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# WELCOME TO HOPE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

## *Letter from the Director*

Congratulations on your acceptance to Pacific Christian College, the undergraduate school of Hope International University. We look forward to having you on campus in Fullerton, California!

Coming to the United States of America to pursue your higher education will provide you with a valuable international experience. This experience will have its benefits and challenges. While in the U.S., at times you will feel excited about the unique opportunity from living and studying in another country. Other times, you will find life in the United States to be very different from what you are used to in your home country. As a result, you might feel confused, frustrated, and somewhat disoriented. This is a natural, common experience for almost all international students. You will need to be patient with yourself during those times. Two important things you can do during this transition process are: 1) make new friends on campus as soon as you arrive, and 2) keep in touch with family and relatives at home. We recommend that you familiarize yourself as much as you can with American life and our educational system before you arrive in the U.S. Talking with people who have studied in the U.S. before arriving may prove very helpful.

When you arrive on campus, please come to the International Student Programs office on the second floor of the Lawson-Fulton Student Center as soon as possible so we can help you settle in to life at Hope with a brief time of orientation. The students, staff, and faculty at Hope International University will be glad to assist and support you in your international experience here in California. You will find your faith and gifts in Christ enhanced as you launch on this new and exciting adventure with faith, hope, and courage in the God of all nations.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

# HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY

*Hope* was founded as Pacific Bible Seminary in 1928. It later became Pacific Christian College (PCC) offering majors in areas other than Biblical Studies. The institution has been accredited since 1969 by the same authorities that accredit other institutions such as UCLA, USC, etc. On September 1, 1997, the institution changed its name to Hope International University (*Hope*). The University incorporated PCC as the undergraduate school and includes the School of Graduate Studies as well as the School of Professional Studies. You can expect all the fulfillment and challenges that come from studying at a vibrant and diverse American university. Education at *Hope* takes place in and out of the classrooms. Faculty are not just professional instructors, they are teachers and mentors to their students. When you graduate from *Hope* in a few years, you will have received a solid academic higher education, a personally enriching and fulfilling life experience, and you will have earned a professionally recognized and accredited degree.

## AMERICAN HIGHER EDUCATION

Higher education in America can be very different from that of other countries and has certain unique characteristics. For example, U.S. universities are for the most part privately funded, locally controlled, and rather expensive. In most other countries, universities tend to be publicly funded, centrally or governmentally controlled, and more affordable. Well known institutions in the U.S. such as Stanford, Harvard, and Yale are all private universities offering a diversity of study programs and can cost up to \$40,000 a year to be a full-time student.

A common element of American higher education is its emphasis on breadth and not just depth of knowledge. For example, regardless of one's intended major (e.g. Music, Business, Education, etc.), all students are required to take a General Education (GE) component as part of their degree. The GE component is made up of required course work in English, Communication, Humanities, Natural Sciences, Mathematics, and Social Sciences. As a Christian University, *Hope* students are also required to take a certain number of Biblical courses regardless of degree majors.

In the U.S., a university is also referred to as a college, and it generally takes 4 years to complete a Bachelor's degree and 2 years to complete a Masters degree. There are over 3,500 universities and colleges in the US offering Bachelors, Masters, and Doctoral degrees in a number of majors.

## THE OFFICE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAMS

As an international student at *Hope*, your primary resource and point of contact on campus will be the Office for International Student Programs (ISP), located on the second floor of the Lawson-Fulton Student Center in Suite 204. There, you will find most of the information, assistance, and support you will need, both as you get settled on campus and throughout your time at *Hope*. The ISP staff will be more than happy to assist you in any way possible. Our contact phone number is (714) 897-3901 ext. 1698.

## HOUSING

If you plan to live on campus you should submit your application as soon as you can. Space is allocated on a first come first serve basis. Upon your arrival to the campus, you will need to visit the Student Financial Services Office and pay your account before checking into the campus housing. Students who are not cleared by the Student Financial Services office will not be permitted to check into their Residence Hall rooms.

If you are over 21 and you are planning to live off-campus, there are several nearby apartments that will allow you easy access to the campus. Our office will not be able to make arrangements for off-campus housing for you, but we can

provide you with a list of available apartments in the area.

## TRANSPORTATION TO THE UNIVERSITY

Transportation to the University can be arranged with adequate notice. Please make transportation requests 2 weeks in advance, by sending your arrival date, arrival time, and flight number to [amulkey@hiu.edu](mailto:amulkey@hiu.edu) or by talking with your program coordinator.

Transportation can also be arranged with local shuttle companies. Following is contact information for Shuttle companies. The price is \$40 - \$50.

