STUDENT RELOCATION & SOUTHWEST SURVIVAL GUIDE

A QUICK REFERENCE & RESOURCE FOR INCOMING GRADUATE BUSINESS PROGRAM STUDENTS
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ARRIVING TO THE “VALLEY OF THE SUN” (Greater Phoenix)

PHOENIX SKY HARBOR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

For those of you flying commercially into the Phoenix area, you will probably be flying into Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport (or simply, Sky Harbor). Located in east-central Phoenix, Sky Harbor is located less than 10 minutes by car from the Arizona State University Campus in Tempe. Sky Harbor is considered to be one of the largest aviation facilities in the southwest U.S. and was host to no less than 42.2 million travelers in 2007 making it the 17th busiest airport in the world (according to Airports Council International).

The airport is composed of two terminals with terminals #3 - #4 designated for passenger travel. Your arrival terminal depends on your airline. For more information and details on the airport, refer to their Web site at http://phoenix.gov/skyharborairport.

QUICK TRAVEL TIPS

Traveling, especially if it is part of short-term relocation, can be especially tedious. Please note the following:

Transportation from the Airport

Various car rental companies and shuttle services are available at Sky Harbor. For a comprehensive listing, visit the Getting Around Page on the Phoenix Convention & Visitors Bureau site.

Luggage

As you are packing, be aware of the baggage allowance for commercial flights. Airlines may refuse to check oversized or overweight baggage, or may charge an extra fee on the spot. It may be difficult to handle problems that arise at the last minute in the airport relating to excess baggage. If you are unable to stay within your baggage limitations, you should mail, or make arrangements to mail any excess goods before you leave. If possible, have friends or relatives ship the bulk of your belongings to you after you have secured permanent residence. PLEASE DO NOT send belongings to the Graduate Business Programs Office – we simply do not have the space and cannot guarantee any security. International Note: Overseas flights often allow more bags/weight than domestic U.S. airlines. Many flying from overseas will have to catch a connecting flight to Phoenix – please make sure you check with ALL airlines you plan to use in your travels. For more travel related issues, go online to the Federal Aviation Administration traveler’s site.

Money (for international students written by international students)

Most international students carry enough cash to cover travel expenses during the trip to the U.S. and some for the first couple weeks of their stay. In addition to tuition and fee amounts, some students bring traveler’s checks with them for immediate major expenses such as securing an apartment, opening a bank account, etc. According to a recent survey of international students enrolled in the W. P. Carey School of Business, most international students bring an average of $4,800 in traveler’s checks to cover immediate expenses and start a bank account. Do not carry large sums of cash as you travel to the United States. Once you have a bank account established in the U.S., you may want to consider having additional funds wired to your new account.
Weather & Attire

August in the Greater Phoenix area is hot and due to the season’s climate patterns, more humid than usual. As you will be arriving in summer, we advise you to bring lightweight clothing. When packing, you should also consider that you will need business or business casual attire during some parts of orientation (suit, necktie, shirts with collars, business skirts, etc.). Details on orientation and attire requirements will be sent in new admit newsletters and posted on Canvas. Below are some climate statistics for Tempe to keep in mind:

- Annual Average Min. Temp.: 52 F° / 11 C°
- Annual Average Max. Temp.: 85 F° / 30 C°
- Average Min. Temp. in August: 78 F° / 26 C°
- Average Max. Temp. in August: 102 F° / 39 C°

For those who winced in pain after reading the above, do not panic. Aside from the summer months, the weather here is relatively moderate the rest of the year (and popular with tourists). All of ASU’s buildings are air-conditioned. Keep in mind, the greater Phoenix area is home to more than 3.5 million residents who all make it through the summer just fine employing safety tips and common sense (avoid having to run errands during peak afternoon hours, use sunscreen, drink plenty of water, etc.).

VISA ISSUES FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS (BEFORE & UPON ARRIVAL TO ASU)

Before Arriving at ASU

Once you are admitted to the ASU, the Graduate College will send you a Certificate of Eligibility (Form I-20 or DS-2019). This document, along with the certificate or letter of admission, the financial guarantee and your passport, is used to obtain a visa (F-1 or J-1 respectively) at a U.S. embassy/consulate nearest to you. You also must provide these documents when you enter the U.S. Note: You will have to schedule an appointment with your local U.S. embassy/consulate as part of this process. Make sure to contact them as soon as possible to avoid delays. Find a list on the U.S. State Department’s Web site at http://usembassy.state.gov. Additional documentation may be required at your visa interview. Please ask the embassy/consulate what documents to bring to your appointment.

I-20 or DS-2019 from Multiple Institutions

If you have received an I-20 or DS-2019 from more than one school, be sure you present the document from the school you will actually attend when you apply for a visa and go through the immigration inspection at the airport or border. Failure to do this will cause you to lose student status.

