



Glo-Bull Beginnings Week

Arrival Guide

FALL 2016 STUDENTS



#globull16

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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
#myOrientation

Welcome to Bulls Country!

Greetings from the Office of Orientation! We are excited that you and your family have chosen the University of South Florida and we can't wait to welcome you to the Bulls family.

Your Glo-Bull Beginnings Week experience begins on Monday, August 8, 2016, when you arrive to USF campus. We have a full week of programming and events before you move into your fall residence hall (or off-campus housing) on Sunday, August 14.

This guide has been designed to provide you with all of the information you need to have a seamless transition to the University and the United States. Please review this information thoroughly as it will assist you in planning your travel to the United States and transition to USF.

Introductions

Over the next several months, you will receive a lot of emails and communications from the University of South Florida. Information about Glo-Bull Beginnings Week will come from the Office of Orientation.

We want to introduce you to three specific members of our staff who work directly with Glo-Bull Beginnings and will be staying in the Embassy Suites with you:



Ryan Newton works to develop the schedule and programming to meet your specific needs. In addition, he supervises the Orientation Leaders who will work with you once you arrive.



Kevin Yurasek will be the one sending you communications from the Office of Orientation, and prepares the marketing materials you receive. In addition, you may connect with him in the [USF Class of 2020 group](#) on Facebook.



Danielle Cohen works to develop our programming for the week by collaborating with our presenters and campus partners to make sure their sessions are ready for you in August.

In addition, we have an entire team of students and full-time staff in Orientation and the University who are working to make sure that your transition and experience at USF is incredible.

If you have any questions, you have several ways to get in touch with us:

Email: globullbeginnings@usf.edu

Skype: usforientation (available 9:00am to 4:00pm Eastern GMT-4:00)

Social Media: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#)

Phone: +1 (813) 974-3060 (calls only)

Phone: +1 (413) 400-2855 (calls or text)

Planning Your Arrival

Travel Planning

When booking your travel, we strongly recommend that your travel itinerary concludes at Tampa International Airport (TPA). However, you will likely arrive to the United States through another large airport such as Miami International Airport (MIA), New York John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK), or San Francisco International Airport (SFO).

If your itinerary includes a layover at another U.S. airport, such as the ones above or another large airport, you should allow at least 3 to 4 hours for Customs and Immigration processing prior to your next flight time.

Travel Suggestion: Domestic U.S. carriers (such as Southwest Airlines or JetBlue Airways) may offer more competitive pricing for your flight to TPA once you arrive to the United States. You may want to compare prices for the flight from your port of entry to TPA.

Ground Transportation from Airport

Students are responsible for their own transportation from the airport. Shuttle services, car rentals, and taxis are available from the baggage claim area of Tampa International Airport. Some USF student organizations offer free airport pickups with advance notification; more information on this option is available in [iStart](#).

We have partnered with a community group, Friends of Internationals, who work with and support USF students. This group provides free airport pickup from Tampa International Airport. To request a ride from Friends of International, [submit a request online](#) as soon as you know your arrival information.

What to Bring

It's the ultimate dilemma! What do you bring with you and what do you leave behind? We hope we can help you with this popular question. First, and perhaps most importantly, consider what you are able to bring in your luggage. Most airlines allow 20-23kg (approximately 45-50lb) of checked luggage and there are strict size and weight restrictions on carry-on luggage. Given those limitations, consider that you will need at least enough clothes to make it through one week of living during Orientation, your toiletry and personal hygiene items, prescription medications (and documentation), and all of your necessary immigration documents.

You will have all day Monday and Tuesday when you arrive at Glo-Bull Beginnings Week to go shopping should to pick up any items that you need or may have forgotten. There are a number of stores within walking distance from campus that will sell most of your basic living necessities.

We also recommend bringing a sweatshirt or jacket as the air conditioning in the meeting rooms during Glo-Bull Beginnings Week may be cold despite the hot Florida temperatures outside. It is also very likely that we will experience some rain during Glo-Bull Beginnings Week so bring an umbrella!

Glo-Bull Beginnings Dashboard

We know that you have a lot of items and tasks that you have to complete before you leave for the U.S. and start classes. We want to help! This year, we are excited to introduce the Glo-Bull Beginnings Dashboard for you to see an overview of the status of the items that you need to complete before you can start classes. This dashboard will collect the status of your visa and other immigration paperwork from iStart as well as 17 additional items that we have identified that you need to complete.