- Super Shuttle 1(800) 258-3826
- Prime Time Shuttle Service 1(800) 733-8267

For further information please contact your enrollment counselor prior to your departure. Upon arrival at Hope, please report to International Student Programs on the second floor of the Lawson-Fulton Student Center for immigration processing and new student orientation.

### *Renting a Car*

Enterprise or Hertz car rental companies have locations at local airports and near the University. To reserve online the code for local airports are as follows: Los Angeles International Airport – LAX, Ontario Airport – ONT, Orange County Airport (John Wayne Airport) – SNA. The Zip code for the area near the University is 92831.

## FINDING A SCHOOL FOR YOUR CHILD

(1.) If you are looking for a school for your child, please visit the school district website of the city for which you are living. For example, if you are living in Fullerton, visit the Fullerton School District website: <http://www.fsd.k12.ca.us/>

(2.) Once you have found your school district, please contact them to find out what school your child will need to go to. The address that you live at corresponds to the school that your child must go to. For example, if you live at 2404 E. Nutwood Ave. in Fullerton, then your child must go to Commonwealth Elementary School.

(3.) Visit the school with your child to begin the enrollment process.

Before you go to the school, you must have the following:

- a. Immunization Records
- b. Your Identification (Passport) and Your child's Identification
- c. School records (Optional)
- d. Your apartment leasing agreement. This is to prove where you live and that your address is correct.

Be sure to call the school first to make sure that you have all the necessary documents before you go.

(4.) At the school you will fill out the necessary enrollment papers. If everything is approved, your child should be able to start classes within a few days. Public schools are free. You may either transport your child to school daily or pay to have the school bus take him/her. The district office can tell you the prices for school bus transportation.

If the school that you are supposed to enroll your child is full, the school district will find another school that has an opening. If this happens, you will not need to pay for the school bus transportation for your child to the school.

## FEES AND TUITION

Fees and tuition are due upon arrival on campus. Students are required to pay their accounts at least a semester in advance before they can register for classes. Each student is assigned a financial counselor who will guide him/her with his or her accounts. You may send your check in US dollars before arrival on campus or you may bring it with you. International money order, travel check, and credit card charges are acceptable forms of payment. There are no payment plan options.

### **Room and Board**

Room and Board fees will be dependent on the package chosen by the student. Generally, students under the age of 21 are required to live on campus, choose a Quad (room for four persons), and must take a meal plan option of at least 15 meals per week.

### **Health Insurance**

Students are required to purchase a minimum health insurance plan or show proof of health insurance coverage that guarantees coverage while in the United States.

### **Books**

Please note that tuition fees do not cover the cost of text books and stationery. Each student must have additional money to purchase books. These could cost up to \$300 per semester. All required textbooks are available at the University bookstore on campus.

## USING PUBLIC TELEPHONES

All US phone numbers have seven digits plus a three digit area code which comes before the number. The Fullerton area code is 714 and the seven digit telephone number for PCC/Hope International University in Fullerton is 879-3901. When calling from the Fullerton area, you will only need to dial the seven digit number to reach the University operator. If you wish to call the University from anywhere within the United States, you may **call toll free by dialing 1-800-762-1294**. No coins will be required to make this toll-free call.

In general, to use a public pay phone you will need US coins. Place 35 cents in the appropriate slot, and after hearing the dial tone, dial your number. After you deposit your 35 cents in the telephone and dial the number you would like to reach, the operator will come on the phone and tell you how much money you need to put in depending on the distance you wish to call. Be prepared by having several U.S. coins ready. After depositing the correct amount, your call will be connected. When you finish your call, check the coin-return slot for any unused coins. Pennies cannot be used in a pay phone.

Upon your arrival on campus, you will receive more detailed information at the International Student Orientation Session.

*See you in Fullerton!*

# AMERICAN LIFE

## INFORMALITY

Many foreign students find that Americans are informal in dress, in conduct, and in personal relationships to a degree that seems inappropriate. Do not be surprised if other students and professors call you by your first name even after only knowing you for a short period of time.

## FRIENDSHIP PATTERNS

Compared to some other cultures, Americans seem warm and open with new acquaintances. However, this does not mean that close friendships are forming. Many talks and shared experiences are necessary to form a truly warm friendship. Friendship patterns are generally seen as casual and not normally of an intimate nature.

Americans call each other by their first names much sooner and more often than do people of most other countries. American women may seem especially forward to people of other cultures. Their friendliness and willingness to talk is sometimes misunderstood by international students. In the great majority of cases, their friendliness is an accepted American code of behavior for friends and acquaintances, and they are not indicating interest in a relationship beyond friendship.

