Before You Leave Home

Published on Office of International Students & Scholars (https://oiss.yale.edu)

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Staying healthy [1] is important. It is wise to strike a balance between all aspects of life such as work, socializing, leisure, a good diet, exercise, and rest. While you are at Yale, you must have adequate health insurance coverage [2].

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Schedule all your doctor's and dentist's check-ups at home before you leave. Medical and dental care in the U.S. is excellent, but it makes sense to take care of anything you need before you arrive. Dental care [3] in the U.S. is quite expensive. While it is possible to purchase a student discount plan, it does not cover all dental procedures 100%.

Medication/Prescriptions

As permitted by U.S. Customs and Border Protection [4] you may want to bring with you any prescription medications (with copies of your prescriptions translated into English) or even non-prescription medications that you take. Sometimes it is difficult to translate a prescription or a non-prescription medication. If you can bring the scientific name of the drug with you, it may be easier to find the equivalent. Prescription medication may cost more in the U.S. for the same drug from the same company.

Prescription medications should be in their original containers with the doctor's prescription printed on the container. It is advised that you travel with no more than personal use quantities, a rule of thumb is no more than a 90 days supply. If your medications or devices are not in their original containers, you must have a copy of your prescription with you or a letter from your doctor. A valid prescription or doctors note is required on all medication entering the U.S.

Immunization and Medical Records

All students must comply with the University's immunization requirements [5]. If you are a student or if you have children who will attend school or daycare in Connecticut, you must show proof of immunization. Bring with you proof of immunizations and full medical records.

Traveler's Insurance

It is advisable to carry traveler's insurance if your home insurance will not cover the expenses of emergency medical care while you travel and during your first few days at Yale. Yale Health Plan coverage for new students begins on the day of the opening of dormitories.