# Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Study in Indiana</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Packing Tips</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Important stuff/documents</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothes</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foods</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hand Baggage</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation to Bloomington</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Us</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>References</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Study in Indiana

The state of Indiana is sandwiched between Lake Michigan (to the north), the state of Kentucky to the south, Ohio to the east, and Illinois to the west. Indiana’s central geographic location in the United States has earned it a title as the ‘crossroads of America’ (as such, serves as the state’s motto). International students who are interested and want to study in Indiana not only have several excellent academic institutions to choose from, they are strategically situated in a unique geographic location within the contiguous United States that affording them the opportunity to make reasonable travel arrangements to explore various other U.S. cities that they feel their career and life paths could potentially lead them.

Capital - Indianapolis
Largest City - Indianapolis
Population - 6,423,113
Time zone - Eastern Time
Packing Tips

The following checklist will help you make sure you haven’t missed anything important:

Important Stuff/Documents

- Money – bring enough money with you to cover your first month’s expenses until you are able to transfer funds from Malaysia. This will be roughly US $1,500, but probably more (look at your budget to be sure)
- Official academic transcripts (from previous college) and English translations
- Medical and dental records, including immunization and vaccination records and prescriptions
- Passport and plane tickets, Form I-20
- University offer letter, financial affidavit (if any)
- Insurance records
- National and international driver’s licenses (if any)
- A list of the names, addresses, telephone numbers, and email addresses of key contacts, both in the US and at home, including the contact information for friends and family who live in the US
- Academic documents, such as the school’s course catalog and other material you received from the school

Tips!

- These important stuffs/documents should be packed in your hand-carry bag
Clothes

✓ Basic clothing (T-shirt, shirt, jeans, pants, underwears) – enough for 2 weeks, you can get great bargains for clothes in the US (online and/or retail stores)
✓ Sneakers, dress shoes, flip-flops, sandals, socks
✓ Jacket/sweaters
✓ Towel
✓ Traditional clothes. i.e: Baju Melayu, Baju Kurung, Cheongsam, Baju Iban, Baju Batik. Can be worn during cultural events and celebrations.
✓ Scarfs (for Muslimah) – consider bringing a lot since they are not easily available in the US
✓ Kain pelekat, kain batik, telekung, sejadah, songkok
✓ Optional: Winter clothing (advisable to be bought in the US – cheaper and more selections)
✓ Business suits (especially for business students)

Tips!

• Only bring essential clothing enough for roughly two weeks or clothes that cannot be bought in the US as you have limited baggage allowance and clothes are cheap in the US.
Food

✓ Brahim/pre-packaged food – they come in handy when you’re feeling extremely lazy to cook and can be especially beneficial to those who live in the dorms
✓ Dried chilli
✓ Instant noodle (maggi etc)
✓ Spices – most spices are sold in Bloomington, but if you have personal preference, it is a good idea to bring your favorite spices
✓ Asam jawa, asam keping, belacan – please pack these properly to avoid ruining your bag
✓ Curry powder, kurma powder, sup bunjut
✓ 3-in1 Milo/Horlicks/instant drinks
✓ Instant paste (perencah nasi goreng, tomyam, bak kut the, etc)
✓ Keropok segera
✓ Serunding – pack this very properly too! (this is a bit risky as US customs do not allow meat to be brought in, so be extra careful should you decide to bring it anyway)
✓ Kuih raya, instant lemang, ketupat, kerepek, maruku, etc
✓ Chilli sauce (very important!) – not sold in Bloomington, but if you’re okay with substitutes such as hot sauce, you can leave this one out

Tips!

• Rice is easily available in Bloomington. Please do not waste your baggage allowance by bringing rice
• Consider allowing more space for food in your baggage and less for clothes, as Malaysian food is not necessarily easily available in Bloomington
• Keep the packaging dry and securely sealed to avoid ruining your baggage and avoid the risk of being confiscated by the customs at your point of entry
Others

✓ Al-Quran, Yaasiin (Muslim)
✓ Stationary – especially mechanical pencil lead as they are not available in Bloomington
✓ Laptop
✓ Medicines (panadol, etc)
✓ International plug adapter
✓ Toiletries
✓ Prescription glasses/contact lenses - consider bringing extra as they can be quite pricey in the US
✓ Sabun samak (Muslim)

Tips!

