What to Know Before You Go

1.) How can I use a cell phone without spending my life savings?

   The phones in the residences are limited to local calls. You can receive long-distance calls on your house phone. International calling cards are available at Freeway, Farmacias Arrocha, and supermarkets. Pre-paid long distance cards available in amounts of $5 and $10. These cards can be used from the houses and are about 6 cents a minutes to the USA. We generally recommend that students do not plan to use their U.S. cell phones in Panama. You can also buy cell phones in the Republic of Panama at very low prices.

2.) What is the housing like?

   Students will be housed in the student residence located in the residential area of Clayton within a 20 minute walking distance from the main building. Each house has wireless internet access; 3-5 double occupation bedrooms, at least two bathrooms, living-dining area, and fully equipped kitchen, laundry area with washer & dryer machines, air conditioning in each area, hot water and phone for local calls.

3.) Where is the Panama campus located?

   Florida State University’s Republic of Panama campus is located at the City of Knowledge, in the suburban area of Clayton, just across the street from Miraflores Lock of the Panama Canal. You can expect a 15-20 minute cab ride from campus to central Panama.

4.) Where do I get my books for classes?

   You may purchase all of your books in Panama. Even though the registration email has not yet been sent to you, do not worry, as you will be able to register for whichever classes you need.

5.) Will they accept my American dollars in the Republic of Panama?

   Yes.
6.) How do I access the rest of my hard-earned money?
The easiest way to access money in the Republic of Panama is with an ATM card. Your FSU Card will work as an ATM card at banks in Panama if you have an account with SunTrust. Make sure your ATM card is associated with an international ATM circuit, like Cirrus, Plus or Star.

7.) Now that I can access my money, how much should I expect to spend?
As indicated by former students, plan on spending an average of $25/day for meals, incidental expenses, and personal travel.

8.) What is the electrical current like in the Republic of Panama?
Electrical outlets in the Republic of Panama are very similar to the electrical outlets found in the United States and Canada and you will not need a plug/ converter.

9.) Can I refill my prescriptions abroad?
You must bring sufficient quantities of prescription medication with you. Make sure to keep these medications in their original containers, along with a copy of the prescription, in your carry-on luggage. If you have difficulty getting a vacation prescription to cover your entire stay, please contact IP immediately.

10.) How do I keep my peace of mind while abroad?
Make copies of your plane ticket, passport, and credit cards (back and front). Bring copies with you to the Republic of Panama, and leave additional copies at home with your family.

11.) Can I have packages sent to me while I am abroad?
We strongly discourage students from having any packages sent to them while abroad. We have had numerous students who had problems either with packages arriving after they’ve already left the program or getting charged a significant amount in duty. Either way, it’s not worth it. Please feel free to encourage your loved ones to send mail, but not packages.

Updated July 26th 2013