



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT RESOURCE BOOKLET

2026 - 2027



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International Student Office

What is the International Student Office?

The International Student Office is here to serve our F-1 international students and their families. Our DSOs (Designated School Officials) are dedicated in assisting and overseeing enrolled F1 students. The International Student Office is the main contact for international students who are on an F-1 visa here at Southeastern.

The International Student Office is located in Stealey Hall and is part of the Admissions Office. We are happy to assist you in any way we are able. We can direct you to resources that will help you solve problems and answer questions, such as renewing your I-20s, getting a driver's license, understanding your lease, or even finding a bank. We understand that you are in a completely new culture and environment, so we are here to help you!

For general F-1 student related questions or for anything related to your finances, legal status, or relational, spiritual, and daily living matters, please contact Camille Doane.

Admissions Office

admissions@sebts.edu

[919-761-2324](tel:919-761-2324)



Camille Doane (PDSO)

International Student Coordinator

cdoane@sebts.edu

919-761-2322

SEBTS Contact Information

Accounting Services	(919)761-2207
Campus Security	(919)291-1903
Counseling Center	counselingservices@sebts.edu
Facilities/Maintenance	(919)761-2400
After-Hours Maintenance	(919)369-1781
Financial Aid	(919)761-2317
Health Center	(919)569-0003
International Office	(919)761-2322
Akin Front Desk	(919)761-2300
Library	(919)761-2251
The Locker	(919)761-2183
Magnolia Kitchen	(919)761-2139
Registrar	(919)761-2215
Share Shop	shareshop@sebts.edu
Student Employment	(919)761-2820

Campus Services

Accounting Services

The Accounting Services Office is located in Stealey Hall and is open from 8:00-5:00 (M-Th) and 8:00-4:00 on Fridays. This is where you will go to pay your campus housing rent and other student account fees.

Chapel

Chapel is held on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week that school is in session. It begins at 10:30AM in Binkley Chapel. For a listing of upcoming chapel speakers, visit sebts.edu.

Health Center

Southeastern offers an on-campus Health Center directed by a physician for students, faculty, and staff as well as their families. The Health Center also offers massage therapy and chiropractic services. The Health Center is located on Rock Springs Road across from Wake Forest High School.

Akin Student Center

The Akin Student Center is the campus recreational center for students and their families. To use the various recreational services, you need to present your student ID card or dependent ID card at the front desk. There are age requirements for certain areas.

The Locker

The Locker sells Southeastern merchandise and is located in the Akin Center. You can purchase Southeastern shirts, jackets, shorts, hats, notebooks, and more. The Locker's hours of operation are 9:00-4:00 (M-F).

Magnolia Kitchen

Magnolia Kitchen is the campus dining area and is conveniently located in the Akin Student Center. Meal plans are available as well as purchasing individual meals and grab-and-go options.

Share Shop

The Share Shop is located across from Wake Forest High School behind the Health Center. It is designed to distribute donated clothing, household appliances, accessories, toys, and more to SEBTS college and seminary families free of charge.

Student Resources & Financial Aid

The Student Resources and Financial Aid Office can provide assistance with student military benefits and financial aid.

Local Churches

Bay Leaf Baptist Church

12200 Bayleaf Church Rd, Raleigh, NC 27614
(919) 847-4477
www.bayleaf.org

Faith Baptist Church

249 Holden Rd, Youngsville, NC 27596
(919) 556-3420
www.faithnc.org

Exchange Church

307 S Main St, Rolesville, NC 27571
(919) 694-3924
www.exchangenc.org

Mt. Vernon Baptist Church

7600 Falls of Neuse Rd, Raleigh, NC 27615
(919) 847-0160
www.mvbcraleigh.com

North Wake

1212 S Main St, Wake Forest, NC 27587
(919) 556-1546
www.northwake.com

Open Door

9801 Durant Rd, Raleigh, NC 27614
(919) 847-6969
www.opendoorlife.com

Richland Creek

3229 Burlington Mills Rd, Wake Forest, NC 27587
(919) 556-9292
www.richlandcreek.com

Summit Church

3901 Capital Hills Dr, Raleigh, NC 27616
(919) 670-3276
www.summitchurch.com

Wake Crossroads

3328 Forestville Rd, Raleigh, NC 27616
(919) 266-2957
www.wakecrossroads.com

Imago Dei Church

9200 Strickland Rd, Raleigh, NC 27615
919-435-2334
www.idcraleigh.com

This is not an exhaustive list of churches in the area.

