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Welcome to the University of Kansas. Here is some information about family life in Lawrence that may answer some of your questions. There are many things not covered in this handbook, so please ask someone at the Applied English Center office if you have other questions.

The AEC Mission Statement:

Our students are our highest priority.
We are committed to preparing our students linguistically, academically and culturally for university life; providing services to enhance their adjustment and achievement; and advocating for ESL and international students.

Best wishes for a successful stay at KU!

Sincerely,
The AEC Staff
Important Phone Numbers

When making a phone call from a campus phone, add an “8” before each off-campus number. For on-campus numbers, just dial “4” and the last four numbers.

A Place to Live
KU Housing Office...................................... 864-4560
         (Corbin Hall) 422 West 11th Street, Suite DSH
KU Student Legal Services............................. 864-5665
         312 Burge Union (help understanding a lease)
Black Hills Energy (natural gas)............. 1-888-890-5554
         pay locations at Dillons and Hy-Vee stores
Lawrence Water Department (water) ......... 832-7878
         6th and Massachusetts Streets
AT&T (telephone) ................................. 1-800-288-2020
WESTAR (electricity) ............................ 1-800-383-1183
         (24 hour customer service)

News and Information
Lawrence Journal-World............................ 843-1000
         609 New Hampshire

Health Care
First Med Clinic of Lawrence..................... 865-5300
         2323 Ridge Court (no appointment necessary)
Lawrence Memorial Hospital ...................... 505-5000
         325 Maine
PromptCare........................................ 838-1500
         3511 Clinton Place (no appointment necessary)
Watkins Health Center (KU)
         Switchboard .................................. 864-9500

Transportation
KU on Wheels/Lawrence Transit System (bus)........ 864-4644
Saferide............................................. 864-7233
Kansas Driver’s License Bureau ............... 843-9593
         1-70 Visitors Center
         1035 N. 3rd Street, Suite 122
Douglas County Treasurer’s Office .......... 832-5273
         11th and Massachusetts Streets
         (Vehicle Registration/License Plates)

Family Problems
KU Counseling Center.......................... 864-2277
         2100 Watkins Health Center

Community Activities
Small World.................................... 841-3645
Applied English Center (KU) .......... 864-4606
         204 Lippincott Hall
Lawrence Parks & Recreation
         Administrative Offices .............. 832-3450
         Information .............................. 832-7999
Lawrence Arts Center ......................... 843-2787
         940 New Hampshire

Children
Douglas County Child
         Development Association ........ 842-9679
         935 Iowa
Edna A. Hill Child
         Development Center (KU) ......... 864-0502
         4001 Dole Building
Hilltop Child Development Center (KU)...... 864-4940
         1605 Irving Hill Road
Lawrence Unified School District .......... 832-5000
         110 McDonald Drive

Emergency Numbers
Ambulance, Fire, Police ...................... 911
KU Public Safety Office......................... 864-5900
Lawrence Police Department
         Non-emergency assistance .......... 832-7509
Poison Information Center .............. 1-800-222-1222
A Place to Live

It may not be easy to find a good, inexpensive place for your family to live. You can find advertisements for places to live in the Lawrence newspaper, The Lawrence Journal-World, and the campus newspaper, The University Daily Kansan. The Off-Campus Living Resource Office in Room 400 of the Kansas Union has information concerning apartments in Lawrence.

If you rent an apartment or a house, the owner may ask you to sign a lease. This is a legal agreement between you and the owner of the building about payments, repairs, and what to do when you move out of the apartment. Be sure you read the lease carefully and understand it before you sign your name. The Applied English Center staff will read the agreement with you if you bring it to our office. Student Legal Services will explain the legal requirements of the lease.

Apartments in the United States are rented furnished or unfurnished. Furnished means that basic furniture, such as tables, chairs, beds, a stove and a refrigerator, is in the apartment. However, you must bring your own dishes, silverware, pots and pans, sheets, blankets, and other things that you need. Unfurnished means that the owner provides no furniture, or else provides only a refrigerator and stove. If a stove and refrigerator are in the apartment, make sure the lease says that they are provided by the owner.

