

STUDY ABROAD IN JAPAN AND KOREA

Asia Study Abroad Program Pre-Departure Handbook

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AKRON LAW

SUMMER STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM IN ASIA

We are extremely excited that you have decided to participate in our Summer Study Abroad Program in Asia known as the “KHaN” Program. An exciting adventure awaits you in Asia with the partnership among **Kyung Hee University (KH)** in Seoul, **Akron Law (a)** in the USA, and **Nagoya University (N)** in Japan to bring you this program. The objective underlying this handbook is to provide you with detailed information about the summer program including details about courses, travel, accommodations, and logistics. You can also find additional information at <http://www.uakron.edu/law/study-abroad/>.

Please feel free to leave a copy of this handbook with family or friends in case they have questions or need to contact us during your trip to Asia. If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact:

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The program will take place at the following locations:

Seoul: Kyung Hee University
Local contact: Professor Kwang-Jun Tsche

Tokyo: Temple University Japan Campus
Local contact: Dean Matt Wilson

Nagoya: Nagoya University
Local contact: Professor Akira Fujimoto

PREPARING FOR OUR PROGRAM IN ASIA

INTRODUCTION

This handbook will assist you in preparing for our summer semester in Asia. We hope that it will help you prepare for your trip and provide a jump start in assimilating you into the Japanese and Korean cultures. Unfortunately, we can't cover everything in this handbook. It should provide you a basic foundation though. You might also consider reading a guidebook or two about Japan and South Korea in advance of your journey. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Dean Cravens or President Wilson at the e-mail address or telephone number above. Our Assistant Director of Admissions (Emma Franklin) can provide additional assistance too. She can be contacted at efranklin@uakron.edu or 330-972-6364.

SOUTH KOREA

Hastily rebuilt after the South and North went their separate ways in 1953, Seoul is a city that has steadily shed the raw and gritty urban images of its past and has rapidly risen to become one of Asia's most vibrant metropolises. Today you will find an energetic Asian megacity of more than 10 million people that radiates infectious energy and life. Seoul is a place where you can while away the hours meandering through narrow alleyways full of quaint shops selling a whole host of goods, dining on some the most amazing cuisines in the East, and coming face-to-face with people whose outlook, beliefs, and society will fascinate you.

While Seoul is very much proud of its modernity, it also honors its past as the vestiges of the ancient times gone by remain a prominent element of everyday life. Scattered with sacred temples, secret gardens, palaces, pagodas and fortresses, the hidden history is just waiting to be discovered. Those who are prepared to challenge themselves will find that there are many cultural, traditional and ritual treasures to be unearthed and for your endeavors, you will be rewarded with a newfound sense of appreciation of the values of life.

JAPAN

As we spend time in **Tokyo** and **Nagoya**, you have the chance to experience Japan firsthand. A good online guide about Japan can be found at <http://www.japan-guide.com>. Japan is a place where modern bullet trains transport you from the historic treasures of Nara to the cultural mecca of Kyoto with unfailing accuracy, where youth practice the ancient arts of Karate or Judo before meeting their friends, and commuters read the latest manga comics as they stand cheek-to-jowl on the morning train. Whatever the sights and sounds you experience, you will never cease to be amazed by the ways in which the old traditions seem to seamlessly mix with the technologically advanced offerings of the modern world. Although many people associate Japan with skyscrapers and flashing neon, those looking to shun the crowds and escape the nonstop action of the cities will find that the surrounding areas offer a wealth of natural and ancient beauty. Mountainous forests, picturesque landscapes, hot springs, twisted valleys and stunning coastlines beckon visitors into the mysterious world of nature and add a completely new depth that may take one by surprise.

Tokyo (東京) is one of the most energetic cities the world has to offer. This metropolis is home to more than 10 million people, and is famed for its rich culture, incredible cuisine, efficient transportation, and friendly people. There are many intricacies and quirks about this city that make spending time in Japan an unforgettable experience. Tokyo is truly a city of contrasts. It is a city of astonishingly beautiful detail, yet it houses some of the most unattractive buildings in the world. It is a city of exquisite politeness, where taxi doors open automatically for you when you get in and out. On the other hand, it is also a place where a businessperson on the subway will race an elderly woman for a seat. Overall, students find Tokyo to be a remarkably dynamic and culturally rich place to visit. During your stay, do not lose the opportunity to explore the many wonderful and varied landscapes filled with both modern and traditional arts, cultures, and lifestyles.

With over two million inhabitants, **Nagoya (名古屋)** is **Japan's** fourth most populated city. Nagoya is the birthplace of Toyota and pachinko (pinball-style game). The city has traditionally been a manufacturing powerhouse. Although Nagoya's GDP tops that of many small countries, this middle child has grown accustomed to life in the shadow of its bigger brothers, Tokyo and Osaka. Nagoya has many cosmopolitan aspects including some fantastic traditional and modern museums, a castle, significant temples, and excellent shopping. Parks and green spaces in the inner wards prevail, and the aquarium and zoo are world-class facilities. Nagoya sits between Tokyo and Kyoto/Osaka on the Tōkaidō Shinkansen line. It is an exceptional base for touring around Japan's famous historical sites.

SCHEDULE

2017 PROGRAM

SOUTH KOREA

July 16 (Sun.)*	Arrive in Seoul by this date
July 17-21 (Mon.-Fri.)	Orientation / Classes in Seoul
July 22-23 (Sat./Sun.)	Free days (Sightseeing / Study)
July 24-28 (Mon.-Fri.)	Classes in Seoul / Final exam/exercises
July 29 or 30 (Sat./Sun.)	Travel to Tokyo / Return to the U.S.

JAPAN

July 30 (Sun.)	Arrive in Tokyo by this date
July 31 (Mon.)	Orientation / classes in Tokyo
Aug. 1 (Tues.)	Supreme Court visit / classes in Tokyo
Aug. 2-4 (Wed.-Fri.)	Travel to Nagoya / Classes in Nagoya
Aug. 5-6 (Sat./Sun.)	Free days (Sightseeing / Study)
Aug. 7-11 (Mon.-Fri.)	Classes in Nagoya / Final exam/exercises
Aug. 12 (Sat.)	Return to the U.S.