Important Sites from the ASU Graduate College (bookmark these!)

- Steps to take once you are admitted to ASU: https://admission.asu.edu/graduate/admitted
- Visa and Immigration Services: https://students.asu.edu/international/immigration

Check in with the ASU International Students Office When You Arrive

International students who have been admitted to ASU must go to the International Students (ISSC) office with their passport and immigration documents as soon as they arrive on campus. Students must be enrolled as full-time students throughout the academic year (12 credit hours per semester for undergraduate and 9 credit hours for graduate students). Passport and I-20 or DS-2019 must be kept valid at all times.
LIVING IN THE VALLEY

USEFUL CITY WEB SITES

Many cities and suburbs in the Greater Phoenix area host an online entity. Listed below are some of those municipal sites and others that may be beneficial to moving to the “Valley of the Sun”. The Convention & Visitors Bureau sites may offer relocation tips and note things to do in the valley.

Phoenix
City of Phoenix http://phoenix.gov
Convention & Visitors Bureau www.visitphoenix.com

Tempe
City of Tempe http://www.tempe.gov
Convention & Visitors Bureau http://www.tempecvb.com

Scottsdale
City of Scottsdale http://www.scottsdaleaz.gov
Convention & Visitors Bureau https://www.experiencescottsdale.com/

Where Do Graduate Business Students Live?
W. P. Carey graduate business students live in a variety of places based on convenience, individual preference and personal budget. Students will rent an apartment, rent a condo/house, or even purchase a condo/house. The Phoenix/Tempe area offers a variety of housing accommodations. Because on-campus options for graduate students and students with families are not available, graduate students live off-campus. According to many of our students, living off-campus along with having roommates can often result in cost-savings. There are a variety of resources available to help you find an apartment and several of them are provided in this publication.

When Should I Look For a Place to Live?
It’s never too early to begin thinking about living arrangements. If you plan on renting an apartment/condo/house, it is recommended that you begin looking as soon as possible prior to your arrival.

Off-Campus Housing
There are many apartments and rental properties located within walking or biking distance of ASU. There are also suitable residential areas within a 10-40 minute drive (Scottsdale, Mesa, Chandler, Phoenix, etc.) Monthly rental fees in Tempe can range from $750 - $1,200 depending on location, space, and amenities. Most property owners and rental communities will require a security deposit, and a few require long-term leases (9-12 months) before they will rent a unit.

Apartment search resources are listed under “Relocation Resources”. There are also local agencies available to assist you in finding a place to live. If you prefer the “do-it-yourself” method, there are online sites such as the
Apartment Guide or *For Rent* magazine that provide details on many communities in the valley. See the links listed later in this section.

**Temporary Housing**
Unfortunately, ASU does not offer temporary housing. Should you be without a permanent residence upon arrival, aside from staying with friends or relatives, you may want to locate a hotel in the area that can accommodate you during the search for a place to call home. For a list of Tempe area hotels and resorts, please refer to the City of Tempe Convention and Visitors Bureau site at [www.tempecvb.com](http://www.tempecvb.com). Since the summer is the off-season for travelers in Phoenix, rates and deals for lodging may be competitive for consumers.

**Additional Online Resources**
There are many businesses in the city that offer a service to help locate apartments and homes for interested parties. *The W. P. Carey School of Business does not officially endorse or recommend any specific commercial site and is providing this information only as a resource.*

**ASU – Off-Campus Resources:** [http://www.asu.edu/studentaffairs/reslife/occss.html](http://www.asu.edu/studentaffairs/reslife/occss.html)

**The State Press** – [www.statepress.com](http://www.statepress.com)
The State Press is the daily student publication for Arizona State University. The paper includes a “vacancy” listing in the classifieds/ads.

**Commercial Sites:**

*For Rent* Magazine – [www.forrent.com/search](http://www.forrent.com/search)

*Move.com* - [www.move.com](http://www.move.com)

Realtor and Home Search Information - [www.homegain.com](http://www.homegain.com)

**Note:** The classifieds advertise a variety of things for sale: furniture, bikes, appliances, etc. This can be an inexpensive means to furnish your apartment or find cheap transportation!

**UTILITIES AND MUNICIPAL/GOVERNMENT SERVICES**

Below is a list of services which you will probably need upon moving into your new residence. Note that certain areas of the city are serviced by a specific utility company. Property owners and realtors can provide you with these details.

