

My First 24 Hours in California:

**My flight has officially landed-
now what?**

**An international student's guide to
things you should expect and
prepare for before your arrival.**



LAX Customs



U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Customs Declaration
FORM APPROVED CBP 605 (8-10-07)

Each arriving traveler or responsible family member must provide the following information (only ONE written declaration per family is required):

1. Family Name: AGASTROZOG
First (Given) KEEL Middle A
2. Birth date: Day 05 Month 08 Year 30
3. Number of Family members traveling with you: 0
4. (a) U.S. Street Address (hotel name/destination)
(b) City _____ (c) State _____
5. Passport issued by (country): USA
6. Passport number _____
7. Country of Residence: USA
8. Countries visited on this trip prior to U.S. arrival: GERMANY, KUWAIT, QATAR, OMAN, SAUDI ARABIA, U.A.E.
9. Airline/Flight No. or Travel Agency: AA 105
10. The primary purpose of this trip is business: NO Yes No
11. I am (We are) bringing:
(a) fruits, vegetables, plants, seeds, food, etc.: Yes No
(b) meats, animals, animal/wildlife products: Yes No
(c) disease agents, cell cultures, snails: Yes No
(d) soil or have been on a farm/ranch/pasture: Yes No
12. I have (We have) been in close proximity of (such as touching or handling) livestock: Yes No
13. I am (We are) carrying currency or monetary instruments over \$10,000 U.S. or foreign equivalent (see definition of monetary instruments on reverse): Yes No
14. I have (We have) commercial merchandise (articles for sale, samples used for soliciting orders, or goods that are the considered personal effects): Yes No
15. Residents — the total value of all goods, including commercial merchandise I've purchased or acquired abroad, (including gifts for someone else, but not items shipped to the U.S.) and am/are bringing to the U.S. is: \$ _____
Visitors — the total value of all articles that will remain in the U.S. including commercial merchandise is: \$ _____

Read the instructions on the back of this form. Space is provided to list all the items you must declare.

I HAVE READ THE IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON THE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS FORM AND HAVE MADE A TRUTHFUL DECLARATION.

(Signature) [Signature] Date (day/month/year) _____

For Official Use Only

CBP Form 6055B (10/07) collectSPACE



When you have retrieved all your luggage, you will fall into another line in order to exit. This line leads to your final checkpoint, customs.

Have your blue Customs Declaration form in hand, ready to pass to the Customs Officer at the end of the line.

This Officer will decide whether they will conduct a bag search, or they will let you exit into California.

Welcome to California!

Is someone picking you up at the
Arrival Gate?



There is no free Wi-Fi service at the arrival gate. Pay phones are located at either ends of the arrival hall. Only quarters (25c) are accepted.

Is someone picking you up
outside?



If someone is picking you up outside, agree on a specific airline sign to stand under. Popular choices: Cathay Pacific, Korean Air, Air Canada, United Airlines

Tips for planning prior to arrival:

1. Have contact numbers copied down in case that person can't find you, is running late, or can't be there.
2. Make a backup plan before you arrive.

Transportation Options: 1.

FlyAway

If someone wants to pick you up closer to their homes, consider: **LAX FlyAway**

LAX → Major Metro Stations

- Expo/ La Brea (Los Angeles)
- Union Station (Downtown Los Angeles)
- Van Nuys (San Fernando Valley)
- Westwood (West Los Angeles)



Where to catch it: Lower/Arrival Level,
under green FlyAway, Buses and Long Distance Van sign



How to buy a ticket: Purchase ticket on the bus with Visa, Mastercard, or American Express (cash is not accepted)

For more information, visit: http://www.lawa.org/welcome_LAX.aspx?id=292

2. Share Ride Vans

Share ride vans are essentially like a taxi providing door to door service, the only difference is that you will be sharing the van with others along the same route, so there may be detours before you each your destination.

You are encouraged to contact the companies and book online with your flight information and intended destination.

For more information on pick up locations, visit:

http://www.lawa.org/welcome_lax.aspx?id=1298

Prime Time Shuttle



SuperShuttle



Other On-Ground Transportation

- Hotel & Parking Lot Shuttles
- Long Distance Vans
- Public Transportation (public buses and light rail)
- Rental Cars
- Scheduled Buses
- Shared Ride Vans
- Taxis

For more information:

http://www.lawa.org/welcome_lax.aspx?id=132

Not sure where to go?

If you are landing in L.A. for the first time, don't have family or friends here to help, the first week may be daunting.

The first thing you should consider: finding temporary lodging for a week while you set out looking for a place to rent.



Temporary Lodging: Hotels and Hostels

It is important to find a safe environment for you to relax and be in the neighborhood you want to. Treat it as a vacation!



Refer to *Living Guide for International Students* for best areas to consider living in



Choose and book hotel/hostel in that area



What about food?

You're in a new area, settled down, checked in, but now you realize how hungry you are, but have no idea what to eat.



Solution: Yelp.com!



Everyone in California uses Yelp as their guide to food and shops. Download the app on your smartphone before traveling, there is ample Wi-Fi in cafes and malls even if your hostel/hotel does not provide it.

Once you've settled down, gotten over jet lag, consider your next 48 hours...

- Opening a bank account, obtaining a debit card
 - Getting a car
 - Finding a place to rent
- Getting your driver's license

Refer to *Living Guide for International Students* for more information

If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact Michelle Ajemian, California DSO at majemian@thechicagoschool.edu

For other helpful information please visit the [International Programs and Services](#) website