Use the Dashboard as a way to keep track of what you need to complete.

Log in to the Glo-Bull Dashboard with your NetID and password at <http://www.usf.edu/globulldashboard>.

Arrival Day

Arriving to USF's Campus and the Embassy Suites Hotel

Your mandatory arrival day is Monday, August 8, as indicated by your immigration paperwork. On this day, please proceed to the Embassy Suites located at 3705 Spectrum Blvd, Tampa, FL 33612.

Glo-Bull Beginnings Week check-in for both students and registered guests begins at 8:00 a.m. and will be open until 8:00 p.m. Upon arrival at the hotel, you may immediately drop off your luggage with Orientation staff for safe keeping. We ask that you leave any luggage tags on your bags for easy identification when you pick them up. We will hold your bags until your hotel room becomes available for hotel check-in after 3:00pm on Monday.

Travel Delays or Arriving Later Than Expected

If you experience travel delays and will arrive later than you originally indicated, don't worry! Our check-in is available on both Monday, August 8, and Tuesday, August 9, from 8am to 8pm. In addition, Embassy Suites staff are available overnight for overnight arrivals.

If you experience a travel delay on your way to the USF campus for Glo-Bull Beginnings Week, please send us an email at globullbeginnings@usf.edu or call/text us at +1 (413) 400-2855.

Accommodations

Overnight Accommodations at the Embassy Suites Hotel

As part of the Glo-Bull Beginnings Week program, students are required stay overnight at the Embassy Suites starting on Monday, August 8 and ending on Sunday, August 14. Your roommates will be assigned by the Office of Orientation with assistance from International Services, and with any luck, they will become your new best friends!

Please note that there are three beds per room in the Embassy Suites, meaning you will have two roommates living with you for the entirety of your stay. Each room includes a separate living room with a pull-out sofa bed, 37-inch LCD TV, mini-fridge, microwave, closet, and bathroom with shower and toilet.

The selection of sleeping arrangements within each room is left to be decided upon by the students upon arrival to the room. Specifically, for sleeping arrangements, each person will have their own bed with two roommates sleeping on a double bed, and the third roommate sleeping on the pull-out sofa.



Family Overnight Accommodations

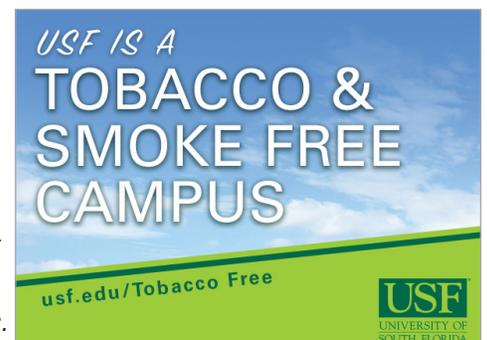
Remember that overnight accommodations are not provided to parents or family members attending Glo-Bull Beginnings Week. Although you will be staying in the Embassy Suites, your family has the option to make a separate reservation for Embassy Suites or at another local hotel. There are several hotels near the USF campus, many which offer shuttle services. You can find hotel locations on this [Google search](#). When you make your hotel selection, be sure to ask for discounts available for USF students and families.

Tobacco & Smoke Free Campus

On January 4, 2016, the USF Tampa Campus became entirely tobacco and smoke free. Smoking and the use of tobacco products are not allowed in any indoor or outdoor area, including parking garages, grounds, sidewalks, and recreational areas. *This policy also includes the use of e-cigarettes.*

By becoming a tobacco and smoke free campus, USF hopes to promote overall health and wellness for the university community and create a more attractive and enjoyable campus experience.

Please note that although smoking may be permitted in designated outdoor areas of the Embassy Suites Hotel, Glo-Bull Beginnings Week is a tobacco & smoke free event in support of USF's commitment to our campus experience.



Schedule Overview

Students

Glo-Bull Beginnings Week is jam packed with a ton of great information and allows for opportunities to meet fellow Bulls, accomplish your campus business, and prepare you academically, socially, and financially for USF. We've designed this program with you specifically in mind. We know you have unique needs in coming to USF and we want to answer all of your questions and help you feel right at home at USF throughout your Orientation experience.

For a detailed look at the week's schedule, [click here](#).

