  

**Financial Preparations for Travel and Arrival**

**Please be aware that all students must pay $2,500 USD to the University before you are allowed to register for classes.** We encourage payment in full for the entire semester's balance; however, you need to pay at least a minimum of $2,500 before you arrive or during orientation. In addition to not being allowed to register, if you do not pay your $2,500 minimum, your legal status in the US will be in jeopardy.

SMSU has collaborated with Flywire. Flywire allows you to pay securely from most any country and most any bank in your home currency: To utilize Flywire, go to this website: <https://www.flywire.com/pay/smsu>.

All funds will go directly to SMSU expenses for tuition and fees and any overpayment will be put into a pre-pay status for a future semester**.** For personal and book expenses, you will need to bring a separate bank draft to deposit into a new bank account in Marshall, Minnesota.

Please understand that SMSU policy states that the entire amount of funds transferred/received through Flywire, bank wire, or bank draft will be applied toward your tuition, fees, housing, and international insurance. You will NOT be able to access any funds for your personal use. Any amount over your balance will be applied/credited to next semester.

THEREFORE, IT IS CRITICAL THAT YOU BRING TWO BANK DRAFTS (or transfer through Flywire and bring one), ONE TO SMSU AND ONE MADE OUT TO YOURSELF OR TRANSFER THROUGH THE FLYWIRE TUITION, INSURANCE AND HOUSING (APPROX $9,700) AND BRING A BANK DRAFT WRITTEN TO YOURSELF FOR BOOKS AND LIVING EXPENSES (APPROX $1,000) FOR YOUR FIRST SEMESTER.

If you do not use Flywire, bring **TWO** separate bank drafts:

1. One draft payable to Southwest Minnesota State University for at least the minimum of $2,500
2. The second draft payable to yourself with the remainder of your funds. This will allow you to open a bank account and have access to your money for books and personal expenses.

**PLEASE NOTE: If you bring a single bank draft payable to the University, the University will not return ANY of the funds to you. The funds will be placed in an account for the next semester.** If you live on campus, the total estimated costs for a semester would be *about* $9,800 (depending on class choice and room and meal type).

Once you have paid the minimum payment of $2,500 and registered for classes, the remainder of your bill is due by the published due date, which is about 5 weeks after classes start. Please note that additional fees will be charged for payments that are not made on time and, if you are dropped from classes for non-payment your status can be in jeopardy with SEVIS, USCIS, and Homeland Security.

**AGAIN, DO NOT bring a single bank draft/wire/transfer written out to Southwest Minnesota State University.**

If you plan to utilize bank wires for payments, please plan on **1 to 2 weeks** for the funds to be processed and arrive in the United States. In order for you to register for classes, your minimum must be **received** by SMSU and not in the process of transferring. Therefore, we recommend that if you will be using bank wires, start the process of transferring at **LEAST TWO WEEKS PRIOR** to your arrival. You will **NOT** have time to start a wire once you are in the US! Again we recommend FLYWIRE or Bank Drafts as your best options but, if you do use bank wires, please initiate the process NO LATER than two weeks BEFORE your arrival at SMSU.

Also, DO NOT travel with thousands of dollars in cash! We recommend that you purchase traveler's cheques, get bank drafts, and/or use Flywire.

**Once you have arrived, the SMSU International Office will assist you in opening a local bank account.** Updated 6/29/18 MAK