

# Getting There

## IFSA-Butler Tips for International Travelers

### New to flying? Anxious about your flight?


Will your semester or year abroad be your first experience with air travel? If you haven't flown before, it's been a long time since your last flight, or you've never flown internationally, it's not unusual to be confused or anxious.

## 1 Luggage and Packing

If you don't already have luggage, be sure to check your airline's rules regarding luggage before buying or borrowing suitcases. Most airlines allow a carry-on bag in addition to a "personal item" (like a purse or a laptop bag) for each passenger. More often than not, checked bags (bags that you leave in the care of the airline and that ride in the belly of the plane) incur additional cost. The dimensions and weight limits vary for each class of luggage.

Don't overpack, and be sure to keep important items with you. In addition to important documentation, emergency medication, and other obvious items, pack a change of clothing and travel toiletries in your carry-on. If your checked baggage is lost or delayed, you will be thankful you did.



 **Log in!** Visit the "My Resources" Tab in your Student Portal for more information about your host country, packing tips, and other essential information.

## 2 The Airport Experience



Bookmark your airline's flight status page and check regularly before you go to the airport for delays and cancellations.



**Arrive Early.** 3 hours is standard for international flights, but many first-time flyers add extra time.



Check in and check your bags. Go to the kiosk or desk for your airline and follow the instructions on your ticket.



**Visit TSA to learn about what to expect at security and what not to bring on the plane.**



After security, go the Gate listed on your boarding pass. This is where you'll wait to board the plane. Boarding usually starts 30-45 minutes before departure, and you'll be called up by boarding pass number when it is your turn.



If you are early, there are shops and eateries in most airports where you can kill time.

**DO NOT** leave your bags unattended for any reason.

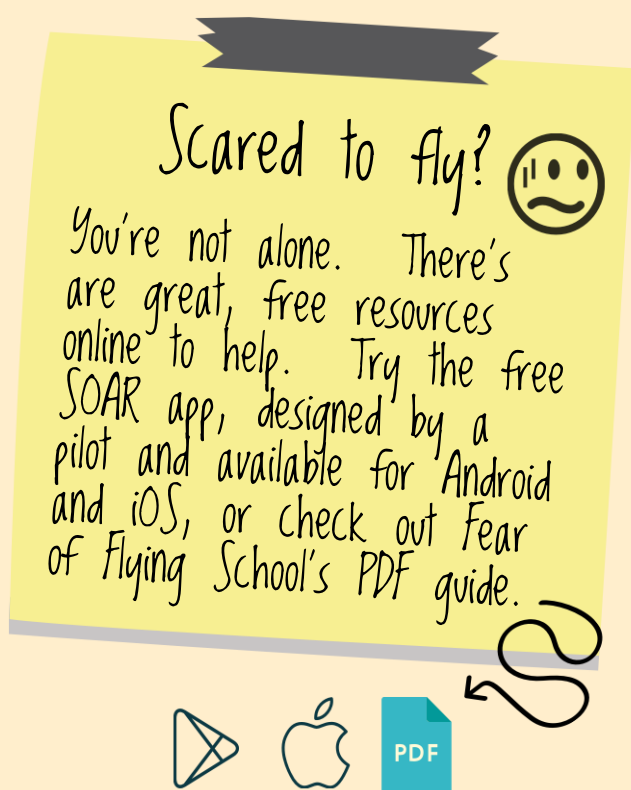
## 3 In the Air

Settle in.

If you have an assigned seat on your boarding pass, you'll sit there. Before the plane leaves the runway, the flight attendants will do some safety checks and demonstrations. Fasten your seatbelt and follow all of the instructions of the crew.

Get comfy.

Long international flights often have seat-back entertainment. You may be offered a meal or snacks. You can adjust the lighting and airflow around your seat using the buttons above near the seatbelt light.



## 4 After you land



Your first stop after you leave the plane will be Customs & Immigration. Review the tips in your Travel Essentials Newsletter for any special instructions regarding immigration procedures in your host country.

Fill out your customs declarations as soon as you get them (probably on the plane) and have them ready, along with your passport and any supporting documents. Answer questions honestly and don't make jokes during the customs and immigration process. Follow signs for Baggage Claim to collect your checked luggage, and then you're done!

If you are on a group flight, you'll find our resident staff near the large IFSA sign and they'll get you where you need to be for orientation. If you are an independent traveler, exit to the taxi line, subway or bus terminal and follow the instructions in your Travel Essentials Newsletter to make your way to Orientation!

### Want more help preparing to study abroad?

Don't forget to visit your Student Portal for more resources to help prepare for your semester or year abroad.

[students.ifsa-butler.org/studentportal/](https://students.ifsa-butler.org/studentportal/)