Families

We even have a separate program for registered guests and families of international students. We know you have questions and we want you to leave this week knowing that you are leaving your student in good hands here at USF. Please know that throughout Glo-Bull Beginnings Week, we will begin the transition of your student becoming an independent college student. At times, the student program will be separate from the family/guest program, however, there are also plenty of opportunities to reconnect throughout the week.

For a detailed look at the week's schedule, [click here](#). You will see the family/guest program sessions as indicated on the schedule.

Arrival Days

Remember that your mandatory arrival date is Monday, August 8. Monday and Tuesday are time that we've built into the program to allow you to acclimate and prepare for the week ahead. The flexible schedule on these days is designed to allow you to adjust to the time zone (if necessary) and take care of campus business items prior to the official start of Glo-Bull Beginnings Week.

If you aren't sure what items you have not yet completed, check out the [Glo-Bull Dashboard](#) for a status update each of these items.

Please use these two days wisely to get questions answered, submit documents, or address concerns. This would be the ideal time to resolve concerns regarding housing, immunizations, health records, finances, dining, and any other questions you may have. **It is imperative that you try to resolve as many of these campus-related items as possible on Monday, August 8 and Tuesday, August 9.**

Orientation Leaders

On Tuesday night at our Opening Ceremonies, you will meet our team of Orientation Leaders, who are the undergraduate students guiding you through your Glo-Bull Beginnings experience. These students are passionate about USF and want to help you succeed. Throughout the week, you will experience the session with a team of 8-12 students and 2 Orientation Leaders. When you review our [Schedule Overview](#), you will notice that in addition to the large group sessions there are also sessions for just your team, such as Bull Breakout and Tours. *Your Orientation Leaders will become a great resource for your throughout Glo-Bull Beginnings Week and your first year at USF!*

Schedule Overview

(continued)

Campus Partners

We have some great partnerships with USF campus and community partners and a few of them will be on site at the Embassy Suites on Monday and Tuesday for your convenience:

- USF Student Health Services to help you resolve immunization and other health-related holds
- USF Federal Credit Union for opening a U.S. bank account
- International Services to complete your mandatory immigration document checks (Monday and Wednesday evening only)
- AT&T Wireless to purchase a cell phone and/or to set-up a plan with discounts and rates just for new USF international students

Official Start of Global-Beginnings Week

Glo-Bull Beginnings Week officially starts with our **Opening Ceremonies on Tuesday, August 9 at 6:30 PM** in the Embassy Suites. Our ceremonies include appearances from a few USF special guests. This event is required for students and open to all family members who have a paid reservation for Glo-Bull Beginnings Week.

After our Opening Ceremonies, we invite you to join us in the lobby for some social activities. Wednesday morning will begin the mandatory attendance portion of our programming.

Meals

Your Glo-Bull Beginnings Week fee includes 18 meals beginning on Monday morning with breakfast. Please [click here](#) to see a detailed view of meal times and locations included this week. We will also be sure to provide plenty of snacks throughout the week to keep you going through the long days!

Evening Activities including 2016 Olympics Watch Party

Each night during Glo-Bull Beginnings Week, we will host social gatherings in the lobby of Embassy Suites for you to get to know your new friends. This time is a great opportunity to meet new people, including your Orientation Leaders, and develop lasting friendships.

Cheer on your country! The 2016 Olympics in Rio starts on August 5, 2016. So of course, during Glo-Bull Beginnings Week, we will host a “watch party” each night in Embassy Suites as part of the Evening Community Building time. Join your new friends from around the world to experience this exciting tradition.



Once, you arrive be sure to ask your Orientation Leaders for more information about our evening activities, including our Olympics viewing events.

After Glo-Bull Beginnings Week

Housing

We want to do everything possible to make your transition to USF as seamless as possible which is why we're partnering with USF Housing and Residential Education to ensure that your fall housing room assignment will be ready for you when you complete Glo-Bull Beginnings Week.