Local Services

Banking

One of the most important things you should do is to open a bank account. It is not wise to carry large amounts of cash with you. Compare services and fees before you open an account locally. Remember to ask about the arrangements for transferring funds overseas since some banks can accommodate this better than others.

Required documents to set up a bank account:

- Passport
- I-20
- Letter stating proof of residence
- Student ID card (not required, but some banks may have student deals)
- SSN or ITIN (not required at all banks, but helpful)

With your bank account you can apply for an ATM card, which will give you access to a vast number of 24-hour Automated Teller Machines. You will be given a Personal Identification Number (PIN) to use when accessing your account; memorize it and do not give it to anyone. These machines can be found at banks or shopping centers and are a useful way of withdrawing cash from your account.

Be sure to bring enough cash and/or traveler's checks to see you through the first few weeks as you wait for your bank account to open.

Local banks in the area:

PNC

14400 Falls of Neuse Rd, Raleigh, NC 27614

First Citizens

14400 Falls of Neuse Rd, Raleigh, NC 27614

Bank of America

919 Gateway Commons Cir, WF, NC 27587

Wells Fargo

3600 Rogers Rd, Wake Forest, NC 27587

Chase Bank

11065 Ligon Mill Rd, Wake Forest, NC 27587

Truist

1821 S Main St, Wake Forest, NC 27587



Local Services

Social Security Number

Social Security Card: The Social Security card identifies wage earners for tax purposes and this number is often used as a general ID number for opening new accounts and services. It is also the number used to track your credit history in the U.S. You must wait 10-14 days after arrival in the U.S. before you apply for the Social Security card. Visit the Social Security Administration's website at www.ssa.gov for more information.

To get a Social Security Card, you must bring:

- Passport
- I-20
- I-94 (recommended, but not required)
- Completed Form SS-5 (ssa.gov)
- Letters of employment: one from the DSO; one from the SEBTS HR Director

Address:

Social Security Office
3315 Poole Road, Raleigh, NC 27610 (Unit 100)
(800) 772-1213 | <https://www.ssa.gov/>

Driver's License

The International Driver's Permit is not recognized in North Carolina. To purchase a car and drive in NC, you must seek a NC license within 60 days of arrival. Be sure to plan ahead as the process of obtaining a North Carolina driver's license can take many weeks.

To obtain a driver's license, you must do the following:

- Go to a local Driver's License Office and bring the following:
 - Passport
 - I-20
 - I-94
 - SSN card (recommended, but not required)
 - Proof of address (2 documents)
 - Liability insurance (for the driving test)
- You will be asked to take a computer test on the contents of the manual. If you answer the required questions correctly and pass the vision test, you will be issued either a temporary license or a learner's permit.
- Finally, you will be required to take a practical driving test before you are issued a permanent license. You will need proof of car liability insurance for the driving portion.

DMV Locations:

2431 Spring Forest Road, Raleigh, NC 27615	(919) 855-6877
1080 Eastern Blvd, Henderson, NC 27536	(252) 438-8930
2851 Wendell Blvd, Wendell, NC 27591	(919) 365-9516
701 W Grantham St, Goldsboro, NC 27530	(919) 731-7963

