

Pre-Departure To Do List

1. Obtain a student visa:

- Sign your I-20 or DS-2019 on page 1
- Pay SEVIS I-901 fee prior to applying for a US visa visit: <https://www.fmjfee.com/901fee/> to pay \$180 USD for J-1 visa, \$200 USD for F-1 visa
- Contact the nearest US Embassy or Consulate to schedule a visa interview
<http://usembassy.state.gov>
- Complete a student visa application form. An online form is available at <http://usembassy.state.gov>
- Bring all the necessary documents to the embassy for your visa interview:

- a completed visa application
- the original I-20 or DS-2019 form and the admission letter
- the SEVIS I-901 fee payment receipt
- the visa fee payment
- a valid passport
- one photograph (2x2 inches)
- original school transcripts and public examination certificates (TOEFL, GRE, GMAT, etc.) if applicable
- official documents to prove your financial support
- any evidence to demonstrate strong ties to your home country

2. Send the following documents to the International Admissions Office before your arrival:

- \$200 confirming deposit (undergraduate students only)
- Student payment agreement form
- Department forms (if applicable)
- An original or a certified copy of the final transcript and Certificate of Completion
- Housing and Meal Plan Form (for students living on-campus)
- CultureLink Friendship Family Form

3. Make sure that your passport is valid beyond the expiration date on your I-20 or DS2019

4. Take care of your health

- Conduct an eye check and get an extra pair of glasses/contact lenses
- Visit a dentist and take care of any dental matters
- Get vaccinations if needed (bring your vaccination records with you)
- Bring a supply of medicine and prescriptions for re-fills with you

5. Consider your housing options

- www.stthomas.edu/campusliving
- On-campus housing:** residence halls and apartments
- Off-campus housing**
www.stthomas.edu/commutercenter

Send the application for on-campus housing, residence hall preference form, meal plan choices and \$200 housing deposit to the International Admissions Office as soon as possible to reserve a room.

6. Check out the airport assistance dates and submit an online request form to International Student

Services at least two weeks prior to your arrival if you would like to be met at the Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport by a representative from UST
<http://www.stthomas/oiss/forms/airport.asp> If your flight is delayed or cancelled please call 651-332-9628 or 651-962-6650

7. Apply for CultureLink Friendship Family (Optional).

This program connects new international students at UST with local American families for one semester or one academic year for holidays and family gatherings (students do not live with their American family)

Things to Bring

- Clothes for four seasons
- Formal and traditional outfits
- A bilingual dictionary
- Basic personal items
- Photo albums
- Contact information for family/friends
- Traditional music/art samples
- Small electric appliances (US voltage is 110V)

UST at a Glance

- **Institution type:** private, coeducational, Catholic, liberal arts university
- **History:** founded in 1885
- **Degree levels:** Bachelor's Degree, Post baccalaureate Certificate, Master's Degree, Post-Master's Certificate, Doctoral Degree, First-Professional Degree
- **Fields of study:** 91 majors and 59 minors
- **Total Enrollment:** over 10,500

Minnesota Weather

Month	Avg High	Avg Low	Avg Precip
January	-6° C	-16° C	2.7 cm
April	21° C	9° C	8.2 cm
July	27° C	16° C	10.3 cm
October	4° C	-4° C	4.9 cm

Get Ready to Travel

- Confirm your flight at least three days before departure
- Start packing in advance
- Make sure your luggage does not exceed the size limitations of the airlines (consult your airline for limits)
- Arrive at the airport at least three hours before flight departure
- Hand-carry your passport, I-20 or DS-2019, admission letter, and bank or scholarship verification
- We recommend that you hand-carry \$500-\$750 USD to pay for food and other items upon your arrival. Plan to have additional funds transferred to a bank account you can open in the US
- Never leave your luggage unattended
- Ask an airport employee if you need help
- Drink plenty of fluids during your flight
- Plan to arrive in Minneapolis/St. Paul in time to attend the mandatory orientation

First Steps at UST

1. Schedule an individual immigration “document check” appointment at the Office of International Student Services: MHC 161 (St. Paul campus), phone: 651-962-6650

- It is required to complete a document check **before** registering for courses
- Bring your passport, I-20 or DS-2019, I-94 card, previous I-20/DS-2019 (if applicable), EAD (if applicable), Dependent’s I-20/DS-2019, passport and I-94 card (if applicable)

2. Get a student ID in Murray-Herrick (MHC) room #259
3. Open UST e-mail account. Go to:
<https://idmapp1p.stthomas.edu:8443/idm/user/login.jsp> to create your account. Graduate students should contact their department for a claim code.
4. Open a bank account. We recommend \$500-\$750 in cash and the rest in bank draft or travelers check (it can take 1 week to process international checks).
5. Plan for meals your first week.
On-campus meal plans do not begin until the first week of the semester. Make plans to have cash or money to pay for food and other expenses before the semester begins (Bring \$500-\$750 USD with you).
6. Attend the **mandatory International Student Orientation**. Graduate students should also attend their Academic Department Orientation if applicable.
7. Meet with your academic advisor
8. Register for courses
<https://registration.stthomas.edu>
Your academic advisor will assist you with course registration the first time.
9. Pay tuition or make a payment plan with the Business Office **after** you register for courses.

Mandatory UST Health Insurance

- F-1 and J-1 students with a UST I-20 or DS-2019 issued from the University of UST will automatically be enrolled in and billed for the UST-sponsored health insurance plan. F-1 international students who choose to waive the UST-sponsored health insurance plan must submit their U.S.-based health insurance information that meets the minimum requirements via Murphy Online within the first two weeks of the semester.
- F-1 international students with an approved waiver request will be enrolled in and billed for the medical evacuation and repatriation plan.
- J-1 visa students are not eligible to waive the UST sponsored plan due to Department of State requirements.

Important Dates for 2009-2010 Fall Semester 2009

- On campus housing for students with room assignments begins: August 21
- Airport Assistance: August 26 (10 am- 1pm) and August 27 (6pm-10pm)
- Undergraduate orientation: Aug 31 to Sept 4
- Graduate orientation: September 2 to 4
- UST Closed for National Holiday: September 7
- Classes Start: September 9
- Mid-Term Break: Oct 30
- Thanksgiving Break: Nov 25 to 26
- Commencement: Dec 18
- Last day of on-campus housing: Dec 21 (for students studying only one semester at UST)

Spring Semester 2010

- On campus housing for new students with room assignments begins: To be announced (TBA)
- Airport Assistance: January 25
- International Student Orientation: Jan 27 to 28
- Classes Start: February 1
- Commencement: May 22
- On-campus housing ends: May 23

**Welcome to the
University of St. Thomas!
(UST)**



Office of International Student Services

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