

Updated August 2021.

### TRAVEL & IMMIGRATION

Have you obtained your F-1 or J-1 US Entry Visa?

Do you have a **physical copy of your I-20 or DS-2019** to carry with you? (If you received an electronic I-20, please **print it out** prior to traveling and make sure page 1 is signed.)

Do your travel plans allow enough time for you to get settled and attend [orientation](#) before classes begin?

Do you have all of the documents listed under your category on [the ISSS travel page](#)?

Have you ensured that you are exempt from any possible COVID-19 related [travel restrictions](#), whether in the U.S. or in countries through which you will be traveling?



**IMPORTANT:** As soon as possible after arrival, complete the [mandatory new student immigration check-in requirements](#), including the **tutorial** and **arrival form** in iPenn. Failure to check in with ISSS virtually can jeopardize your immigration status.

### FINANCES, HOUSING & ESSENTIALS

Do you have a **small amount of U.S. currency** to cover the initial expenses of your arrival (transportation from the airport, meals, etc.)?

If you are bringing a **large sum of cash** (10,000 USD or more) into the U.S., make sure you [declare it on your U.S. Customs Declaration](#).

Have you made arrangements for **paying Penn tuition** from overseas? See the SRFS website for [instructions on making wire payments](#) to Penn.

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Have you made arrangements for **housing** at Penn/in Philadelphia? Do you need to arrange for temporary housing prior to move-in?

Have you submitted proof of all **required immunizations**, including the COVID-19 vaccine? See the SHS website for [instructions on submitting proof of immunizations](#).

Are you planning to drive in the United States? If so, consider obtaining an International Driver's License from your home country. (You can [apply for a Pennsylvania Driver's License](#) 10-15 days after arrival in the U.S. as long as your immigration documents will be valid for at least one year.)

Have you budgeted for the expense of **health insurance**, including coverage for your family if they are accompanying you? See the SHS website for [information about insurance compliance](#).

## PACKING REMINDERS

Have you packed all **sharp objects** (pocket knives, scissors, etc.) in your luggage and not in your carry-on bag? If not, they will be confiscated at the airport.

Have you packed a **variety of clothes** to keep you warm and cool during [Philadelphia's changing seasons](#)?

Have you packed any **keepsakes or non-perishable food items** from your home country that might be hard to find in the U.S.?

Have you packed an [adapter or a converter](#) for your electronic devices?

## ARRIVAL RESOURCES

- Transportation to Campus: [global.upenn.edu/iss/prearrival](https://global.upenn.edu/iss/prepare/transportation)
- Penn Division of Public Safety (for emergencies or safety concerns): Call **215-573-3333** (country code +1)
- Finances, safety, shopping and more: [global.upenn.edu/iss/prepare](https://global.upenn.edu/iss/prepare)