

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR YOUR TRIP

Emergency Contacts: Dr. Julia Sheetz-Willard 610-529-9436
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Packing List:

1. Clothing
 - a. January and February in Philadelphia, New York City, and Washington, DC can be very cold and sometime icy or snowy. Temperatures in January average a low of - 3°C and high of 6°C. All of the living and meeting spaces are well-heated, but our active program will involve being outdoors as well, so you should be prepared to dress warmly. The best way to dress for winter is to wear layers – this gives you flexibility to add or remove layers, depending on the weather and your activity. In general, the three main layers for cold days outdoors are wicking (such as a long thermal underwear), insulating (such as sweaters, sweatshirts and vests); and weather protection (such as coats and jackets). You will also need mittens or gloves, scarves, hats, and boots. **NOTE: We will have a supply of gloves, hats and some warm coats available, and can take you shopping soon after your arrival for coats and boots, if you find it difficult or too expensive to purchase those before coming.**
 - b. Dress on the Temple University campus is informal. Comfortable sportswear is very appropriate for most daily activities.
 - c. You should also bring one or two formal or traditional outfits for special events and site visits (which will include visits to places of worship), though even there suits and ties are not required.
 - d. Those who choose to will have access to the fitness center and pool at Temple University; if you wish to make use of them, please bring a swimsuit and exercise clothes.
2. You may want to bring a small gift (something traditional from your culture) for the host family with whom you will spend a weekend during the program.
3. If you have a traditional costume from your region, you may also want to bring it, as there will be opportunity to share with others.
4. The hotel where you will be staying has free wireless so you may wish to bring a laptop computer. Occasionally students may plan to purchase a laptop in the U.S.; we will try to arrange a shopping trip early in the program. There is also a computer in the lobby of the hotel that is available for your use.
5. You should pack at least one outfit and a few toiletries in your carry-on luggage, as checked baggage sometimes gets delayed on international flights and you may have to wait a day or two for your things to arrive. You can expect some delay when you arrive at the airport, due to increased security measures.
6. Be sure to bring a complete supply of any prescription medicine you may need; take this medication with you in your carry-on luggage on the plane, in case your checked-in luggage is delayed. Liquid medication bottles cannot exceed 4 fluid ounces when included in carry-on luggage.

7. If you wear contact lenses or glasses, please make sure to bring an extra pair, because to get them here will be expensive and difficult.

Keeping in Touch with your friends and families:

You will be provided with a cell phone with an unlimited U.S. calling plan and free incoming calls; however, outgoing calls to your home countries are not included in the plan and are extremely expensive, so you should plan to use Skype and/or email as well.

Travel:

You will be arriving at the Philadelphia International Airport; the SUSI staff will meet you there with clearly marked signs. If there are any complications that arise with your arrival at the airport, please call Dr. Julia Sheetz-Willard at 610-529-9436 or Dr. Barbara Zasloff at 484-431-3350.

Be sure to carry with you the letter you received from the State Department confirming your participation in the Study of the U.S. Institute on Religious Pluralism, which you should use (along with this letter) in the event that immigration or customs officials seek additional documentation about your stay in the United States.