Welcome to IUPUI! The Office of International Affairs (OIA) will be sending monthly newsletters to you in order to prepare you for your arrival in Indianapolis. If you have questions about any of the newsletter topics, please email iadvisor@iupui.edu.

Check out previous newsletters on our website if you have missed any.

What to Expect When You Enter the U.S.

Traveling can be very exciting, but it can also be exhausting. Take care to read these instructions to help you plan your travels. We hope that you have the best travel experience possible! After your long flight to the U.S., you will be both very excited and very tired when you step off the airplane. However, your journey won’t end there. You still need to go through U.S. Immigration and Customs procedures. If you are well-prepared, then there is nothing to worry about.

Be sure to pack the following items in your carry-on bag:

- Passport with student visa stamp
- Form I-20 (for F-1 students) or DS-2019 (for J-1 students)
- Evidence of financial resources
- Letter of admission from IUPUI
- Optional: Printed copy of airport transportation form (you can request this in iStart)—if arriving at the Indianapolis Airport

On the plane: You will be asked to complete a U.S. Customs form which will collect information about the amount of cash you are carrying, as well as any fruit, vegetables or other restricted items. Keep this form together with your other documents when you exit the plane.
Going through U.S. Customs

You will see a lot of lines where immigration officers are inspecting documents. Make sure you get in the line for “non-citizens”. Have your documents out and ready to present before it is your turn. Do not make the officer wait while you search through your bags!

1. Present the officer with your passport and I-20 or DS-2019. Have your other documents in your hand in case he/she asks for them.
2. The officer will ask you questions such as why you are coming to the U.S., where you are studying and how long will you be in the U.S. Answer all of the questions confidently and honestly.
3. The officer will take your fingerprints and photograph
4. The officer may defer you to “Secondary Inspection”. This is a second level of review where you may be asked more detailed questions, and the officer will check your information in additional databases.

Once inspection is complete, your passport will be stamped with your entry stamp, and you will be given an instruction sheet on how to obtain your I-94 document. The I-94 is a document which proves your legal entry into the U.S. in addition to the stamp in your passport. It is an important document.

If you traveled to the U.S. in the past, then you may remember having a small, paper I-94 card stapled into your passport. As of May 2013, the I-94 is now issued online. Make sure to go online to retrieve your I-94: [https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/request.html](https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/request.html); print your I-94 and keep it with your passport at all times. Each time you enter U.S., you will get a new I-94.

It is important to retrieve your I-94 online after each re-entry into the U.S., so that you can check and make sure the information is correct.
After Your Immigration Inspection

If you are at your final destination, follow the signs to baggage claim and then pass through Customs Inspection, providing the officer with the form you completed on the plane. Be prepared for an officer to look through your bags.

If you are catching another flight, you may need to collect your luggage, go through Customs, and then check the luggage once again. If you are arriving at the Indianapolis airport, follow the instructions below regarding airport transportation to the downtown.

Indianapolis Airport Transportation Service

The OIA provides complimentary transportation from the Indianapolis International Airport to the IUPUI campus and nearby apartments and hotels!

This pick-up service is available 24 hours a day, but you must keep in mind whether or not your destination is open for check-in at time of arrival:

- Please see the Early Move-in Request below for on-campus housing.
- Most apartments are not open 24 hours.
- Most hotels are available for 24 hour check-in, but please check to make sure.

Sign up for Airport Transportation in iStart.
Temporary Accommodations

IUPUI does not have temporary accommodations available on campus. If you are not able to move directly into your housing upon arrival, you will need to book a hotel for a few nights until you can move in.

For suggested hotels, please refer to hotels that have special rates for IUPUI visitors.

Early Move-in Requests

Will you be living on campus?

IUPUI Housing’s student move-in is scheduled for Saturday, January 9. Since this is after you are required to arrive as an international student, you may be able to request an early move-in.

Please contact iwelcome@iupui.edu for more information.

Reminder: Take the ALEKS Exam Early!

Don’t forget to take the “ALEKS” math placement exam now during the summer, before you arrive at IUPUI. You can read the Placement Exam newsletter to learn whether you have to take this exam or not, and also where to take the exam.

Please write to us at iadvisor@iupui.edu if you have questions about this.
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Ask questions about your admission if you are an undergraduate student.

Ask questions about your admission if you are a graduate student.

Ask questions about airport transportation, housing, and other arrival needs.

Ask questions about U.S. immigration topics (like visas and passports) or iStart website issues.

This is a great place to ask general questions and find roommates. It is also a fun place to meet new IUPUI int'l students who will arrive the same time as you!