**Electricity/Gas**

*Arizona Public Service (APS) - electricity*

(602) 371-7171

1 (800) 253-9405 toll free [www.aps.com/home](http://www.aps.com/home)

*Salt River Project (SRP) - electricity*

(602) 236-8888

[www.srpnet.com](http://www.srpnet.com)

*Southwest Gas Corp.*

(602) 861-1999

1 (800) 873-2440 toll free [www.swgas.com](http://www.swgas.com)
Water/Sewer/Refuse
City of Phoenix
(602) 262-6251
http://phoenix.gov/WATERSERVICES/

City of Tempe
(480) 350-8361
www.tempre.gov/waterutil/

Communications (phone, cable, internet)
(p=phone; c=cable; s=satellite; i=internet)

Cox Communications (p,c,i) - www.cox.com

Century Link (p, c, i) - https://www.centurylink.com/

Direct TV (s) - https://www.directv.com

Dish Network (s) - www.dishnetwork.com

Newspapers
The Arizona Republic
(602) 444-1000
www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic

East Valley Tribune
1 (888) 887-4286
www.aztrib.com

Phoenix New Times
www.phoenixnewtimes.com

Hospitals (nearest ASU)
Tempe St. Luke’s
1500 S. Mill Ave.
Tempe, AZ 85280
(480) 968-9411

Desert Samaritan Medical Center
1400 S. Dobson Rd.
Mesa, AZ 85202
(480) 835-3000

U S. Postal Service
www.usps.com or 1 (800) ASK-USPS
Post Office - Tempe
233 E. Southern Ave.

Post Office – Tempe/Mill Ave.
500 S. Mill Ave.
Mass Transit - City Bus and Light Rail Information
Valley Metro
(602) 253-5000
www.valleymetro.org

Voter Registration
Maricopa County Elections Department

Banking

There are several large banks within a mile of ASU. A branch of MidFirst Bank and OneAZ Credit Union are located within the Memorial Union (MU) on campus (https://eoss.asu.edu/mu/whats_in/banks).

Please note that this is only a short list of financial institutions that are available; if searching for a branch nearest to ASU, use ASU’s zip code (85287):

- Bank of America - www.bofa.com
- Chase - www.chase.com
- Wells Fargo - www.wellsfargo.com

Getting your Kids in School

For complete information on individual school districts, charter school options and home schooling, please refer to the following public entities:

Maricopa County Superintendent of Schools
http://maricopa.gov/schools
(602) 506-3866.

Arizona Department of Education
www.azed.gov
1 (800) 352-4558

Child Care

Looking for child care in a new city can be a bit overwhelming. Since needs and finances may vary, we’ve listed some general child care resources for our students with young families.

ASU Child and Family Services
(Click on “Child Care Services” in the menu to view child care and pre-school options available on the ASU Tempe Campus)
https://eoss.asu.edu/students-families
(480) 965-9515

Arizona Child Care Resource and Referral (a non-profit referral resource)
www.arizonachildcare.org
1 (800) 308-9000
**Driver License & License Plates**

Driver licenses and vehicle registration are all handled by the Motor Vehicles Department (MVD), which is part of the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT).

For the latest information and requirements, please refer to MVD’s site at: [http://www.azdot.gov/MVD/](http://www.azdot.gov/MVD/)

Requirements and regulations are listed online. New drivers or those new to Arizona can download a PDF version of the Driver License Manual to become acquainted with the rules of the road at [http://www.azdot.gov/mvd/custsvcguide.asp](http://www.azdot.gov/mvd/custsvcguide.asp).

The MVD office located nearest to the ASU Tempe campus is listed below:

**MVD – Tempe / South Scottsdale Branch**
1703 E. Larkspur Lane
Tempe, AZ 85281
(602) 255-0072
1 (800) 251-5866

**Note:** Automobile insurance is mandated by law in Arizona and can be very expensive. It is best to shop around as there is usually a variation in price among insurance companies. Some international students are able to extend their domestic insurance coverage to the U.S. and we advise you to explore this possibility. Do not drive in Arizona without auto insurance. If you rent a car, you can buy auto insurance at the time to cover the rental period.

**UNIVERSITY RESIDENCY STATUS INFORMATION**

We often get questions from students about establishing residency in Arizona. Often, one of the major advantages of attaining residency status is getting in-state/resident tuition rates.

Attaining residency status is rather involved and can vary on individual situations. Due to the sometimes complex and sensitive nature of this issue, ASU has a Residency Classification Office in the Office of the Registrar that handles such requests and disburses information on behalf of the entire university.

Please refer to their Web site for details on eligibility and the application process (including application deadlines). We would suggest that students curious about this process contact the Residency Office as soon as possible and to never make assumptions about Arizona residency status. Policies vary among colleges and states; for example ASU’s requirement is stricter than the local community college district in Maricopa County.

**University Registrar’s Office - Residency Classification**

PO Box 870312
Tempe, AZ 85287-0312
Phone: (480) 965-7712
Fax: (480) 727-6630

Student Services Building, Room 140 (first floor)
Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday
Web site: [http://students.asu.edu/residency](http://students.asu.edu/residency)
E-mail: residency@asu.edu
**FUN IN THE VALLEY**

**Arizona State University Athletics & Recreation**
As a NCAA Division I school, ASU boasts a number of intercollegiate sports in addition to teams that play at the club level.

