



PREDEPARTURE INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

This information sheet is designed to answer some questions you may have as you prepare for your arrival in Claremont. Additional information is available on the CST website at <http://www.cst.edu/international-students/>. Please do not hesitate to contact the Designated School Official if you need further information.

Academic Planning

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 faculty should questions arise concerning your placement in courses at CST.

Getting an I-20

Before issuing you an I-20 form, CST is required to verify that you have adequate financial resources to support your studies. Please refer to the *Financial Certification* form for detailed instructions.

Obtaining a Visa

The first thing you must do to arrange for your entry into the United States is to obtain An F-1 student visa from a U.S. embassy or consulate near you. Visa procedures vary somewhat from one embassy/consulate to another. 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:

- Visa application and fee
- Valid passport
- I-20 form
- One (possibly more) passport-style photo
- Proof of financial support
- Proof of SEVIS fee payment

It is **not recommended** that you enter the U.S. on a B-2 tourist visa, unless it is marked "*prospective student*" by the visa officer.

Note: Canadian citizens are not required to obtain a student visa. Instead, Canadians present an I-20 and proof of financial support at the point of entry.

Transfer Students. If you have been attending another institution in the United States as an F-1 student, we will send you an *F-1 Student Transfer* form. This form must be completed and returned to the CST Designated School Official before an I-20 can be issued to you.

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 CST. Institutional financial aid is very limited, so that, unless you have already been notified of an award in your admission letter, you should not expect to receive an award after you have registered for classes.

Employment. F-1 students are allowed to work on-campus up to 20 hours per week during the academic year and up to 40 hours per week during vacation periods. Permission to accept employment off-campus is strictly regulated by U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). You should not plan on working to support yourself during your studies.

F-2 spouses (husband or wife of an F-1 student) may not be employed at any time under any circumstances.

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 CST because the school does not have storage facilities for luggage or packages.

Money. Do not carry a large amount of cash. Instead, use a major credit card such as Visa or American Express.

Health & 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. You should also bring a record of your immunizations for Tetanus, Measles, Rubella (German measles), and Mumps.

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. 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).

City Website. Further information about the city of Claremont is available on-line at <http://www.ci.claremont.ca.us/>.

On-Campus Housing. Apartments for singles, couples and families are located on the CST campus. They range from single rooms (no kitchens) to three bedroom/two bath units and are available unfurnished or furnished. All housing areas have laundry facilities, recreation areas and ample parking. For more information, go to the CST website at <http://www.cst.edu/housing/or> contact:

Claremont School of Theology
1325 N. College Ave.
Claremont, CA 91711
Attn: Housing Director

Phone: 909/447-2566
Email: Housing@cst.edu

Before You Register

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 CST. Proof of insurance coverage for the entire semester is required at registration. Students who do not have health insurance are required to purchase the Claremont School of Theology student health insurance plan. More information is available at www.studentnet.kp.org

As soon as possible after your arrival in Claremont you should check-in with the Designated School Official. Bring your passport and I-20.

Have a safe trip!



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