or arrival, or other issues pertaining to your enrollment at Southern Miss, you may visit our website at www.usm.edu/iss. This site also contains links to other Southern Miss sites, including academic departments and pages for current international students.

In order to obtain a U.S. driver's license you need to bring with you an original birth certificate from your home country. If possible, try to have this document translated into English. However, it might be possible to have this done after you arrive in the United States.

GETTING TO HATTIESBURG

By Plane:

Pine Belt Regional Airport (PIB) – Hattiesburg, MS: Only 15 minutes from USM and easy for a shuttle or taxi to meet new arrivals.

Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport (MSY) – New Orleans, LA: Two hours from USM and will require a shuttle service, bus, or train to bring new arrivals to Hattiesburg.

Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport (GPT) – Gulfport, MS: One and a half hours from USM and will require a shuttle service, bus, or train to bring new arrivals to Hattiesburg.

By Plane (continued):

Jackson-Evers International Airport (JAN) – Jackson, MS: Two hours from USM and will require a shuttle service, bus, or train to bring new arrivals to Hattiesburg.

Please note: All fares and schedules are subject to change without notice. Please be aware you will have to arrange a taxi to take you from the airport to the bus/train station and from the bus /train station to your accommodations at Southern Miss.

Greyhound Bus:

Phone: 1-800-231-2222

Web: www.greyhound.com

New Orleans to Hattiesburg:

\$30.00 one way (Monday – Thursday)

\$33.00 one way (Friday - Sunday)

Departs New Orleans Arrives Hattiesburg
6:00 p.m. 10:10 a.m.

Jackson to Hattiesburg:

\$23.00 one way (Monday – Thursday)

\$26.00 one way (Friday - Sunday)

Departs Jackson Arrives Hattiesburg
1:15 p.m. 2:50 p.m.

Gulfport to Hattiesburg:

\$19.00 one way (Monday – Thursday)

\$21.50 one way (Friday – Sunday)

Departs Gulfport Arrives Hattiesburg
8:50 a.m. 10:10 a.m.

*Please check with Greyhound regarding luggage restrictions.

AMTRAK Train:

Phone: 1-800-872-7245

Web: www.amtrak.com

New Orleans to Hattiesburg:

\$21.00 on way (every day)

Departs New Orleans Arrives Hattiesburg
7:10 a.m. 9:37 a.m.

*Please check with Amtrak regarding luggage restrictions.

* Students whose arrival times conflict with regular bus and train schedules may reserve shuttle transport from the New Orleans, Jackson, or Gulfport airports. Reservations should be made at least 48 hours in advance.

DJ Shuttle Service:

Phone: (601) 544-7539

\$120 - to Hattiesburg from New Orleans, Jackson, or Gulfport (add \$10 for shuttles before 6:00 am and after 8:00 p.m.)

Short Trip Shuttle Service:

Phone: (866) 225-7433

Call for rates and schedules.

EARLY ARRIVAL

If you arrive before the report date on your I-20, expect to stay at least one night in a motel. We can try to arrange temporary housing with a current student, but this is not always possible.

Motels/Hotels close to Southern Miss include:

Western Motel, 3501 Hardy Street

Telephone: (601) 264-0010

Days Inn, 111 Thornhill Drive

Telephone: (601) 544-6300

Hampton Inn, Hwy 98 West

Telephone: (601) 264-8080

Super 8 Motel, 6529 Hwy 49 North

Telephone: (601) 264-2885

Ask if student discounts are available – you may have to present admissions documents as proof of student status.

Visit www.hattiesburg.org for further information about Hattiesburg and where to stay.

**The University of Southern Mississippi
International Student and Scholar Services
118 College Drive, #5151
Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001
(601) 266-4841**

Coming to the United States



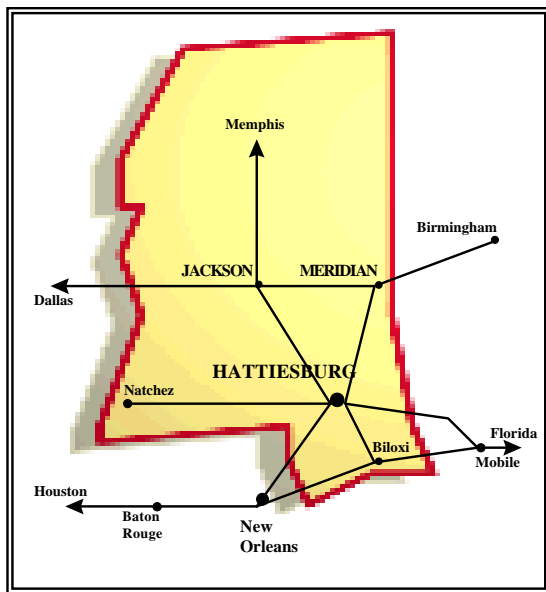
**Arrival instructions for
international students and
scholars at
The University of Southern
Mississippi**



WELCOME!