*Need to depart on July 15th in order to arrive in Seoul on July 16th

CLASSES

- South Korea*** Cross-Border Practice [2 credits] – Pres. Matt Wilson & Dean Sarah Cravens
Int'l Commercial Arbitration [1 credit] - David MacArthur, Esq.
- Japan*** Global Issues in Tort Law [2 credits] – Dean Sarah Cravens
International Contracting Strategies [1 credit] – Pres. Matt Wilson

POLICIES

Akron Law Handbook

The provisions detailed in the [Akron Law Handbook](#) regarding grading policies and standards of conduct apply to this program.

Policy for Program Cancellation

The KHaN Program may be canceled in the unlikely event that too few students enroll. It might also be canceled or terminated due to natural disaster or security issues. (Notice will be placed on the website and admitted students will be notified by email, and as necessary, by phone.)

Refund Policy for Cancellation or Withdrawal from the Program

If the KHaN Program is canceled for any reason **before the start** of the program, students will receive a full refund of all tuition and fees paid to Akron Law within twenty days of the cancellation. If the program is canceled **after it commences** due to a natural disaster or some other unforeseeable circumstances, students will receive a refund of the fees paid, excluding room and board payments already utilized and travel costs associated with getting to Asia.

If a student withdraws because changes are made in the course offerings or in other significant aspects of the program **before the start** of the program, then students will receive a full refund of all tuition and fees paid to Akron Law within twenty days of the cancellation or withdrawal. If a student withdraws from the KHaN Program for any other reason than that stated above, application fees and the seat deposit will not be refunded. Tuition and fees will be refunded only if the withdrawal occurs before the first day of classes; otherwise, it is nonrefundable.

Required: Liability Waiver

To participate in the KHaN program, you are required to sign the liability waiver and program participation agreement provided on the website prior to departure.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS & PREPARATION

VALID PASSPORT & VISAS

Because you are entering Japan and South Korea for only a short-term, you will only need a valid passport if you are a U.S. or Canadian citizen. If you are **not** a U.S. or Canadian citizen, it will be necessary to check with Japan and South Korea about the necessity of a visa.

When asked on the customs form about the purpose of entry, you should check TOURIST. Checking the purpose of entry as “Study” involves a stay longer than 3-months so this is inapplicable to the program.

Passport

If you do not have a passport, obtain one IMMEDIATELY. Standard passport application processing can take from four to eight weeks; expedited service from two to three weeks. All first-time applicants must apply at a Passport Agency, Passport Acceptance Facility, or U.S. Embassy or Consulate. The State Department’s passport website provides detailed information regarding passports. (<http://travel.state.gov/passport>)

To avoid rush delivery fees and other potential problems, apply well before you plan to departure for Asia. You can apply for a passport in Akron at these locations: <http://www.us-passport-service-guide.com/akron-passport.html>.

OPTIONAL TRAVEL MATERIALS

International Student Identity Card (Optional, but highly recommended)

Consider buying the International Student Identity Card (ISIC) issued by STA. Membership enables you to buy basic insurance coverage for a variety of situations including medical/dental, trip cancellation or delay or interruption, and emergency assistance. With the card, you can also obtain student discounts on airfares and consumer goods worldwide. This card also constitutes the most effective international proof of student status.

- You can apply for the card at <http://www.statravel.com/student-discount-card.htm>

To obtain your card from STA, you must show your student ID and one other form of identification that indicates your date of birth (like your driver's license or passport). You will also need a passport-sized color or black and white photo. The card costs \$22.00 if you bring a photo or \$25.00 if you want STA to take a photo for you. For more information, you can call STA’s toll-free number: 1-800-781-4040.

GETTING TO ASIA

If you travel frequently, you know that airfares constantly fluctuate. One day the price of a round-trip ticket to Asia could be \$2000, and the next day it could drop to \$1650. If you are looking at minimizing your expenses, we recommend that you survey airfares for a period before purchasing a ticket. You might also look at alternate dates. For example, you might be able to save money by flying to Seoul early or staying in Japan an extra day or two, or by simply using creative routing (see below). Using a website like www.kayak.com or www.expedia.com is one way of easily monitoring prices. It is always worth exploring a variety of options however. As you know, there are many other online services and travel options.

You might even explore some specialty travel agencies. We have also included the contact information for several “wholesalers” specializing in the Japanese market below. Often times, these tickets are more inexpensive, run special fare sales, or have more flexibility in terms of changes. Also, there are some strategies that can be used to save some money. Naturally, each strategy has its advantages and disadvantages. In any event, here are a few strategies for purchasing airline tickets going to Japan and South Korea. If you have any questions, just let us know.

1. Airports

Seoul has two airports: Gimpo and Incheon. **Incheon Airport serves almost all of the international traffic** and Gimpo Airport serves most domestic flights. Gimpo is now accepting more international flights and it is much closer to the city. It is most likely that you will use Incheon Airport in terms of accessing Seoul. Information on transportation into Seoul and a map showing the location of the hotels/Kyung Hee campus will be sent to you before departure.

Tokyo has two airports: **Narita Airport serves almost all of the international traffic** and Haneda Airport serves most domestic flights. Haneda has started accepting more international flights and it is much closer to the city. However, the arrival times are often inconvenient. Narita International Airport is located 50 miles northeast of the city. After you have cleared immigration and customs and secured your luggage, you can get to downtown Tokyo by train or “limousine” bus. Information on transportation into Tokyo and a map showing the location of the hotels/campus will be sent to you before departure.

2. Possible routes

When using the major U.S. or international airlines, you should be able to purchase a multi-city ticket from your U.S. destination (Akron, Cleveland, etc.) to Seoul (Incheon or Gimpo airports); from Seoul to Tokyo (Narita or Haneda Airports); and then from Nagoya back to the U.S. The advantage of such a ticket is convenience so long as you can stay within one airline partner system. As of February 18th, tickets were running about \$2500 for a multi-city ticket based on the July-August timing via online purchase (staying on one airline). A multi-city ticket (again, staying on one airline) returning from Tokyo rather than from Nagoya is, as of February 18th only running about \$1800.

It might actually be more economical and convenient to simply purchase a multi-destination ticket

from your U.S. destination (Akron, Cleveland, etc.) to Seoul (Incheon or Gimpo Airports); and then from Nagoya back to the U.S. You can then purchase a separate ticket from Seoul to Nagoya. As of February 18th, tickets ran just under \$1800 for this route and they were as low as \$137 for a one-way ticket from Seoul to Tokyo.

