

What you must know before you come to the U.S.

Preparation to move to the United States is the first step to start enjoying the unique experiences that the country can offer. However, lack of planning and poor information can turn the trip into an unpleasant situation.

Here is a list of steps that you may follow after you have received your acceptance letter to the Marriott School of Management.

➤ PASSPORT

Each member of the traveling family will need a valid passport from their home country. Make sure passports are valid for at least six months beyond graduation.

➤ VISAS

You will need either an F-1 or a J-1 visa to study in the United States. You will need to visit the U.S. embassy or consulate in your country to apply for the visa. You can find a brief description of both F and J visas at <http://international.byu.edu/> by clicking at “Status & Visa” and “Exchange Visitors” sections in the main menu.

When going to the U.S. embassy or consulate, you will be required to bring with you the I-20 form issued by BYU along with financial support information. Allow yourself plenty of time to get your visa. The U.S. Department of State has indicated that the process of issuing visas to some individuals might be considerably slow due to security clearance.

Make sure to check with the U.S. embassy or consulate in your country for specific instructions on the visa process.

Be familiarized with your visa status, sure to understand the regulations regarding your length of stay, rights and obligations, employment, etc.

We strongly suggest to do not attempt to enter the U.S. with a different type of visa than those mentioned above.

If your wife, children, and/or other relatives are traveling with you, be sure he/she also gets an F or J visa. You will have to prove financial support for them.

For more information visit the BYU International Services Office at <http://www.international.byu.edu/> or the [U.S. Department of Homeland Security](#)

➤ ORIENTATION GUIDE

After you have obtained the proper visa to enter the U.S. you may start looking for information regarding your staying and living in the U.S. Download or print out the [Orientation Guide](#) available in our website and read it before you travel. Please give you enough time to take the

needed steps in issues such as housing, school for your children, and English as a Second Language programs for your wife/husband.

Before Leaving Checklist

- Check for passports (must be valid for at least six month after finishing school)
- Review the information in visas and all other immigration documents (make sure names are spelled out right, and personal data are correct as well, i.e. address, date of birth, etc.)
- Obtain international airfare tickets. Find out about specific baggage regulations with the chosen airline, i.e. sizes, weight, security, etc.). Some students have found more convenient flying direct to Salt Lake City rather than changing flies in one, two or more cites. However, this decision must be totally aligned with your budget.
- Visit your doctor and dentist and get a thoughtful exam done before you leave.
- If needed, make arrangements so you have someone in your country with legal powers to represent you in those matters that may require your presence.

What to bring

When reading the following list, please consider other things you may find important for you and your family to bring, so do not limit yourself to what is listed in this section.

- Your driver's license or international driver's license
- Prevent medical needs. Bring a supply of medications for existing medical conditions. Ask your physician to give you a description of the prescriptions medicine you take in order to help you find the right medicine in the U.S.
- Medical records, such as immunization and dental records, and academic records of any dependents that will be enrolling school on the U.S.
- Birth certificates or other proof of age for children who will be entering the school for the first time.
- An extra pair of eyeglasses or contact lenses.
- Maps and photographs of your home country, which can be used in informal talks you might be invited to give.