Two things you can do which will help you in finding out the campus culture are: 1) Carefully observe American students on campus; 2) ask questions. Americans generally welcome questions and enjoy explaining how and why they act as they do.

Make friends by taking the first step in reaching out to others.

## CONVERSATION

Many Americans find silence uncomfortable, except between close friends. Thus, there is the wide-spread practice of "small talk." Engaging in small talk deals with superficial topics simply for the sake of making conversation. The topics might include the weather, sports, classes, clothing, food, etc. Small talk is especially useful at parties, when meeting someone for the first time, or whenever you find yourself in a situation where talk is expected, but no content is desired.

Cultures differ widely in regard to the attitude of the listener. Americans expect listeners to look at them and put aside work to listen. Conversational distance between two people is generally two to three feet at least. Standing closer than this will make many Americans nervous.

It is common, but not expected, that you know someone in a group before starting a conversation. Normally at a party or an informal gathering, a simple "May I join you?" and a self-introduction is sufficient to become a member of such a group. This is also true when eating in the cafeteria, in the classroom, a waiting room, at a party, or at a concert hall. To gain acceptance within a group of peers is usually related to what one says, not who one is in terms of status, family background, or educational level.

## GREETINGS

As you see Americans on campus, etc., they will often ask, "How are you?" and keep walking. This is just a greeting such

as “hello.” Only if people ask this after you are already involved in a conversation do they mean it as a question to be answered.

## INVITATIONS

“See you soon,” “drop by sometime,” or “we’ll have to get together soon” are friendly ways of saying good-bye. They are not necessarily invitations or promises of invitations. Real invitations, though casually given, will be for a specific time or place; for example, “Come over for supper tonight around 6:30.” While some families don’t mind people “dropping in” without prior notice, it is usually the custom to call the person first to see if your visit would be convenient.

Invitations may be made by mail or by a phone conversation. If you cannot accept or do not want to go, you should say that you cannot attend. It is bad manners in the United States to accept an invitation and then not attend. Of course, if something unexpectedly happens that prevents you from going, it is acceptable to call and cancel.

If you do accept the invitation, be sure you know the time and place, and that you have the number of the host so you can call if something happens and you can’t go or will be late.

## MEALS AND VISITS IN AMERICAN HOMES

If you are uncertain about American table manners, follow the example set by your host. Americans (especially in California) tend to be quite informal, and this often carries over to mealtimes, so relax and enjoy it. When you are offered food, accept it on the first offer if you want it; if you do not accept it, most Americans will think you do not want it, and probably will not offer again. It is not considered improper to ask if you may have more of a particular food, or to not eat a particular food if you do not like it, or it is against your religious beliefs.

Americans usually serve ice in a glass of water and most other cold drinks. If you do not want ice, it is acceptable to request it to be left out, whether in a home or restaurant.

It is always considerate to send a thank you note to your host. It is not necessary to take a gift to your host unless you have spent a period of several days in their home.

## TIME

Punctuality is important, and people who are consistently late for appointments (whether formal or informal) are often thought to be inconsiderate. It is said that Americans live by the clock and the calendar. Certain given times are precise with no possibility of being early or late - appointments with doctors, dentists, professors, etc. However, the tardiness of some professions, such as doctors and professors is generally accepted and excused due to their professional status and schedule demands.

In social affairs, there is somewhat more flexibility. If you are invited to dinner at a home, it is wise to arrive as close to the time stated as possible. Many social affairs other than dinners give a range of time within which you are expected. Receptions, open houses, buffet dinners, and picnics are such events.

If you are going to be over 20 minutes late, it is wise to call and say that you will be late. If you are less than 20 minutes late, an apology at the time of arrival is usually sufficient.

## CLEANLINESS

Personal cleanliness is important to Americans, and it usually means that people bathe everyday. The use of perfume and colognes in moderation, and regular washing of clothing are also expected by Americans.

Public restrooms are available at most public places. Use of these facilities is expected, and you should not hesitate to ask where the restrooms are located if you are in need of them.

## PHONING ETIQUETTE

On a weekday, most Americans do not phone or like to receive calls after 10 p.m. On a weekend (particularly on a Saturday morning) phoning does not take place until late morning. Calling before 9 or 10 a.m. unless previously arranged can be irritating to the person you are calling.

Americans generally do not call and discuss work or business issues after work hours unless they have an understanding with their working colleagues. Privacy is an important issue for most Americans and they often protect their "free time."

## SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Because Los Angeles is such a large metropolitan area, there are many areas that are considered unsafe or deserve a cautious attitude. Women in particular, need to exercise caution. If it is necessary to walk outside after dark, it is best to go with another person. In general, do not walk alone! Be aware of the people around you and keep a watchful eye. If there is reason to be concerned, cross the street and seek a place where there are other people. Always keep car doors locked, as well, as the doors of your private residence.

