Packing Your Bags

Pack as Lightly as Possible

- You can always have your family mail you a box or pick up what you need during a visit home. Remember too, anything you forget to bring can be purchased at nearby stores or online stores [1].
- Familiarize yourself with items prohibited or restricted by U.S. Customs [2].

Carry-On Luggage

- Carry all your important documents (including immigration documents DS-2019 or I-20) medications, toiletries, and few extra pieces of clothing in your carry-on luggage in case your checked bag gets lost. Sometimes, it can take a couple of days to locate misplaced luggage. To find out what you can take with you on the plane or put in your carry-on luggage, contact the airline you intend to use or visit the TSA (Transportation Security Administration) website [3].
- Do not pack anything valuable in your checked suitcase in case it gets lost.

Clothes & Footwear

- The weather in Connecticut can range from very hot and humid in the summer to quite cold and freezing in the winter. You need to plan for all four seasons: fall, winter, spring, and summer. Should you not have any of the items listed below, you can buy them once you arrive [1].
- For the summer, you will need light casual clothes and a bathing suit as the beach is about 20 minutes from Yale.
- During the fall and spring, you will want a light jacket or sweater.
- You will need a heavy coat for winter, which is December through February. OISS can recommend nearby places to buy a good winter coat at a discount if you don't have one. Be sure to also review our Winter Resources [4] page.
- You will need an assortment of footwear: sandals for summer, warm waterproof boots for winter, and comfortable sneakers or flat shoes for walking around campus.
- It is recommended that you bring at least one formal evening outfit and a semi-formal outfit. You may also want to bring some traditional dress from your country for festivals and/or special occasions.

Mementos from Home

- Bring familiar objects to comfort you when you are missing home. Consider placing these small, but significant items next to your bed or hang on the wall.
- You may also want to bring small souvenirs from your home country to give as gifts.
Household Items

- Plan on buying most of your household items (small electrical appliances, bed sheets and towels, cooking and eating supplies) once you have arrived [1]. If you have space in your suitcase, you can bring a set of sheets and towels from home to get started.

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Links: