

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENT
PRE-DEPARTURE GUIDE**



WELCOME *Wildcat!*

No matter where you come from, we want you to call the University of Kentucky your home away from home. The International Student Leadership Team has prepared this departure guide to help you get ready for your travels and your first few days on campus. We can't wait to welcome you to campus during International Big Blue Nation Orientation.



PACKING ESSENTIALS

Let's start with what you need to know before departing from your country



IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

Keep these in your carry-on bag—
DO NOT pack them in your checked bag.

- Passport with valid F-1 or J-1 visa stamp
- I-20 or DS-2019
- I-901 SEVIS fee receipt
- Admission letter
- Financial documents
- Immunization records and/or prescriptions



CLOTHES



Kentucky experiences all seasons, so keep the weather and your lifestyle in mind! If you forget an essential item, there are plenty of places to shop close to campus.



ELECTRONICS

- Cellphone (and charger)
- Laptop or tablet (and charger)
- 120V Converter or adapter
- Any other electronics (headphones, wearable technology, etc.)



OTHER ITEMS

- Bring sentimental items, like photos of family and friends to make your new place feel like home.
- Pack a favorite snack or two to share with new friends.
- Keep in mind your residence hall or apartment may not provide bedding, linens, or other household items.

CHECK OUT UKY'S iPad INITIATIVE

MORE IDEAS ON WHAT TO PACK

Everyone's packing list will be a little different, so be sure to think through all the variables of moving to a different country and how that affects your own packing list specifically. There will be shopping shuttles provided during orientation, as well as shopping within walking distance from campus. Don't worry if you forget something – our International Student Leadership Team will help you find what you need during orientation.



TIPS FOR A SMOOTH TRAVEL EXPERIENCE



Request a free airport pickup from Lexington Blue Grass Airport (LEX): [CLICK HERE](#)

Make sure your important documents are with you in your carry-on bag. You should check with your airline to see if there are any additional actions needed prior to departure. On the day of departure, check-in online, so you have one less thing to worry about when you arrive at the airport. Leave your house with enough time to get to the airport, check your bags, and go through security before boarding.

US CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

You will go through customs upon entry into the United States. Make sure you have your passport with your valid F-1 or J-1 stamp, I-20 or DS-2019, I-901 SEVIS fee receipt, and financial documentation ready to present to the immigration officer. You may be asked questions about the purpose of your travels, so be prepared to share your plans to study at the University of Kentucky.



ARRIVAL GUIDE

EVERYTHING YOU NEED FOR YOUR FIRST 24 HOURS IN LEXINGTON

Now that you have arrived, it's time to know how to get some essential items in Lexington. We've prepared a list of everything you need to know when you first set foot on the University of Kentucky's campus.

CELL PHONE

Get a free SIM card from Bradley Hall or at one of our orientation events.

WIFI

UK's Wi-Fi network is called eduroam and is available across campus. Click [HERE](#) to learn how to connect to eduroam.

COMPLETE NEW STUDENT INFORMATION CHECKLIST

After you arrive in Lexington, log into <https://icat.uky.edu> to finish the "New Student Information Checklist." You will need to complete this checklist to remove the ISSS hold from your student account.

BANKING

There are two financial institutions located on-campus in the Gatton Student Center.

- UK Federal Credit Union: Gatton Student Center, www.ukfcu.org
- PNC: Gatton Student Center, www.pnc.com

There are other banks located in Lexington that are close to campus. Be sure to find a bank that meets your financial needs while in the US.

STUDENT ID CARDS

ID cards are made in Gatton Student Center Suite 380, Monday-Friday 8 a.m. until 4:15 p.m. Take your UK admission letter, \$20 for the fee (cash, check, credit card) and your passport with you.

APPS TO DOWNLOAD

- Duo Mobile – Authentication services
- Canvas – UK's classroom management system
- myUK – Access to your student account
- TransLoc – UK bus routes and maps
- myStop – Lexington bus routes and maps
- Click [HERE](#) for more essential apps

We can't wait to meet you during International Big Blue Nation Orientation!

Check out our complete schedule here:

<https://international.uky.edu/ISSS/OrientationSchedule>

Still have questions? Email us at iss@uky.edu