

Getting Started as a Student

4-Jun-25

Question and Answer From Session

Question

Can we take courses that are not in our major and not offered by the department? e.g. Can Computer Science Grad Students take Computer Engineering courses and vice versa

how can we find out whether we will receive a health insurance subsidy? I don't remember seeing this information in my assistantship offer letter, though maybe it was there and I missed it

If you can't attend some of the webinars will the powerpoint slides/zoom recording still be available?

About the immunization, I am done with all my vaccinations, but I still have to take the TB test. Where can I find the form and deadline?

Good morning and thank you so much! Where do I find the VT Health Insurance Plan online?

I'm not able to access my VT email, who should I contact about this issue?

I am a VT employee as well and am planning to use my tuition benefits to pay for my course enrollment, what does that process look like?

Currently, I do not have all of my immunizations completed—only a few are compliant. Some of the required vaccines are not available in my country, which makes it difficult to complete the full list before my arrival. I noticed that the deadline to submit proof of immunization is June 30, and there is a \$100 penalty for non-compliance after that date. I would like to ask if it is possible to receive the remaining required vaccinations after I arrive on campus. Will I be able to complete them through campus health services? Also, is there any way to avoid the penalty under these circumstances?

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Is the deadline for Immunization History Form June 30 for all students - domestic and international?

If you are currently employed at VT, do you still need to complete the immunization part?

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Given the recent news that no new visa interview appointments are being issued at U.S. embassies worldwide, what should be done? I'm an Iranian student who has been rejected twice, and the visa process has become extremely difficult—especially for Iranian students. What can be done in this situation?

As a GTA, how do I accurately fill the "Who is sponsoring your trip" section on my DS-160 form?

Do I go for "Self," "Employer in the US," or "Other Company/Organisation in the US"?

When does tuition waiver requests open for the Fall 2025 semester?

If we are a GTA and our tuition is waived, who/how will each semester's bill be paid?

for those of us that are receiving tuition remission, will the tuition credit be automatically applied?

I created my PID and can't access the HokieSpa or VT email. Should I have access to this already?

At which bank are international students advised to open an account in Blacksburg?

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If I chose the pay my tuition fully my first semester, but want to use a payment plan for the rest of my

With work study is there a specific place to look for work on campus once I accepted in the financial aid

What taxes and fees do graduate students have to pay? Can you talk about the comprehensive fees?

I've received emails from the bursar about uploading a "Statement of the Degree" before they can assess my financial aid. What would I upload for that? I graduated from VT with my BA this May, so my diploma hasn't

Where do I go to see my VT email?

I have an error my name on IntlHokie portal. My middle name is repeated in my name, and doesn't match the one on my passport. I cannot change this on my own through hokie spa. Whom should I be contacting regarding

When will I be paid first for my assistantship if my contract start date is August 10?

Are the health insurance fees considered to be a part of the comprehensive fees for GRA?

so if we are using this plan, we would not have to pay comprehensive and commonwealth fees?

So for international grad students is it necessary to arrive to US and have their US bank accounts set up before enrolling into the graduate comprehensive fee payment plan?

Does the health insurance cover the entire year, or just the months of your contract?

I have a scholarship from DoD. I have an award letter, but not one that explains the financing. They tell us that "a sponsor letter is uploaded to the SMART Scholar Portal and provided to all Phase 1 scholars in August of each program year. The Sponsor Letter will cover all standard terms in an academic year. The scholar must provide the letter to their school's bursar's office or third-party billing coordinator for SMART to begin paying tuition. The sponsor letter will provide the school with instructions on where to send the invoice. The SMART Program will process tuition payments for the terms beginning after August 1st." That sounds like very tight timing. Should I

Can I enroll even if I don't have an US bank account yet? And then when I arrive to Blacksburg and open my account, charge that account in the wallet? Because I will be arriving in August.

Should international students then arrive before August 11th to avoid late penalties and enroll for a payment

I have enrolled for Fall courses, when will I see the charges hit my account overview?

Hi ! I will have an assistantship. I am not aware from when will I be receiving my stipend. If it's from September does that mean I have to pay out of my pocket for the comprehensive fee payment plan?

For scholarship reporting, the form asks for a dollar amount and only allows numeric entries. My scholarship covers "the total cost of full-time tuition and approved related educational fees during the standard academic For the payment methods to pay tuition bill if I use a bank account instead of a debit or credit card will that not

How can I, as an incoming international student in my first semester, apply for the one-time payment extension mentioned above in an earlier question?

If I am not staying on campus (or in Blacksburg) will I still be charged the comprehensive fee?

Will the questions and answer also remain on the recording?