As part of your student fees, you may obtain free tickets to most ASU sporting events. Visit [https://eoss.asu.edu/inferno/tickets](https://eoss.asu.edu/inferno/tickets) for more information. For more details about ASU athletics, visit [www.thesundevils.com](http://www.thesundevils.com).

**The Sun Devil Fitness Center**
As an ASU student, you have a free membership to the Sun Devil Fitness Center. The SDFC is located just east of the College of Business and features a large outdoor pool, racquetball, tennis, basketball courts, martial arts, aerobics classes, a wellness center, a weight room and much more. You may sign up for club or intramural sports through the SDFC by using the link below. For more information, go online at [https://fitness.asu.edu/](https://fitness.asu.edu/) or call (480) 965-8900.

**Professional Sports in the Valley of the Sun**
Being one of the larger metropolitan areas in the U.S. has some additional benefits. Phoenix is home to many major league sports teams and a site for Major League Baseball’s Spring Training. In fact, we have a representative sport in each of the major leagues. Here are some of the sites that will connect you to Valley teams:

- [www.azdiamondbacks.com](http://www.azdiamondbacks.com) - Official site of the Arizona Diamondbacks MLB baseball team
- [www.azcardinals.com](http://www.azcardinals.com) - Official site of the Arizona Cardinals NFL football team
- [www.suns.com](http://www.suns.com) - Official site of the Phoenix Suns NBA basketball team
- [www.wnba.com/mercury](http://www.wnba.com/mercury) - Official site of the Phoenix Mercury WNBA basketball team
- [www.phoenixcoyotes.com](http://www.phoenixcoyotes.com) - Official site of the Phoenix Coyotes NHL hockey team

**Culture & Arts**
Throughout your time here in the Valley, you will have some opportunities to enjoy various events. Many of them are at ASU’s own Gammage Auditorium, which plays host to numerous events throughout the year including Broadway productions and internationally recognized performers.

For more information, go online at [www.asugammage.com](http://www.asugammage.com)

Also try the following site for more listings of valley events:
[www.phoenixnewtimes.com](http://www.phoenixnewtimes.com)

**Exploring Arizona**
If you decide to venture out of Tempe, there are several areas of local interest.


Scottsdale Fashion Square is a large shopping mall that has a number of department stores and specialty shops. It is located on the corner of Camelback and Scottsdale Roads in Scottsdale. There are also a number of upscale specialty shops offering a feel for the Old West located along 5th Avenue in Scottsdale, also known as “Old Town Scottsdale.”

The West Valley is the location of Westgate City Center, which is a hotspot for shopping, dining and entertainment venues. You will also find Gila River Arena, the home of the Phoenix Coyotes hockey team and the University of Phoenix Stadium, home of the Arizona Cardinals football team at Westgate.
For those who enjoy hiking or mountain biking, you won’t even have to leave the valley to find your thrills. The recreation areas and parks around Camelback Mountain, Piestewa Peak, Papago Park and South Mountain offer up some outdoor activities. [Click here](#) for details.

If you would like to learn more about the local eco-system, animals or general science, you may want to visit:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Desert Botanical Garden</th>
<th>The Phoenix Zoo</th>
<th>Arizona Science Center</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1201 N. Galvin Parkway</td>
<td>455 N. Galvin Parkway</td>
<td>600 E. Washington Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phoenix, AZ 85008</td>
<td>Phoenix, AZ 85008</td>
<td>Phoenix, AZ 85004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(480) 941-1225</td>
<td>(602) 273-1341</td>
<td>(602) 716-2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="#">www.dbg.org</a></td>
<td><a href="#">www.phoenixzoo.org</a></td>
<td><a href="#">www.azscience.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you would prefer to stay inside and expand your knowledge of the local culture, you might want to stop by one of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Heard Museum</th>
<th>Phoenix Art Museum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2301 N. Central Avenue</td>
<td>625 N. Central Avenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phoenix, AZ 85004</td>
<td>Phoenix, AZ 85004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(602) 252-8848</td>
<td>(602) 257-1880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="#">www.heard.org</a></td>
<td><a href="#">www.phxart.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Getting Away**
Arizona is filled with many scenic wonders. Be sure to take in some of its unique beauty while you are here. The Grand Canyon is about four hours away, the red rocks of Sedona only 90 minutes, and the beaches of Rocky Point, Mexico, a popular break destination, are only four hours away. There are several modes of transportation available.

**Some online resources:**

AZ Office of Tourism: [www.arizonaguide.com](#)
Tempe Convention & Visitors Bureau: [www.tempecvb.com](#)
Greater Phoenix Convention & Visitors Bureau: [www.visitphoenix.com](#)