

## **Luggage and Packing:**

**Luggage is the essential thing one has to buy. This has to be done after proper planning as luggage is an expensive item and is to be retained for years, now that you will be doing lot of traveling in flight.**

### **Bags:**

2 large size suitcases

### **Packing:**

- Start your packing well in advance
- But two good boxes - they should be able to withstand a lot of mishandling. They should be as large as possible within the size limitations (however most airlines are not very strict about baggage size).
- Put identification marks and labels on both the inside & outside the boxes) apart from this, the airlines will also provide you with adhesive labels).
- Boxes with independent top & bottom are preferable.
- Box specification: As an example of Air India economy class baggage specifications to the USA are given below. Note the specs. may be different for other countries/airlines.
- 2 pieces of baggage with total liner dimension (L+B+H) not exceeding 270cms (106"). Moreover the total linear dimension of each piece should not be over 158cms (62"). The weight of each bag should not be exceeding 32kg (70lb) [note: Sometimes they are not particular about this] Carry on baggage: In addition you can carry a bag with linear dimension not exceeding 115cms (45") on board fits beneath the seat.

### **Things to be kept in the boxes:**

- Copy of all the certificates/documents (originals in hand baggage)
- Important application materials (SOP, Reco, etc.)(Soft copy)
- Necessary book/notebooks (some suggested books are - Clarks Tables, a good dictionary/thesaurus, a booklet for units conversion) [note: there should be no legal hassles taking Xerox copies of books - but don't flaunt them to Americans/profs]
- Copy of address book/telephone book/diary
- Some stationary and related items suggested (not absolutely necessary) - just for the first few weeks are: common items + rubber stamp with house address + air mail covers + few Indian razor blades for cutting work + screw driver
- Medical history files
- Gifts (suggested: roll able pictures, handicrafts, etc.)

- Non-technical books (fiction/religious). [Note: second-hand storybooks are cheap in the US]
- Don't take Indian files (empty) or punching machines - filing system is different in the US (3holes, A4)
- Don't take paper
- Don't take raincoats.
- Don't buy purse (wallet for carrying cards can be bought in the US) Carry an organizer
- Wear your shoes to save space in the box. If needed buy only leather shoes (other types of shoes are cheap in the US). For some weather conditions, Indian leather shoes may crack.

**Don't worry yourself if you can't bring any of the stuff listed above - most of the items are available pretty cheap in the US (Made in China). Exceptions are leather goods, formal wear. In a month or two you will be able to get anything you want.**

#### **Things to be kept in hand baggage:**

- Some medicines (including for air-sickness)
- Novel/mags/books for in flight reading
- Sweater
- Original important documents (I-20, visa, tickets.)
- Enough money (little cash, traveller's' checks)
- Address book/phone book (Indian & US)
- Copies of your photos (passport size)
- Enlisted steps to be followed in case of emergency (accident, theft, etc.)

#### **Things to be kept in person:**

- Shorter extract of contact addresses - especially of people coming to pick you up.
- Receipt got along with traveller's' checks - in case you lose the TC's.
- 1 handbag to carry in flight stuff with you (buy a good quality, spacious one 'cause you might have to use it for carrying clothes to the laundry later).
- 1 backpack (get a good one, you will use it almost all the time in US).

#### **Money and Documentation to be taken with you:**

Other than you fee requirements you may have to take \$1000-\$2000 depending upon where you are going (you can get this info from your seniors over there). This you can get from Thomas Cook/American Express and of course any Foreign Exchange bank like SBI, SBH IOB etc. Do this after you buy your ticket. And remember! Take major part of the

money in DD or TC's. The typical combination is. DD for the entire fee you have to pay, \$1000-\$2000 in TCs, and \$100 in cash...a combination of notes and coins....

### **Getting permit for us\$750:**

This can be got from any bank authorized to do so (need not go to RBI for this). You can get this within a month of the date of the flight. The following documents have to taken along to get the permit: Passport + copy, air ticket, I-20 Student Copy + copy, grade cards + copies, p.c. + copy, xii standard pass/mark sheet + copy, aid & admission letters + copies, bank advance/any other form of payment. You may take part of the \$750/- in the currency notes up to \$50 is okay (legally up to \$100 allowed). Money you may need to pay after going there: Other than your fee, you may have to pay the security deposit for the house, rent for the first month, groceries for the first month...basic utilities like toaster, rice cooker etc.which may come around to \$500 approx....

### **Documentation:**

**Carry all documentation safely, and have photocopies to back you up - letter from Univ., mark sheets, etc. (the visa stuff basically). Things to get photocopied: Make three sets of the following copies, keep one set at home and take the remaining two sets with you.**

- Visa
- Xth, Inter (10+2), Degree marks sheets, Convocation Certificate of Under graduation.
- I-20 and acceptance letter from the university.
- Take all the I-20's with you if you have more than one.