DEPARTURE & ARRIVAL CHECKLIST
FOR NEW PENN INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

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](https://coronavirus.upenn.edu/content/student-gateway-testing).

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](https://www.mdot.state.pa.us/Pages/default.aspx) 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](https://coronavirus.upenn.edu/content/student-gateway-testing).

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**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?

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**ARRIVAL RESOURCES**

- Transportation to Campus: [global.upenn.edu/isss/prearrival](https://global.upenn.edu/isss/prearrival)
- Penn Division of Public Safety (for emergencies or safety concerns): Call **215-573-3333** (country code +1)
- Schedule your **COVID-19 gateway test**: [coronavirus.upenn.edu/content/student-gateway-testing](https://coronavirus.upenn.edu/content/student-gateway-testing)
- Finances, safety, shopping and more: [global.upenn.edu/isss/prepare](https://global.upenn.edu/isss/prepare)