Generally speaking, it is safe in Fullerton and on campus. Therefore, it is not necessary to live in fear but it is important to be cautious. We hope that your stay here will be enjoyable and if there are any questions or concerns, you can always contact ISP at (714) 879-3901 ext. 1698 or Campus Security at (714) 654-9273. In case of an emergency, dial 911.

# DOCUMENTS

## PASSPORTS

It is important to keep your passport valid at all times. It must be valid at least 6 months beyond your current date of stay. Renewals can be done by your country's embassy, while you are in the U.S.

## VISAS

This is the stamp in your passport which you received from the U.S. embassy or consulate in your country. It is only important for entry into the U.S. The visa usually indicates a specific date of expiration. This date does not affect how long one can stay in the U.S.

## I-94 CARD ARRIVAL-DEPARTURE

The small white card you will receive on entry into the U.S. It is usually stapled into the passport. This card will list the immigration status you are in, the date it will expire, the school you are authorized to attend and other valuable information. Some I-94 cards may indicate a specific date by which you must leave the U.S. Other cards are marked "D/S" (Duration of Status). Currently everyone entering the U.S. in "F" and "J" status will receive "D/S".

## I-20 FORM

This form shows you are eligible for student status. Our University sends you this form, which you sign and take to the U.S. consulate or embassy in your country to obtain a visa. When you enter the U.S. the immigration officer will stamp your copy of the form and return it to you. You must have a valid copy of the I-20 at all times during your stay in the U.S. Whenever you travel outside of the U.S. you must have a valid signature from the International Student Services on the back of your I-20 form.

*All of the above forms are extremely important for as long as you remain in the U.S. We request that you take these documents to the Office of International Student Programs immediately upon arrival at the University so they can be copied and placed on record. If you should lose a copy of any particular document, we would be able to affect a speedy replacement having kept your records in file.*

You will hear more about immigration issues after arrival here at Hope.

# TERMS YOU WILL ENCOUNTER

**Accredited** - to be officially recognized as meeting specific standards (*Hope* is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.)

**ASB / Associated Student Body** - Student Government of the University.

**Chapel** - A mandatory chapel service for all undergraduate students held twice weekly.

**Credits** - Units based on the number of hours of study in each class.

**Department of State** - Government agency, which issues J, visas, immigrants exchange visitor program sponsors, and creates policies and regulations for exchange visitor programs.

**DMV / Department of Motor Vehicles** - This is where one obtains a driver's license and/or California identification card. An international Driver's license is only valid for six month after arriving in the US. You will need to obtain a California driver's license if you plan to drive during your stay here.

**Graduate Student** - One who enrolls in a Master's degree program after having obtained the equivalent of a four year US Bachelor's degree.

**IIS- Institute for International Studies**, the intensive English Program for students who have not met the minimum English requirements to study in an American college or university

**ISP / International Student Programs** - the on campus office that takes care of international students.

**PCC** - Pacific Christian College, which is the undergraduate school of Hope International University.

**RA** - Resident Assistant in the residence halls.

**Restroom** - Bathroom, washroom, lavatory, toilet, or WC.

**RLC** - Residence Life Coordinator.

**SGPS- School of Graduate and Professional Studies**, the graduate school at Hope International University

**SSN/Social security number**- all students who plan to work on campus will need to apply for a social security card and number from the government contact ISP for more information!

**"The Link"** - Dorm Devotions: a voluntary weekly Bible study and worship session for students who live on campus

**Undergraduate Student** - One who enrolls in the University after having graduated and obtained the equivalent of a U.S. high school diploma.

**United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)** - Government bureau responsible for admitting foreigners to the country and overseeing their stay.

**Units** - Credits based on the number of hours of study in each class.

# WHAT TO BRING WITH YOU

Use the following checklist as a guide for what to bring with you for your first year in the United States!

- A warm jacket and some sweaters for the cool fall, winter, and spring nights.
- Clothing that is easy to care for (students normally dress casual for classes).
- Bed linen - blankets, sheets, pillows, and pillowcases, etc.
- Towels and toiletries - soap, toothpaste, etc.
- You are encouraged to bring some photos of your family and country to show to friends here, as well as some national clothing from your country. Americans will be interested in unique aspects of your country and culture.
- A dictionary of your language and English for your reference.
- Immunization records in translated into English
- Essential documents needed to enter the U.S. –Passport, Visa, I-94 card (you will receive this on the plane), I-20, current bank statement showing enough funds to cover expenses listed on I-20, and acceptance letter from *Hope*.