Yet another option is flying from Los Angeles, San Francisco, or Seattle (or alternatively out of NYC). Often times, international airfares are significantly cheaper when you fly out of international hubs. The risk here is that you would buy a separate domestic round-trip ticket to get to one of these hubs and then your international ticket. If there was a travel delay or disruption, and you missed your connecting flight on another airline, you might be looking at expensive change fees. However, flight delays during the summer are less frequent than the winter months.

3. Possible Discount Airfares

You may purchase your ticket to Asia through your local travel agency, the internet, or various airline companies. However, several wholesalers sell airline tickets at a considerable discount, particularly if you book your ticket in advance. These wholesalers buy tickets on the airlines in bulk, and then pass their savings to their customers. While the significant savings are attractive, the disadvantage of these tickets is that you cannot change the departure date without incurring a cancellation charge up to the full price of the ticket. Typically, the return date can be changed for a fee of \$100.00 per ticket. Check with the individual wholesaler regarding its cancellation and change policies and charges. Also, make sure that you ask about student specials.

Here are some larger wholesalers that students have typically used:

Gateway Travel	1-800-222-1626	http://www.gatewaylax.com/
I.A.C.E. Travel	1-800-872-4223	http://www.iace-usa.com
Amnet Travel	1-800-401-9650	www.Amnet-USA.com/
JTB Travel	1-800-235-3523	http://www.jtbusa.com/

(If the telephone is answered in Japanese, please feel free to start conversing in English as the travel agent will switch.)

ACCOMODATIONS

The program does not provide housing. To make your journey easier though, we will be making reservations at one or two hotels within reasonable distance of each university. We anticipate that most program participants will stay at these hotels. These hotels have been selected based on location and price. You will have the option of selecting one of these hotels, or making your own arrangements. We anticipate posting more information about the hotel options and reservation details on our website in either March or April, and confirming your intentions about staying at the various hotels.

TRANSPORTATION WITHIN JAPAN AND SOUTH KOREA

Before going to Japan and South Korea, we encourage you to familiarize yourself with maps of the Seoul, Tokyo, and Nagoya train and subway systems. Doing so will help you in getting around.

Seoul

Subways serve as a convenient means, probably the most favored public transportation, by both Koreans and visitors from abroad. They connect you from one point to another with less hassle than often seen on the open roads making it easy for tourists to get around as well. Seoul's subway system ranks the top in terms of its size and number where it centers the city from Line 1 to 9 and additional lines branching out into the metropolitan area. Also, each subway station has a name, number, and a color representing the subway line, and with just a little guidance, anyone can use the metropolitan subway systems with ease. You can find the cyber map (Korean, English) provided by the Seoul Metropolitan Rapid Transit Corporation at <http://www.smrt.co.kr/program/cyberStation/main2.jsp?lang=e>.

Japan

Getting around in Japan is extremely easy as Japan has one of the best public transportation systems in the world. It is extremely reliable, clean, and efficient. The minimum fare is 160 yen on subways and 130 yen on trains. As the stations in Tokyo and Nagoya all have signs in English, you will quickly learn to use the trains and subways to get anywhere you need to go. The bus system complements the trains and subways, but can be subject to delays caused by the heavy traffic. Using it can be more challenging as it has few signs in English; however, English route maps are available. Public transportation does not run between 1:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. The last train on some lines leaves a little after midnight. Taxis can be expensive, especially after midnight, but if four people share they can often be a relatively cheap means of transport.

Details about the **Nagoya** subway system and a train map can be found at:
<http://www.kotsu.city.nagoya.jp/en/pc/OTHER/TRP0001448.htm>.

For English-language subway maps in Tokyo, see the Tokyo Metropolitan Government's website:
http://www.kotsu.metro.tokyo.jp/english/subway_map.html.

For maps of the train system in the Tokyo Metropolitan area, see the JR East site:
<http://www.jreast.co.jp/e/routemaps/index.html>.

Japan Rail Pass

The Japan Rail System offers a "Japan Rail Pass" only for tourists that is good for one, two or three weeks. If you enter Japan on a tourist visa, you are eligible for the Rail Pass. You must purchase this before entering Japan. As we will be traveling from Narita Airport into Tokyo and then from Tokyo to Nagoya, your most economical option for transportation between cities will be buying individual tickets and skipping the JR Rail Pass. The one-week JR rail pass is \$251 USD (about 29,110 yen). A breakdown of the local transportation costs follows:

- The travel cost from Narita Airport to Tokyo is 3,190 yen
- The travel cost from Tokyo to Nagoya via Shinkansen (Bullet train) is about 11,000 yen
- Local travel costs inside of Tokyo and Nagoya will vary but likely amount to 3,000 yen

However, if you plan to travel during your stay in Japan on the first weekend outside of Nagoya, you could purchase a JR rail pass to save money. (For example, if you wanted to return to Tokyo or explore other famous areas including Kyoto, Osaka, Hiroshima, Kobe, etc.) In this event, you might want to wait until the Monday after your arrival to cash in your rail pass. This would enable you to travel to Nagoya on Wednesday morning and then travel anywhere around the country the following Saturday and Sunday on the trains. To get from Narita airport into Tokyo, you could purchase a limousine bus ticket or a separate train ticket.

Japan Rail Passes must be purchased outside of Japan. Additional information about the Japan Rail Pass can be found at: <http://online.jtbusa.com/JRPass/AllJRpass.aspx>.

Korail Pass

The Korean Railroad System also provides a similar unlimited train pass for travel outside of Seoul. Transportation in Korea is typically much more affordable than in Japan so transportation savings may not be as significant. However, you can find details about the pass here:

<http://www.letskorail.com/ebizbf/EbizBfKrPassAbout.do>

MEDICAL MATTERS

Medical Insurance

People in Japan and South Korea do not self-prescribe their own medicine even for the common cold. If you are sick (even just a little sick), you go to the hospital or clinic. Visits to the hospital and pharmaceuticals are generally very affordable. However, it is safest to have health insurance coverage for your study abroad trip. Thus, included in your program fee is health and emergency insurance coverage (which is required for all participants in UA-sponsored education abroad programs). We will enroll you automatically in this coverage before departure, after you have paid your seat deposit. The plan covers emergency accident and sickness medical expenses, physician office visits, and prescription drugs. Further details of the coverage are available upon request.

