



Pre-Arrival Information

Obtaining a Student F-1 Visa: The primary student will need to apply for an F-1 visa at the nearest United States Consulate Office or Embassy in the home country. Any dependents will need to apply for an F-2 visa. Procedures to apply for a visa change from time to time, so you are advised to check with your nearest consular office either by phone or website to find out what are the procedures and requirements in your country. You will need to take the I-20 the school sends you, along with your financial guarantee documents, and any documentation supporting your permanent residency in your home country with you to apply. You will need to call well in advance to schedule an interview with an officer. The fee for processing the I-20 is \$350, in addition to the visa cost, which varies from country to country. The SEVIS fee must be paid before your visa appointment date. To pay I-901SEVIS fee visit <https://www.fmjfee.com/i901fee/index.html>.

Making Arrival Travel Arrangements: Purchase your airline ticket for final arrival to Sky Harbor International Airport in Phoenix, Arizona. For ground transportation, you can use the Super Shuttle vans (between \$14 - \$24 depending on distance), located right outside the exit doors of the airport or local taxis or Uber or Lyft. Super Shuttles are recommended as taxi fare can be expensive. <https://www.supershuttle.com/locations/phoenix-phx-aza/>

Making Financial Arrangements: Most students have the following type of expenses when they arrive: Tuition and Fees, Rent, Food (often called “board,” as in “room and board”), Health insurance & Medical Costs, Books and Course supplies, Transportation, Communications (mainly cell telephone and e-mail hookups), Clothing, Personal expenses, Recreation, Furniture, Travel, Expenses for Dependents (that is, spouse and/or children who accompany you and are dependent on your financial support), including living costs, childcare costs, health insurance and tuition for dependents who are in school.

Medical, Dental and Vision Examinations: Health, dental and vision care is very expensive in the United States. GWCC insurance does NOT cover dental and vision care, only health. You can save money if you receive health, dental and vision examinations and treatment before you leave your home country. Also, do not forget to bring with you any prescription medications, eye glasses or contact lenses. You might also want to consult with you doctor for recommendations and extra medications.

Packing Your Luggage: Arizona is hot during the summer months (June – September), so light cotton clothing is recommended. In the winter time months (December – February), Central Arizona weather is chilly; jeans, long sleeve tops and light jackets are recommended. If you plan to visit, snow ski or tour in the higher elevations in Northern, Eastern and parts of Southern Arizona, it snows and therefore you will need much warmer clothing such as wool socks, thick jackets, hats, gloves, etc. The rest of the year (Oct – Nov, March – May) in the metro-Phoenix area, the weather is absolutely beautiful. You should take certain documents with you in your carry-on luggage, in case your checked luggage is lost. Don't forget to add labels with you name and contact information on your luggage. Remember that U.S. Dept of Homeland Security at the port of entry are authorized to search your and all your luggage when you seek admission to the U.S. Items to bring with you in your carry-on might include: Airline Ticket, Passport, I-20 form, Evidence of Financial Support form, Documentation of your permanent residence in your country, Extra passport size photos, Official Transcripts for all Secondary and Post-secondary studies, Medical & Dental Records, Information about any Medical Conditions or Treatments, Eyeglasses and Lens Prescriptions, Traveler's Checks, cash, credit cards, Copy of Birth or Marriage Certificate, International Driver's License, Important Telephone Numbers, Emails and Address (family, friends, businesses, doctors, etc.) and a change of clothing if it takes you 2 days to get to the U.S.