



**EDUCATION
INNOVATION
SERVICE**



My First 24 Hours in Washington D.C

My flight has officially landed in Washington D.C....

Now What?

Checkpoint 1: Immigration Custom & Border Protection - CBP



Look for the Non-U.S. Citizen/Visitors line
Have your documents ready:

1. I-20
2. SEVIS fee receipt
3. Passport and Visa
4. Financial Statement
5. Other supporting documents for your stay in United States (if applicable)
6. Customs Declaration Form

Tips: cellphone and camera usage is not permitted before passing through immigration

Questions to expect from the Immigration Officer



Sample Questions

- What is your country of origin?
- Where is your destination?
- Why are you here?
- What are you studying?
- Who's paying for you?
- Where will you be living?



Once you are cleared, the officer will ask for your fingerprints and take your photo.

Tips: Immigration officers can be quite intimidating and demanding, stay calm and answer their questions to the best of your ability. Don't offer any additional information if not asked.

If you are asked for a Secondary Inspection



- Reason for Secondary Inspection: Information not verified on the CBP system or incomplete documentation.
- Next Steps:
 - Further inspection in a separate area of the airport arrivals.
 - Form I-515A- submit the form given to you at a local federal government agency within 30 days of your entry.
 - In very rare cases, entry may be denied.

Tips: If you are asked for a Secondary Inspection, please contact your local pickup arrangement. Duration of the inspection could vary from an hour to overnight. If you are given the Form I-515A, please notify your DSO immediately after your entry.

Checkpoint 2: Baggage Claim



Look for your flight number from the monitor to find which carousel your baggage will be arriving to or listen to announcements made through the PA system.

Retrieve your baggage

Tips: special sized baggage will be placed in the aisle nearest your carousel

Checkpoint 3: Customs



U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Customs Declaration
FORM APPROVED CBP NO. 180-0001

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

1. Family Name: AGOSTINO 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 (omit non-residential)
(b) City: _____ (c) State: _____
5. Passport issued by (country): USA
6. Passport number: USA
7. Country of Residence: USA
8. Countries visited on this trip prior to U.S. arrival: GERMANY, KENYA, QATAR, SAUDI ARABIA, U.K.
9. Airline/Flight No. or Vessel Name: AA 105
10. The primary purpose of this trip is business: Yes No
11. I am (We are) bringing: Yes No
(a) Fruits, vegetables, plants, seeds, food, insects
(b) meats, animals, animal/plant products
(c) disease agents, self, coffee, snuff
(d) soil or have been in a farm/tranch/pasture
12. I have (We have) been in close proximity of such as wreckage, handling devices: Yes No
13. I have (We are) carried 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 placing orders, or goods that are considered retail effects): Yes No
15. Residents — the total value of all goods, including commercial merchandise I/we have purchased or acquired abroad, (including gifts for someone else, but not items mailed to the U.S.) and airfare belonging to the U.S.: \$ _____

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 (Month/Year): _____

For Official Use Only
CBP Form 9090B (10/07)



When you have retrieved all your luggage, stand in the exit line. This line leads to your final checkpoint for customs.

Have your blue Customs Declaration form in hand, ready to pass to the Customs Officer at the end of the line. The form will be provided during your flight.

Your clearance depends on the customs officer's discretion.

Welcome to Washington D.C!

Is someone picking you up at the Arrival Gate?



If someone is meeting you inside the Terminal, they can meet you on the Baggage Claim Level. Drivers approaching the Terminal should follow the roadway signs for **Terminal/Hourly Parking**. Inside the Baggage Claim Area, the Flight Information Display monitor screens provide arrival information by city, and identify by number the corresponding Baggage Claim carousel serving that flight.

Is someone picking you up outside?



If you are meeting someone outside, you should agree on meeting at a specific Arrival Door, numbered 1-7, on the Arrivals Level. Drivers approaching the Terminal should follow the airport signs for **Arrivals** on the roadway. The Arrivals Level is for active loading and unloading of passengers only; waiting is not permitted. A Cell Phone Lot is available for drivers to temporarily wait until they receive confirmation that the passenger has arrived and is waiting at the agreed-upon Arrival Door.

Tips for planning prior to arrival:

1. Have contact numbers easily accessible.
2. Make a backup transportation plan before you arrive.
3. Carry appropriate clothing for the month of your arrival.