You will probably pay for utilities (water, electricity, gas), but the owners of some apartments may pay for one or more of the utilities. Your lease should say who (you or the owner) pays for water, electricity, and gas. Most customers must pay the utility companies a deposit (an amount of money). Deposit money might be returned after one year of service or when you move out of the apartment.

The City of Lawrence Water Department operates the water system. Some apartments may be “all electric” with electricity for heat and cooking, but other apartments will have gas for cooking, heating and/or water heating. Aquila provides natural gas. Westar provides electricity to homes in Lawrence. Utility charges (gas or electricity) for heat during cold weather and air conditioning during hot weather may be very expensive. Before renting an apartment you should ask the owner about average utility charges.

News and Information

There are two newspapers in the Lawrence area. The Lawrence Journal-World is published every day. You can call Lawrence Journal World at 843-1000 and ask for the paper to be delivered to your home. Normally, service begins the very next day and you will be sent a bill through the mail that you should pay right away so your paper delivery will continue. The University Daily Kansan is the KU student newspaper. You can pick up a copy from the newspaper boxes on campus. The UDK is published daily, Monday through Friday, during the fall and spring semesters, and once a week during the summer session, and it is free. The Lawrence newspapers have advertisements of sale prices on food, clothing and other things you need, as well as notices of activities at KU and in Lawrence. The Newspaper Readership Program provides the Lawrence Journal-World,
Kansas City Star, USA Today, and New York Times free of charge at various campus locations.

You can receive television programs in Lawrence from stations located in Kansas City and Topeka, Kansas. There is also cable television and internet service in Lawrence provided by a variety of companies. These companies provide international, national, and Kansas City or Topeka news, sports, weather and entertainment. The cable company, Wow, has Lawrence news and weather information on Channel 6. You must pay Wow once a month for cable service.

There are local radio stations that provide music, news and information about KU and Lawrence. KLWN (1320 AM) and KLZR (105.9 FM) are Lawrence stations. KANU (91.5 FM) is a public radio station at KU. KJHK (90.7 FM) is a student-operated station at KU. The Lawrence radio stations are the best source of information about dangerous winter and summer storms (ice, snow, rain, floods, and tornadoes).

Health Care

All international students are required to have health insurance. You received information when you attended International Student Services Orientation meetings. The following website will give you information: www.iss.ku.edu. Click on the Health Insurance link. You can also go to Room 2 Strong Hall for more information.

For health problems, KU students can go to Watkins Health Center on the KU campus, but family members who are not students cannot receive services at Watkins.

To find a doctor for your family, ask a doctor at Watkins Health Center for a list of doctors, or ask a friend. Many doctors are listed in the Yellow Pages of the Lawrence telephone directory under Physicians. You must call for an appointment before seeing a doctor.

The Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department gives some health care services to people in the community. These services include a well-baby clinic, family planning, pregnancy testing, and an immunization clinic. You must call for an appointment. Public health services in the United States do not provide complete health care, so, for most health care, your family will have to go to a private doctor.

It is important to get early care in pregnancy. Most American doctors charge one fee for prenatal care (care during pregnancy) and delivery (birth) of the baby no matter when a woman comes to them for care. Going to a doctor early in a pregnancy will help ensure the health of mother and child.

There are three walk-in medical clinics (First Med, MedExpress, and PromptCare) which are open seven days a week. You do not need an appointment to go to one of these walk-in clinics.

The emergency room of the Lawrence Memorial Hospital is available to anyone, but should be used only in true emergencies. The emergency room is not a primary care facilities and should not be used for routine medical care like colds or flu.
Family Problems

Moving to a new country is often difficult for families. Family members may be confused about American life-styles; they may be homesick for their own country; they may worry about money, making friends, or being successful at KU. The University of Kansas has a Counseling Center for students who want to feel better about their lives at KU. Marriage counseling is also available in Lawrence. If you want to talk with someone about your life here, please come to the Applied English Center office to discuss your situation or find out about other offices that might help. The staff is eager to make your stay at KU pleasant.

