Congratulations on your admission to Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. To ensure your trip to the United States is as smooth as possible, please make sure you do the following:

1. Obtain Your Student Visa
   - Check your I-20 or DS-2019 for accuracy. If any information is incorrect, email the Office of Graduate and International Admissions at intladm@siue.edu.
   - Pay your SEVIS fee. Instructions can be found on the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement website at fmjfee.com. Make sure to type your name and SEVIS ID number exactly as they appear on your I-20 or DS-2019 form. Print a copy of the online payment receipt to keep with your records.
   - Schedule your visa appointment. You may schedule your appointment up to 120 days prior to your program start date. Locate the nearest U.S. Consulate or Embassy at usembassy.gov. More information regarding the visa process, including average wait times, can be found by visiting the U.S. Department of State website at travel.state.gov/visas/en.html.
   - Attend your visa appointment. Bring all required documents, including your passport (valid at least six months into the future), a printed copy of your I-20 or DS-2019, your SEVIS fee payment receipt, your admission letter, evidence of financial support for one year, and any visa application forms and fees.

2. Get Connected to SIUE
   - Activate your SIUE electronic username (e-ID) and email account at siue.edu/e-id (video tutorial: siue.edu/e-id-video). Your SIUE ID number (800xxxxxx) is listed on your admission letter. Check your SIUE email account regularly for important University information and updates.
   - Explore CougarNet (siue.edu/cougarnet), our online system for managing your personal information, registering for classes, viewing your bill and more. You must read and agree to the financial statement to remove the registration hold on your account (video tutorial: siue.edu/financial-agreement-video).

3. Make Housing Arrangements
   - Information regarding living on campus can be found at siue.edu/housing. You will need to complete a housing application and pay a $300 advance payment for University housing. Cougar Village apartments are located on campus and are open year round. These units have full kitchens and can accommodate families, as well as individual students.
   - Information about off-campus housing options can be found at offcampushousing.siue.edu. SIUE does not provide housing support for students who choose to live off campus.

4. Complete Health Service Requirements
   - Specific immunizations are required for all international students enrolled at SIUE. We recommend that you complete your immunizations before arrival. Visit siue.edu/healthservice/immunization for a list of required immunizations.
   - Immunization records not in English must be accompanied by a certified translation.
   - Immunizations required upon arrival will cost from $75-$200.

5. Register for New Student Orientation and Classes
   - International student orientation is mandatory for all new international students and will be held the week prior to the start of the semester. Visit siue.edu/isss/arrival/orientation-schedule for information about registering for this orientation.
   - Once you have received your student visa, undergraduate students may request a virtual advising appointment to assist with registration by contacting the Office of Academic Advising at siue.edu/oaa or via email at advising@siue.edu. Graduate students should contact their graduate program director for information about registration. A list of graduate program directors can be found at siue.edu/graduate-program-directors. Students may not register for classes before obtaining their student visa.

6. Prepare For Your First Week On Campus
   - Gather all documents to be submitted upon your arrival. These may include, but are not limited to, official copies of your transcript, diploma or any other items listed on your acceptance letter. You will need to bring these documents to the admissions office upon your arrival to remove any registration holds on your account.
   - Be prepared to pay your tuition and fees. International students are not required to make a payment before arriving in the U.S. However, a payment should be made soon after registration is complete. Learn more about how and when to pay your SIUE bill at siue.edu/pay-my-bill.
   - Bring enough money to cover your initial expenses when you arrive: $3,000-$4,000 is recommended. Remember, you may need to pay your housing security deposit and first month’s rent, purchase books and supplies, and cover other personal expenses, such as transportation, food and communications. You will have the ability to open a bank account at a U.S. banking institution during the week of orientation, and will be able to pay for your expenses through this account.

7. Visit the “Arrival at SIUE” Website at siue.edu/isss/arrival for more information including the recommended arrival dates and how to request airport pick-up. Upon arrival in Edwardsville, you should plan to check in with International Student and Scholar Services, located in Room 0300 in the Student Success Center. Bring your passport and I-20/DS-2019 to complete your immigration check-in at SIUE.