

U.S. BANKING FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS & SCHOLARS

Funds For Arriving In The U.S.: You may want to purchase traveler's checks, or have a bank card or credit card you can use internationally during your travels to the U.S. and FGCU. This will be helpful prior to establishing your bank account in the U.S. for purchases such as meals, transportation, and hotel (if needed). Remember, students will also need to pay university tuition and fees by the first week of the semester which may be a very large expense.

Opening a Bank Account: There are many banks in our area and international students/ scholars are free to select services from any bank. You may want to compare banking institutions to find one that best suits your needs for accessibility, interest rates, services and service charges. Considering the type of cash demands and expenses you will have as an international student/scholar, a good option is to open a "Checking Account" that provides you with a checkbook, a debit card and an ATM (automatic teller machine) card.

Students/scholars who want to open a bank account will need to present a primary form of identification (passport) and possibly other documentation of your status such as your visa or your I-20 or DS-2019. You may also want to bring a secondary form of identification (such as your FGCU student ID or U.S. driver's license) if you have it.

Some of the local banks may have a representative on campus during Orientation. You may open a bank account with them at that time or select any bank you prefer. When you arrive, our staff will provide you with information and /or assistance in this process. For more information before you arrive to FGCU, please see the list of some local banks found below.

ATM Machines: Once you establish a bank account, banks will offer you options to use debit cards, credit cards and/or ATM cards. On the FGCU campus there are currently ATM machines for Bank of America and Suncoast Schools Federal Credit Union. Although you can usually use bank cards issued by other banks at these ATM machines, you may be charged a fee for each use. Other ATM machines can be found throughout the community at grocery stores, shopping malls and bank offices.

List of Some Local Banks:

Located at Gulf Coast Town Center, approximately 1 mile from FGCU

Regions Bank www.regions.com

Suntrust Bank www.suntrust.com

Located at Miromar Outlets, approximately 2 miles from FGCU

Bank of America www.bankofamerica.com

Wachovia www.wachovia.com