Are our VT email accounts Outlook or Gmail? I thought they were Outlook but I see a link to Gmail on OneCampus.

When is the Open Enrollment Period?

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should those of us who are receiving assistantships with tuition remission still fill out FAFSA?

How early should an international student with a Graduate Assistantship arrive in the U.S. to complete all necessary procedures before the August 11 deadline? can I complete it if I arrive about 5 august?

Answer

Great question, it depends on the department or faculty instructor. Some programs and courses allow it, others are open students in that particular program only. Please check with the instructor of the course - but do so after you've discussed with your own advisor as well.

Graduate assistants who maintain at least a 50% assistantship (10 hours per week), may be eligible for health insurance benefits. Visit the Graduate School's insurance benefits webpage for additional information. Enrollment in the subsidized health insurance plan is available during the open enrollment period posted by the Student Medical Insurance office, and after your department has entered your assistantship appointment (PAF) in the HR system.

<https://graduateschool.vt.edu/funding/assistantships.html>

Yes, they will be recorded and put on our website!

https://healthcenter.vt.edu/new_student/required_immunizations.html Go to the Healthy Hokies Portal

Graduate assistants who maintain at least a 50% assistantship (10 hours per week), may be eligible for health insurance benefits. Visit the Graduate School's insurance benefits webpage for 4help.vt.edu

<https://www.hr.vt.edu/benefits/optional-benefits/continuing-education/tuition-assistance.html>

I found this online: I am an international student and cannot receive some of the required immunization in my country. What do I do?

Please submit all available immunization records to your Healthy Hokies Portal. If you are unable to receive certain immunizations in your country, you may receive your noncompliant vaccines once you have arrived in the US. There is an international immunization clinic on August 14th, 2024 from 9-5 in the Squires Student Center, or you can call 540-231-7621 to schedule an appointment to have it completed here at the health center. You will not be charged for the late fee if you complete the immunizations required upon the start of classes. This exemption is ONLY for international students unable to receive vaccines in their country, not for domestic students who are out of the country for travel.

The date is old but they should have one in August 2025

According to the Schiffert Health Center this requirement is applicable to all students on all campuses. https://healthcenter.vt.edu/new_student.html

live answered

Please reach out to Schiffert Health Center health@vt.edu

The Cranwell International Center handles all immigration and visa related questions. please reach out to them at international@vt.edu

Good question - and I don't want to answer this incorrectly so I suggest reaching out to Cranwell International Center - international@vt.edu

If you are referring to the employee tuition waiver, Fall 2025 should open July 1st.

Based on your contract, your Hiring Department will cover their portion and you will be

Once your assistantship contract has been accepted, tuition remission will automatically apply to

Please contact 4help.vt.edu for assistance.

live answered

We don't recommend any specific bank, but there are several local options available.

Yes, each semester is billed separately, so you're welcome to pay in full one semester and use

I suggest you reach out to the Financial Aid Office at finaid@vt.edu.

If you're an international student, I recommend checking out the Cranwell International Center.

I suggest you reach out to the Financial Aid Office at finaid@vt.edu.

Here is a link with info:

I would send an email to international@vt.edu and grads@vt.edu to see how this can be changed

Please reach out to your Hiring Department.

Health insurance is a separate fee. If you enroll in the budget tuition plan, you can pay for this

Yes, you would still be paying for the charges. The payment plan enables you to pay the fees

Yes, you will need to have a US bank account set up before enrolling in the payment plan.

You can find details on the plan coverage dates here: <https://risk.vt.edu/smi/plancosts.html>

You can complete the Scholarship Reporting Form and you can upload a copy of the letter from your sponsor. <https://www.bursar.vt.edu/payments/report-outside-scholarships.html>

No, you will need a U.S. bank account to enroll.

First-time international students are given a one-time payment extension. If you are starting this

Your bill will be processed on July 16.

Please reach out to your Hiring Department. If there is going to be a delay, you will need to cover out of pocket.

Just enter any amount, our team will review the documentation and update your account accordingly.

The payment plan only works with a US bank account.

First-time international students are given a one-time payment extension for the first semester.

If you are starting this fall, you will have until the beginning of September to have your bill paid.

Comprehensive fees are charged based on the home location of your academic program. If your

I need to figure out if I can do that. Great question!

We moved from Google to Outlook this past year. So that's a good question - not sure why gmail is there. 4help.vt.edu should be able to help

It will open mid-July

This is in reference to the fall 2025 payment plans
you can check with the Financial Aid Office at finaid@vt.edu.

For billing, first-time international students are given a one-time payment extensions. If you are starting this fall, you will have until the first of September to have your bill taken care of.