

# **PRE-ARRIVAL INFORMATION FOR F-1 STUDENTS AT WAKE TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

## **1) Date of Arrival:**

It is recommended that you try to arrive in the Raleigh area at least two weeks prior to the report date listed on page one of your I-20 Form. This is to ensure that you have sufficient time to:

- a) **Locate Housing**
- b) **Arrange Transportation** – This involves either familiarizing yourself with the public buses or buying a car and getting your North Carolina driver’s license. Most students find it difficult to live in the Raleigh area without having access to a car.
- c) **Placement Testing, Advising, and Orientation** – All applicants to Wake Technical Community College are required to take a placement test in English and Mathematics; unless, they have TOEFL and/or SAT scores that exempt them from this requirement. (Students in the EFL program only need to take the English placement test.) You will be scheduled for placement testing once you have arrived in the Raleigh area. After the test, you will meet with an academic advisor to choose your courses for the coming semester. You will be able to register only after your meeting with your advisor. Orientation usually takes place during the week before classes begin and is required for all international students.

## **2) Financial Requirements:**

Please be aware of the following financial requirements when planning your arrival to Wake Technical Community College. Failure to have adequate financial resources upon your arrival may result in delays or difficulties with your registration process and could jeopardize your student visa status.

- a) Your tuition and fees are due when you register for classes. Failure to pay for registered classes will result in deletion of your registration.
- b) Wake Technical Community College accepts checks, cash, major credit cards or money orders for payment of registration.
- c) For tuition and fees for international students, please refer to estimated expenses at <http://international.waketech.edu>.

\*These are the current figures. Tuition and fees are set by the NC State Legislature and are subject to change at anytime.

- d) Registration usually opens 6 weeks before classes begin and continues until 5 days after classes have started. Students are encouraged to register as early as possible to ensure that the classes they need are available. Students who arrive late or do not have the financial resources to pay for their classes at the time of registration are at risk of getting closed out of classes.

To summarize: International students should have at least \$6,000 readily available for payment of tuition, fees, and books upon arrival. This may be in the form of cash, check, major credit card, or money order payable to "Wake Technical Community College."

In addition, at least \$2,000.00 to \$5,000.00 more should be available for immediate living and transportation expenses in the form of cash, cashier's checks, or credit cards. Obviously, costs will vary according to individual needs and will be significantly reduced if you have a sponsor or relative who lives in the Raleigh area.

### **3) What to Bring:**

Wake Tech is located about 10 miles south of downtown Raleigh, North Carolina. It is a suburban, commuter campus with no dormitories or on-campus housing. If you would like to request a relocation packet from the Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce, it can be mailed to you, which will include a fee. Call (919) 664-7004 to request that information.

Most international students recommend that you bring at least the following items with you:

- a) Plenty of casual, comfortable clothing including comfortable walking shoes. (Americans tend to be quite informal and college students are very informal.) A few formal or dressy clothes for special occasions. Lightweight, cotton clothing for the hot, humid summers.
- b) A warm jacket, hat, and gloves if you will be arriving in the winter (November/December). Raleigh winter weather is unpredictable and may change from warm to cold very rapidly. Snow is rare but may occur along with freezing rain or ice. If you are from a tropical or semi-tropical climate, you will need to prepare for what is comparatively a colder climate in the winter months.
- c) Tapes or CDs of your favorite music from your home country.
- d) Small, inexpensive souvenir items that reflect your home country's heritage or culture. These can be given as gifts to new friends or displayed to represent your country at festivals or information days on your college campus.
- e) Photos of your family and home to share with your friends and teachers.
- f) Camera, tape recorder (for recording academic lectures and pronunciation practice for EFL students. Also, to send tapes of your experiences home to your family).

- g) A comprehensive, compact bilingual dictionary.
- h) A sturdy book bag, knapsack, or briefcase to carry your books and notebooks while at school.
- i) A secure money belt or concealed purse (preferably worn under your clothing) to carry your immigration documents, cash ID cards, credit cards while traveling.
- j) Books or magazines from your home country.
- k) A reliable watch or travel clock (Americans expect punctuality).
- l) Identification documents such as driver's license from your home country, certified copy of your birth certificate, any other picture identity cards. These will help you to obtain ID documents in the U.S.
- m) Any prescription medicines that you take on a regular basis that may be difficult to obtain in the U.S. Preferred non-prescription medicines that you are accustomed to and may only be available in your home country.
- n) An extra pair of glasses or contact lenses, if applicable.

If you do not have a sponsor, friend, or relative in the Raleigh area who you will be living with, there will be many additional items needed for everyday living such as pots, pans, and dishes for cooking and eating, sheets, blankets, pillows, and basic furniture (if you move into an unfurnished apartment) etc. Many of these items can be purchased used at yard sales, thrift sales or new from discount stores such as Target or Wal-Mart. Please note it is an expensive experience to setting up an apartment, so please plan accordingly.