



Q: WHAT IS ISO?

ISO stands for International Student Orientation. It lasts for three and a half days, and takes place just before the University wide New Student Orientation (NSO) for all incoming frosh. It serves to welcome international students to the US and prepare them for NSO and life in the US. During ISO, we will hold many fun activities, as well as information sessions on immigration and financial aid for internationals. ISO's mission is to create a sustainable community of international students at Stanford, while acclimating them to the US.

Q: HOW IS ISO DIFFERENT FROM NSO? ISO?

Though NSO is intended for all students, it's often easier for internationals to adjust to Stanford and enjoy NSO if they've been through ISO. It also provides time for international students to take care of logistical issues regarding banking, getting phones etc.

Q: WHO SHOULD ATTEND ISO?

ISO is open to all students who currently live overseas. This includes all students regardless of whether or not they were born in the US or have US citizenship. However, we unfortunately cannot open ISO to students born overseas who now reside in the US.

Q: MY PARENTS WANT ME TO STAY WITH THEM, BUT I WANT TO ATTEND ISO. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

We recommend that you attend ISO. ISO is a valuable experience, not just in itself, but also in that it's an important period in an international frosh's assimilation period to Stanford and the US. You'll get to meet and socialize with fellow internationals! It's always comforting to have people of similar backgrounds to make it through the first week or two, and we

hope ISO will do just that-make you feel welcome. Our fantastic staff will also answer any questions that you or your parents may have.

Q: WHAT ARE THE IMPORTANT THINGS FOR ME TO HAVE AS I LEAVE HOME?

- Make sure you've got your student visa
- Carry your passport, I-20, letter of admission and documents showing evidence of funding with you in your hand baggage
- Carry some US currency for emergencies (\$100 would be more than enough)

Q: WHEN CAN I MOVE INTO MY UNIVERSITY DORM ROOM? WHERE DO I GET MY ROOM KEY? WILL THERE BE SOMEONE TO HELP ME WHEN I GET TO MY ROOM?

- You cannot move into University housing until Saturday, September 12th. If you plan on arriving before that date, you will need to find your own lodging. A lodging guide can be found here: <http://www.stanford.edu/dept/visitorinfo/plan/lodging.html>
- When you check-in at the Bechtel Center on September 12th, you will get your dormitory key and your Stanford ID card. With these, you can get into your room at any time of the day. There is no curfew at Stanford.
- Your dormitories are staffed by upperclassmen and one Resident Fellow. They will all be present when you move in, so feel free to ask them for help for just about anything!

Q: HOW ABOUT FOOD DURING ISO AND NSO?

- Starting with the Welcome Dinner on Saturday night, all meals will be provided.

Q: SHOULD I HAVE US CURRENCY WITH ME WHEN I FIRST ARRIVE AT STANFORD?

- We recommend you carry around \$100 for emergencies when you arrive. In addition, you will need to initially spend money for basic supplies like bedding, school supplies, but after that you do not need to use money very much—everything is billed to your Stanford Bill. Books for each quarter can cost up to \$400 per quarter.
- Credit cards, debit card use is very common in America, especially for large purchases.

Q: HOW ABOUT INTERNET AND PHONE SERVICE?

- Internet access is provided free of charge to all students.
- A landline is provided in your room, but you cannot make International phone calls from that line. We recommend that you purchase a calling card to do so. For keeping in touch with family and friends at home, we recommend Skype - - it's basically free and you can video-chat from your computer.
- You can have both regular mail and packages shipped to your PO Box. You may NOT have anything sent to your dormitory/residence address.

- The emergency number for police, fire, and ambulance services in America is 911 from any non-Stanford telephone (cellphone, public phone). However, from your dorm phone, you must dial 9-911.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER ADVICE FOR ME WHEN I ARRIVE ON CAMPUS?

- Get your TB test done at Vaden Health Center; there's just no way around it: get it done. If you fail to complete it, the university will place an enrollment hold on your Winter Quarter and thus prevent you from taking classes, if they don't do it in your Autumn Quarter.
- Open a bank account; there are three bank branches on campus: Stanford Federal Credit Union, Wells Fargo Bank, and Bank of America. Open a savings and a checking account. More information is available here:
<http://icenter.stanford.edu/scholars/status/banking.html>
- You'll find lots of useful information for new international students here:
http://icenter.stanford.edu/orientation/orientation_guide.html

Q: MY PARENTS WILL ACCOMPANY ME TO STANFORD. ARE THERE ANY EVENTS FOR PARENTS?

- The Bechtel International Center will host two events for the parents of international students:
- 1) a reception at the Center on Saturday, September 12th at 6:30 pm and
- 2) an informal discussion and Q&A session on Sunday, September 13th at 11:00am.
- In addition the parents' lounge will be open from 11 am to 5 pm on Saturday 12th.
- In addition, please let your parents know about this website:
<http://www.stanford.edu/gateways/parents.html>

Q: HOW CAN I CONTACT YOU?

- A week before orientation starts, we will post a hot-line number for when you are utterly lost. Please only call this number when you've exhausted all options, as this will be somebody's personal cell phone number. This number will be used for urgent problems once you have arrived on campus;