

F-1	Students on an F-1 Visa
FAM	Family of International Students
TCK	Third Culture and Missionary Kid Students
IMPA	International and Missionary Student Peer Advisors



Wednesday, August 19, 2026

2:00PM – 4:00PM

F-1	FAM
TCK	IMPA

International Student Registration

All students should check in for International Student Orientation, receive their packets, pick up ID cards and room keys, receive Messiah University swag, gain information about bank accounts and move into Residence Halls. **(F-1 Visa Students** – Please bring passport, visa and Form I-20 and have them readily accessible as copies will be made) *IMPAs will provide move-in support and directions to locations. There will be vans to assist families in bringing belongings to their rooms.*

Eisenhower Campus Center// First Floor Lobby

3:30PM – 5:00PM

F-1	FAM
TCK	IMPA

Campus Tour

Optional Students and parents are welcome to take an informative campus tour led by our Admissions Tour Guides. This would be a helpful activity for those who have never visited Messiah's campus!

Meet in the Eisenhower First Floor Lobby at 3:45pm

The tour will depart promptly at 4:00pm

5:30PM – 7:00PM

F-1	FAM
TCK	IMPA

Welcome Dinner

Come celebrate your first official night at Messiah University! Dr. Todd Allen (Vice President for Diversity Affairs), our MISP Office staff, International Admissions, IMPA mentors, and others from around campus will be there to provide an overview of the next few days. We will also eat a delicious dinner together.

Larsen Student Union, First Floor

8:00PM – 10:00PM

F-1	
TCK	IMPA

Game Night

Optional Gather for some fun games in the Union! The IMPAs will be leading different group games and board games. Please stop by and enjoy a fun atmosphere and some sweet & savory snacks.

Larsen Student Union, Second Floor

Thursday, August 20, 2026

8:30AM – 9:00AM



Welcome Breakfast

We are getting an early start, so swing by for a hot and delicious breakfast catered in Boyer Hall, a prominent academic building. We will be in this room for most of the morning.

Boyer Hall, Room 131

9:00AM – 9:30AM



Introduction

Director of International Student Programs Amy Nicols Villeda will start with an overview of the day and some important details as students and families continue to eat their breakfast.

Boyer Hall, Room 131

9:30AM – 10:15AM



What is the Registrar's Office?

A representative from the Registrar's Office will answer questions, talk about academic things, and explain why you need to know what FERPA is and why you should be in touch with their Office!

Boyer Hall, Room 131

10:15AM – 10:45AM



Money Matters

A representative from Student Financial Services will tell you about necessary information regarding tuition payments and other financial related matters. There will also be a short time for questions.

Boyer Hall, Room 131

11:00AM – 12:00PM



Session with International Admissions Staff

International Admission Personnel will provide a time to answer any questions about Messiah University.

Boyer Hall, Room 134

11:00AM – 12:00PM



F-1 Visa Advising

Director of International Student Programs Amy Nicols will lead this session. As the Principal Designated School Official (PDSO), she will provide an introduction and important review of F-1 visa regulations and how to stay in status while in the USA. (Only required for those students at Messiah University on an F-1 visa).

Boyer Hall, Room 131

11:00AM – 12:00PM



MK/TCK Transitions

Our speaker will focus on major themes facing MK/TCK students such as acknowledging and naming the task of reentry, perception of support, valuing open communication and permission to experience reentry differently from others. There will also be time to share stories.

Boyer Hall, Room 130

12:00PM – 12:30PM



IMPA Panel & Conclusion

The “IMPA” Peer Mentors will share their wisdom as upper-class students and share with the new students about things that they wish they had known in their first year at Messiah University.

Boyer 131

12:30PM – 1:30PM



Lunch

Meet with fellow students and IMPA mentors to go to lunch in Lottie. Remember to bring your “early arrival” meal card. Meal tickets provided for those parents and guests who need them. (*Contact Amy or Lita for meal tickets.*)

Lottie Nelson Dining Hall

1:30PM – 5:30PM



Shopping Trip

International students and their families will have the opportunity to get off campus to the “Carlisle Pike” shopping area in Mechanicsburg, PA. This will be a time for students to purchase things such as bed linens, kitchen supplies, room décor, etc. We will be close to larger stores such as [Walmart](#) and [Target](#). *Transportation will be provided.*

Meet at the Eisenhower Circle // Mechanicsburg, PA

5:30PM – 6:30PM



Dinner

Meet with fellow students and IMPAs to go to dinner in Lottie. Remember to bring your “early arrival” meal card given to you at the beginning of International Orientation. Meal tickets provided for those parents and guests who need them. (*Contact Amy for meal tickets.*)

Lottie Nelson Dining Hall

7:30PM – 9:30PM



Student Coffeehouse

This is a beloved tradition on Multicultural Move-In Day! All our international students are welcome to join the Multicultural Council (MCC) as they host this Coffeehouse. Anyone can show their talents and perform. (This event is for students only.)

Larsen Student Union

Friday, August 21, 2026

7:00AM – 8:00AM



Breakfast

Remember your “early arrival” meal card/ID card.

Lottie Nelson Dining Hall

9:00AM – 9:30AM



Continental Breakfast

A light continental breakfast (fruit, pastries, and coffee) will be served before the Worship and Praise service starts.

Just a note: No food permitted inside Parmer Hall.

The High Center, Lobby Area outside Parmer Hall

9:30AM – 10:15AM



Multicultural & International Worship and Praise

Come together with first-year multicultural and international students and their families. There will be a time of singing and a sermon.

The High Center, Parmer Hall

12:00PM – 1:00PM



Lunch with IMPAs

Meet with fellow students and IMPA mentors to go to lunch in Lottie. Lottie will be open to everyone on this day. No meal card or tickets will be needed.

Lottie Nelson Dining Hall

5:00PM – 6:00PM



Dinner with IMPAs

Meet with fellow students and IMPA mentors to go to dinner in Lottie. Lottie will be open to everyone on this day. No meal card or tickets will be needed.

Lottie Nelson Dining Hall

7:00PM – 8:30PM



Candlelight Service of Worship & Welcome

This event welcomes all new students to the Messiah University community and reminds us of God's presence. The International Community will have a section reserved for students up near the front. Multicultural and International Student Programs (MISP) Staff will be there to welcome and support the students during this tradition. *(Doors will open at 6:00pm).*

Hitchcock Arena, Sollenberger Sports Center

Fri, Aug. 21 – Mon, Aug. 24, 2026



Welcome Week

All International Students are expected to participate in Welcome Week 2026, a time for all new and transfer students to Messiah University.

At some point on Friday, August 21, be sure to pass through Brubaker Auditorium to pick up your Welcome Week swag and check-in.

See more details here: <https://www.messiah.edu/welcomeweek> or download the *Messiah University Guides* for more information.