Japanese and South Korean hospitals do not accept U.S. or international health insurance. Typically, most hospitals accept only cash. Some large hospitals now accept credit cards but generally, hospitals do not take personal checks for payment. If you need to visit a doctor or hospital, most insurance companies ask you to pay all of the costs at the time of treatment. They will then reimburse you after you submit claim forms. Fortunately, health care costs in both countries are heavily subsidized so they are much more affordable than comparable care in the U.S. in case something unfortunate happens while you are abroad.

Travelers' Assistance Insurance. These policies provide a 24-hour hotline that can supply the

names of English-speaking physicians and hospitals, pay bills on the spot, and transfer you if your medical condition warrants it. Companies that provide such services include:

- Access America <http://accessamerica.com>
- Travelex Insurance <http://www.travelex-insurance.com>

English-Speaking Medical Professionals

Some English-speaking medical professionals trained in the U.S. practice medicine or dentistry in Tokyo. Although the U.S. Embassy does not endorse the abilities of any of these professionals, it does maintain a list of services at https://jp.usembassy.gov/embassy-consulates/nagoya/local-resources/?_ga=1.7397362.1995036199.1487457055. Law students who have visited the medical and dental professionals listed on this site appear to have been satisfied with the quality of care.

In Seoul, there are also a host of clinics and hospitals that provide services in English. Information is available [here](#) from the Visit Seoul webpage and [here](#). The Seoul Global Center (SGC) launched by the Seoul Metropolitan Government operates a 24-hour Medical Referral Service (MRS) for foreigners. Its medically trained, English-speaking staff provides foreigners in Korea with information and recommendations on medical facilities and services.

- Hours: regular hours (8 a.m. to 8 p.m.), emergency only (8 p.m. to 8 a.m.)
- Telephone: 010-4769-8212 or 010-8750-821

Vision

If you wear glasses or contact lenses, take along an extra pair if possible. Also, be sure to have your prescription with you in case you need it later. Have a check-up before you leave to avoid possible problems abroad. Contact lens solution is readily available in Japan and South Korea.

Vaccinations

Although Japan and South Korea do not require particular immunizations, we recommend that your standard immunizations are current. Travel to other countries may require additional immunizations. For information about specific diseases and travel destinations, you can go to: <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/eastasia.htm>.

Personal Medication

If you need to personally bring medications for your treatment, you should keep in mind that certain medications may not be allowed in Japan or South Korea. One example is DayQuil or NyQuil in Japan. Nothing with a stimulant or codeine can be brought into the country. Other examples include some over-the-counter allergy and sinus medicine. For important legal information on the importation of personal medication, please read carefully the following websites:

South Korea – Health Information: Click [here](#)

Japan – Health Information: Click [here](#)

If you do bring medication, be sure to bring a medically certified prescription. Japanese or South Korean Customs might ask you to prove that the drugs are prescribed. Also, in case you encounter medical issues during your trip to Asia, it is best to have the prescription written in terms of the chemical composition (generic) of the drugs rather than brand names in order for a Japanese/South Korean doctor or pharmacist to understand what you need.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

A. Financial Aid

Akron Law students interested in learning more about financial aid options for this study abroad program should contact Kathryn Vasko in the University's Office of Financial Aid. Phone: 330-972-6473; Email: katvasko@uakron.edu. She can explain personalized options for using any leftover aid from spring to apply to summer, or using aid in advance for the following school year. She can also give you an idea of what will be required and when.

Students from other schools will pursue financial aid through the Financial Aid Offices of their home institutions by procuring a “consortium agreement” and submitting it to Kathryn Vasko (contact information above).

B. MONEY

General Overview:

Japan and South Korea are still cash-based societies in some respects, so anticipate spending cash in some places. Some places do not accept credit cards or traveler’s checks. Banks will not cash personal checks. It is recommended that you have a credit card or debit card that does not charge foreign transaction fees. You can check with your credit card/debit card company to confirm whether foreign transaction fees are charged. These fees can add up.

In terms of exchanging money, you will get the best exchange rate if you wait to exchange money at the airports in Japan and Korea (*the exchange booths at U.S. airports should be avoided if you would like to maximize the use of your money*) or withdraw cash from an ATM machine.

In an emergency, the easiest and quickest way to access money is to have someone deposit money in a U.S. bank account, and then withdraw the money through an ATM.

South Korea

Korea's official monetary unit is the won. Here are examples of the currency and coins.

Bills

			
			
fifty thousand won (o-man-won)	ten thousand won (man-won)	five thousand won (o-cheon-won)	one thousand won (cheon-won)

Coins

			
Five hundred won (o-baek-won)	one hundred won (baek-won)	fifty won (o-sip-won)	ten won (sip-won)

Exchanging Money

When you need to exchange your foreign currency into Korean won, visit a bank, exchange service center, or an authorized exchange. (Bank business hour: 09:00-16:00, closed on weekends and public holidays.) Incheon airport has several places to exchange money and obtain cash.

Credit Cards

Most of the businesses in Korea widely use and accept payment by credit cards (e.g., major hotels, department stores, large restaurants, and stores). Visa, MasterCard, American Express and other credit cards can be used; however, do check the service availability before making purchase as some stores may not be subject to this service.

Traveler's Checks

Traveler's checks can be exchanged for cash at banks or exchange booths. Credit cards and debit cards have become more preferred means by travelers however.

