

## **PRE-DEPARTURE ORIENTATION**

### **1. What is a Pre-Departure Orientation?**

Pre-departure orientation sessions are group or individual events to prepare students who have been accepted into programs of study in the U.S. Valuable information is exchanged during these sessions. Topics may include information on culture shock, health and travel insurance, medical and money matters, plane ticket, and visas among others.

### **2. Who benefits from attending a pre-departure session?**

Every student who has been accepted into programs of study in the United States benefits from attending a pre-departure session.

### **3. Where can I find information about pre-departure workshops in my country?**

Many EducationUSA Advising Centers offer annual pre-departure orientation sessions. Contact the center nearest to your city to find out about these sessions. You can find the location of these centers on our [EducationUSA website](#).

### **4. When are the pre-departure workshops held?**

They are offered annually, usually before the beginning of the spring semester. Contact the [EducationUSA advising center](#) closest to your city to find out information about dates and location.

### **5. Do I need to attend a pre-departure session after obtaining the student visa?**

Attending a pre-departure session will give you the opportunity to receive realistic and accurate information before the beginning of your study program. You can attend a session after you have receive confirmation of acceptance from a U.S. institution, when you are focused on planning your departure or just before you apply for a visa, make travel arrangements, etc.

### **6. How can I register for a pre-departure workshop in my country?**

Please contact the nearest [EducationUSA Advising center](#) for information on dates and location.

### **7. Who organizes the pre-departure workshops?**

The EducationUSA adviser at the advising center is in charge of planning and organizing these workshops.

### **8. Is the pre-departure orientation only for undergraduate students?**

No. Any student who has been accepted to attend study programs in the United States can attend these pre-departure orientation sessions.

**9. What happens if I could not attend a pre-departure workshop in my country?**

Universities usually have orientation sessions before you begin your study program. Please contact the admissions office to find out more information on this topic.

**10. How can a pre-departure orientation help me settle in the United States?**

The objective of a pre-departure orientation session is to give you realistic and accurate information and provide you with skills to adjust successfully to any challenges before you depart.

**11. How often pre-departure sessions are held in each country?**

They are usually held once or twice a year. However, some advising centers may have session during summer or for short-term courses.

**12. Can my parents or a family member come along with me to the pre-departure session?**

Yes, definitely. Your parents or a family member can come along with you.

**13. How can I prepare myself for a pre-departure workshop to ensure I benefit from it?**

You can prepare a checklist with the information you already have and take with you to the session.

**14. Do I need to pay to participate in a pre-departure workshop? How much?**

Most advising centers offer pre-departure orientation for free. However, there are others that may charge a small fee. Please contact the nearest [EducationUSA advising center](#) for information on this topic.

**15. Are there any internet resources that provide information for international students travelling to the US?**

You can find a copy of the [If You Want to Study in the USA: Pre-departure Orientation](#) booklet online. This publication offers detailed information on planning, passport and visa information, travel, beginning U.S. studies, finding housing, everyday living, and adjusting to a new environment.

**16. If I attend a pre-departure workshop in my country do I still need to attend the orientation program in my U.S. college or university?**

Yes. Most universities require that new students attend their orientation program.

**17. What can I do to prepare myself for my student life?**

It is always advisable that you carefully read the printed information the school sent you in advance. Also, visit your school's web site for updated information. It is also important that you contact or visit the school's international student office. If you still have questions, direct them to this office or to the office that sent you the information.

**18. Should I need additional practice to polish my English skills?**

One of the most important factors for academic success and a successful U.S. experience is English proficiency, either written or spoken. You should seize every opportunity to practice the language before you go to the U.S., especially listening and speaking. Look for tapes, CDs, DVDs, radio or television programs, or movies in which American English is spoken.

**19. Do I need to check my travel arrangements? Will someone pick me up at the airport?**

If you are flying to your destination, make sure you get a ticket for the airport nearest to your school. Once you get there, be sure you know how you will travel from the airport to your school. The school usually sends detailed information about how to get there from the airport and the options you have once you are in the United States. Sometimes, a school representative will pick you up at the airport; however, you should not assume that someone will pick you up unless you have made a specific arrangement. Always check with your school counselor or admissions office for details.

**20. Do I need to have health and accident insurance prior my departure?**

Health care in the United States is extraordinarily, sometimes unbelievably, expensive. Many American higher-education institutions require foreign students (and sometimes all students) to buy health insurance. Federal immigration regulations require students to have health insurance that meets specified standards. Your school should inform you about those standards.

Your international student office will provide information to you about health-insurance policies that are available to you at the school you will attend.