For full details and appointments, visit: <https://www.ncdot.gov/dmv>

Medical Services

Hospitals

Duke Raleigh Hospital

3400 Wake Forest Rd, Raleigh, NC 27609
(919) 954-3000

UNC REX Hospital

4420 Lake Boone Trail, Raleigh, NC 27607
(919) 784-3100

WakeMed Raleigh Campus

3000 New Bern Ave, Raleigh, NC 27610
(919) 350-8000

WakeMed North Hospital

10000 Falls of Neuse Rd, Raleigh, NC 27614
(919) 350-8000

Urgent Care & Family Care

Heritage Urgent & Primary Care

620 Dr Calvin Jones Hwy, #212
Wake Forest, NC 27587
(919) 761-5678

Novant Health

3213 Rogers Rd, Wake Forest, NC 27587
(919) 562-2288

Main Street Family Care

2115-A S Main St, Wake Forest, NC 27587
(919) 229-4833

Capital Family Medicine

10831 Forest Pines Dr, Raleigh, NC 27614
(919) 488-8066

Pharmacies

CVS Pharmacy

245 E Roosevelt Ave
Wake Forest, NC 27587

Walgreens

941 Durham Rd
Wake Forest, NC 27587

Walmart Pharmacy

2114 S Main St
Wake Forest, NC 27587



Grocery Stores

Aldi

2132 S Main St, Wake Forest, NC 27587

Caspian International Food Mart

2909 Brentwood Rd, Raleigh, NC 27604

Petra Supermarket

6089 Capital Blvd, Brentwood, NC 27616

Food Lion

161 Crenshaw Corners Dr, Wake Forest, NC 27587

Harris Teeter

13686 Capital Blvd, Wake Forest, NC 27587
3638 Rogers Rd, Wake Forest, NC 27587

Taiba Halal Market

1008 W Chapel Hill St, Durham, NC 27701

Lidl

1120 S Main St, Wake Forest, NC 27587

Lowe's Foods

12524 Capital Blvd, Wake Forest, NC 27587
932 Gateway Commons Cir, Wake Forest, NC 27587

Sprouts Farmer's Market

9414 Falls of Neuse Rd, Ste 120, Raleigh, NC 27615

Target

12000 Retail Dr, Wake Forest, NC 27587

Walmart

2114 S Main St, Wake Forest, NC 27587

H Mart

1961 High House Rd, Cary, NC 27519

Kim's Asian Market & Restaurant

6014 Duraleigh Rd, Raleigh, NC 27612

Navadhaanya

12223 Hampton Way, #100, Wake Forest, NC 27587

Around the World Market

6715 Hillsborough St, Raleigh, NC 27606

La Potosina

406 US-1, Youngsville, NC 27596

International Foods

2215 New Hope Church Rd, Raleigh, NC 27604

El Mandado

2950 E Millbrook Rd, Raleigh, NC 27604

Super Compare Foods

2000 Avondale Dr A, Durham, NC 27704

Grand Asia Market

1253 Buck Jones Rd, Raleigh, NC 27606

Interfood Plaza Latina

1689 N Market Dr, Suite D, Raleigh, NC 27609

This is not an exhaustive list of grocery stores.