Conversion rate

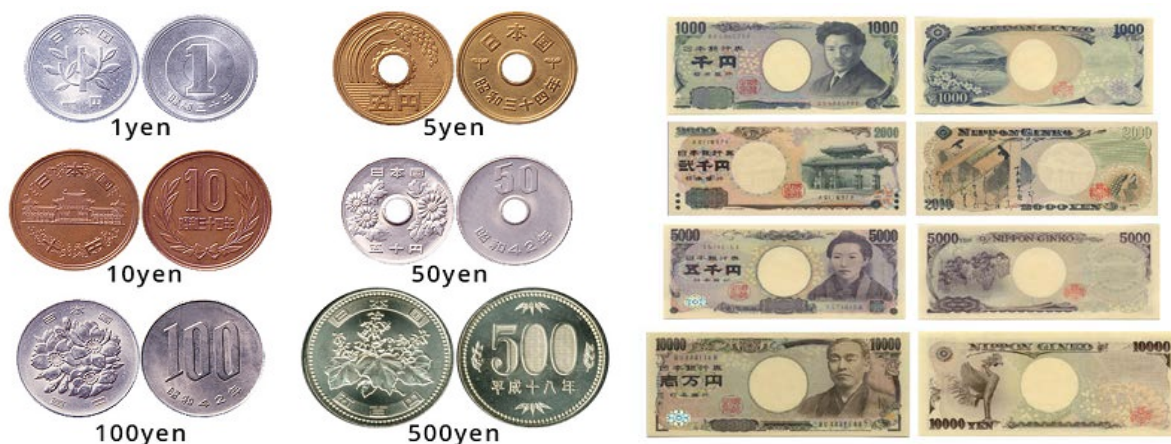
As of February 18, 2017, the U.S. dollar-KRW exchange rate was \$1=1,150 Korean Won. You can check the current exchange rate at a currency conversion sites such as <http://www.xe.com/>.

ATMs - Limitations

Cards with the Plus and Cirrus logos are the easiest to use and most widely accepted in Korea. Some places even accept international cards like China UnionPay, Maestro, Electron, and JCB cards. Banks as well as other sites have ATMs (automatic teller machines), where customers can make withdrawals, deposits, and fund transfers. However, as all ATM transactions require an account with a Korean bank, ATMs are not particularly convenient for international travelers except for getting cash advances on a credit card. ATMs are convenient, but remember that you may be charged a fee both by the ATM owner and your bank.

If you have an account with Citibank, however, you can enjoy a more extensive range of banking services. Just visit a Citibank location nearby for ATM or counter services. More details about ATM possibilities can be found at: http://english.visitkorea.or.kr/enu/AK/AK_EN_1_5_5.jsp.

Japan -- The currency of Japan is the yen.



Exchanging Money

When you need to exchange your foreign currency into Japanese yen, visit a bank, exchange service center, or an authorized exchange at the airport.

Credit Cards

Although Japan has been slower to adopt credit cards because of a desire to pay cash, many more businesses accept credit cards in comparison with the past. A surge in visitors combined with the upcoming 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games has improved the situation as well. However, it is still a good idea to carry some cash. Here is an example of a day in the life using a credit card in Japan (the photos are fun too) -- http://japan-magazine.jnto.go.jp/en/special_credit.html.

Traveler's Checks

Traveler's checks can be exchanged for cash at the airport. Cash, credit cards, and debit cards have become more preferred means by travelers however.

Conversion rate

As of February 18, 2017, the U.S. dollar-JPY exchange rate was \$1=113 Japanese Yen. You can check the current exchange rate at a currency conversion sites such as <http://www.xe.com/>.

ATMs

Many automatic teller machines (ATMs) in Japan do not accept credit, debit and ATM cards, which are issued outside of Japan. The big exception are the ATMs found at the over 20,000 **post offices** and over 10,000 **7-Eleven convenience stores** across the country. These ATMs allow you to withdraw cash by credit and debit cards issued outside of Japan, including Visa, Plus, Mastercard, Maestro, Cirrus, American Express and JCB cards and provide an English user menu.

ATMs are convenient, but remember that you may be charged a fee both by the ATM owner and your bank. There may also be a daily withdrawal limit as well. ATMs at 7-Eleven stores are available 24 hours per day around the year. In case of post offices, however, only the central offices of major cities offer a 24 hour/7 days ATM service. Other postal 8 am to 8 pm. In addition to the ATMs at post offices and 7-Eleven convenience stores, international ATMs can be found at international airports, in major department stores, and in Shinsei Bank branches. ATMs by Aeon Bank, found at Aeon malls and selected other locations, also accept cards issued outside of Japan.

To use international ATMs, ensure the following at home before leaving for Japan:

- Confirm with your bank that your credit or debit card can be used abroad.
- Inquire what fees and daily and/or monthly limits are associated with international withdrawals.
- Notify your bank that you are going to use your card overseas, since many banks will block a card which is suddenly used abroad, suspecting a fraud.

C. Cost of Living in Japan and Seoul

Stories about the high cost of living in Japan (while partially true) are deceiving, as Japan is currently in a prolonged deflationary cycle. Because of inflated prices for purchasing real estate, Tokyo is consistently ranked high on the cost of living scale. But other items are relatively affordable, depending, of course, on your lifestyle and habits. Seoul is very similar in this regard. The cost of living in both cities is about 15-25% less than New York City.

Eating at fancy restaurants and spending several nights a week on the bar scene can be very expensive (but there is no tipping). However, an affordable student life is possible. A cup of coffee may cost you \$3.50, but Japanese and South Korean cafes, like those in many parts of Europe, are, in effect, renting you high cost space when they sell you a cup of coffee. Once you purchase your initial cup, you may stay for hours without being bothered to buy anything else. Some foods, including certain seafood, fresh fruit, and imported items, are very expensive. Food prices are generally higher than in the U.S., but eating out can be more affordable in both Japan and South Korea.

In fact, let us use Japan as an example. Eating out in Japan offers all ranges of cuisine and prices, from cheap to very expensive. Portions are typically smaller than those found in U.S. restaurants. Convenience stores such as 7-11 and Lawson sell sandwiches for 300 yen (\$2.50) and Japanese “bento” boxes with an entire lunch for about 500 yen (\$4.50). Neighborhood restaurants sell noodle dishes (soba, udon, ramen) for 400 to 1000 yen (\$3.50-\$8.50) and set meals for 500 to 1,500 yen (\$4.00-\$12.50). Neighborhood “pubs” serve all sorts of side order dishes at reasonable prices. Western restaurants often have luncheon specials for around 1000 yen (\$8.30). McDonalds and other American fast food establishments sell relatively affordable meals. (e.g., a Big Mac set meal is 540 yen). TGI Fridays is fairly affordable as well. Of course, a more elaborate evening meal in either a Japanese or Western restaurant may cost 2,500 (\$20) to 4,500 yen (\$37), not including drinks. As soon as the initial impulse to do everything immediately passes, and you settle into a routine, you will learn how to budget and spend less money. Once you do so, you will discover that Japan can be very affordable even on a law student’s budget.

