Welcome back to the 3rd week of SGN dealing with finances.

Part of preparing to study abroad includes making sure that you have planned an appropriate budget for all the expenses you will have while in Oklahoma. These include everything from tuition, to gym fees and several expenses in between.

This issue of the Sooner Global Newsletter is designed to help you prepare an appropriate budget, and remind you of all potential expenses you may have while studying at OU.
Tuition and Fees

Exchange students are not responsible for paying OU tuition and fees. As per the reciprocal exchange agreement exchange students will pay tuition costs at their home university, and therefore not be responsible for paying tuition at OU. Exchange students are, however, responsible for all living and personal expenses used while studying at OU. It is important to remember that personal expenses also includes purchasing the textbooks needed for your classes, which can be as much as $1,030.

Financial Documents

Upon acceptance, students will be required to provide a certified bank statement in US dollars. The financial proof needed for your DS-2019 includes:

- Statement showing $5,000 USD for one semester or $10,000 USD for two semesters, dated within 90 days of being submitted.
- If bank account statement is from someone other than you, please provide Support Letter from account holder.

***Please print Support Letter and then sign before scanning or e-mailing it.
+ Accommodation Costs

**Housing Costs** *(more information on housing options is available in SGN#)*

1. **On Arrival**: If you choose to arrive before move-in day, you may need to stay in a hotel. For a list of hotels near campus visit: [http://www.visitnorman.com/](http://www.visitnorman.com/).

2. **On Campus**: All exchange students are strongly encouraged to live on campus and select from the residence hall dormitories, or apartment-style living available. You will receive housing information upon admission. You will also be required to pay the full cost of your living expenses prior to arrival. For any additional questions contact:
   University of Oklahoma Housing and Food Services
   [http://www.housing.ou.edu](http://www.housing.ou.edu)
   Email: housinginfo@ou.edu
   Phone: 405-325-2511

3. **Off Campus**: Off campus living is **NOT RECOMMENDED** for exchange students due to liability, reciprocal agreements and lack of transportation.
Sooner OneCard

The Sooner OneCard is the official identification card for the University of Oklahoma. It controls access to the following:

- on-campus meal plan
- campus libraries
- building access
- facilities entrance (for example, the campus gym and free athletic events)

All exchange students will receive their Sooner OneCard during check in at housing. The charge for Sooner OneCard will be billed to your bursar account. Replacement cards cost $15.

Banking

Types of Bank Accounts

We recommend that you open a bank account in the US. It is not safe to carry large amounts of cash or to keep cash at your house. A checking account provides a set of numbered checks with your name and address on them. You use these in place of cash and the amount of the check is subtracted from the money you have in your account. It is important to monitor how much money you have in your account. Do not write a check if you do not have enough money in your account to pay for it. The bank will charge a fee. Most checking accounts do not pay interest, and many banks charge a monthly fee. A savings account may pay interest depending upon the amount you maintain in the account and how long you have held the account. Banks vary significantly on their fees, interest rates, and services, so compare several before you choose. The following banks will allow exchange students to set up accounts without social security numbers.

Arvest Bank: 355 W Lindsey St.: Phone (405) 677-8711
Chase: 320 E Comanche St.: Phone (405) 292-2716
Bank of America: 1239 W. Main: Phone (405) 230-3503
Bank of Oklahoma: 1251 Alameda St: Phone (405) 272-2548

Credit Cards

Credit cards allow you to purchase an item and pay for it later, extending payments over a period of time. You may find it difficult to cash a check or rent a car if you do not have a credit card. Credit cards charge interest and sometimes charge annual fees. When choosing a credit card, look for one with a low interest rate and a low annual fee or no annual fee. Be careful with your credit cards; it is easy to accrue large credit card bills, and with high interest rates you may have a difficult time paying them off.