

_____ Exchange foreign currency for \$100-200 in U.S. currency for use when you first arrive. Include small bills (i.e., \$1, \$5, \$10).

_____ DO NOT CARRY LARGE SUMS OF CURRENCY (i.e., no more than \$200 in cash)

_____ Give your family a contact address in the U.S. and keep Vassar's emergency contact information handy. In the event you need to reach someone at Vassar during your trip to campus, call Andrew Meade at 1-845-235-9967.

_____ Have Vassar's address/your American address at hand at all times, or memorize it. You will need it to complete immigration forms.

_____ Write down the complete telephone numbers of the people you would like to call once you have arrived in New York City. Be sure to include your country code and all applicable area codes.

_____ If you are being sponsored by an organization, notify the organization of your plans and complete all of the sponsoring organization's necessary documents.

_____ Pack all identification and important correspondence from Vassar in your hand luggage. These documents include the following: letter of admission, financial-aid award letter, valid passport, Certificate of Eligibility (Form I-20 or DS2019), SEVIS I-901 Fee receipt, financial documentation, driver's license, copy of birth certificate, etc.

_____ If your passport was issued less than one year ago, you will need your birth certificate or another photo ID more than a year old in order to obtain a Social Security Number (necessary for employment).

_____ Bring necessary health immunization records. (You will need a copy for Vassar Health Services as well as a copy for your own records.)

_____ Pack your carry-on with emergency personal items, such as medication and a change of clothes, in case your luggage is temporarily lost during your journey.

_____ Consider bringing clothing representative of your culture/traditions/country.

And finally...bring photographs and other items to remind you of home!