

TIPS ON PACKING

Washington, D.C. has four distinct seasons throughout the year, staying in the 90's in the summer and dropping below freezing in the winter. And don't forget the intense humidity in the late spring through early fall! Summer really is just hot and humid with the occasional chilly night. Needless to say, you will need to consider your work and play apparel.

New security regulations allow only two bags to be checked in, and usually **charge** about **\$40.00 to \$50.00** for each additional bag as well as overweight bags. So, you will need to pack conservatively. Check online or contact the airline directly for information on luggage size and weight restrictions, but the weight cut off point, before you are charged a fee, is usually 50 lbs. per bag.

You will also have to consider new regulations pertaining to liquids in carry-on luggage.

1. All liquids, gels and aerosols must be in three-ounce or smaller containers. Larger containers that are half-full or toothpaste tubes rolled up are not allowed. **Each container must be three ounces or smaller.**
2. All liquids, gels and aerosols must be placed in a single, quart-size, zip-top, clear plastic bag. Gallon size bags or bags that are not zip-top such as fold-over sandwich bags are not allowed. **Each traveler can use only one, quart-size, zip-top, clear plastic bag.**
3. Each traveler must remove their quart-sized plastic, zip-top bag from their carry-on and place it in a bin or on the conveyor belt for X-ray screening. X-raying separately will allow TSA security officers to more easily examine the declared items.

Please keep in mind that these rules were developed after extensive research and understanding of current threats. They are intended to help air travelers bring essential toiletries and other liquids, gels and aerosols for short trips. If you need larger amounts of liquids, gels and aerosols such as toothpaste or shampoo, please place them in your luggage and check them with your airline or you can wait to purchase them when you arrive.

You should consider whether it's necessary for you to bring your computer. The only "pro" is that you will have a computer at your disposal in your room for entertainment and work purposes. The list of "cons" may be much longer. **1)** You will already have a computer at your disposal and directly in front of you for eight hours a day at work. **2)** American University provides a computer lab with sufficiently equipped computers and printers. **3)** You are living in a dorm room with limited space and a high risk of theft. So, unless you have a laptop, it may be best to leave your computer behind. You can also bring any files you need via a flash drive.

If you'd like, you can ship boxes to yourself which will be held for you at the front desk of Congressional Hall. You will need to use a **NON U.S. Post Mailing Service**. We are inserting an information sheet on AU mail services which includes the mailing address for the program.