Pre-Arrival Checklist
For New International Students

- Obtain your I-20 from the Office of Admission.
  Please review your I-20 carefully. If you find any mistakes, please contact Office of Admission for correction.
  Phone: 1-630-617-3354  Fax: 1-630-617-5501  e-mail: slevenson@elmhurst.edu
  Homepage: http://elmhurst.edu

- Pay the SEVIS Fee
  Access http://www.ice.gov/graphics/sevis/i901/index.htm to pay this fee, which is required of all new students entering the United States on a student visa. It must be paid before your visa will be issued.

- Apply for F-1 visa
  Contact the U.S. Embassy or Consulate nearest your home to obtain your U.S. entry visa. In most countries, first time student visa applicants are required to appear for an in-person interview. However, each embassy and consulate sets its own policies and procedures. Take your valid passport, the documents you received from Elmhurst College, and evidence of financial support. Be ready to prove to the consular officer that you intend to return to your home country once you complete your academic program at Elmhurst College. For specific application instructions call the embassy or consult the embassy website. You can visit the Department of State’s homepage at http://travel.state.gov/visa_services.html

- Contact Student Accounts
  It is very important that you arrange with Student Accounts for timely payment of your expenses. Please remember that it is your responsibility to keep your account current in order to avoid being dropped from classes. Contact Ms. Bonnie Spacko at bonnies@elmhurst.edu to request information on payment due dates and options for payments from international sources.

- Register for New International Student Welcome and Orientation
  Orientation for new international students will be held on Monday, August 22, 2005, beginning at 10:00 a.m. This orientation will cover important issues for staying legal in the U.S., as well as providing information about Elmhurst College, its surrounding area, Chicago, and other useful campus and community resources. Attendance is required, so please plan to attend the New International Student Welcome. To register for this event, please contact Alice Niziolek, the International Student Coordinator, with the following information: date of arrival, your name, home country, degree level, major, immigration status, and e-mail address.

- Packing for your trip
  Chicago’s weather is unpredictable and frequently extreme. The average temperature is about 52° Fahrenheit (11° Centigrade). Summer is very warm and humid, and temperatures can often reach a high of 95° - 100° Fahrenheit (35° - 37° Centigrade) during July and August. The coldest days are usually in January when the temperature can drop below 0° Fahrenheit (-20° Centigrade). Snow and strong winds characterize Chicago winters. Autumn (Fall) and Spring weather can be rainy and changeable, but typically include many sunny and moderate days. You will need appropriate clothes for these distinct seasons.
  **If you already have warm winter clothing (coats, boots, etc.) you may wish to bring it with you. Although these can be purchased in the U.S., they may be expensive. If you are coming from an area where these items are expensive or hard to locate, you may prefer to wait until you arrive in Chicago.

- Medicine and Prescriptions
  If you have any medical conditions or special prescriptions, we recommend that you get them filled before your departure. Bring the prescription with you so it can be refilled in the U.S. (you should also have this available when immigration inspects you in case they have any questions). We also recommend that you have a dental and eye examination before you come to Elmhurst. Doctors are expensive in the U.S. and these may not be covered by your insurance.

- Other Items to Pack
  If there are special items from home that you wish to bring, please do so. We do not recommend that you bring towels, toiletries, dishes, cookware, etc., as they can be found easily, and often inexpensively, in the U.S.
Important Documents

Please be sure to make copies of all important documents that you plan to carry with you (passport, I-20, etc.). We suggest that you leave one copy at home with your family and carry another with you. Bring any document that you think you may need (i.e., documents from previous institutions, birth certificate, translations of important documents, etc.).

Driver’s License

If you intend to drive while in the United States, we strongly recommend that you carry with you an International Driver’s License. The driver’s license application process for the State of Illinois can be very complicated for people without a United States Social Security number. Since you cannot obtain this number without being employed, it will present some difficulty for new arrivals who want to drive upon arrival. You can, however, drive for several months on an international license, but this must be obtained prior to arrival in the United States.

Housing Arrangements

It is important that you make housing arrangements far in advance of your arrival. If you do not have permanent housing arrangements, you should make plans for temporary housing.

If you want to live on-campus, submit your housing application as soon as possible; these rooms fill up quickly.

For information and/or applications, write to Residence Life, Elmhurst College, 190 Prospect Avenue, Elmhurst, IL 60126. Phone: 630-617-3150, Fax: 630-617-3722, e-mail: kbaker@elmhurst.edu

Homepage: http://elmhurst.edu/~reslife

Health Insurance Requirement

If you already have your own health insurance and wish to waive Elmhurst College’s student insurance, please bring proof of your coverage. You must submit a student health insurance fee waiver form and a copy of your insurance card to the Wellness Center within 15 days of the start of the semester in order to be exempt from the fee.

Medical Immunization

ALL students are required to fulfill the immunization requirements

Items to carry with you

You should carry some basic information and documents on your person. It is also a good idea to carry some essentials with you (change of clothing, medications, toiletries, etc.) just in case your luggage is misplaced.

- Passport
- I-20 or DS-2019
- Airplane tickets
- Proof of Financial Support
- Prescriptions
- Directions to campus
- Contact information for
- Elmhurst College

U.S. Currency

Upon arrival you may need about $75.00-$150.00 in cash for initial expenses and slightly more if you arrive on a weekend. Additional funds may be brought as a Bank Draft or in Travelers Checks; it is unwise to carry large sums of cash. If you wish to bring your funds in draft form, have the check drawn at a U.S. bank, as it may take several weeks for foreign bank drafts to clear. Otherwise, bring several hundred dollars in Travelers Checks to cover initial expenses.

There is a foreign currency exchange on the lower level in the International Terminal at O’Hare Airport that is open every day from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The following information may be helpful to those unfamiliar with the United States currency:

One U.S. dollar ($1.00) equals 100 cents.

Paper money (bills) comes in denominations of $1, $5, $10, $20, $50, and $100. Coins come in denominations of 1¢ (one cent or a penny), 5¢ (five cents or a nickel), 10¢ (ten cents or a dime), 25¢ (twenty-five cents or a quarter), 50¢ (fifty cents or a half-dollar), and $1.00 (one dollar).

Getting to Campus

A taxi ride from O’Hare will cost you about $25 to reach campus. Limousine service can be prearranged, and will cost you about $35. Please have the address of your accommodations ready to provide to the driver. If you wish to go directly to campus, tell the driver that you wish to go to Elmhurst College, 190 Prospect Avenue, North Hall. (If you will be arriving on a weekend or outside of normal business hours, please contact the International Office or Residence Life in advance to make arrival arrangements.) If you are not quoted a flat fee for the trip, be sure the taxi’s meter is on during your ride and that you pay only the amount displayed on the meter plus a 15-20% tip (more if you have luggage).

The College may be able to provide transportation from the airport to the campus. Please provide your flight information to us as early as possible.

Visit International Education Office in the Center for Professional Excellence

All new international students are required to visit the International Student Coordinator upon arrival to Elmhurst.

Establish a file box to keep copies of all your immigration documents

Keep all immigration documents until you permanently depart the U.S. International Education keeps copies of some documents for a limited time only.