

## Documents to Bring

Plan to bring with you to the United States any important documents that relate to your legal, medical, and academic history.

While traveling to the United States and while in the country, it is important that you carry all important documents on your person. Do not put them in a suitcase. Do not loan or give them to anyone unless that person can show some form of identification stating that he or she is authorized to receive them.

### Legal Documents

As a foreign national entering the United States, you must have certain documents as evidence of your legal status. These include:

- Valid passport:** Issued by your country, with at least six months validity beyond your entry date; nonimmigrant visa placed inside your passport by a consular officer of a U.S. Embassy or consulate (see 'Visa Information' for detailed instructions on how to apply for a visa).
- Certificate** of Eligibility (SEVIS Form 1-20).
- SEVIS 1-901 fee receipt** (form 1-797 -paper receipt) and copy of SEVIS 1-901 form
- Arrival-Departure Record** (1-94 form) and the Customs Declaration Form (CF-6059), which will be issued to you, usually on the airplane before landing, filled out by you and reviewed and stamped by the immigration officer at your point of entry into the United States. You may have additional clearance procedures on arrival, in which case you will be directed to a private work station where a photograph and electronic (ink-less) fingerprints will be taken to verify your identity, and a short interview conducted and follow-up appointment scheduled to verify your plans.

These documents define your legal status. They are necessary for your entry and stay in the United States, and for any temporary departure from and reentry into the country. It is extremely important that you keep these official documents valid at all times. Failure to do so may cause problems with your stay in the United States.

It is also a good idea to bring an official copy of your birth certificate, as this may be requested when applying for various forms of identification and other documents in the United States. If you are married and your spouse will accompany you, bring a copy of your marriage certificate or other proof of marriage. Be sure to obtain notarized translations of these certificates if they are not in English.

### Certificates of Immunization and Vaccination

Ask at the U.S. embassy or consulate whether you must have a medical examination and/or immunization(s) before entering the United States. Regulations are different for each country of origin. Inform the U.S. embassy or consulate if you plan to visit other countries before going to the United States because this might affect the requirements for you. Major airlines often can supply information on U.S. entry requirements from other countries. Your doctor also might recommend additional immunizations.

**Prescriptions for Medication and Eyeglasses**

When you enter the United States, you must declare medications you are carrying on customs forms. Certain drugs may not be brought into the country. If you have questions, check with the U.S. embassy or consulate before you leave home. If you take prescription medicine on a regular basis, bring a sufficient supply and a copy of the prescription, written in English. If you depend on eyeglasses, it is a good idea to bring an extra pair, if possible, and a copy of your eyeglass prescription, written in English.

Although you may feel more comfortable using medications from home for headaches, colds, upset stomach, or minor injuries, aspirin, ointments, and other remedies are readily available in the United States. A pharmacist can advise you.

**Medical and Dental Records**

If possible, bring detailed and up-to-date medical and dental records for yourself and any dependents who are traveling with you. It is also a good idea to make sure that these records reflect recent visits to your local health care professionals for general examinations, blood tests, dental and eye checkups, x-rays, and so on. This will not only help your U.S. doctors get a better idea of recent or past diagnoses and treatments, but may also help you avoid repeating these tests in the United States at greater expense. (See "Health Insurance Plan Exclusions. ")

**Academic Documents**

Bring official transcripts from secondary schools, colleges, or universities. Additionally, bring any syllabi, catalogs, bulletins, course descriptions, or other relevant materials issued by the secondary school or university you have attended most recently. These records can be very helpful to the admissions office and academic departments if questions arise concerning academic credit or your placement in courses at your U.S. college or university.

**Contact Information**

Include with your documents the name, address, and telephone number of the individual at Lamar University to contact in case of a travel delay or an emergency. Also include the name, address, and telephone number of a contact person at home and the name, address, and telephone number of your country's consulate in the United States or another entity, such as an educational mission or sponsoring agency.