Students who are careful with their money (and avoid spending binges at bars) report that they spend an average of 1,500 – 2,500 yen (\$12.50-\$22.00) per day on food. Here are some sample prices. With some searching, bargain prices can be found as well. (Note: as a general rule, the farther away from campus you live, the cheaper the cost of living—including food--becomes).

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| - Large apple: 150 yen | - Snickers bar: 115 yen | - Can soda: 120 yen |
| - 1.5 liter Coke: 220 yen | - 1 liter 100% orange juice: 180 yen | - ½ Loaf of bread: 150 yen |
| - Newspaper: 120-180 yen | - Doritos (grab bag size): 105 yen | - Small can of tuna: 90 yen |
| - Int’l stamp: 110 yen | - Movie: 1,500 yen | - Taxi: 710 yen for first 2 km |

Prices do not differ significantly in Seoul as compared to Japan, except that transportation is less expensive in South Korea. Here is an example of prices in Seoul: <https://www.expatistan.com/cost-of-living/seoul>.

D. Exchange Rate Fluctuations

The dollar/yen exchange rate has fluctuated quite wildly over the past two years. A strong dollar will provide you with extra spending money in Japan. We encourage you to start watching the exchange rate several months before you go to Japan to understand the process and to gauge when you might want to exchange your currency.

WEATHER

Seoul

South Korea’s location results in a continental climate, with cold winters and hot, humid summers. Seoul’s rather unpredictable weather is often compared to that of New York City. July and August are the hottest and most humid months. Daytime temperatures in Seoul are typically around 28°C (82°F). Nights are warm and muggy. Between mid-July and the end of September, thunderstorms are common. Occasional typhoons move north from the East China Sea to bring torrential rain and strong winds to the Korean peninsula, although these are rarely damaging.

Japan

The climate is temperate and resembles that of the east coast of the U.S. The average annual rainfall is 55 inches. Most of the rainfall occurs during the rainy season in June and July and in the typhoon season during September and October. The humidity is remarkably high in July, averaging about 75 percent. Just standing outdoors can make you sweat. Despite the heat, however, Japan sees many local [festivals](#) and [fireworks](#) during this time. [Mount Fuji](#) is opened for [climbing](#). With the summer school holidays from late July, domestic travel activity increases considerably. Here is an idea of the weather in Tokyo and Nagoya while we are there.

City	High	Low	Rainy days	Sunny days
Tokyo	29 C (84 F)	23 C (73 F)	35%	40%
Nagoya	31 C (88 F)	24 C (75 F)	40%	60%

PERSONAL SAFETY

Seoul

The fifth largest city in the world, Seoul, is the capital of Korea. A thriving metropolis, it is home to over 10 million people. The city is the hub of arts, culture, finance and the Korean economy. Despite its burgeoning population, it remains a country with a relatively low crime rate. In the city of Seoul, crimes such as pickpocketing, assault and purse snatching do occur. As with any major city, there are some areas considered unsafe at certain times (particularly after dark). However, Seoul is typically safer than large American cities.

With a few basic precautions, you can travel within Seoul in relative safety. Visitors should follow normal safety precautions such as locking doors, being aware of personal belongings in crowded areas and tourist hotspots, avoid walking alone at night through isolated areas, and only using reputable taxi companies. Hotel rooms or private residences in Seoul may suffer from burglaries. Secure your valuables, especially when traveling to the bustling marketplaces of Seoul. Never take a ride from a stranger.

As you know, there is long-standing political standoff between the two halves of the Korean Peninsula. There is a demilitarized zone (DMZ) between the two countries, which remains a completely uninhabited “no man’s land.” It is possible to visit the DMZ as part of a tour group. Although tensions are occasionally inflamed between the countries, in reality there is little chance of the situation escalating to the point that it affects South Korea.

Japan

With one of the lowest crime rates of all developed nations, Japan is an extremely safe country to travel in. In comparison to other major world cities, there is a very low chance you will be a victim of confrontational violence in Tokyo, even when walking alone at night. Cultural norms, legal restrictions, and strict enforcement of illegal possession of firearms, weapons, and drugs have resulted in traffic accidents becoming the biggest threat to physical safety. Crime is not widespread

enough to justify constant fear, but that does not mean you should discard common sense while you are in Japan. In fact, caution should be paid in all entertainment and nightlife districts in Japan to avoid scams. The majority of crimes are petty crimes related to theft, and non-violent crimes such as fraud. Break-ins and burglary can happen, so doors and windows should be kept locked. (Bicycle theft is by far the most common crime however.)

Honesty is policy for the general population and “finder’s keepers” does not apply in Japan. Tokyo citizens hand in billions of yen in lost cash each year, often waiving their right to receive the money if nobody makes a claim. Around 75% of the money is returned intact to the rightful owners, as are wallets, phones, and other personal belongings. The orderly conduct of Japanese citizens was widely applauded in international media coverage of the aftermath of the March 11 2011 earthquake disaster.

Emergencies

Seoul

Emergency response is swift and call centers usually have someone on staff who can speak some English.

Police: Dial 112

Ambulance and fire: Dial 119

Japan

Emergency response is swift and call centers usually have someone on staff who can speak some English.

Police: Dial 110

Ambulance and fire: Dial 119

ELECTRICITY

Japan and South Korea are different in terms of electricity and electrical outlets. Japan is closer to the U.S. system, while South Korea has followed the European system. You will definitely need a converter for South Korea.

Japan You can use American electronic equipment in Japan without using a voltage converter or transformer. The voltage in Japan is 100 volts whereas in the U.S. it is 110 volts, so your equipment will have a little less power, but you will rarely notice the difference. However, power outlets in Japan are almost always the same as the two-pin ungrounded outlets in the U.S. For further information, see <http://electricaloutlet.org/type-a>. If your laptop has a three-prong plug, you will need to get a three-prong to two-prong plug adapter.

