New Students

This information is intended for newly-admitted students (degree, non-degree and exchange) who will begin their studies in Spring 2026 or Fall 2026.

Congratulations on Your Admission to Yale!

We are sure you have a lot of questions about next steps and how to prepare for your move to New Haven, so we have compiled the following resources to get you started on your journey to Yale. This guide contains information on everything from applying for your visa to packing your bags, so make sure you read through each subject carefully.
Important Note:
We have compiled a FAQ for new students [1] with the most common question you may have.

Getting Your I-20 or DS-2019

OISS will be issuing I-20 or DS-2019 forms to newly admitted students. There are several steps to this process (described in Applying for Your U.S. Visa [2]). You can expect your I-20 or DS-2019 (both sent electronically) 7 to 10 business days after you have submitted both your New Student Survey and the financial documentation. **Please allow us this time to complete the process before asking where your form is.** Please pay attention to your email as we will notify you if anything is missing.

International Student Orientation 2026 (Online Canvas Course)

For degree students, when you receive your I-20 (F-1) or DS-2019 (J-1), you will also separately receive an email invitation to complete your mandatory online orientation Canvas course (International Student Orientation 2026). This is an comprehensive pre-arrival online course that will guide you through your next steps in the onboarding process, including applying for your visa.

Look for the email with a subject line of ‘Course Invitation’ from 'Canvas@ Yale Bulldogs'. You can expect to receive this separate email invitation either on the same day with your immigration document, I-20 (F-1) or DS-2019 (J-1), or 1-2 business days before receiving your immigration document. Check out webpage for this Canvas course's access instructions [3].

After your arrival in New Haven, check in with OISS via OISS Connect [4]. As part of the check-in process, retrieve and input the completion code from the International Student Orientation 2026 Canvas course (in the last module, after the final quiz). Please review our webpage for detailed OISS check-in instructions [5].

Getting in Touch

If you have any questions not answered in the below pages or in our FAQs for new students **[1]**, please contact your OISS Adviser. You can find the OISS Adviser assigned to your school by using the search tool on our Connect with OISS [6] page.

Yale College undergraduate students should contact their designated OISS adviser, Daniel Riecker [7].

Hub Page View:



Outside the U.S.? Applying for Your U.S. Visa

Learn about the steps you need to take in order to begin the visa application process.

[2]



SEVIS Transfers, Change of Levels/Categories, and Change of Status

For students transferring from another university (F&J SEVIS transfers) or changing their status, who are already in the U.S.

[8]



Preparing for Yale

As you prepare to depart, you will have many questions about living in New Haven. We recommend you review these resources for many answers to your questions.

[9]



Travel & Arrival

How to get to Yale and what you need to be aware of once you arrive.

[10]



OISS Orientation

Information about registering for your OISS Orientation, accessing the compulsory Canvas course International Student Orientation 2026, and viewing the orientation slides.

[11]



Your First Two Weeks at Yale

A checklist of everything you'll need to do in your first two weeks.

[12]

Visa, Immigration Status, and Entry Stamp

Learn about the differences between a visa, your immigration status, and an entry stamp.

[13]

OISS Connect

How to use Yale's immigration reporting application

[14]

New Student FAQs

Find the answers to your most common questions here.

[1]

Source URL:https://oiss.yale.edu/getting-started/new-students

Links
[1] https://oiss.yale.edu/getting-started/new-students/faqs-for-new-students [2] https://oiss.yale.edu/getting-started/new-students/applying-for-your-us-visa [3] https://oiss.yale.edu/getting-started/new-students/oiss-orientation/international-student-orientation-2026-canvas-course [4] https://connect.oiss.yale.edu/ [5] https://oiss.yale.edu/getting-started/new-students/your-first-two-weeks#immdocs [6] https://oiss.yale.edu/about/connect-with-oiss [7] https://oiss.yale.edu/user/24251 [8] https://oiss.yale.edu/getting-started/new-students/sevis-transfers-change-of-levelscategories-and-change-of-status [9] https://oiss.yale.edu/getting-started/new-students/preparing-for-yale [10] https://oiss.yale.edu/getting-started/new-students/travel-arrival [11] https://oiss.yale.edu/getting-started/new-students/oiss-orientation [12] https://oiss.yale.edu/getting-started/new-students/your-first-two-weeks [13] https://oiss.yale.edu/travel-visas/for-students/visas/visa-immigration-status-and-entry-stamp [14] https://oiss.yale.edu/getting-started/new-students/oiss-connect