

Packing Suggestions

Revised 5/11

Some Suggestions for What to Pack:

- Weather —the weather in Los Angeles is typically mild and sunny with a range of 12—30C/55 –85F. A light jacket and rain jacket are suggested with a small umbrella if you are arriving in the Winter/Spring
- Shoes—bring a pair of very comfortable walking shoes
- Academic documents—previous transcripts, degrees/diplomas/certificates and make one set of photocopies to bring
- Health and immunization records
- Home country driver’s license with translation to English—It is recommended to apply for a California Driver’s License after arrival but non-nationals are able to use a home country license temporarily. International Driving Permits are not valid in California
- 30-day supply of important medicine—additional prescriptions can be obtained from the USC Student Health Center
- Extra glasses or contact lens supplies
- Towel, washcloth and bed linens for the first week of housing
- If have school-age children, two years of official school records and any immunization records (translated)

What Not to Pack:

- DC or 220/240 appliances—In the U.S., 110V and AC power is used
- Fruits, vegetables or meats—These are prohibited by Customs and Border Protection (CBP)
- Large amounts of cash

Some USC National Student Groups Provide “What to Bring” and Orientation to USC/U.S. information:

- Chinese Student and Scholar Association (CSSA) — www-scf.usc.edu/~uscscssa
- Association of Indian Students (AIS) — www.aisusc.org/

Carry-on Luggage for the Plane:

- All original immigration and academic documents in purse or satchel with a set of photocopies packed separately from the originals
- Travelers checks in U.S. Dollars —Do not bring more than \$100 cash and bring travelers checks for additional money. If renting an apartment, a person typically needs to pay two months rent along with a security deposit and some application fees. A very general estimate would be \$2000 in travelers checks. Bring what is estimated to need for the first two weeks, set-up a bank account and any other large currency amounts should arrive by wire transfer from the home country bank account
- Any important phone numbers— Pre-paid phone cards can be purchased in the airport terminal. U.S. numbers require a “1” to be dialed before the number
- A credit card that can be used in the United States for purchases
- If possible, a cell phone that can be used to make calls temporarily in the United States.