

Wright State University

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Wright State Student Body

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International Corner: How International Students Can Prepare For the US

Olha Zuban

June 29, 2021

Once an international student accepts the Fall 2021 admission letter and gets ready to start their studies, it is important to keep several things in mind.

Attending Information sessions at the international office, keeping in touch with advisors, organizing documents and ensuring a successful arrival to the campus are all important.

It is possible to make the process of arriving in the U.S. easier if students will invest time into the preparation and follow advice from the University Center for International Education (UCIE).

Consistent communication

After receiving a Form I-20 from the UCIE at Wright State University (WSU), students should keep in contact with the international advisors.

It is recommended to ask the UCIE all questions regarding the visa requirements, documents, housing and everything students may be concerned about. They are the first people who international students inform about changes or difficulties they face prior and during their studies, and they continue to assist students until graduation.

Furthermore, international students should not shy away from contacting the academic department where they were admitted with questions about the program, the required courses and prerequisites, course schedules, etc.

Online information sessions

Virtual information sessions are the primary source for students to become familiar with everything they should know before departing their home country and starting studies at Wright State University (WSU). It is a great opportunity to ask questions in real-time and get immediate advice regarding visa issuing, health insurance, immigration check-in and much more.

The UCIE pre-orientation virtual webinars for upcoming international students occur every week. They are held by advisors and current students who are committed to informing students on how to arrive in the U.S. without any worries.

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Online information sessions will continue throughout the summer of 2021 and become more frequent at the end of July and August.

Checking email, WSU's website and socials regularly

All important notices and updates are usually delivered through email, and international students have to check them daily in order to send documents when they are required and meet other deadlines. This is a great way to communicate not only with the UCIE but also with an academic advisor of the student's study program.

While international phone calls may be expensive from several countries, email communication is more convenient for many students.

Other valuable sources for tracking the university news in the current digital era include the official WSU website and social media channels.

Many student organizations and academic departments consistently post announcements and updates through social media because it is an easy and fast way to reach continuing and new students. Moreover, it can be a great way to start engaging with others and make friends even before coming to campus.

Getting a visa

Getting a visa is the next most vital and stressful step that international students face after being admitted to the program. There are a lot of nuances that are essential to remember before coming to the embassy for an interview, such as paying fees, collecting necessary documents for the entrance, and preparing to answer questions about studies that the visa counsel might ask.

If an international student comes confident and prepared with all paperwork, obtaining a U.S. student visa can be less nerve wracking.

COVID-19 restrictions and traveling to the U.S.

Traveling internationally with the COVID-19 restrictions may become more complex than it was at the beginning of the pandemic, but it is still possible..

Checking all requirements for entering the U.S. for students from different countries should be done prior to leaving their home country to avoid any issues while traveling. Then, carrying

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Covid-19 vaccine cards or test results may also make traveling faster without additional problems or expenses.

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Two-Week Water Advisory Caused By HVAC Accident, Contractors Worked Without Permits
Jamie Naylor
June 30, 2021

The Wright State University (WSU) campus water advisory caused by an HVAC construction accident is resolved. In the process of fixing the issue, the university discovered contractors working on the systems did not obtain the correct digging permits.

Water warning

Maintenance crews working on the HVAC air system accidentally punctured an underground pipe containing the toxic chemical glycol according to WSU's Environmental Health and Safety Board. It was later reported by campus officials that these contractors did not have the correct digging permits, and did not have permission to dig near this pipe.

This pipe, not directly connected to the water system, leaked into a connector pipe that leads into the main water system. This leak caused contamination concerns, triggering the water advisory. The precautionary warning, issued in the second week of June, advised students, staff, faculty and WSU campus guests not to drink or use the water on campus for any reason due to possible contamination from the accident.

Despite concerns, WSU's Environmental Health and Safety Board reported that no cross-contamination in the water system occurred and that they contained the incident to the Biological Sciences Building.

The Board also reported the two-week delay in lifting the water advisory stemmed from water testing and flushing out the system.

"In general, the advisory is issued, the corrective measures are taken, the system is rechecked, and the advisory is removed when the water quality meets the EPA's standards," [Marjorie Markopoulos](#), director of Environmental Health and Safety, wrote.

Prevention

In their statement, mentioned above, the university expresses future construction projects will follow campus policies and ensure that contractors have the proper permits.

Student Opinions

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During the advisory, summer semester students continued with normal campus life. Some students like senior Josiah Pugh expressed some annoyance at the inconvenience but are overall satisfied with WSU's handling of this incident.

"I think they did a pretty decent job," Pugh said. "Especially through the emails and putting signs on all the doors of the buildings."