Seoul Electrical outlets in South Korea are one of the two European standard electrical socket types: The “Type C” Europlug and “Type E” and “Type F” Schuko. (http://www.adaptelec.com/index.php?main_page=document_general_info&products_id=159)

If your appliance’s plug doesn’t match the shape of these sockets, you will need a travel plug

adapter in order to plug in. Travel plug adapters simply change the shape of your appliance's plug to match whatever type of socket you need to plug into. If it's crucial to be able to plug in no matter what, bring an adapter for all three types.

But the shape of the socket is only half the story! Travel plug adapters *do not change the voltage*, so the electricity coming through the adapter will still be the same 220-240 volts the socket is supplying. North American sockets supply electricity at between 110 and 120 volts, far lower than in most of the rest of the world. Consequently, North American appliances are generally built for 110-120 volts. But that doesn't mean that your specific appliance isn't already compatible with the higher voltage -- it may very well be. You will need to check to find out if your electronics are compatible with 220-240 volts.

Generally speaking, most modern “digital-age” appliances (especially ones that run on batteries) are being built to be compatible with all worldwide voltages. This usually includes laptops, PDAs, cell phones, digital cameras, digital camcorders, many portable video game devices, digital music players, etc. More and more personal grooming items like hair dryers curling irons, shavers (especially cordless ones) and such are being built to be compatible with multiple voltages as well, but most of them aren't.

LAUNDRY

You may or may not have access to washers and dryers at your residence. Like the United States, Japan and Korea also have Laundromats or coin laundries. Your hotel may have washers and dryers. Check for convenience. Dry cleaning is available, and comparable to prices in the U.S.

FOOD

In Korea, you will discover a wide array of unique and delicious food. Korea was once a primarily agricultural nation, and since ancient times rice has been cultivated as Koreans' staple food. These days Korean cuisine also contains a large variety of meat and fish dishes along with wild greens and vegetables. Various preserved food, such as *kimichi* (fermented spicy cabbage), *jeotgal* (seafood fermented in salt) and *doenjang* (fermented soy bean paste) are particularly popular due to their distinctive flavor and high nutritional value.

In Korean cuisine all the dishes are served at the same time. A typical meal normally includes rice, soup, and several side dishes, the number of which vary. Traditionally, lower classes had three side dishes, while royal families would have twelve. In Korea, like in Japan, people eat with chopsticks. However, a spoon is used more often in Korea, especially when soups are served. Formal rules have developed for table setting, which can vary depending on whether a noodle or meat dish is served. Food is a very important part of Korea culture, and Koreans pay great attention to the way in which food is served.

As Japan has many types of food, from sushi to ramen to tempura, you will find that eating is very different and perhaps one of the most interesting aspects of Japanese culture. Keep an open mind;

try everything. In addition to Japanese food, a variety of other Asian, as well as European, American and African, cuisines are readily available. Japanese, being contextual, offer eating utensils to match the cuisine. Hence, Japanese, Chinese, and Korean foods are eaten with chopsticks, European foods with knife and fork, and curries with a spoon. You'll quickly get the hang of it.

If you get a little homesick and crave a bite of U.S. food, you have plenty of choices in both Japan and South Korea including McDonald's, Burger King, Subway, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Tony Roma's Ribs, Outback Steakhouse, Wolfgang Puck's, TGI Fridays, and others. If you miss U.S. foodstuffs and snacks, some stores do carry some American goods. However, the local food in Japan and South Korea is incredible and will enhance your experience.

WiFi

South Korea and Japan are two of the most connected countries in the world in terms of WiFi. For details about Wi-Fi in Japan, you can find out more here -- <http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2279.html>. For South Korea, you can easily find a Wi-Fi signal in many stores, especially in the cafes. The Wifi password is typically written on your receipt. If you would like to rent your own personal and portable Wifi Hotspot, it can cost as little as \$4 USD per day. You can do this at the airport immediately upon arrival. Here is one example: <http://pocketwifikorea.com/>. Here is an example regarding how to access Wifi for free: <http://seoulistic.com/travel-to-korea/how-to-get-free-wifi-anywhere-in-korea-2/>.

TELEPHONE

Seoul

If you are interested in staying connected, you might consider renting a phone at the airport. Korea is a CDMA based network and most foreign phones won't work here except to access the Internet through WiFi networks. Even if you can use your phone, the cost is likely exorbitant due to long-distance roaming fees. It's not worth it. Korea rents cheap mobile phones, smartphones and WIFI eggs that you can use as hotspots.

Renting a basic phone can run around 6,000 won/day. However, if you rent the phone online before you arrive into Korea, your rental fee could be around 1,500 won per day (under \$1.25). Incoming calls are free, while local calls cost around 600 won/minute (\$.50 per minute), while text is 100 won/text. Long distance charges vary. Smartphones with an unlimited data plan, a SIM card option and internet hotspot eggs will price higher. Unless you're doing business, a basic phone is all you need particularly as a safety backup. A phone might also come in handy if you're traveling with friend or need help getting around. The major rental companies at the airport are: [SK Telecomm](#), [S-Roaming](#), and [Olleh KT](#). You can pick up and drop off your phone right outside of customs at the kiosk rental desks. The mobile rental shops tend to be located side-by-side.

Japan

You can rent a mobile phone in Japan for a reasonable price. It is possible to rent a phone at the airport or have a phone sent to your hotel. Here is one option that lays out details and pricing: <http://www.rentafonejapan.com/>. If you want to rent a phone at Narita Airport, here is a list of providers: http://www.narita-airport.jp/en/guide/service/list/svc_19.html. If you decide to rent a phone, make sure that you can return the phone to whichever airport you are flying out of, if it is different from your arrival airport (e.g. if you are picking up at Narita, but flying out of Nagoya).

SHOPPING

You can find almost anything anywhere in Tokyo or Seoul. Department stores will get you anything you want, at premium prices, of course. They are a world unto themselves, with hundreds of little boutiques contained all under one roof. Department stores also contain supermarkets in their basements where an extensive variety of fresh produce, baked goods, meat and poultry, and imported goods can be found. The bottom line is that you should not have too much trouble finding anything that you need, or anything you can get in the U.S.

Stores usually open around 10:00 a.m. and close around 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Recently, some stores have been extending their hours to 10:00 or 11:00 p.m. Local shopping districts provide similar variety at lower cost and lots more atmosphere. In Japan, you can find “100 yen shops” where you can find an unbelievable variety of things for your kitchen, home, office, or leisure for 100 yen (or about \$0.85).

