



General Information for International Students

Arizona

The state of Arizona is a wonderful place to visit and live. Central Arizona includes Phoenix and many smaller surrounding cities and is commonly referred to as the Valley of the Sun. It is home to more than 3 million people who come together to form a diverse desert metropolis.

A four-hour drive from Phoenix is the Grand Canyon, one of the seven natural wonders of the world, which is definitely worth visiting. A two-hour drive from Phoenix is Flagstaff, which is a forested mountain community that enjoys snow in the winter and offers skiing and snowboarding opportunities.

Weather

Arizona is a desert, but it does have a variety of temperatures. The summer is generally very hot, with highs in the 110s degrees Fahrenheit and occasional highs in the 120s. In the late fall, winter and early spring months, the desert is cool, with daytime highs in the 70s and lows in the 40s and 30s. The weather during the majority of the year is perfect for any outdoor activity. Because Central Arizona is valley, there is no snow in the Phoenix area.

Food

Since Phoenix is such a large metropolis, there are specialty food stores and restaurants for almost all types of international cuisine. Pork, beef and chicken as well as dairy products, like milk, are less expensive in the U.S. than in other parts of the world.

If your home cuisine contains spices native only to your hometown, you can bring some along for your stay here. If specific dishes are missed, grocery stores offer a lot of ethnic ingredients and cooking is encouraged. (TransPac will supply cooking ware for your apartment, including chopsticks, bowls and plates.)

Some grocery items might be more expensive in the U.S. than in your home country. Check grocery Web sites such as Safeway, safeway.com, to get an idea for local grocery costs.

Clothing

TransPac Aviation Academy is proud of its students and wants them to maintain a professional appearance on campus. Therefore, TransPac will provide you with a uniform, which includes 2 white button-up shirts, 1 jacket and 2 pairs of pants. Students are expected to wear uniforms on campus. Shoe sizes differ between the U.S. and China, so it is best to bring your own comfortable black shoes to wear with your uniform. Black socks are required with the uniform.

It is best to bring your own casual clothes.

Living

TransPac will help secure housing for its students. Apartment housing is close to several clothing and department stores and a Costco Wholesale (costco.com) store. You will also be living next to a local hospital and several eateries. Apartments are furnished and have air conditioning and heating.

For their apartments, students should bring or purchase hand towels, a toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, soap, shower gel and a haircut kit.

Transportation

TransPac provides buses and vans to transport students to and from their apartments to school, malls, shopping centers, grocery stores.

Entertainment

A movie theater, located next to the student apartments shows new releases. TransPac also hosts a variety of social events at the school including a Thanksgiving dinner, a Christmas party, a Chinese New Year party and a monthly party. TransPac also hosts graduation trips to the Grand Canyon for the students.

Health

In the US, medical care is paid for out of your pocket unless you have travelers' insurance or student insurance coverage. It is highly recommended that non-U.S. citizen students purchase International Travel Medical Insurance through their home country or Visitors Medical Insurance through a U.S. insurance program. To find out more, visit <http://www.buyamericaninsurance.com/>.

Even so, trips to US doctors and dentists can be expensive, so it is smart to have any health or dental concerns addressed before you leave home. There are plenty of basic pain relievers and over-the-counter medications available at drugstores in the U.S.

Since Arizona is a very dry climate, be prepared to drink a lot of water to stay hydrated, especially during the hot summer months. Use sun block every day to prevent sunburns. Using skin lotion also will prevent dry, itchy skin. Skin lotions and sunscreen are inexpensive in the U.S., plan to purchase them upon arrival.

Learning Supplies

Plan on bringing or buying the following for school work:

flashlight

calculator

pencils & automatic pencils

erasers & pens

batteries

110V batteries

5 or 8 meters of internet cable if you do not have wireless internet capability

Attitude

While you will be enjoying a new cultural experience, remember the main reason for your stay is to learn and study. TransPac is an English-only campus-learning environment. For you to succeed and graduate on time, it is very important to have sufficient English vocabulary and fluency.

The school system in China is very different than in the US and you will not succeed without effort and concentration. Cheating will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

"Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference" – Winston Churchill