Prepare For Your Journey to Purdue

Please use the information below as you prepare for your arrival at Purdue. Also, be sure to review each section of the online “Prepare to be WOWed!” publication.

- Mandatory International Student Check-in (MISCI): The US Dept. of Homeland Security requires you to check in with ISS and bring all immigration documents with you: I-20/DS-2019, passport, visa, and I-94 arrival record (and corresponding dependent documents, if applicable). Sessions will begin promptly at the designated times. You must be present during the entire time; late arrival is not permitted.

- Pre-Arrival and Orientation New Student Check-in: All students are required to upload their immigration documents before coming to Purdue. Click here to upload your documents through myISS with the New Student Check-in form.

- Graduate Students: The Office of Graduate Admissions will have a representative in Stewart Center during MISCI to collect official documents (either transcripts or diplomas) that were listed in your official online admission letter. Graduate students may submit these documents either before or after the MISCI session.

- International Friendship Program (IFP): Get paired with a local host family and meet 3-4 times during your first semester on campus. The International Friendship Program is a great way to make a friend, get connected with the community and learn about American culture while sharing your own culture. Look for an email invite by July 21 with registration details.

- Weeks of Welcome (WOW) Events: View events online to participate in free activities for all new international Boilermakers. Several community groups and local organizations, along with CILMAR student ambassadors will be on hand to welcome you to the community. Both graduate and undergraduate students arriving in August are welcome to attend. Use these events as opportunities to meet other students and ask for help from staff or student leaders. Look for the CILMAR ambassadors and table in the WOW Resource Center in STEW 202 and learn about other events and trips that occur during classes.

- Boiler Out! Volunteer Program: Get to know your new community by volunteering with other international and American students through Boiler Out! (Outreach, Understanding, Teamwork). Online applications are due at the beginning of every semester. The application will become available by August.

- Traveling to Purdue: As you make your travel plans, remember that you are not permitted to enter the U.S. more than 30 days before the start date on your Certificate of Eligibility (I-20/DS-2019). For detailed information on what to expect as you enter the U.S., refer to the Department of Homeland Security’s website.

- Shuttle to Campus: After you have scheduled your flight, you will need to arrange a shuttle service to get from the airport to Purdue. The shuttle services will make several stops on and around campus. Check their websites for exact drop-off locations.
  - Arriving in Chicago? Book a shuttle through Express Air Coach, Lafayette Limo, or Reindeer Shuttle.
  - Arriving in Indianapolis? Book a shuttle through Lafayette Limo or Reindeer Shuttle.

- Transportation to your Residence Hall: If you arrive at Purdue between August 9 and 19, volunteers from CILMAR will pick you up from the Purdue Memorial Union (PMU) and take you to your residence hall or off-campus apartment. Students must sign up online. Please complete the online form so that arrangements can be made to pick you up upon your arrival at PMU.

- Housing Reminder: It is strongly suggested to make your on-campus housing or off-campus housing arrangements before your arrival.

- Health Insurance: Purdue University Student Health Center is your primary site for health care on campus. Please follow the instructions to comply with state and university requirements.

- Facebook Invitation: ISS and CILMAR are on Facebook! The ISS fanpage is a great place to connect with current international students. The CILMAR fanpage and WeChat account are great places to learn about events with CILMAR, the rest of campus, and the community. There are many options to stay connected and find your community at Purdue. Become fans today!