STEP ONE: Orientation to MSU

- Read: The Graduate Student Rights and Responsibilities. This is a resource guide that outlines rules, regulations, rights, and responsibilities that have been established in the interest of academic and personal development for graduate students at MSU.

- Attend the Graduate School Resource Fair
  Saturday, August 23rd, 2014
  MSU Union Ballroom
  10:00am (see map)

  The Graduate School Resource Fair is an orientation program for new and returning graduate and professional students at Michigan State University. Campus departments, student groups, MSU partners, and others will be present to talk about a variety of opportunities and resources available for graduate and professional students. No RSVP is necessary.

- Attend the MSU Graduate Student Welcome Back Picnic
  Saturday, August 23rd, 2014
  11:30-3:00pm
  Lawn between Linton Hall and the MSU Museum

  Free food, activities, and chance to win free fitness passes, football tickets, and more! This event is hosted by Council of Graduate Students (COGS) and Graduate Student Life & Wellness.

- Stop by the COGS Office
  Learn about COGS services, resources, and events that will take place throughout the year.

  Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm
  MSU, Student Services Building
  556 E. Circle Drive, Room 316
  East Lansing, MI, 48824
  http://cogs.msu.edu/

  **COGS will be relocating to Chittenden Hall in early fall.

STEP TWO: Settling into East Lansing

- Find a place to live
  Graduate Students can live both on and off campus.

  For on-campus housing options, visit http://www.liveon.msu.edu/
  For off-campus housing options, visit http://offcampushousing.msu.edu/
Get to know your neighborhood [http://www.cityofeastlansing.com/](http://www.cityofeastlansing.com/)

Open a bank account with [MSUFCU](http://www.msu.edu/campuslife/student-financial-services/banking/campus-fcu/)

Register your bike

Buy a parking permit for on-campus or for the [City of East Lansing](http://www.cityofeastlansing.com/)

Learn about the CATA bus system
Ride CATA’s [campus bus service](http://www.cata.org/) and around your neighborhood [http://www.cata.org/]

Register to vote
Follow [these steps](http://www.elections.state.mi.us/voter.shtml) to get registered in Michigan.

If you have a family – visit the [Family Resource Center](http://www.msu.edu/campuslife/family-resource-center/)

Go shopping at nearby grocery stores like Meijer and Kroger, or attend the [East Lansing Farmers Market](http://www.eastlansingfarmersmarket.org/)

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**STEP THREE: Become a MSU Spartan!**

Get to know your academic advisor

Get your Student ID card [http://idoffice.msu.edu/](http://idoffice.msu.edu/)

Meet your department secretary
Your department secretary is a great resource for information on events and processes germane to your department or program.

Explore your StuInfo account
Stuinfo has information about your financial aid, billing, grades and GPA, as well as other academic, financial, and personal information.

Visit [Olin Health Center](http://www.msu.edu/olinhealthcenter/) on campus for your health and wellness needs. For student health insurance information, visit [http://www.hr.msu.edu/benefits/studenthealth/WaiverRequirements.htm](http://www.hr.msu.edu/benefits/studenthealth/WaiverRequirements.htm)

Check out the MSU library system
The MSU Main Library, as well as other school and department libraries on campus. Libraries are a great place to study, work on individual or group assignments, and conduct research.

Get involved with the [Council of Graduate Students (COGS)](http://www.msu.edu/campuslife/student-life/cogss.html)

Visit the Sparty Statue

Visit the Broad Art Museum

Watch the ducks swim down the Red Cedar River

Climb the steps of Beaumont Tower

Visit the MSU Department of Theatre, College of Music, or Wharton Center websites to find schedules for shows and concerts


**(A special thanks to the Indiana University Graduate and Professional Student Organization for their inspiration in creating this checklist)**