In Kansas and most states in the United States, there are laws about abuse and neglect of children. Abuse and neglect are culturally defined ideas, so what is considered abuse or neglect may be different here than in your home country. For example, children, even up to the age of twelve, may not be left alone at home, or in a car, or in a public place. In the United States, children must be supervised by a parent or other responsible older person. Any kind of physical discipline or punishment that leaves a child bruised or injured may be considered abuse. Abuse or neglect may lead to legal action against the parents or even removal of the child from the family. Teachers, school counselors, and medical personnel (doctors, nurses, hospital workers) are required by law to report cases of possible child abuse or neglect to the authorities.

Community Activities

There are several ways that spouses who are not enrolled at KU can meet other people and learn English. Small World is a voluntary community organization that brings American and international women together. English classes, handicraft classes, and child care are part of the meetings. The meetings are held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Small World does not meet during the summer.

The Lawrence Parks and Recreation Department offers many different classes for adults and children. There are classes in handicrafts, arts, and sports. This is a good way to meet some American people.

The Lawrence Arts Center offers classes for adults and children in subjects such as painting, dance and theater.

For more ideas, see the section on recreation and entertainment in the AEC Student Handbook.
Children

It may be difficult to find care for babies and toddlers (ages 0–3), but for preschoolers (ages 3–5) there are several options.

A preschool or nursery school provide academic and social preparation for elementary school. Most preschools accept children between the ages of three and five, but some may accept younger children. A preschool usually has classes for only two or three hours a day, but some preschools may also provide day care. The University of Kansas has a preschool. To get information about this program, call the Edna A. Hill Child Development Center.

A day care center is a place that keeps children while their parents are working or studying. Most centers are open from approximately 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., but times may vary from center to center. Many day care centers take children between the ages of two and five, and some centers may accept younger children. Some centers even take babies under one year of age. Some apartment complexes have a child care program. Day care centers may or may not provide academic and social programs to prepare children for school.

A babysitter is a person who takes care of your child either in your home or in the sitter’s home. A babysitter may take a child of any age for a short time or all day. A babysitter does not usually provide any kind of training for the child.

Child care providers in the Lawrence area must be licensed or registered if they provide services outside the child’s home, such as at a center, school, or in the provider’s own home. Providers who work in your home are not licensed or registered. The Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department has a list of licensed or registered day care providers that you can pick up.

There are also two free referral services that will send you more information about these licensed or registered day care providers. The Douglas County Child Development Association and the KU Dependent Care Referral Service have lists of potential care providers, including the hours they are open and the ages accepted. The KU Dependent Care Referral Service has more information about each provider and can tell you which provider has current openings for the age level you need. They also have a suggestion sheet for finding care givers who come to the child’s home. You can also look in the Yellow Pages of the telephone directory under Child Care Facilities. The KU Information Center keeps a list of available babysitters.

In Kansas, children can begin public school at age five. The child’s fifth birthday must be on or before September 1. The Lawrence School District requires proof (in English) of the day, month and year of birth. The first year of school is called kindergarten and most meet only a half-day, either morning or afternoon. All children between the ages of six and sixteen are required by law to attend school. Some immunizations (vaccinations) are required for students attending schools. All immunizations must be completed within 90 days after the child begins school. Immunizations are available at the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department or from any private doctor.

To find out about the public schools in Lawrence, please contact the Lawrence Unified School District office. To enroll your child in the public schools, you should have your child’s birth certificate, health and immunization records, and school records. If
your child is sick or will be absent for any other reason, you should call the school. Parents receive four written reports each year of their child’s progress in school. Once in October and once in March, parents are asked to meet with teachers to talk about their child’s work. Other meetings may be requested by the teacher or parent.

