

KING'S COLLEGE: PACKING/ SHOPPING SUGGESTIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Carefully plan what clothing items to bring with you and what you can wait to purchase after you arrive. Factors to take into consideration include: cost of shipping, additional baggage charges, immediate need, cost differential. You will need warm clothing for the colder months (late October through April), including sweaters, a heavy lined-coat or warm jacket, hat, gloves, scarf and boots; a hooded raincoat is also recommended. For the warmer months (late April-September) you should have clothing such as: shorts, skirts, t-shirts, tank tops. For special occasions and events, it is recommended that students have formal or semi-formal attire, which may include a suit, shirt and tie, formal dress, and evening wear. The U.S. style of clothing is generally informal so students generally dress casually for class and most campus activities. Therefore, informal clothing such as slacks, zippered jackets, blouses, blue jeans, sweaters, and shirts are acceptable for women as well as men. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended.

Climate and Clothing

Pennsylvania is a mid-Atlantic state, so you should come prepared for variable weather: very cold winters, hot summers, and pleasant days in between. The temperature may frequently drop to between 5 and 10 degrees Fahrenheit (-12 to -15 degrees Celsius) in the winter, with high temperatures 90 to 95 degrees Fahrenheit (32 to 35 degrees Celsius) and high humidity in the summer.

My Carry-On (Check with your airline to make sure what you can carry on board)

- Passport with valid visa
- Other required proof of identity
- Immigration document (I-20 or DS-2019)
- Money (a small amount of cash will be useful until you open a U.S bank account)
- Credit card/Debit card/Traveler's checks, if you use these
- Photocopy of passport & list of your traveler's check numbers (if you are using them) – pack in a separate place from your passport and traveler's checks, in case those are lost or stolen
- The contact number for King's College
- A notebook and a pen
- Snacks for the trip
- Laptop and electronics: make sure you back up all of your files onto an external hard drive (which you should leave at home), in case your laptop gets stolen or develops a fatal error while traveling. You could even consider using a service like [Dropbox](#) or [Google Drive](#) so you don't need any extra hardware.
- A basic change of clothes, [TSA-compliant](#) toiletry kit, and several days' worth of any medicine you have to take regularly, in case your checked luggage is lost or delayed.

Medication and Medical Supplies

We recommend these – especially any important health documents – for carry-on luggage.

- Health Insurance Card
- Completed Medical and Physical History Form
- Completed Immunization/Vaccinations Form
- Pain Reliever/Fever Reducer
- Nausea/Upset Stomach Medicine
- Cough Drops
- Cold/Flu Medicine
- Assorted Bandages
- Any prescribed medications that you take on a regular basis

My Luggage

You may want to consider the following items:

- Umbrella or raincoat
- If you have them, bring summer and winter clothes and shoes (remember that the weather in Wilkes-Barre can get really hot during summer and really cold during winter)
- Personal toiletries
- Medical supplies (aside from what is packed in the carry-on)

Note: if you wear prescription glasses or contact lenses, it's a good idea to bring an extra pair of glasses or several months' supply of contacts. You could also bring the prescription with you.

Other suggestions...

- Photos of family and friends and posters from home to hang on the walls of your new place
- Decorations for your room
- Traditional clothing representing your culture
- Spices from your home (many are difficult to find for purchase in the U.S.)
- Small items from home to share with your new friends
- Backpack
- Sewing kit
- Movies or books from your country; a dictionary if you use one

My shopping list

Things you may want to buy once you arrive to Wilkes-Barre:

- A computer, if you don't have one
- Cell phone (see below)
- USB drive
- Blanket, Sheets
- Bed spread/comforter
- Winter coat, rain boots and snow boots, hat, scarf, and gloves
- Pens, pencils, notebooks, stapler and other school supplies you might need
- Books for class & other academic resources
- Calendar
- Laundry bag
- Towel(s) and washcloth
- Kitchen supplies (silverware, can opener, plates)
- Cups/mugs
- Several food storage containers
- Hairdryer
- Electrical surge protector
- Cleaning supplies
- Coffee maker/ electric kettle
- TV
- Speakers for your iPod or computer

What do I leave at home?

For those students who will be living on campus, there are several items that you are NOT ALLOWED to have in your rooms, including: guns, fireworks, candles, incense, halogen lamps, hot plates, space heaters, and pets. Airlines also have a list of items you are not allowed to put in your checked and carry-on baggage, so check with the airline about those restrictions.

Cell Phones

While some students may come to the U.S. with a cell phone from their home country, many students prefer to switch to a U.S. cell phone carrier since it will be more affordable and convenient. There are a number of providers in the area (Verizon, AT&T, Sprint, etc.) that provide cellular phone service. As an international student it can be challenging to decide which company to choose. In some cases, students may be able to purchase a U.S. cell phone online, from their home country, prior to coming to the U.S. You may purchase a cell phone at one of the providers below after you arrive:

AT&T Locations:

Arena Hub Plaza
277 Mundy St
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702
Phone: (570) 820-3200

Wyoming Valley Mall
Wilkes-Barre, PA
Phone: (570) 824-7378

Verizon Locations:

60 Public Square # 400
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701
Phone: (570) 291-3971

Wyoming Valley Mall
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702
Phone: (570) 829-1482

Sprint Locations:

251 Mundy St.
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702
Phone: (570) 200-4295

Wyoming Valley Mall
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702
Phone: (570) 820-7016

T-Mobile Location:

Wyoming Valley Mall
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702
Phone: (570) 824-1368

MetroPCS Location:

70 S Main St.
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701
Phone: (570) 825-4000

You can also explore cellular options – including pre-paid phone plans without a contract – at many big retailers like [Walmart](#), [Target](#), [BestBuy](#), and [Staples](#) as well as through online retailers like [Amazon](#).

Important Traveling Tips

- Check with the airlines regarding their luggage policy.
- Make sure you can carry your luggage for at least a half kilometer and up and down stairs. You may want to purchase a folding luggage trolley or “pullable” luggage.
- Check with the airline if you need to confirm your flight reservations before departure or if they have any other requirements you need to follow.
- Pack a carry-on travel bag with personal articles for use in case your luggage is delayed or temporarily lost during your journey. Put valuables and important documents in this bag and guard it carefully!
- Pack items that could leak, such as lotions, in plastic bags that are sealed well.
- Give your family a contact name and number, in case of emergency. It is Emily Liu, Office of International Recruitment. Phone: +570-208-8401. E-mail: emilyliu@kings.edu. They can also contact Campus Safety at +570.208.5900.

REMINDER: When buying or bringing electrical items, keep in mind that U.S. voltage is 110 and that the electrical outlets in the US are different than from those in other countries. Make sure that the electrical appliances you bring with you are compatible for use in the US. Plugs for US type outlets are available in local stores and can be used with dual voltage (120/240V or 50/60 Hz) appliances safely.

Most laptops, mobile chargers, camera chargers, etc. from almost all brands come with dual voltage, that is, 120/240 V, and therefore usually only need the right plug. The better and safer option would be to buy the appliance from the US if possible.

And lastly: do not stress! Pack well and bring everything that you want to have from home, but know that if you forget something, you can get it here. There are malls and shops in Ithaca and you can also shop online – so you should be able to get what you need to be comfortable in college easily.

Questions? Contact the Office of International Recruitment by phone: +570-208-8402
or email: internationaladmissions@kings.edu

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