Thank you for choosing The University of Southern Mississippi. We are very pleased that you will be attending our institution and hope that your experience here will be a great one!

We know that you are probably anxious about traveling to Hattiesburg and beginning your degree program at Southern Miss. For this reason, we ask that you read the information contained in this brochure very carefully.



Miles to Hattiesburg From:

New Orleans ...	105 (169km)
Biloxi	75 (121km)
Mobile	98 (158km)
Pensacola	150 (241km)
Meridian	90 (145km)
Jackson	90 (145km)
Vicksburg	125 (201km)

IMMIGRATION

ABOUT YOUR FORM I-20/DS-2019

Your I-20 or Certificate of Eligibility for the F-1 student visa is enclosed. The terms and conditions of your entry into the United States as an F-1 student are detailed on page 2. Those coming to the United States as a J-1 Exchange Visitor have been issued the DS-2019 form. The terms and conditions of your J status are detailed on page 2. **Read the terms and conditions of your status carefully**, then sign and date the certification section at the bottom of page 1. **PLEASE NOTE:** Your spouse and/or children must be issued a separate I-20/DS-2019 if you wish to have them accompany you to the United States. Please contact our office for issuance of documents for your dependents.

When you apply for your visa at the U.S. Consulate/Embassy, you will be required to present your form I-20/DS-2019. Under no circumstances should the form I-20/DS-2019 be retained (in part or full) by the official. This original document should also be presented in full (all pages) at the port-of-entry into the United States. **PLEASE NOTE:** If you enter the U.S. on a Southern Miss I-20/DS-2019, you will be required to attend our institution for at least one semester before being eligible to transfer to another U.S. institution. Your failure to comply with this requirement could result in the violation of your F-1/J-1 status.

Attention students transferring to Southern Miss from schools inside the United States: You should bring your previous immigration documents along with your passport to the International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS). It is important to do this within the first 15 days of enrollment so that we can process your transfer with U.S. Immigration.

HEALTH CARE

When you register for classes you will be automatically enrolled in the university's group health insurance policy for Southern Miss international students. Enrollment in the group health insurance is required in order to cover illness and accident expenses you may incur while in school. The cost of the insurance is listed on your I-20 form. More details will be given at orientation.

IMMUNIZATION

Before you will be allowed to register at Southern Miss, you must show proof of the following immunizations:

1. Two doses of the vaccine for measles, mumps, and rubella (also known as MMR).
 2. Chest x-ray to screen for tuberculosis.
- The x-ray will be taken at the Southern Miss Health Clinic. **Do not** bring an x-ray film with you.

The Southern Miss Health Clinic fee for immunizations is \$20.00 or you may bring your vaccination records with you. The fee for the chest x-ray is \$65.00.

HOUSING

On-campus housing is available to all international students. You can get information at www.usm.edu/reslife. If you choose to live on campus, you will need to provide your own bed linens, pillow, blankets, towels, etc.

You may also choose to live off-campus. A guide to local apartments can be found at www.hattiesburgapartmentguide.com.

MONEY

To cover immediate expenses and the first payment on tuition and fees, we suggest you bring at least \$3,500 - \$4,500 with you. If you will receive a scholarship or assistantship, you should still bring extra money with you to meet immediate expenses such as transportation to Hattiesburg, hotel accommodations, food, apartment rent, bed linens, etc.

At the time of registration you will be expected to pay at least one-half of your fees for the semester. The balance of the fees must be paid before the beginning of the following semester. The university charges interest on unpaid balances.

**If you plan to pay by personal check, Southern Miss can only accept checks which have machine-readable routing information printed at the bottom of the check including bank routing number, account number, and check number.*

ORIENTATION

All new and transfer students are required to attend the International Student Orientation their first semester. Orientation is held prior to the beginning of classes. Students who fail to attend orientation will not be permitted to register for subsequent semesters until this obligation has been fulfilled. Carefully read the enclosed pre-arrival sheet for the dates and details of orientation. Please bring your passport and immigration documents with you to orientation.

Attention graduate students: You will be required to attend a separate orientation given by the Graduate School. Dates for this can be found at www.usm.edu/graduatestudies. You should also contact your major department to determine

if you are required to attend a departmental orientation program or take placement exams.