

Your Next Steps at USF

Upon Arrival in Tampa

1. **Arrival at Tampa International Airport (TPA):** The Tampa International Airport (TPA) is located approximately 19 miles from the University of South Florida (USF). Friends of Internationals, a USF Campus ministry, offer an airport pickup service for new students. To request airport pickup, go to <http://www.floridainternationals.org/>. If you prefer to arrange for your transportation upon arrival, a shuttle service and taxis are available in the baggage claim area. The Super Shuttle (<http://www.supershuttle.com>) costs \$20-30 with up to three pieces of luggage and taxi fare is approximately \$35 from the airport to the university area.
2. **USF Winter Break:** The university and all offices will be closed on the following dates: December 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 31, 2008 and January 1, 2009.
3. **Temporary Accommodations:** If you have not arranged for apartment rental prior to arrival or you arrive before the opening of campus housing, you may need to seek temporary accommodations. There are several hotels near the campus that offer discounted room rates for USF students. For a full list go to <http://www.usf.edu/About-USF/hotels-near-the-tampa-campus.asp>
4. **Housing:** It is important to secure your on-campus and off-campus housing *prior* to your arrival to the USA. USF's Housing and Residential Education Office is committed to providing excellent service to students wishing to live on-campus. Please visit their website at <http://www.housing.usf.edu/> to find rates, availability, etc. For assistance finding off-campus housing, go to <http://sra.usf.edu/och/>.
5. **Health Insurance/Immunizations:** If you have not completed the Student Health Insurance or Immunization requirements, you must do so prior to the start of the semester. Florida state law requires all international students to have medical insurance while attending USF. Medical insurance is available through Student Health Services. Please visit Student Health Services website at <http://shsweb.shs.usf.edu/SHSForms.html>. Students who fail to submit these forms will be prevented from registering for classes at USF.
6. **International Services Check-In:** All international students must check-in with International Services (regardless of visa status) prior to registering for classes. **Failure to check in with International Services in a timely manner may result in problems with your immigration status in the U.S.** *The Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS), a system designed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to monitor all internationals in F or J visa classifications, will automatically invalidate your record in the system if you do not report to International Services **within 30 days of the start date listed on your Form I-20 or Form DS-2019 Form.***
7. **New Student Orientation:** All international students are required to attend two orientations.
 - a. **New International Student Orientation** see enclosed information
 - b. **Academic orientation based on level of study:**
 - i. **Graduate Students:** <http://www.gpsc.usf.edu/orientation.html>
Graduate students should see the Graduate School website for additional information and instructions on how to attend.
 - ii. **Undergraduate Students:** <http://usfweb2.usf.edu/orientation/index.asp>
Undergraduate students should see the Orientation office website to sign up for an orientation.
8. **Academic Departments:** It is important that all students visit their academic departments upon arrival to USF. This is especially important for our **graduate** level students. Many times the departments have paperwork for you to fill out, require that you attend departmental orientations, etc. To find your department's location on campus visit www.usf.edu and search for your college and department's website.