There is a special program in the public schools to help international children learn English quickly. This special English instruction and the regular class work will help the children adjust to their new town.

**Transportation**

You can travel in Lawrence by foot, bicycle, bus, or taxi, or you may want to buy a car because it is very convenient.

There are two bus services in Lawrence, KU on Wheels and the Lawrence Transit System. KU on Wheels is financed by the Student Activity Fee that all KU and AEC students pay as part of their tuition. You can ride KU on Wheels and Lawrence Transit System buses free of charge with your KU ID. You can get exact bus routes and schedules from the bus drivers or from the Center for Campus Life in Room 400 in the Kansas Union. For information on bus routes, fares and hours of operation for the Lawrence Transit System, contact them at 864-4644 or stop by their office located at 930 East 30th Street – Lawrence. Their website is: [www.lawrencetransit.org](http://www.lawrencetransit.org).

The Lawrence Transit System also has a Night Line service that operates from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. Monday to Saturday; cost is $2 per person, cash only; you must make an advance reservation during regular business hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Saturday; call 785-312-7504. This service is not available on Sunday.

To drive a car, you must have a valid driver’s license and liability insurance. You and your spouse can get Kansas Driver’s Licenses by passing a test given by the Kansas Highway Department. Their office is located in the I-70 Visitors Center, 1035 N. 3rd Street, Suite 122. You can take the written test Tuesday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. You must take your valid passport and I-94 to the exam and another form of identification such as a birth certificate or KU ID.

You will need a license plate for your car. To get one, you will need proof that you own the car. This proof is your title if you just bought a new car or are registering a car from another state, or the title and a notarized bill of sale if you just bought a used car. You will also need proof of insurance. Take these to the Douglas County Treasurer’s Office at 11th and Massachusetts Streets. If you are registering a car with title in another state, a member of the Kansas Highway Patrol will verify your vehicle’s identification number. There is a $10 charge (that must be paid in cash) for this. When you register your car, you will also pay personal property tax, which is determined by the value of your car. You may also have to pay sales tax.

International Student Services has information on buying, licensing and insuring cars. Before buying a car, please go to International Student Services and ask for information on buying a car.

Kansas has laws regarding car seats and car restraints for children. The laws are different depending on the age and the weight of the child. If you have questions about these laws make an appointment to talk with a cross-cultural advisor at the AEC office.
Children’s car seats can prevent most serious injuries if they are used correctly. Most department stores sell car seats. You should read the directions for these seats carefully and use them correctly. Some seats are made for smaller, younger children (under 20 pounds) and others are for bigger, older children. Before you buy a car seat, be sure you have the right size seat.

**Children’s Clothes**

Children’s clothes are often expensive, and children may wear them for only a short time because they are growing. A cheaper way to get children’s clothes is to buy used or secondhand clothes. There are several used clothing stores in Lawrence.

Another way to buy children’s clothes is at garage or yard sales. These are sales people have at their homes. These sales are common on weekends during the spring, summer, and fall. They are usually listed in the classified advertisements at the end of the newspapers. You may also see signs for these sales along the streets in Lawrence. Children’s clothes often sell very quickly at garage and yard sales, so you need to go early.

**Jobs**

If you or your spouse wants to work, check with the International Student Services Office before you accept a job. You must get permission from the Foreign Student Adviser before you can take a job. People who have F-2 visas are not permitted to work at all.

**Best Wishes**

We hope this handbook provides some useful information. We welcome your suggestions about how to improve the handbook, and we hope you will come in and talk with us often.

The University of Kansas prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, religion, sex, national origin, age, ancestry, disability, status as a veteran, sexual orientation, marital status, parental status, gender identity, gender expression and genetic information in the University’s programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Director of the Office of Institutional Opportunity and Access, IOA@ku.edu, 1246 W. Campus Road, Room 153A, Lawrence, KS, 66045, (785) 864-6414, 711 TTY.