

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS ON-CAMPUS ORIENTATION SPRING 2026

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



APRIL 4, 2026 — 9:45a-1:30p

SYRE 104

TIME	SESSION	DESCRIPTION
9:45a	Meeting PN's	Meet Peer Navigators outside Cedar Hall (all new students), walk to SYRE 104
10:00a-11:00a	Learn. Commons	Getting Student ID cards. Students get SID cards and email accounts in the Learning Commons building
11:00a-11:30a	Bank Accounts	Learn how to open a Bank Account
11:30a-1:30p	Grocery Shopping	Cedar Hall students walk to nearby grocery stores and cover other shopping needs.

APRIL 6, 2025 — 9:00a-4:00p

MORNING SESSION—SYRE 104

8:30a	Meeting PN's	Peer Navigators meet all students outside Cedar Hall – walk to SYRE
9:00a	Welcome to Whatcom from IP Staff	Meet the International Programs staff and learn about support services for international students at Whatcom.
9:20a	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.
10:00a	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	Health Insurance and Healthcare	Learn about how 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.
10:50a	Student Activities	Learn about how to get involved with a variety of activities, and leadership opportunities at Whatcom.
11:10a	Tips for Success	Learn how to be successful in your classes

WELCOME LUNCH WITH WHATCOM STAFF—LEARNING COMMONS 160

12:00p-1:00p	Lunch	Free lunch with staff and students in LRN 160
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AFTERNOON SESSION—LRN and campus

1:00p – 2:00p	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.
2:00p	Greater campus area tour	Explore campus and surrounding area on a guided tour to end the day's activities- <i>except for ESOL students</i>

CLASSES START TUESDAY, APRIL 7-CHECK YOUR SCHEDULES

APRIL 11, 2026

MEET OUTSIDE CEDAR HALL

9:30a	Downtown Bus Trip	Join students and staff on a visit to Bellingham's downtown area, and practice using the bus. Additional details will be sent during the first week of classes.
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***PLEASE NOTE*:** For activities on April 11 students should bring appropriate **footwear/clothing for walking, passport/I-20**. Schedule is subject to change; check email for updates and additional information.