Checklist for Admitted USM Students

Preparation

- After receiving your letter of admission and I-20, make sure all of the information matches exactly the personal details on your passports.

- Canadian citizens do not need a visa but they will need to show their passports and I-20 at the border, as well as proof of financial support.

- Before you go to the Consulate, you must pay the SEVIS fee. Print and save a copy of the receipt and take it to your interview appointment (or to the border, if Canadian).

- You must provide proof of financial support for your studies and living cost at the visa interview and at the Port of Entry in the U.S.

- Make necessary arrangements with your financial sponsor to ensure that funds can be transferred as needed. Plan enough money to cover your first semester expenses.

- Once you have your visa you can make arrangements for your plane tickets.

- When you have obtained your visa and made travel plans, return notify the Office of International Programs of your arrival date and time via fax or email.

- You can arrive in the U.S. up to 30 days before the date shown on your I-20 form; however, you should not arrive later than the date listed on your I-20 in item #5.

- Apply for the University housing as early as possible. See the housing section for more details on options and application procedures.

- When you make your initial entrance into the U.S. you must have a visa issued specifically for USM and you must have your USM I-20.

- Carry emergency contact numbers from home and for USM.

- Do not send luggage in advance of your arrival since the University does not have adequate storage. Until you know your address in Maine you may have letters sent to the OIP address listed below.
Place tags or labels on all of your suitcases and hand luggage with your name and the OIP address:

University of Southern Maine  
Office of International Programs  
96 Falmouth Street  
101 Payson Smith  
Portland, ME 04103 USA

Include a copy of the address inside the suitcase in case the tag is lost or destroyed. If a piece of luggage is lost, file a claim immediately upon arrival at the Portland airport. Temporary loss of luggage is a common problem, especially when making connecting flights in a short period of time. Therefore it is advisable to have enough clothing and personal items packed in your carry-on to last for two or three days.

Travel Documents:

- Your passport must be valid for at least six months with the appropriate visa.
- You must carry your I-20 issued by the University of Southern Maine with you at all times while traveling.
- At border control they will stamp your I-20 and staple a white card called an I-94 card in your passport. This is a very important document so do not lose it.
- While traveling, carry all important documents, including money, bank drafts, traveler’s checks and passports with you and guard them carefully. Do not put them in your suitcase as you will need access to them quickly and easily.

For more information on what to expect when entering the US please see our website titled “Arriving in the US” (www.usm.maine.edu/international/arriving-us)