



Dear friend,

Welcome to Stanford!

On behalf of the Persian Student Association (PSA) at Stanford University, we would like to congratulate you on your admission to Stanford University and wish you all the best in the coming years. We are delighted to have you with us and eagerly await meeting you in PSA's events and gatherings. Our goal is to ease your transition to Stanford and therefore, would like to draw your attention to a number of important issues which are critical in making your trip go smoothly.

- All financial and academic procedures are administered through Axess (<http://axess.stanford.edu>). The university may contact you by email regarding official matters and holds you responsible for a timely response. Therefore, check your Stanford Mailbox regularly at <http://webmail.stanford.edu/>. Additionally, monitor any other email addresses you have used to contact the university in the past.
- Please carefully study the handbook “A Guide for New Graduate Students”, sent to you by the university. In case you have not received the handbook, you can find an electronic copy as well as a wealth of other useful information at <http://registrar.stanford.edu/pdf/gradstuguide.pdf>. Additionally, we strongly recommend that you study the PSA’s guide for new Iranian students, which can be found at http://www.stanford.edu/group/psa/incoming/new_students.utf8.html.

PSA has a special program to assist new Persian students with their initial settlement in the US. This program includes pick-up arrangements from the airport, help with initial shopping, tour of the university and the Bay Area and a welcome event. As a new member of our community, you are cordially invited to attend these events. Also please carefully read the appendix of this letter for additional information. Finally, should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us via our email address (psa-admin@lists.stanford.edu).

Looking forward to seeing you,
PSA Board of Directors





APPENDIX

Prior to your trip

Legal Documents

- ⚠ When completing official forms and documents, it is critical to spell your first name and last name exactly as it appears in your passport. Please pay special attention to space and dash characters.
- ⚠ In almost all official forms and documents in the US, there is a section for “middle name”. Please leave this section blank as there is no middle name in the Persian language.

- ⚠ Always keep the following documents accessible during your trip (do not check them in with your baggage): Passport, I-20, admission letter, letter from your advisor (if you have one), your funding support documents, address of residence in the US and any other important documentation you have received from the university.
- ⚠ Upon your arrival in the US, you will be asked to provide your address in the US, your parents' names and birth-dates, and the information of a contact person in the US. You can find the complete address of your assigned housing by sending an email to the housing office. Their email address can be found at <http://www.stanford.edu/dept/hds/shs/gradhousing/>. For the contact person, you can use the information of the school's official printed in your I-20 form.

Financial Affairs

- ⚠ If you do not have financial support from the university, make sure that you have access to other financial resources before traveling here. Based on our past experience, before you can find a reliable source of funding, you will need approximately \$15000 per quarter to cover your tuition and living expenses for the first two quarters.

- ⚠ If the university has promised you financial support, note that it will take 2-3 weeks before you receive your first paycheck. Therefore, you must be able to cover your initial expenses (about \$1500) before the arrival of your first paycheck.

Medical Records

- ⚠ A medical examination at the university's health center (Vaden Health Center) is one of the requirements for registration in the university. Having your medical history documents (including vaccination history) with you will facilitate and expedite the completion of this process. Note that starting this year, Vaden accepts Quantiferon test for tuberculosis. The test can also be done at Vaden at a reasonable price.
- ⚠ The Stanford medical insurance does not cover prescription glasses. Given the high cost of these services in the US, get a thorough dental and eye examination before your trip.

Before Your Trip

- ⚠ Stanford has a relatively mild climate. The minimum temperature in winter is around 0°C and the maximum temperature in summer is usually less than 35°C. However, the temperature varies greatly from day to night. Remember to bring appropriate clothing for such weather in the first few weeks of your stay.
- ⚠ If you want to buy electronic devices such as a laptop, note that these items are generally cheaper in the US. Also, any electronic equipment that you have, should be compatible with 110V power supply.
- ⚠ Bringing any fruits, seeds (even baked seeds used as snack), and dried fruits to the US is strictly prohibited. Almost all ingredients used in Persian cuisine are easily accessible from nearby stores and there is no need to bring these items with you.

For more information, please visit <http://psa.stanford.edu/incoming/>