Local Dining

Lazeez Indian

1318 S Main St, Wake Forest, NC 27587

Flame Kabob

7961 Skyland Ridge Pkwy, Raleigh, NC 27617

Las Margaritas Mexican Restaurant

111 S White St, Wake Forest, NC 27587

Olive Garden

12600 Capital Blvd, Wake Forest, NC 27587

Sassool

9650 Strickland Rd, Raleigh, NC 27615

Smithfield's Chicken 'N Bar-B-Q

12504 Capital Blvd, Wake Forest, NC 27587

Shorty's Hot Dogs

214 S White St, Wake Forest, NC 27587

Showmar's

1009 Stadium Dr, Wake Forest, NC 27587

Tlaquepaque

11206 Capital Blvd, Wake Forest, NC 27587

Tropical Picken Chicken

109 Capcom Ave, #6515, Wake Forest, NC 27587

Asuka Asian Bistro

2101 S Main St, Wake Forest, NC 27587

Cava

515 Dr Calvin Jones Hwy, Wake Forest, NC 27587

Pho Super 9

6401 Triangle Plantation Dr, #111, Raleigh, NC 27616

Sushi Siam

928 Gateway Commons Cir, Wake Forest, NC 27587

Thai Cafe

3309 Rogers Rd, Wake Forest, NC 27587

The Curry Club

3281 Avent Ferry Rd, Ste 117, Raleigh, NC 27606

Empanada Factory

2010 S Main St, #406, Wake Forest, NC 27587

Alpaca

1608 Mangum Ave, Wake Forest, NC 27587

Torchy's Tacos

505 Dr Calvin Jones Hwy, #110, Wake Forest, NC 27587

Korean Kitchen

2101 S Main St, #100, Wake Forest, NC 27587

Curry House

2101 S Main St, #116, Wake Forest, NC 27587

This is not an exhaustive list of restaurants.

Local Attractions

Marbles Kids Museum

201 E Hargett St, Raleigh, NC 27601
Friday - Wednesday: 10:00am-5:00pm
Thursday: 10:00am-7:00pm

Marquee Cinema

10600 Common Oaks Dr, Raleigh, NC 27614

North Carolina State Fair

1025 Blue Ridge Rd, Raleigh, NC 27607
Dates: mid-Oct each year

North Carolina State Farmer's Market

1201 Agriculture St, Raleigh, NC 27603
Sunday - Saturday: 9:00am-5:00pm

North Carolina Museum of Art

2110 Blue Ridge Rd, Raleigh, NC 27607
Wednesday - Sunday: 10:00am-5:00pm

Fantasy Lake Adventure Park

3601 Quarry Rd, Wake Forest, NC 27587
Sunday - Saturday: 7:00am-7:00pm
Water park, scuba diving

North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences

11 W Jones St, Raleigh, NC 27601
Sunday - Saturday: 10:00am-5:00pm

Triangle Town Center Mall

5959 Triangle Town Blvd, Raleigh, NC 27616
Monday - Saturday: 10:00am-8:00pm
Sunday: 12:00pm-6:00pm

Wake Forest Farmer's Market

235 S Taylor St, Wake Forest, NC 27587
Saturday 8:00am-12:00pm

Local Recreation

Strike & Barrel

413 S Brooks St, Wake Forest, NC 27587
Bowling

E Carroll Joyner Park

701 Harris Rd, Wake Forest, NC 27587
Trails, open areas, playground

Falls Lake Recreation Area

13304 Creedmore Rd, Wake Forest, NC 27587
Hiking, biking, swimming

Galaxy Fun Park

14460 Falls of Neuse Rd, Ste 145,
Raleigh, NC 27614
Trampoline park

Holding Park

133 W Owen Ave, Wake Forest, NC 27587
Playground, picnic areas, pool

J. B. Flaherty Park

1100 N White St, Wake Forest, NC 27587
Playground, picnic areas

Taylor Street Park Sprayground

416 N Taylor St, Wake Forest, NC 27587
Playground, picnic areas, water play areas

Neuse River Greenway Trail

Parking @ Neuse Riverwalk Trailhead
12081 Old Falls of Neuse Rd
Wake Forest, NC 27587

Akin Student Center

On campus at SEBTS
Fitness Rooms
Racquetball Room
Basketball Courts
Disc Golf Course
Game Room: Pool, Air Hockey, Foosball,
Ping Pong, Other Games

School Information

Your child will be in the Wake County Public Schools district. For information regarding which school your child must attend can be obtained by calling 919-533-7169 or visiting their website at <http://www.wcpss.net/>.

A lot of helpful information regarding the school system, registration/enrollment process, and other information about the school they will be attending can be found on the Wake County Public Schools website as well as the website for the school that your child/children will be attending.

