

## Pre-departure Checklist

Use this list to check that you have taken care of all essential arrangements before you depart for the United States.

- If you are being sponsored by an organization, notify that organization of your plans. Maintain contact with the sponsoring organization, which can assist with pre-departure arrangements.
- Obtain certified copies of your secondary and postsecondary transcripts.
- Obtain copies of important medical records, X-rays, and prescriptions. Have prescriptions written in English in generic terms.
- Reread the university's catalog.
- Check to see that your passport is up-to-date and valid.
- Apply to your nearest U.S. embassy or consulate for a visa upon receipt of your 1-20 or DS-2019 form. Do this well in advance of your departure date.
- Learn how to reach the university from your point of entry in the United States.
- Make travel arrangements. It is advisable to arrive on campus a few days to one week before orientation and registration begin.
- Contact the International Student Office with details of your arrival plans, and confirm details of the orientation for new international students held by the university.
- Finalize arrangements for housing with the university. Inquire about temporary housing, hotel, motel, or other arrangements that need to be made if arriving early or during the weekend.
- Organize finances: arrange to transfer funds to a U.S. bank and make sure you have funds for travel and expenses on arrival; consider buying traveler's checks to cover costs during your first month in the United States; consider obtaining a credit card, if possible.
- If you will be bringing Bank Drafts or Cashier's Check, please make sure that it can be drawn at a U.S. banking institution and it is payable to "Lamar University."