

Travel Information

Congratulations on your visa to the HTIR co-op program. Below are some travel tips that you may find useful.

Please be careful at the airports. There are many pickpockets and thieves just waiting to steal your bags and wallets.

We recommend that you keep your passport and visa documents on your person, not in a bag or wallet. Also, any large quantities of cash that you carry should be in a safe place on your person. (we have had people tape cash to their stomachs or sew it into their clothes). Do be careful of anyone who is near you, because the pickpockets are very good at what they do.

Also, it is important to know that you cannot bring into the US more than \$10,000 cash without telling immigration. (We have had students whose money was taken from them at the boarder because they had more than \$10,000.) The safest thing to do is have your tuition and fees wired directly to the school.

For security reasons, the airlines are asking people to arrive earlier than before; some security lines are moving quickly and some will move slowly, so if you miss a flight for some reason, don't panic. DO CALL the school and your pickup contact to let them know of the change of plan. The airlines will probably be able to put you on a later flight that same day.

The Transportation Security Authority (TSA), passengers are only allowed to bring liquids through the security checkpoint that fit in a 3 Oz or smaller container. These containers must fit in a quart size clear plastic bag. This is for all liquids and gels, including, beverages, shampoo, lotion, toothpaste, hair gel, and other items of similar consistency. If you are going to transport these items in containers larger than 3 oz, then you will need to place them in your checked luggage. Passengers may have baby formula, or juice if a baby or small child is traveling. Passengers may also have prescription medication labeled with a name which matches the name on the passenger's ticket, insulin, or other essential non-prescription medications. Items purchased passed the security checkpoints may be brought on board the aircraft. For further information, please go to www.tsa.gov

If you have traveled at all in the past few years, you've probably already stood in security lines while your bags were x-rayed and you and your fellow passengers produced your identification papers numerous times, took cell phones and laptops out of their cases, emptied pockets of coins and keys, stripped off your shoes, belts and jewelry. And for some, the need to stand, arms and legs outstretched, while an electronic wand was waved around their body, possibly to determine what caused all that beeping when they stepped through the metal detector.

Remember: This is a good time to keep your sense of humor, but it is not a good time to make jokes.

Comments about guns, bombs, box cutters, hijackings and anything else related to terrorist activities that have caused the deaths of thousands of innocent travelers will be taken seriously. At the very least, you will be detained—not a good way to start your journey.

It is important to arrive early at your departure site—90 minutes to two hours is the general rule. International travelers usually go through three lines—once at check-in, once for the examination of checked luggage, and once at the personal security check-through. Being late for your flight will not get you moved to the front of these security lines.

To make things move faster for yourself and for those waiting in line behind you, make use of the following tips:

- Read the permitted and prohibited items list: <http://www.tsa.gov/>. Some things that are not allowed in your carry-on baggage can be carried in your checked luggage.
- Keep your passport and boarding pass readily available. You will be asked for these documents more than once, so there is no point in putting them away until you are completely through security.
- How you dress for an international flight can make a difference in how quickly you can move through security. Since you will be asked to remove your shoes, intricate laces, long rows of clasps, buckles, or other fasteners that take time to get your footwear off and on will hold up the line. Smart travelers wear slip-on shoes, which are also convenient for getting comfortable on long international flights.
- Although you will not be asked to remove your clothes (other than coats, suit jackets, and blazers), clothing with metal buttons and buckles will definitely cause the beepers to go off and you will need to be "wanded" which, again, uses up time for everybody. Wear comfortable clothing with a minimum of metal fasteners.
- Keep in mind that you will have to remove much of your jewelry if it contains metal, and you will also have to empty your pockets of coins, keys, cell phones, and other bulky items. Even full packs of cigarettes can set off the beepers. It takes time to take things off and put them back on, to empty each of your pockets and fill them up again. Dress accordingly. If you have lots of pocket items, put them in a clear plastic bag so you can pull it out for inspection in one easy go and are not patting yourself down repeatedly while your fellow travelers are glancing at their watches. Even better, put the plastic bag in your carry-on luggage and retrieve it after clearing the inspection point.
- Pack your valuables and fragile items such as jewelry, cash, cameras, and laptop computers in carry-on baggage only. If you are traveling with a laptop computer, remember that you will have to remove it from its case and may need to turn it on for inspectors. You may be asked to do the same with other electronic devices.
- Put all undeveloped film in your carry-on baggage because the checked-baggage screening equipment could damage it. Don't hold things up by trying to locate and remove it from your suitcase while in an inspection line.
- Do not pack wrapped gifts and do not bring wrapped gifts to the security checkpoint. This will assuredly cause you to be pulled aside for further inspection. And use common sense: if you bought Aunt Berta a great set of knives, pack them—unwrapped—in your checked, not your carry-on luggage. Items confiscated at security checkpoints are not returned, and you wouldn't want to disappoint Aunt Berta.
- If you wish to lock your baggage, use a Transportation Security Administration (TSA)-recognized lock [http://www.tsa.gov/public/interapp/editorial/editorial_multi_image_with_table_0234.xml]; otherwise you may find the fastener on your bag broken when you arrive at your destination. Checked luggage may randomly undergo additional inspections before being loaded onto the carrier. If your bag is chosen, it will be opened—so it's best to allow unfettered access.