



Pre Departure Tasks

Pre-Departure Tasks for Indian International Students

A timeline of essential tasks before leaving for your studies abroad

6-8 Months Before Departure

- Accept admission offer and pay deposits
- Apply for passport (if you don't have one) or renew if expiring within 1 year
- Research housing options and apply for university accommodation if desired
- Begin researching scholarship opportunities
- Start exploring student loan options and financial planning
- Take required language proficiency tests (IELTS/TOEFL) if needed

4-6 Months Before Departure

- Apply for student visa (gather all required documentation)
- Book visa appointment at consulate/embassy
- Arrange for official academic transcripts and certificates
- Open a Forex account or international student bank account
- Research health insurance options required by your university
- Start researching flights (but wait to book)
- Get medical and dental check-ups
- Obtain necessary vaccinations as required by destination country

2-3 Months Before Departure

- Book flight tickets (once visa is confirmed)
- Get education loan documentation finalized (if applicable)
- Arrange for foreign currency/international credit card
- Set up accommodations if living off-campus
- Research mobile phone plans at destination
- Apply for FOREX card from your bank
- Get international driving permit (if planning to drive)
- Attend pre-departure orientation (if offered by university or EducationUSA/similar)

1 Month Before Departure

- Make certified copies of important documents
- Pack essential medicines with prescriptions
- Shop for appropriate clothing for the destination climate
- Notify your bank about international travel
- Pay any pending bills or subscriptions in India
- Research public transportation at your destination
- Register with Indian embassy/consulate abroad (MADAD portal)
- Arrange airport pickup at destination (if possible)

2 Weeks Before Departure

- Begin packing (refer to packing checklist)

topgrades abroad

- Confirm flight details and check baggage allowance
- Finalize accommodation arrangements
- Inform credit card companies about travel
- Download useful apps (university app, maps, translation, banking)
- Save important contact information offline
- Check weather forecast at destination
- Research orientation programs at your university

1 Week Before Departure

- Exchange some currency for immediate expenses
- Double-check all required documents
- Confirm health insurance coverage
- Prepare carry-on essentials
- Back up important files and documents to cloud storage
- Set up international roaming or get information about buying local SIM
- Verify transportation from airport to accommodation
- Say goodbyes to family and friends

Day Before Departure

- Online check-in for flight
- Verify passport, visa, I-20/admission documents are in hand luggage
- Charge all electronic devices
- Confirm travel to airport
- Set up auto-replies for email/messaging if needed
- Pack snacks for the journey
- Double-check that you have necessary medicines
- Confirm you have your university's emergency contact information

Final Checklist of Essential Documents

- Passport with valid visa
- University acceptance letter
- Housing confirmation
- Scholarship/financial support letters
- Original academic certificates and transcripts
- IELTS/TOEFL score reports
- Birth certificate (original and copies)
- Bank statements showing proof of funds
- Health insurance documentation
- Vaccination records including COVID-19 certificate
- Foreign exchange/forex card
- Emergency contacts (saved in phone and written down)

Remember: Create digital copies of all important documents and store them in cloud storage and email them to yourself for backup access.