Initially, details of the construction accident were not released to the students. As the advisory continued, the campus communication system kept students, staff and faculty updated about the situation. Signs were posted in all the campus buildings.

Tap Water Results

During the water warning, the Environmental Health and Safety Board published their annual consumer notice of tap water results report. Testing of campus tap water, not related to the pipe accident, is conducted each year required by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

According to the results, six areas on campus were identified with more than 15 parts per billion (ppb) of lead in the water. The report also pointed out that lead, if consumed in large amounts via drinking water, can be dangerous to humans, especially children and pregnant women.

The university attributed the spike in lead content to water sitting in the pipes due to inactivity during the coronavirus pandemic. During the testing period, WSU increased offerings of in-person classes, while students continue to live and work on campus through the summer semester.

According to the statement made by the university, plans to solve the issue include flushing out the system and increasing testing throughout the academic year.

Breaking: New Water Warning Issued, Toxic Substance Found in WSU Water

Jamie Naylor

June 30, 2021

Wright State University (WSU) issued a new water warning after finding toxic levels of ethylene glycol in the campus water system.

Toxic substance found in water

Samples taken from six different locations, including the Student Union and Hamilton Hall, contain ethylene glycol.

This toxic substance can have damaging health effects, according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 20 milligrams per liter (mg/L) for one day or 6 mg/L for 10 days does not cause adverse health effects. One sample collected from WSU's campus contained 67 mg/L of ethylene glycol, over four times the safe amount.

Water on campus is not to be used for any purpose besides flushing toilets. According to the communication bottled water should be used for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, washing dishes and food preparation. Bottled water can be freely obtained at Customer Care in 065 Allyn Hall for all of Wright State's Public Water System Customers and Guests.

In addition to issuing the warning, campus administrators shut down the Campus Recreation's pool, located in the student union. It will most likely reopen when the water advisory is resolved.

HVAC construction accident

This contamination is the result of a construction accident that occurred in mid-June. Maintenance crews working on the HVAC air system accidentally punctured an underground pipe containing the toxic chemical glycol according to WSU's Environmental Health and Safety Board.

This pipe, not directly connected to the water system, leaked into a connector pipe that leads into the main water system. This leak caused contamination concerns, triggering a water advisory.

It was also reported that the contractors who punctured the pipe did not have the proper permits, and were not supposed to dig around this specific pipe.

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The Board initially reported that testing of the water system did not contain any harmful substances, and the original water warning was lifted June 22. According to WSU Head of Communications Seth Bauguess, the second sample came back positive yesterday causing the warning to be reinstated.

Prevention

In addition to the water warning, the Board plans to empty ice machines and drain water heaters. Testing and investigating other possible spots of contamination will continue.

To prevent another construction accident, like the one that punctured the pipe, campus officials reported that they would make sure all contractors follow campus policies and obtain the proper permits.

The Wright State Guardian reached out to the director of Environmental Health and Safety for additional information regarding the current advisory and has received no response.

Building	Location	Sample Date	Result	Unit
Hamilton Hall	Laundry Room	06/15/2021 17:35	13000	ug/L
Health Sciences	Room 033	06/15/2021 15:40	26700	ug/L
Biological Sciences II	Room 247	06/15/2021 16:12	5040	ug/L
Biological Sciences II	2 nd Floor Restroom	06/15/2021 16:08	6010	ug/L
Student Union – East	Restroom by Wright-Patt Credit Union	06/16/2021 10:55	67000	ug/L
NEC	Room 170	06/15/2021 15:48	8310	ug/L

Professional Tennis Player Sparks Debate Over Athletes and Media Events

Kaylee Raines

July 1, 2021

Japanese professional tennis player Naomi Osaka is raising mental health awareness for professional athletes and prompting debate about whether athletes should be required to participate in media related events.

In the past two months Osaka has withdrawn from the French Open and Wimbledon because of their rules regarding media events for participating athletes. This has prompted debate about mental health within the field of athletics.

Are interviews and media events part of the job?

Those in favor of athletes being required to participate in media events view interviews as a means of hyping up the events and entertaining fans.

University of Toledo alumni Charles Perry grew up playing sports and is now focusing on his career in Public Policy. Although he acknowledges the importance of mental health in athletes and that not every athlete is an avid public speaker, he feels that media involvement is important to the sports industry financially.

“Mainly, talking to the media is a form for the tournaments to generate more money through advertisements. I believe that athletes sign a contract when entering the tournament agreeing to talk to the media for a predetermined set of time,” Perry said.

