

BEFORE YOU GO, YOU SHOULD KNOW

Volume 7: Final Preparations

It's finally time! You are either days or weeks away from stepping on to the plane (or the first plane) to take you to the U.S. to begin your adventure as an FLTA. There are a few last minute reminders to make sure everything is in order and that you feel well prepared before your departure.

This is the final volume of the Before You Go series. Please keep an eye out for the "How to Steer While You are Here" series set to commence in the first weeks of September.

Travel Reminders

Travel Documents:

Be sure to bring all necessary documents to the airport including:

- ◆ Passport (with visa inside)
- ◆ E-ticket itinerary
- ◆ DS-2019 (bring original in your carry-on, it will need to be processed upon arrival)
- ◆ The address of where you are staying for your orientation, contact information for the orientation coordinator

Luggage:

- ◆ Pack lightly! There will be fees attached to overweight luggage that will have to be paid from your personal funds.
 - The most up-to-date information about luggage can be found on the airline's website.
- ◆ Confirm with your supervisor what primary materials you should bring from your home country (music, newspapers, clothing, magazines)
- ◆ If your luggage does not arrive at your final destination, don't panic! Go to the airline desk by baggage claim and file a missing luggage report. They will ship the bag to your orientation site.

Arrival Preparations

Make sure you know:

- ◆ **Arrival arrangements for your summer orientation:** Print out the directions explicitly stated on your U.S. summer orientation website, carry the address of the orientation and contact information of the coordinator.
- ◆ **Arrival arrangements for your host institution:** Be sure to know if/when someone is picking you up at the airport, how you will spend your gap period if you have one and the contact information for your supervisor or the person picking you up.
 - **Send your itinerary to your supervisor as soon as you have confirmed it**

Forms for IIE

These forms and their deadlines can be found in the back of your FLTA Handbook.

- ◆ Mandatory Itinerary Report Form: All FLTAs must submit this form before departure; especially if IIE did not arrange your travel
- ◆ Arrival Address Report Form, copy of processed DS-2019, I-94, visa should be submitted within 10 days of the start date on your DS
- ◆ Student Report Form should be submitted within 30 days of the start date on your DS-2019

First Impressions

Summer orientation:

- ◆ You will most likely be tired from extensive travel, but do your best to be engaged and attentive during sessions.
- ◆ Take this opportunity to get to know your fellow FLTAs! They will be a terrific support network throughout the year.
- ◆ The food will probably be an adjustment. There will be lots of sandwiches and salads. Be prepared!

Host institution:

- ◆ Give it a chance: do your best to appreciate the circumstances of your program and your ability to adapt to a new environment, new people and new attitudes
- ◆ Meet people, get involved and establish a routine: Once you have an understanding of your teaching schedule and your class schedule, look to become involved in one or two extra curricular activities. This will be a great way to meet new people and make friends. Be careful not to overload your schedule.

Recommended Activity

- ◆ Have a "See you in a year!" party with your family and friends
- ◆ Make a list of 5 FLTA Program related goals you would like to accomplish in the next year
- ◆ Make a list of 5 FLTA Program related opportunities you would like to take advantage of in the next year

Travel safely and enjoy!

Regards,
FLTA Staff