• If you can’t fit it in your bag, leave it. Period.
• Lock your baggage using TSA-approved padlocks. Some bags come with pre-installed TSA-approved locks.
  ▪ TSA screens every passenger’s baggage before it is placed on an airplane. While the technology allows them to electronically screen bags, there are times when they need to physically inspect a piece of luggage. TSA has worked with several companies to develop locks that can be opened by security officers using universal "master" keys so that the locks may not have to be cut.

TSA-approved locks
(recognizable by the red logo)
Hand Baggage

Malaysia Airlines hand baggage allocation:
- First Class/Business Class passengers – two pieces each
- Economy Class passengers – one piece each
- Each hand baggage must not weigh more than 7 kg

Dimensions:
Each piece must not exceed the following dimensions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimension</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Height</th>
<th>Width</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>All aircraft types (B737, B777, A330 and A380)</td>
<td>56 cm (22 inches)</td>
<td>36 cm (14 inches)</td>
<td>23 cm (9 inches)</td>
<td>115 cm (45 inches)</td>
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</tbody>
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Hand baggage exceeding the dimension and weight or the number allowed, must be checked as check-in baggage.

- Important stuff/documents stated earlier
- 2-3 pairs of change clothes
- Sweater
- Socks
- Snacks (you WILL get hungry on the flight. The trip is at least 20 hours!)
- Phone charger
- Toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, facewash, deodorant)
- Prescription glasses/contact lens/contact lens solution
- Medicines

Tips!
- All liquids should NOT measure more than 100ml (container size)
TRANSPORTATION TO BLOOMINGTON

From the baggage claim area at the Indianapolis airport, follow the signs for Ground Transportation. In the Ground Transportation area there are multiple travel options. If you are taking one of the shuttle services to Bloomington (more information below), shuttles to Bloomington depart from Ground Transportation Zone 3 at the airport. You will see signs for this when you reach the Ground Transportation area.

We recommend using one of the following transportation services (reservations are suggested):

1. Shuttle Bus

   ▪ **Go Express Travel (812-332-6004 or 800-589-6004):**

     Go Express Travel (Bloomington Shuttle) offers shuttle service from the airport to Bloomington from 6:40am to 10:40pm and costs $15 for one-way fare. Check the Go Express website for more information about this service, a shuttle schedule, and frequently asked questions. The Bloomington Shuttle provides direct service from the airport to three locations on IU’s campus: McNutt Center, Willkie Center, and the Indiana Memorial Union (IMU).

   ▪ **Star of America (812-876-7851 or 1-800-933-0097):**

     Star of America offers service from the airport to Bloomington from 6:20am to 10:20pm and costs $20 for one-way fare. Check the Star of America website for more information about this service, and a shuttle schedule. Star of America provides direct service from the airport to four locations on IU’s campus: McNutt Center, Read Center, Eigenmann Center, and the Indiana Memorial Union (IMU).
**Miller Transportation**

Located at 217 W 6th Street in Bloomington (Yellow Cab Office), Miller Transportation offers daily service between Bloomington, Indianapolis and Evansville. Tickets can be purchased on their website at their website or in person. Visit their website for more information at http://www.hoosierride.com.

**2. Limousine**

**Classic Touch Limousine Service (812-339-7269 or 800-319-0082):**

For greater comfort and door-to-door service, you may want to consider a Classic Touch Limo. It is $67 one way for one person. Note that it is appropriate to tip your driver. Visit their website for more information.

**3. Taxi Service**

Taxi service is available at the curb just outside Baggage Claim. Push the taxi call button curbside at the taxi areas to call your cab. Please be aware that it may cost around $100 to get to Bloomington using a taxi! Please consult your driver for rates before choosing to take a taxi. Note that it is appropriate to tip your driver.
Malaysian Student Association at IU welcomes you to join the Hoosier family! We understand that this is a difficult and confusing transition for most of you (been there, done that), so don’t hesitate to contact us should you have any question!

Click on the Facebook icon to find us on Facebook!

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REFERENCES

http://www.edupass.org/travel/packing.phtml

http://www.internationalstudent.com/study_usa/way-of-life/

http://ois.indiana.edu/newstudents/firststeps/transport_to.php


http://www.tsa.gov/traveler-information/baggage-locks