Transportation Options:

You may also consider taking:

❖ Silver Line Express Bus Service

- Direct bus service from Dulles Airport to the Metro Silver Line train.
- \$5.00 bus fee to the train station (subject to change)
- The Silver Line Metro Train provides an easy and cheap way to get to the city



❖ Uber/ Lyft

- Usually cheaper than taxis
- Download the uber/lyft app on your smartphone prior take off from your home country
- Buy an international data plan before departure to use the apps and book an uber/lyft.
- Your requested ride will be at the Rideshare section after exit.



❖ Taxi

- \$50-\$80 to get to downtown, plus tips (10-15%)



Transportation Options (Contd.):

❖ Dulles Limo Service

- Visit <http://dulleslimoservice.com> for quick reservations
- Call (571) 257 – 3646 to book

❖ Other On-Ground Transportation

- Hotel & Parking Lot Shuttles
- Long Distance Vans
- Rental Cars
- Scheduled Buses
- Shared Ride Vans

Visit <https://www.flydulles.com/iad/other-transportation-options>



Temporary Lodging: Hotels and Hostels

Not sure where to go? If you are landing in Washington, DC 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 is finding temporary lodging for a week while you set out looking for a place to rent.

<https://community.thechicagoschool.edu/internationalstudentservices/Pages/LiveInUS.aspx>

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

in



Choose and book hotel/hostel in that area



Fighting Jet Lag

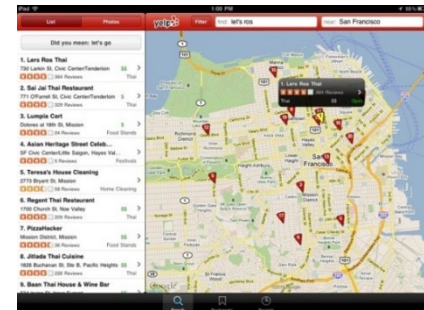
- It is recommended to stay awake during daylight hours
- Most places (i.e., banks, the school, cell phone companies) will only be open between 9am and 6pm.
- This will also help you adjust to a new sleep pattern before classes commence.
- It typically takes about 1 week for circadian rhythms to adjust
- Linked below is a webpage shared by Times Higher Education to guide international students:
<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/student/advice/survival-guide-international-students-your-first-168-hours-united-states>

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, Google maps

Many students in Washington, DC use Yelp as their guide to food and shops. Download the app on your smartphone before traveling. Wi-Fi service is available in cafes and malls in case your hostel/hotel does not provide it.



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

- Log on CBP's website, <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/request.html>
- Get your I-94 Admission Number and print it out for future use, ex. Social Security Number, Driver's License, travel...
- Secure all your important documents.
- Find out how to get to school and the campus.
- Get familiar with your surroundings.
- Find out how to purchase the ticket for transportation (Metro U-pass will be offered by the school once classes begin)
- Participate in the orientation and meet with your International Student Advisor

Cell Phone Information

- ❖ Choosing a US-based cell phone
- ❖ There are basically 3 choices when it comes to cell phone plans:
 - Using an unlocked cell phone from home and buying a new SIM card that works in the US
 - Locked cell phones purchased from other countries may not work in the US.
 - For unlocked cell phones- purchase a US SIM card, for example: Campus SIMS (<https://campussims.com/>) is one option for purchases.
 - Buying a new phone and setting up a pre-paid plan
 - Pre-paid plans are used by paying a fee each month upfront
 - They do not require a contract, an SSN, or a Credit Check
 - Inquire about different plans and their costs
 - You will require a valid ID to purchase a plan
 - Buying a new phone and setting up a contract plan
 - These generally require an SSN or Credit Check, some companies may make exceptions
 - One company that tends to work well with international students is T-Mobile

Banking information

- Selecting a bank that is closer to the Washington,DC campus or residence will be helpful for easy access to ATMs, or for physically visiting the bank.
- Once you select a bank, explore the types of accounts and their requirements. Most students choose to set up a Checking account.
- Carry your passport and I-20 when opening an account at a US Bank.
- In general, you want to look for something that has a low to no monthly service fee, one that does not require a large minimum balance, and some form of transaction limit to safeguard your account if your card gets lost or stolen.
- A bigger/international bank may have more services and benefits: egs and pics- chase, Citibank

Still have questions?

- If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact your DSO, International Student Advisor

[DSO Contact Information](#)

- For questions not related to immigration, please contact your Student Support Counselor (SSC).
- For other helpful information please visit the [International Programs and Services](#) website.

Welcome to our Family of TESPP!