Pre-Arrival Checklist

The following is a general list of items the OISS hopes will be helpful to you as you plan for your departure. If you have additional suggestions you feel would be helpful to prospective students, please let the OISS staff know. Your suggestions are welcome!

☐ OBTAIN A STUDENT VISA make sure to schedule your visa application appointment in advance!

☐ AIRLINE TICKETS Purchase your airline tickets and reconfirm your flight 48-72 hours before departure.

☐ REGISTER FOR AN OFFICE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS (OISS) ORIENTATION The OISS orientation is mandatory for all international students who are new to DePaul University (this includes students transferring from another U.S. university). Remember that this orientation is different and separate from the orientation you may be required to attend by your academic department. To register visit our website for more information.

☐ HEALTH MATTERS - Hospital and doctor visits are very expensive in the United States. You must have adequate medical health insurance while in the United States. If you have an F1 visa this is STRONGLY RECOMMENDED. If you have a J1 visa, YOU AND YOUR DEPENDENTS ARE REQUIRED BY FEDERAL LAW TO HAVE MEDICAL INSURANCE! (You may have to prove your intention to purchase medical insurance during the interview for the J1 visa). Before you leave your country, it is a good idea to take care of your health concerns including updating your immunizations, getting new eye glasses and at least a two month supply of any necessary medications.

☐ HOUSING - make sure that you have made arrangements for housing. For more information on housing check the housing section on our website.

☐ CLOTHES - make sure that you pack appropriate clothes for Chicago weather. Chicago lies on Lake Michigan in the Midwest of the United States. Chicago’s weather is often unpredictable. The average temperature is about 52F (11C). The hottest temperatures occur during July and August and can reach 95F/100F (35C/37C). The coldest days are usually in January when the temperature can drop to 5F (-20C). You may want to allot extra money to purchase winter coats, gloves, and boots while in the U.S. For more information please see our website.

☐ MONEY - Please do not bring large amounts of cash with you. Purchase travel checks in US$ before you leave home to use while waiting to establish an account in Chicago. The OISS will assist you with information about banks in the area and provide a letter of introduction for you to present when opening an account. It is unwise to carry large amounts of cash, so keep most of your money in traveler’s checks (or other noncash forms), until you open a bank account.

☐ CARRY IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS - do not pack your important documents in suitcase with your clothes! Make sure to put your important documents in your hand luggage which you may take on the airplane as a carryon. Examples of documents you should carry with you include the following: your passport; SEVIS I20 (F1 students) or SEVIS DS - 2019 (J1 students); traveler’s checks; phone numbers of your family and friends in the U.S. and home country; phone number of the International Student Office at DePaul University; health documents; birth and marriage certificates.

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