Pre-Arrival Information

This sheet is designed to answer some questions you may have as you prepare for your arrival in Claremont. We know that you may have questions or concerns not addressed below. Please do not hesitate to contact the Office of Admissions & Student Records if you need further information.

Academic Planning

Please check the wording of your admission letter. Students who have been given Provisional or Conditional status must fulfill further requirements before they are eligible for full graduate status in a degree program. We recommend that you bring with you any syllabi, catalogs, course description or other relevant materials issued by the college or university you previously attended. These materials can be helpful to academic departments should questions arise concerning the transferring in of units or your placement in courses at CGU.

Obtaining Visa

The first thing you must do to arrange for your entry into the United States is to obtain a student visa from a U.S. embassy or consulate near you. Visa procedures vary somewhat from one embassy/consulate to another. Note: Most Canadian citizens are not required to obtain a student visa. Instead, Canadians present an I-20 or DS-2019 and proof of financial support at the point of entry to be issued either an F-1 or J-1 student visa. (please visit your Embassy/Consulate website for additional information). Canadian citizens are still required to submit the SEVIS fee (see below).

Landed-immigrants will need to obtain a visa prior to entering the U.S. Before applying for a visa, check with the embassy/consulate for current procedures and required documents. At minimum, you will be required to submit the following:

- SEVIS fee (please visit https://www.fmjfee.com/ for more information)
- Visa application and fee.
- I-20 or DS-2019 form issued by CGU (Acceptance to a program and proof of financial support will be required)
- Valid passport.
- Evidence of intending to return to your home country.

It is not recommended that you enter the U.S. on a F-2 dependent visa or a B-2 tourist visa, because you will not be able to attend school until you complete a Change of Status while in the U.S. Change of Status applications are subject to approval and cannot be submitted until you have been in the U.S. for at least three (3) months. In addition, you may apply for a Change of Status from B-2 tourist visa to F-1 or J-1 only if your visa is marked “prospective student” by a visa officer upon your entrance to the US.

Arrival in the US

Before packing, check with your airline to find out how much baggage you will be allowed to take with you. Please do not send any baggage in advance of your arrival to CGU because the University does not have storage facilities for luggage or packages. International Place (http://iplace.claremont.edu) staff can assist you in shipping your personal belongings to Claremont after your arrival.

Money

Do not carry a large amount of cash. Instead, purchase traveler's checks or use a major credit card such as Visa or American Express.

Medicine

Bring a small supply of familiar medicine, such as pain relievers, that you are used to. If you have prescription medicines, bring a larger supply. You may not be able to immediately renew your prescription in the US. Liquid medicines (more than 2.5 fl oz.) must be stored in your luggage—do not bring these items in your carry on or they will be confiscated.

*more handouts and forms can be found at www.cgu.edu/intlforms

Rev 4/11/11
**Arrival in Claremont**

If possible, when making your airline reservations, request that your flight be booked to Ontario, California. Ontario International Airport is only 20 km from Claremont, whereas Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) is 95 km from Claremont. You may wish to fill out the New Student/Scholar Form found on the International Place website (http://iplace.claremont.edu/main/information.asp) to make arrangements to utilize their airport pick up service. If you do this, an International Place staff member will meet you at Ontario Airport or Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) if notified in advance of your arrival. There are also several shuttle services operating between Claremont and Ontario or LAX airports.

**Weather**

Claremont is 30 miles east of the city of Los Angeles, at the base of the San Gabriel mountains in Los Angeles County. Situated at an elevation of 1,150 feet, the weather is almost always warm and sunny with an annual average rainfall of approximately 17 inches. The temperature may drop to near freezing (0 C) some nights in December and January, but will often climb to 25 C or higher in the daytime. The rainy season is in the winter, and summer is usually very warm and dry (temperatures can reach 30 C/40 C).

**Host Family**

Students arriving alone can stay with a Host Family for a few days, during which time they can adjust to the Claremont community and look for more permanent housing (International Place staff can assist with this transition). To request temporary Homestay service, please fill out the New Student/Scholar Form found on the International Place website (http://iplace.claremont.edu/main/information.asp). We recommend that you return the form at least 3 weeks in advance of your arrival so that arrangements can be made to accommodate you.

