Email #1: Visa and UofM Email Account
Sent by early May

Greetings from Minnesota!

We at GO Minnesota are busy preparing for your arrival in August! We hope that you are also looking forward to your time in Minnesota. To help you prepare for your travel and study, we will be sending out periodic emails with information about your arrival, housing, courses, and more.

In this email we explain how to apply for your visa and how to start using your University of Minnesota (U of M) email account:

1. **Applying for your visa**: You will be receiving your I-20 from our office by early next week. Contact your nearest U.S. Embassy and use your signed I-20 to apply for an F-1 student visa. Please refer to the detailed information in our [Online Student Guide's Visa Section](). If you encounter problems during the visa application process, please contact us at gomn@umn.edu.

2. **Initiate and check your University of Minnesota email often!** Your U of M email (Example: [name123@umn.edu]()) is the official mode of communication for all U of M students, staff, and faculty. You are responsible for reading and understanding all email you receive from the University. If you have any questions, contact us at gomn@umn.edu. You can learn about all of the GO Minnesota team, what we do, who we are, and how we can help you from our [Online Student Guide's Ask Us For Help Section]().

Sincerely,
The GO Minnesota Team

Email #2: Arrival Date, Global Gopher Events, Housing
Sent by early June

Dear GO Minnesota Students,

This is your second pre-arrival email. In this letter we will cover when to arrive in Minnesota, welcome events, and your housing options.

1. **When to arrive in Minnesota**: As noted on our website, all students should arrive on campus **no later than the August 22nd**. This will allow you enough time to settle into your housing and remove any registration holds (including the AZ hold) that may prevent you from registering for classes during the GO Minnesota orientation which begins August 26th. For more information on your arrival in Minnesota and choosing your arrival date, visit our Online Student Guide: http://gomn.umn.edu/guide/arrival

2. **Global Gopher Events**: Global Gopher Events are welcome events designed specifically for new international students at the University of Minnesota. The various social and academic sessions cover everything from using the libraries to making friends. They are free for all new students! If you arrive early, we highly recommend taking part. Please do not plan to attend during your GO Minnesota Orientation sessions. https://isss.umn.edu/programs/ggumn/

3. **Housing**: Those of you who have applied for on campus housing will be receiving your housing assignments in July. For more information on housing and what to bring, visit our Online Student Guide: http://gomn.umn.edu/guide/arrival/what-bring. If you are not living in University-owned housing, you are responsible for finding your own accommodations. You can find more information on our Online Student Guide: http://gomn.umn.edu/guide/housing/options

If you have questions or concerns about your arrival in Minnesota, or your housing, please contact us at gomn@umn.edu.

Sincerely,
The GO Minnesota Team

Email #3: Deposits, Choosing Classes, and Orientation
Sent by early July

Dear GO Minnesota Students,

It is the height of summer here in Minnesota, but we're already thinking of September! We are looking forward to Fall semester and seeing you on campus!

In this pre-arrival email we will discuss deposits, how to choose classes, course registration, and the GO Minnesota orientation program. As always, please email us at gomn@umn.edu with any questions or concerns.

1. **Deposits:** A $500 deposit has been added to your student account. This confirms your participation in the program, and when paid, will be subtracted from your tuition and fees when you arrive in Minnesota. Please sign into MyU.umn.edu to pay your deposit (through the My Finances tab).
2. **Choosing Classes:** Choosing and registering for your classes can be stressful, but it does not have to be. Please follow our tips below and read the Online Student Guide for more information.
   a. You will register for 13-16 credits at the University (4-6 classes). However, you should *pre-select at least 8-10 classes*. Some classes may be full when you register, or you might not meet all the prerequisites of certain classes. Therefore, you should choose a few more classes than you will actually need.
   b. When you are searching for classes, pay attention to the prerequisites (the requirements for taking each class) and any GO Minnesota course restrictions.
   c. Be flexible and do not panic! As mentioned above, you may not get your first choice, but we will work with you to make sure you get the classes you need. Even if a course is currently full, it may open; and if it doesn't, we can help you find an alternative class.
   d. Using the University's Schedule Builder is an easy way to find open classes.You can search by key term or subject area.
3. **Class Registration:** You will register for classes once you have arrived on campus, completed the ISSS Check-In and Welcome, and removed any holds on your account. Once those steps are complete, GO Minnesota staff will help you register as part of your orientation program. Make sure to arrive early enough to remove your holds before the orientation program begins.
4. **GO Minnesota Orientation**: The mandatory orientation program will take place August 26-28 between 9:00 AM- 4:30 PM each day. You will receive a complete orientation schedule in early August.

