

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

ON-CAMPUS ORIENTATION

WINTER 2025

Purpose: Welcome all new international students to campus; build community; provide essential information about studying/living at Whatcom and in the US; answer student questions before the start of classes



January 4, 2025 — 10:30a-2:00p

LEARNING COMMONS

TIME	SESSION	DESCRIPTION
10:30a	Peer Navigators	Meet Peer Navigators outside Cedar Hall
11:00a-12:00p	ID Card	Get student ID's and email accounts in the Learning Commons building.
11:00a-11:30a	Homestay Orientation	Orientation for students in Homestay families. 11:30p – 12:30p
12:00p-2:00p	Shopping	Walk to nearby grocery stores and cover other shopping needs.

January 6, 2025 — 9:00a-4:00p

MORNING SESSION—SYRE 104

TIME	SESSION	DESCRIPTION
8:30a	Peer Navigators	Meet Peer Navigators outside Cedar Hall
9:00a	Welcome to Whatcom from IP Staff	Meet the International Programs staff and learn about support services for international students at Whatcom.
9:30a	Parents/Agents	Meet with International Staff, SYRE 105
9:30a	Understanding F-1 Student Visa Regulations	Learn about the important regulations (rules) for students on F-1 student visas to avoid immigration complications. Learn about your I-20 and get it signed by an advisor.
10:20a	Health Insurance and Healthcare	Learn about how to keep healthy during your studies, what to do in the case you need to visit a doctor, and understand health insurance in the U.S.
11:00a	Tips for Success	Learn how to be successful in your classes from your advisors

WELCOME LUNCH WITH WHATCOM STAFF—STUDENT SYRE CENTER, LRN 160

12:00p-1:00p	Lunch	Free lunch with staff and students in the SSC
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AFTERNOON SESSION—LEARNING COMMONS

TIME	SESSION	DESCRIPTION
1:15p	Learning Commons Support Staff	Meet Learning Center, Library and Writing Center staff and learn about their support services and get your WCC student ID card.
2:30p	Greater campus area tour	Explore campus and surrounding area on a guided tour to end the day's activities.
3:30p	ESOL Orientation	English Speakers of Other Languages--Review of ESOL program and classes.

January 7, 2025 — 9:00a-2:00p*

CEDAR HALL—Meet at building entrance

9:00a	Peer Navigators	Meet Peer Navigators outside Cedar Hall
9:30a	Student Activities	Learn about how to get involved with a variety of activities, and leadership opportunities at Whatcom.
10:00a	Safety and Security	Learn tips from Whatcom's Director of Safety and Security on how to stay safe during your studies in the US.
10:30a	How to open a Bank Account	Bank of America representative will explain banking options
11:15a	Downtown Bus Tour	Join students and staff on a visit to Bellingham's downtown area, and practice using the bus. Additional details will be sent on January 6th.

***PLEASE NOTE*:** For activities on January 7th, students should bring appropriate footwear/clothing for walking, passport/I-20. Schedule is subject to change; check email for updates and additional information.