**Driving**

If you plan on driving in the United States, it is recommended that you apply for a California Driver’s License. More information about driving in the US and obtaining a driver’s license can be found on the International Place website at http://iplace.claremont.edu/main/updates.asp. We recommend in the meantime that you bring your driver’s license from your home country.

**Medical Insurance**

Health care in the U.S. is very expensive. Therefore, all international students are required to take out a health insurance policy and to maintain it during their entire stay at CGU. Students who do not have health insurance are not allowed to register for classes. Information about the health insurance policy available to international students will be provided during the New International Student Orientation. Proof of health insurance will be required in order to register each semester.

**Finances**

It is very important that you estimate your educational and living expenses carefully to make certain that you will have sufficient funds available to meet all your needs while studying at CGU. Institutional financial aid is limited; you should not expect to receive any additional fellowship awards above the amount, if any, your department has already offered you after you have registered for classes.

**Tuberculosis ("TB") Test**

You will be required to provide proof of a negative TB test prior to registration. Please refer to the “New International Student Pre-Registration Information (form #I-3) found online at www.cgu.edu/intlforms for more detailed information. The Student Health Center (closed in the summer) on campus will administer the test for a small fee. In addition, you may choose to take this test in your home country no more than 3 weeks before your arrival and bring clear proof of a negative test (in English) with you the US.

In addition, the Student Health Service highly recommends that your Tetanus, Measles, Mumps and Rubella immunizations are up to date. You should bring a record of your immunizations with you for review by the Student Health Service staff.

*more handouts and forms can be found at www.cgu.edu/intlforms*

Rev 4/11/11
Before You Register

**Orientations**
New International Student Orientation is intended to prepare you for your academic work at CGU and to help you adjust to living in the U.S. During Orientation you will meet CGU faculty and staff members as well as other new and returning international students. You will become familiar with the University and its resources and will be given very important immigration information designed to help you maintain your status while in the US. *Attendance is strongly suggested.*

You should also attend any specific department orientations that will be held; you should receive information on this directly from your department.

**International Student Check-In**
Your International Student Coordinator is available to answer questions and assist with your visa status once you have arrived. The office is located in the Office of Admissions & Records at 160 E 10th St in East Harper Hall (please check in with the Receptionist to be referred to the International Student Coordinator). You will be required to complete International Student Check-In with your International Student Coordinator before you are able to register for classes.

At International Student Orientation you will make an appointment with the International Student Coordinator to complete the check-in process. At that time, you will be asked to bring your passport, stamped I-20/DS-2019, and proof of health insurance (if you have your own health insurance) with you to the appointment. In addition, the Verification of Tuberculosis (TB) Test form (found at [www.cgu.edu/intlforms](http://www.cgu.edu/intlforms) under New International Student Pre-Registration form, #I-3) stamped by the Student Health Center or proof of a negative Tuberculosis test and the SEVIS Requirements document (also found online at [www.cgu.edu/intlforms](http://www.cgu.edu/intlforms)) will be required before your registration hold will be lifted.

**Fee Payment**
Tuition and student fees are due on registration. Payment options are available. Please review the Payment Options information included in your admissions packet and/or visit the Student Accounts website at [http://www.cgu.edu/pages/312.asp](http://www.cgu.edu/pages/312.asp). If you are a sponsored student, please bring your sponsor’s billing information with you to submit to Student Accounts.

**Employment**
F-1 students are allowed to work on-campus up to 20 hours per week during the academic year and 20+ hours per week during vacation periods. Permission to accept off-campus employment is strictly regulated by US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and requires approval (more information will be given at International Student Orientation and can be found online at [http://www.cgu.edu/pages/405.asp](http://www.cgu.edu/pages/405.asp)). F-2 spouses (husband or wife of an F-1 student) may not be employed at any time under any circumstances.

J-1 students must have the approval of their program sponsor before accepting employment, either on or off-campus. If approved, J-1 students are eligible to work on-campus up to 20 hours per week during the academic year and 20+ hours per week during vacation periods. J-2 spouses (husband or wife of a J-1 student) may be granted permission by the USCIS to accept employment provided their earnings will not be used to support the J-1 student; they cannot work until the permission is granted.

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Rev 4/11/11