Sincerely,
The GO Minnesota Team

Email #4: International Student Preparation Course and ISSS Check-in
Sent by mid July

Dear GO Minnesota Students,

We are so excited that you will be arriving on campus next month! This email is to remind you to complete **two very important items** before you arrive in Minnesota: The International Student Preparation Course and the ISSS Check-in and Welcome.

1. **International Student Preparation Course:** This online program is designed to help you learn about your non-immigrant status and prepare for success at the University of Minnesota. ***You should complete this orientation prior to your arrival in Minnesota.*** In total, the program will take approximately two hours to complete. You can find more information - and a link to the prep course - at http://gomn.umn.edu/guide/arrival/orientation.

   Here are a few tips for completing the online module:

   - You are a non-degree student. You are not a sponsored student.
   - Leah Brink is your program coordinator.
   - You are an F-1 Student.
   - You are a new student (not a transfer).

2. **ISSS Check-in and Welcome:** While completing the International Student Preparation Course you will be asked to sign-up for the ISSS Check-In and Welcome. When asked, schedule your your Check-in for **for August 26th**. We will attend this event together as part of your orientation program. *You must register and attend this session or you will not be allowed to register for courses.* You can find more information here: http://gomn.umn.edu/guide/arrival/orientation.

If you have any questions or concerns about the International Student Preparation Course or the ISSS Check-in, please contact us at gomn@umn.edu. And don't forget to complete the final items on your pre-arrival checklist!

Sincerely,
The GO Minnesota Team

Email #5: Arrival, request of arrival times, orientation schedule
Sent by early August

Dear GO Minnesota Students,

You will be arriving in Minnesota in just a few weeks. We hope you are as excited as we are!

In this email we will cover arriving at the airport, getting to campus, your flight times and information, and the GO Minnesota orientation schedule.

1. **Airport Arrival**: Welcome to the U.S.! Once you arrive at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, you will need to go through Customs and Border Protection (if it is your first port of entry into the U.S.). When you go through Customs and Border Protection, it is important to follow their instructions, have your I-20 and passport ready for review, and answer any questions the officer asks. The process is quite simple.

2. **Getting to Campus:** Once you have gone through customs and picked up your luggage, we recommend taking the [Gopher Chauffeur](http://gomn.umn.edu/guide/arrival/airport), the Light Rail Train, or reserving a Super Shuttle to get to campus. You can read more about your transportation options on our Online Student Guide:
   http://gomn.umn.edu/guide/arrival/airport

3. **Flight Times and Arrival Information**: Please send an email to gomn@umn.edu with the following information *no later than August 12, 2019*:
   a. Minnesota arrival date and time (example: August 22nd at 2:00 PM)
   b. Flight number (example: Delta 0000)
   c. Your contact information while traveling (mobile phone number)
   If you encounter problems while traveling and need assistance, email gomn@umn.edu or call our **emergency number**: *1-323-741-4666*

4. **GO Minnesota Orientation:** You are required to attend the mandatory GO Minnesota Orientation program August 26-28. Below is the orientation schedule. You will receive a complete itinerary when you check-in on August 26th:

   [Orientation Schedule will be added here in the email sent to students]

As always, please email us at gomn@umn.edu with any questions or concerns. See you soon!

Sincerely,
The GO Minnesota Team

Email #6: Welcome to Minnesota and Orientation Reminder
Sent by August 20

Welcome to the University of Minnesota!

Welcome, students! We're so excited that you are finally here on campus (or nearly here). We are very much looking forward to meeting you next week for orientation. Here are a few reminders for your first few days in Minnesota.

1. **Arrival Checklist:** After you arrive on campus and settle into your housing there are a few important tasks to complete.
    a. Upload your I-20, Passport copy, F-1 Visa, and I-94 to MyISSS.umn.edu.
    b. Remove any additional registration holds, such as an AZ hold.
    c. We recommend that you attend the Global Gopher Events this week, if you have time.
    d. And most importantly, attend the GO Minnesota Orientation program!
    You can find more information on all of these items in the Online Student Guide.

2. **Orientation Program:** We will see all of you on Monday for the GO Minnesota Orientation Program. Breakfast will be provided. Remember, **this program is mandatory**. Orientation activities will take place next Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm. You can view the entire schedule here: TBD

As always, please contact GO Minnesota if you have any questions or concerns! Have a great first week in Minnesota and we will see you soon!

Sincerely,
The GO Minnesota Team