
Packing List

Ultimate Packing Checklist for Indian International Students

Introduction

Moving abroad for studies is an exciting journey, but packing appropriately can be overwhelming. This comprehensive guide will help Indian students determine what essentials to bring and what to leave behind or purchase after arrival.

Documents (Must-Have)

- **Passport** with minimum 6 months validity beyond your intended stay
- **Student visa** and all supporting documentation
- **University acceptance letter and correspondence**
- **Scholarship letters** (if applicable)
- **Original academic certificates** (10th, 12th, Bachelor's/Master's degrees)
- **Transcripts** in sealed envelopes
- **Standardized test score reports** (GRE, GMAT, TOEFL, IELTS)
- **Health insurance documents**
- **COVID-19 vaccination certificate** (international travel format)
- **International driver's license** (if planning to drive)
- **Passport-sized photographs** (at least 10)
- **Birth certificate** (original and notarized copies)
- **Bank statements** showing proof of funds
- **Credit/debit cards** that work internationally
- **Emergency contact information**

Pro tip: Scan all important documents and save digital copies in cloud storage and email them to yourself for backup access.

Clothing

What to Bring:

- **Everyday casual wear** (5-7 outfits)
- **Formal attire** (1-2 sets for presentations, interviews, cultural events)
- **Traditional Indian clothing** (1-2 outfits for cultural events)
- **Weather-appropriate items** based on destination:
 - For cold climates: Thermal underwear, winter coat, gloves, scarf, hat
 - For warm climates: Light, breathable clothing
- **Comfortable walking shoes** (1-2 pairs)
- **Formal shoes** (1 pair)
- **Athletic wear** (if you exercise regularly)
- **Sleepwear**
- **Undergarments and socks** (7-10 sets)
- **Swimwear** (if applicable)

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What to Leave Behind:

- Excessive traditional Indian clothing (bring only 1-2 special outfits)
- Heavy winter clothing (can be purchased more appropriately at destination)
- Too many formal outfits
- Clothes that don't match the local climate or culture

Electronics

What to Bring:

- **Laptop and charger**
- **Smartphone and charger**
- **Universal power adapter**
- **Headphones**
- **Basic calculator** (if needed for your course)
- **External hard drive** for backups
- **Small camera** (if not using smartphone)

What to Leave Behind:

- Large electronics like desktop computers, printers
- Kitchen appliances (rice cookers, mixers, etc.)
- Region-specific electronics that may not work abroad

Personal Care Items

What to Bring:

- **Prescription medications** (with doctor's note)
- **Basic first aid kit**
- **Prescription glasses/contact lenses** (bring extra pairs)
- **Personal hygiene products** for initial days
- **Small toiletry kit** (travel-sized)

What to Leave Behind:

- Large quantities of toiletries (easily available worldwide)
- Over-the-counter medications (available abroad unless specific to Indian formulations)

Food and Kitchen Items

What to Bring:

- **Small pack of essential Indian spices** (if you cook regularly)
- **Compact pressure cooker** (if you regularly cook Indian food)

What to Leave Behind:

- Large quantities of food items (many Indian ingredients are available in international cities)
- Heavy kitchen utensils and appliances

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Study Materials

What to Bring:

- **Course-specific reference books** (not easily available abroad)
- **Essential stationery** for first few weeks
- **Scientific calculator** (if required for your course)

What to Leave Behind:

- Heavy textbooks (access digital versions or purchase/rent abroad)
- Excessive stationery (easily available worldwide)

Cultural and Comfort Items

What to Bring:

- **Small religious items** (if important to you)
- **Photos of family and friends**
- **Small sentimental items** that help with homesickness

What to Leave Behind:

- Large religious idols/items
- Bulky decorative items

Money Matters

What to Bring:

- **Small amount of destination country currency** (for immediate expenses)
- **International credit/debit card**
- **Emergency cash** (US\$ 200-300 recommended)

What to Leave Behind:

- Large amounts of cash (use banking channels instead)

Special Considerations for Indian Students

Regional Foods:

- Bring small packets of specialty spices/mixes that are difficult to find abroad
- Consider bringing a small stock of regional specialty items like particular masalas or packaged foods unique to your region (check customs regulations)

Regional Clothing:

- One traditional outfit representing your regional culture for cultural events

Weather Adjustment:

- If coming from warm Indian regions to cold countries, prioritize warm layers and waterproof outer garments

Pre-Departure Shopping List (Buy in India)

- Traditional medications you regularly use
- Prescription medications (3-month supply with doctor's letter)

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- Formal ethnic wear for cultural events
- Comfortable sandals/chappals for dorm use
- Special regional food items (check customs regulations)

Shopping After Arrival (Buy at Destination)

- Bed linens (sizes differ internationally)
- Winter clothing (better suited to local climate)
- Bulk toiletries and personal care items
- Kitchen utensils
- Home decor
- Large electronics
- Local SIM card/phone plan
- Local bank account setup

Packing Tips

1. **Check baggage allowances** for your specific airline
2. **Weigh your luggage** before heading to the airport
3. **Distribute important items** between checked and carry-on luggage
4. **Use packing cubes or compression bags** to maximize space
5. **Label all luggage** with contact information
6. **Check customs regulations** for your destination country
7. **Carry essential medicines** in your hand luggage with prescriptions

Final Checklist Before Departure

- Verify all important documents are packed
- Confirm accommodation details and save address
- Notify your bank about international travel
- Download useful apps (maps, translation, university app)
- Save emergency contacts for your destination
- Check weather forecast for arrival day
- Exchange some currency for immediate needs

Remember that most items are available worldwide, and overpacking can lead to unnecessary baggage fees and transportation difficulties. Focus on bringing essential, difficult-to-replace items and documents while planning to purchase daily necessities after arrival.

This guide was created specifically for Indian students studying abroad to help make your transition smoother and more efficient.