

- Have you received your I-20 or DS-2019 and obtained your F-1 or J-1 US Entry Visa?
- Have you signed your I-20 or DS-2019?
- Have you made arrangements for temporary accommodations and housing at Penn?
- Have you arranged your travel plans so that you will arrive in Philadelphia early enough to get settled before classes begin and attend the ISSS orientation program for new international students?
- Do you have a small amount of US currency to cover the initial expenses of your arrival, e.g. bus and taxi fares, meals, etc.?
- Do you have enough traveler's checks in US dollars to cover the expenses of settling into an apartment in Philadelphia, i.e. temporary housing, deposit on an apartment, telephone service, etc.?
 - If you are bringing a large sum of cash to the United States, make sure you declare it on your customs form if it exceeds the limit allowed; otherwise, the Customs officials have the right to confiscate the money and charge a fee.
 - For more information, inquire with your travel agency or airline company.
- Do you have traveler's insurance to cover medical emergencies?
- Have you budgeted for the expense of health insurance, including coverage for your family if they are accompanying you?
- If necessary, have you made arrangements for transferring money to the US? Do you know what documents are required? What are the restrictions on the transfer of funds to the US? How much lead time is necessary?
- Have you packed a variety of clothes to keep you warm and cool during Philadelphia's changing seasons?
- Have you packed all sharp objects, e.g. pocket knives, scissors, etc, in your luggage and not in your carry-on bag? If not, they will be confiscated at the airport.
- Are planning to drive in the United States? If so, consider obtaining an International Driver's License from your home country. If your immigration documents are not valid for at least 1-year at time of applying for a PA Driver's License, you will not be eligible to obtain one.