Groceries can be found in a variety of places. In addition to department stores, some neighborhoods have traditional American-style grocery stores. Other neighborhoods rely on smaller specialty stores for produce, fish, meat, and canned and other goods. Wherever you will be, 24-hour convenience stores such as 7-11 and Lawsons sell all the necessities as well as a variety of meals at reasonable prices.

CLASSROOMS

Seoul

Classes in Seoul will be held at Kyung Hee University (KHU). KHU was established in 1949 in Hoegi-dong, Dongdaemun-gu, Seoul. With well-groomed gardens and Gothic-style buildings, its campus is one of the most beautiful university campuses in Seoul. It is also a popular tourist site as well as a favorite picnic destination. Moreover, a wide variety of events are regularly held on campus at the famous Hall of Peace. The university has 26 colleges including law, liberal arts, politico-economy, business administration, medical studies, pharmacy and Korean medicine in Seoul, and engineering, art and physical education in Suwon. Korean medicine studies and hotel administration are two of the most popular majors at Kyung Hee University. More details can be found at: <http://www.khu.ac.kr/eng/index.jsp>.

Directions to Kyung Hee and a campus map can be found here: http://khu.ac.kr/eng/about/map_directions2.jsp.

Tokyo

Classes in Tokyo will be held in the facilities of Temple University's Japan campus (<http://www.tuj.ac.jp/>). Temple Japan consists of Azabu Hall and Mita Hall located in the Minami Azabu/Mita area in south central Tokyo. This area is especially known for the number of embassies located there. A number of convenient shops and Japanese-style eateries are located around the campus. The centrally located campus is within easy reach of a number of interesting Tokyo neighborhoods including Shibuya, an entertainment area popular with young adults, and Roppongi, the famous nightlife district.

To get to campus, you can access a map here (<http://www.tuj.ac.jp/maps/tokyo.html>). On July 31st, we will hold class in Azabu Hall – Room 207. On August 1st, we will be in Mita Hall – Room 503.

To access Azabu Hall, the nearest subway lines are the Namboku, Oedo line, and Mita lines. To access Mita Hall, the closest train line is the JR Yamanote line, and the closest subway lines are the Asakusa, Mita, and Namboku Lines.

Nagoya

Classes in Nagoya will be held at the Higashiyama Campus of Nagoya University. Details about the University can be found here: <http://en.nagoya-u.ac.jp/>. Nagoya U. is a Japanese national university that is the last Imperial University in Japan and one of seven national universities. It has been ranked as the third best university in Japan, and boast six Nobel Prize winners in science.

Our classes will be held at the Graduate School of Law. To get to campus, you can access a map here: <http://en.nagoya-u.ac.jp/access/>.

CLOTHING

You should anticipate warm and humid weather, so dress accordingly. We will have several field trips and other events where you will want to look nice. Keep in mind that the Japanese and South Koreans tend to dress more formally and neatly than the average U.S. student. Whether at work, school, recreation, or shopping, the Japanese pay particular attention to their appearance, even though most Japanese youths wish to look American. You might want to take some professional clothing for occasions such as a visit to the Supreme Court of Japan and meetings with lawyers.

In terms of packing, we encourage you to remember that "less is definitely better." You will have to handle your own luggage as we move from the airport to Tokyo to Nagoya to Seoul. Storage space can be extremely limited in hotels. You know best what you consider essential. Here are some things to keep in mind.

Rule One. Pack things that are easy to take care of: permanent press, hand-washable, and drip dry clothing. As the level of humidity is high, natural fibers are more comfortable than synthetics.

Rule Two. Pack things that are comfortable. Include at least one good pair of walking shoes, and also make sure that the shoes that you take are ones that you can put on and take off with minimal effort as you must remove shoes off before entering homes, some tourist sights and some commercial establishments.

Rule Three. If at all possible, limit your luggage to one piece plus carry-on allowed by commercial airlines. This will help as you travel. Also, it also allows you a buffer in case you want to bring something back from Asia when you return.

ACCESSIBILITY

While in Japan and South Korea, individuals with disabilities may find accessibility and accommodation very different from what they are used to in the U.S. Although both countries laws mandate that public construction projects include provisions for persons with disabilities, older buildings may not have been retrofitted for accessibility. At major train stations, airports, and hotels, travelers with disabilities should encounter few accessibility problems. Accessibility at other public facilities continues to improve through the installation of elevators and wheelchair ramps. However, travelers should note that many smaller stations are inaccessible to those who cannot climb stairs. Most major urban hotels have wheelchair accessible rooms, while smaller “business hotels” and traditional Japanese-style inns may not accommodate wheelchair users.

Information on travel in Seoul for travelers in wheelchairs can be found at:

<https://wheelchairtravel.org/seoul-south-korea/>.

Information about Japan can be found at: <http://www.wheelchairtraveling.com/wheelchair-travel-guide-to-japan-for-access-and-accessibility-and-easy-for-seniors/>

U.S. citizen travelers in wheelchairs should be aware that wheelchairs must be no more than 120 centimeters in length/height and no more than 70 centimeters in width in order to be allowed in trains. Accessibility information regarding the East Japan Railway Company is also available at the company’s website.

STATE DEPARTMENT TRAVEL INFORMATION

We strongly encourage you to stay abreast of the State Department’s travel information and advisory’s at <http://www.state.gov/travel/>. Please note that the Department of State recently released its new “Smart Traveler” app for U.S. travelers going abroad. The app is compatible with the iPhone, iPad, and other smart device. The Smart Traveler app provides easy access to frequently updated official country information, travel alerts, travel warnings, maps, U.S. embassy locations, and more. Travelers can also set up customized “e-itineraries” to keep track of arrival and departure dates and to make notes about upcoming trips. Additionally, the app provides a link for travelers to enroll in the State Department’s free Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) so that the State Department can better assist them in an emergency. More information about the Smart Traveler app can be found at www.state.gov and <http://travel.state.gov>.

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS, SPOUSES, RELATIVES

Be sure to fill in the following information to leave with your family:

1. The address and phone number of the hotels where you will be staying.
2. Contact information for Dean Cravens and Pres. Wilson :

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