Cincinnati resident Chris Kitchell holds a similar perspective to Perry in that media events are crucial to the sports industry.

“Most players have it in their contract to do interviews with the media because the media is what draws attention to the sport and the more attention a sport gets the more advertising and money the sport makes,” Kitchell said.

Those that oppose mandatory media events view interviews as an entertaining, but optional, aspect of sports.

Former tennis player and Wittenberg University alumni Victoria Mohr feels that athletes should be free to choose whether or not to participate in media events.

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“Athletes don’t owe you anything. Although I believe it would be nice to see them in the press, if they decide not to face the press for whatever reason, that is their choice and should be respected,” Mohr said.

Incoming Wright State University (WSU) student Matthew Atkins wrestled for Centerville High School and is familiar with the physical and mental demands of being an athlete.

“Everyone focuses on the body when it comes to athletes but they forget about mental health and wellness. No one would make someone with a broken leg run in a race so why should we put an athlete with anxiety into a very stressful situation just for some pictures?,” Atkins said.

Are there reasonable accommodations for athletes with anxiety?

According to the Americans with Disabilities Act, jobs are required to accommodate disabled employees and enable them to perform the requirements of their job.

Anxiety can be considered a disability when diagnosed by a medical professional. This has prompted discussion into whether there are means of accommodation that could enable athletes like Osaka to complete their interviews in an environment that does not affect their anxiety.

“Questions could be recorded, filtered, and given to the athlete at a different time where they could feel more comfortable answering it and possibly give better answers that are more detailed instead of rushed answers or a general blanket statement,” Atkins said.

“If a person is anxious to be in front of the new media then I believe there should be a better way for the media to ask their questions without her getting anxious. I mean we have a ton of technology that can be used to interview people that I believe can help her out,” Kitchell said.

Osaka is currently taking personal time to address her anxiety. Her actions have sparked international discussion on mental health, media and athletes. The International Olympic Committee issued a statement on June 18 that they will not require Osaka to participate in media events. It is unknown if other tournaments will follow suit or maintain their current policies.

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Breaking: Wright State 'Couldn't come to terms' with suitable candidate for new college
Dylan Collison
July 2, 2021

Interim Provost Oliver H. Evans announced the leadership structure for the university's new College of Health, Education, and Human Services.

In a letter to the campus community, he announced that the leaders of the college's departments and schools would report to the interim provost, effective July 1, 2021.

The university's Board of Trustees approved the establishment of the new college during its meeting on Feb. 19. It is the first new college at Wright State in over three decades, according to the university.

The university held public interviews for three founding dean finalists from April 26 until May 5.

According to the university's website, the three dean finalists were Lynda Ransdell, Joseph Keferl, and John Henning.

The university wished to have the dean in place by July 1.

In an email to *The Wright State Guardian*, Evans explained that the university was unable to come to terms with their chosen candidate.

"Our search for a dean of this college involved three final candidates and the university did find a suitable and qualified candidate it had confidence in but was not able to come to terms with them," Evans wrote. "The university is committed to reopening the search in the fall."

Evans continued, promising that he would work closely with the leadership staff to prepare the college during the search.

"The university is moving forward with the opening of the college and has enthusiastic and qualified professionals who will help us do so," Evans wrote. "We've been very fortunate in that the people who have played a leadership role in developing the concept of the college have agreed to continue in leadership roles during this coming year."

Evans says he is committed to working with the faculty and leadership to develop a sense of community and believes the new college represents an exciting opportunity for the university.

The college is organized into four new schools:

- Miami Valley School of Nursing, Kinesiology and Health Sciences

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- School of Social Work and Human Services
- School of Education and Leadership
- School of Professional Psychology

Deborah Ulrich, the current interim dean of the College of Nursing and Health, will continue as dean until July 31. Ann Stalter will become chair of the School of Nursing, Kinesiology and Health Sciences effective August 1, and Sherry Farra will become assistant chair. Ulrich will then return to a faculty role.

Carol Patitu will serve as chair of the School of Education and Leadership. Colleen Saxen will become assistant chair.

LaTrelle Jackson will continue as interim dean of the School of Professional Psychology. Dr. Michelle Schultz will also remain associate dean.

The Department of Social Work will move from the College of Liberal Arts into the new college, and Elizabeth Talbot will continue to serve as chair. Leslie Neyland-Brown will continue as chair of the Department of Human Services.

Drew Pringle will continue as chair during the Department of Kinesiology and Health for Fall Semester 2021. During that time, the interim provost will work with the chair and faculty to decide leadership following his retirement.

The leadership of each area will remain until June 30, 2022.