We'll help you move into your assigned residence hall on Sunday, August 14. However, you are still responsible for completing the appropriate forms and submitting payment before these housing arrangements become final. In order for your housing assignment to be ready on August 14, please be sure you have completed the following:

- Submit your [Housing application](#) & pay your [housing application fee](#)
- [Pay at least your first month's rent](#) before arriving to campus (Review the [Hall Rates PDF](#) so you know how much to pay)
- Complete the "Early Arrival Request" form for Fall 2016 in the [Housing Portal](#) & indicate Glo-Bull Beginnings Week as your reason for moving in early
 - *You will be responsible to pay for the additional rent for your early move in. This rent will be charged to your student account in [OASIS](#) and you will not need to pay this when you arrive*
- Provide documentation of required [immunizations](#) (or during Monday or Tuesday of Glo-Bull Beginnings Week)

Please do not assume that attending Glo-Bull Beginnings Week automatically means you will be assigned to housing. If you have completed the above items, your [Glo-Bull Dashboard](#) should reflect their completion. If it does not, we encourage you to follow up with these items prior to your arrival.

Shopping for Your New Home

Once you have moved into your residence hall or apartment, you will have until Thursday, August 18, to get situated before any campus events or festivities begin. We encourage you to use this time to do any shopping for school supplies, room décor, or anything else you may need to purchase for the upcoming semester.

If you are living on campus, we encourage you to visit the Housing and Residential Education [Move-In Checklist](#) for more information on what you are allowed to have in your residence hall room.

Meals

Remember that meals from Glo-Bull Beginnings Week end with breakfast on Sunday, August 14. If you would like a meal plan for the time between Glo-Bull Beginnings Week and when your fall semester meal plan starts on Thursday, August 18, you should consider purchasing a Pre-Fall Meal Plan. More information about this meal plan option will be sent to your e-mail address and will be in the [Glo-Bull Dashboard](#).

If you plan to live on campus, you likely have already made your meal plan selections as part of your housing contract. However, even if you aren't living on campus, you are able to purchase a meal plan. [Click here](#) to read about your options and consider signing up today!

Schedule Overview

(continued)

Week of Welcome

Week of Welcome (WOW) is a campus-wide celebration that takes place each fall and spring semester. It's the perfect time for students to experience some of the traditions and organizations that USF has to offer. We strongly encourage you get involved with WOW activities, last year there were over 100 events. There are even events specifically for international students.

We will give you a Week of Welcome brochure during Glo-Bull Beginnings Week that will serve as your schedule overview and guide for WOW.

Special Arrangements

English-Only Program

Please know that all classes and communication from USF will always be in English. As such, all orientation sessions, including marketing and additional materials, will only be provided in English. Should you need an additional family member to attend the orientation for translation purposes, please [contact our office directly](#) with your request as soon as possible to allow for us to assist you in making special accommodations.

Special Requests or Accommodations

We recognize that you or your family may have special meal or accommodation requests to make your Glo-Bull Beginnings Week experience meet your needs. We are happy to do everything in our power to accommodate your request.

Such requests may include, but are not limited to:

- Vegetarian or vegan meals
- Halal meals
- Visual or hearing impairments
- Walking or mobility requests

In order to accommodate all of your needs, it is essential that your request is submitted to our office **no later than Friday, July 8, 2016**. We will do everything possible to accommodate requests received after this date, however, we are unable to guarantee these accommodations. To request an accommodation for you or a guest, please [click here](#).

Note: Unfortunately, our contract with the Embassy Suites does not allow us for us to make accommodations for students to only have one roommate. We will do our absolute best to ensure you have two great roommates who will help you have a memorable Glo-Bull Beginnings Week!

Final Notes

Communication from USF

Once you have been admitted and created a USF NetID, all USF communication will begin coming to your USF email address. It is crucial that you check this email address regularly and often to ensure that you do not miss any necessary details prior to arrival.

Once you have arrived and had the opportunity to get a local contact number, we will ask you to provide us with this cell phone number. Once available, please update this number in the [Glo-Bull Dashboard](#). We will only use this number if you request that we contact you at that number, if we urgently need to get in touch with you, or in the event of an emergency.

Local Mailing Address

You may be asked to provide a local mailing address for Visa purposes. Please provide the following address:

Your name
4202 E. Fowler Avenue
Tampa, FL 33620

If you are living on campus, your local mailing address will be available in the [Housing Portal](#) once you have been assigned. If you are living off campus, your residence's leasing office will be able to provide you with your designated mailing address.

Last Year's Glo-Bull Beginnings Week



Our mascot, Rocky the Bull, made a surprise appearance!



Team SG with their Orientation Leader

Want a sneak peek of what to expect?

Check out [more photos](#) from last year's Glo-Bull Beginnings Week



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