Here is a list of the public schools assigned to campus housing:

Duplexes, McDowell, & Fletcher:

Wake Forest iSTEM Magnet Elementary School

406 S Main St, Wake Forest, NC 27587
(919) 554-8655

Wake Forest Middle School

1800 S Main St, Wake Forest, NC 27587
(919) 554-8440

Wake Forest High School

420 W Stadium Ave, Wake Forest, NC 27587
(919) 554- 8611

Flaherty Farms:

Heritage Elementary School

3500 Rogers Rd, Wake Forest, NC 27587
(919) 562-6000

Heritage Middle School

3400 Rogers Rd, Wake Forest, NC 27587
(919) 562-6204

Wake Forest High School

420 W Stadium Ave, Wake Forest, NC 27587
(919) 554-8611

There are options for private and charter schools. More information on these schools can be found by searching online. Below is a list of charter schools that many of our families choose to send their children to:

Thales Academy

3106 Heritage Trade Dr, Wake Forest, NC 27587
(919) 453-6415

Franklin Academy

Grades K-2: 604 S Franklin St
Wake Forest, NC 27587
(919) 435- 5090

Grades 3-8: 1127 Chalk Rd
Wake Forest, NC 27587
(919) 570-8262

Endeavor Charter School

4879 1 World Way, Wake Forest, NC 27587
(919) 848-0333

United States Holidays

There are many different American holidays. Some days are considered “official holidays” when businesses and schools are closed; others are celebrations or occasions noted by decorations or special greetings. Southeastern does not close for all “official holidays.”

Legal Holidays Observed at Southeastern:

Make sure to check the academic calendar available at campusnet.sebts.edu to confirm when offices are closed or classes are not held.

- Christmas Eve, December 24th
- Christmas Day, December 25th
- New Year’s Day, January 1st
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, third Monday in January
- Good Friday, the Friday before Easter
- Memorial Day, the last Monday in May
- Independence Day, July 4th
- Labor Day, first Monday in September
- Thanksgiving Day, 4th Thursday in November

The following page contains information about the significance and traditions behind many major United States holidays.



United States Holidays

*Primary holidays celebrated in the U.S. (Official holidays are marked with an *):*

* **New Year's Day, January 1**, is an official holiday when most Americans relax or watch major football games. Many think about changes they'd like to make during the coming year, and make "New Year's Resolutions."

* **Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday, January 15**, observed the third Monday in January, it honors the leader of the civil-rights movement in America during the 1960's.

Valentine's Day, February 14, honors sweethearts and romance.

Good Friday, Friday before Easter, some businesses close and churches have services.

Easter Sunday, varies in date from late March to late April. Many churches have a "Sunrise Service" early in the morning. Families celebrate with worship and Easter egg hunts for children.

Mother's Day, the second Sunday in May, is for honoring moms, usually with cards and gifts.

* **Memorial Day, the fourth Monday in May**, Americans remember those who have died in military service to their country.

Father's Day, the third Sunday in June, is for honoring dads, usually with cards and gifts.

* **Independence Day, the Fourth of July**, commemorates the day the Declaration of Independence was signed in Philadelphia on July 4, 1776. Usually considered the birthday of the nation, it is celebrated all over the country with picnics, community events, and fireworks displays.

* **Labor Day, the first Monday in September**, recognizes the labor movement's contribution to the productivity of the country. Signals the end of the summer.

* **Thanksgiving Day, the fourth Thursday in November**, celebrates the first "Thanksgiving Day" of the Pilgrims at Plymouth Colony in Massachusetts in 1621. It is a big day for Americans to get together with family and friends.

* **Christmas Eve, December 24**, most businesses close at noon so that people can travel or prepare for the celebration of Christmas.

* **Christmas Day, December 25**, celebrated by most Americans. Schools and businesses close.

New Year's Eve, December 31, celebrated as a time to welcome the New Year.

United States Culture and Values

It is important to venture out of your own cultural group and make new friendships. Here are a few helpful things to know!

Eye contact

Eye contact is regarded as a sign of respect and attentiveness. When speaking with individuals, look them in the eye. Constantly looking away can imply disinterest, dishonesty, or lack of self-confidence. Watch the other person for signs and mirror them.

Hand holding

This usually means that the people have a romantic involvement, unless it is an adult holding a child's hand. Americans tend not to hold hands or link arms with friends or relatives.

Hugging

Hugging between Americans can be a sign of affection, friendship, or even a greeting. It is more common to hug someone who is a friend, rather than someone you just met. You are not expected to hug friends or someone you just met. If you are not comfortable hugging, you do not need to. You can let others initiate.

Personal Space

Americans typically do not like crowds very much. They usually stand about 2-3 feet (one meter) away from each other. Try to remember not to stand too close, and to form lines when waiting in the queue.

Personal Hygiene

Americans have a saying: "Cleanliness is next to godliness." There is great value placed on a clean appearance and lack of strong body odors. Americans, like many other cultural groups, generally bathe or shower daily, brush their teeth at least twice a day, and use deodorant. They tend to keep their homes clean.

Time

International students are often surprised at the degree of scheduling of appointments or visits done in the U.S. When invited to a person's home, it is generally expected that a guest will come at the time indicated, or within 10 minutes. If the appointment is a business or other meeting, one is expected at the time set, if not 5-10 minutes early. If one knows that they will be late, it is considered polite to call to let the host know when you will arrive, or if you are able to be at the appointment.

United States Culture and Values

Respect for elders

Americans may come across as lacking respect for the elderly, especially by those from cultures with stronger age hierarchy; however, Americans express respect for the elderly in a different manner: treating them as equals, protecting their autonomy, and offering financial and emotional support.

American humor

Typically it focuses on everyday situations and might include cultural references that require some background to understand. It can be subtle and is often used to create a relaxed environment. Many Americans tend to use sarcasm in their humor and everyday conversations.

Tipping

It is customary to tip service workers with money in addition to the bill and taxes. In restaurants where food is served to the table, the tip is the majority of the worker's pay. 15% recognizes adequate service, 20% implies good services, and 25% implies excellent service. Leaving no tip or a very small one can be seen as an insult or a complaint. Some restaurants will automatically add gratuity (tip) to a bill with over 6 people in the party.



Things to Know

- 1. Notify your DSO if you make changes to your address, study plans, or visa status. Please give at least 48 business hours for any paperwork to be completed. If you need your I-20 signed for travel, contact the International Student Office at least two weeks before your departure.**
- 2. Your professors are here to help.** Introduce yourself to your professors, ask questions, visit during office hours, and make sure they know your name. Be sincere in showing your efforts in the classroom. Typically you can ask questions about assignments before or after class, but emailing the professor will also be a great way to communicate.
- 3. Get set up.** Open a bank account, get a cell phone plan, purchase a computer if needed. It is important to tackle these items as soon as you arrive. Applying for a Social Security Card also makes doing all these things easier, though it is not a requirement.
- 4. Do your research before picking classes.** Before you choose your classes, make sure to always consult with your adviser to see which courses and electives work best to complete your degree.
- 5. Get your driver's license.** Even if you do not need to buy a car right away, having a driver's license is important in the US. Check with your state's DMV laws first. Once you pass the written test, you will get a temporary permit and be allowed to drive with licensed friends or adults. Depending on the state, the permit will be a requirement for a certain period of time, and then you can schedule driving school classes or your driver's test.
- 6. Invest in good seasonal clothing.** North Carolina has very drastic seasons that you will want to be prepared for. The summer months can get up to 110°F (43.3°C) and the winter can get as cold as 10°F (-12.2°C).
- 7. The college and seminary classes** are places that most professors strive for collaboration. Professors encourage participation.
- 8. What's the easiest way to learn English in America?** Make a friend! Do not be afraid to practice your English with a new friend.

Notes



International Student Office

Stealey Hall, room 202
120 S Wingate Street
Wake Forest, NC 27587

Camille Doane

International Student Coordinator, PDSO
Stealey Hall, room 202
cdoane@sebts.edu
(919) 761-2322
M-Th: 9am - 5pm

Please contact the International Student Office to set up a meeting.

  /sebts