

Things to do after landing @ ASU

I just prepared this document so that it can provide an overview of the things that you need to do after landing at ASU. This is from the knowledge gained from my experience and seeing 3 other batches of admits. Hope this helps.

First call up your parents(seniors usually let you use their phones to call) to inform them of your arrival. Then find an apartment for temporary stay(ISA should help you out on this when they pick you up from the airport).

Looking for an Apartment : Check out for apartment to stay. Look out for room-mates if you haven't found one already. An ideal arrangement is 4 persons sharing a 2 bedroom apartment or 3 persons sharing a 1 bedroom apartment. Good ones are University Crossroads(beware of roaches and bug problem though), Carriage House, University Place, University Village, Tempe Terrace, La Crescenta, University Pointe, University Square, University Garden, Riverra Point, Campus Pointe, Palm Villa, Quandrangles etc. These are pretty close to the campus, hardly 5-10 minute walk to anywhere on campus. It is a good idea to sign-up for the shortest lease time that is available. Also look out for furnished apartments to save you from buying/getting furniture. You might need to make a few purchases for your apartment initially. A list for that is given later. It is best to go with somebody in their car, so that you can get most things at once.

Once you are settled and ready to venture into your university, you get a map of the university from your seniors or the Memorial Union. Please carry a bottle of water with you always and do wear a hat. Going around with a map is good, or there are a lot of Campus directory showing the campus map at various points on campus.

Get your ASU ID card : The first thing to do is to get your Identity Card called Sun Card. You get it at the lower level of the Memorial Union. For this you need \$25, your passport, and your I-20(though actually not required). Remember your 9-digit ASU ID(the 993..... number) as this is required too. You can load some money into it for printing and photocopy purposes. This is into your Sun dollar account.

Get a bank account : After you get your Sun Card, you could go to the bank. There is a bank in the lower level next to the Sun Card office. This is Arizona State Savings and Credit Union(AZSTCU). It is a good idea to have an account here, since they have been dealing with students for a long time. (You can ask one of your seniors or friends or refer you, since one/both of you will get a referral bonus). For this you need your Sun card or any other ID. You should deposit most of your cash and all your traveler cheques into your account.(It is not a good idea to go around the campus with a lot of cash). You should be getting a checkbook and debit card for your account soon. You would need a check leaflet when you are in the HR department(More info on this later). You can apply for a credit card soon after you get your Social Security Number(more commonly called SSN, you get to apply for this when you get an assistantship or an on-campus job at ASU). you

can also open an account in Wells Fargo(in MU), Bank of America(in Brickyard)

Goto the ISO : Next you need to go the International Student Office in the Student Service Building, SSB(2nd level), to have a mini-orientation there. It is important to do this and follow their instructions to get a new I-20(This is for continued attendance,and for this you need to submit a few documents). Also you can register for your classes at the first level of the SSB. You can pay for your tuition at the second level of the SSB.

Goto your department : Next you need to go to your department and meet the department administrative official, Darleen in the case of EE, Martha in the case of CSE etc. and get an academic advisor allotted. And you meet him/her by fixing an appointment with him/her as soon as possible. Finish all of these in the first day itself. It should not take more than 2-3 hours. It is also a good idea to pick up the free bus pass at THE TOWERS. For this you need the ASU Sun Card. You can use this to travel on the Valley Metro bus service. Also you can use the Neighborhood FLASH service, which is free, to go around the campus from the apartments nearby. This stops at quite a points on campus.

Regarding phone calls to India : Meanwhile, when you need to call up India, you need to have a Calling Card(usually done this way). Calling cards are available for purchase online(for which you would need a credit card). The best one to use is the Reliance India Calling card. For details see www.relianceindiacall.com. But initially or for an emergency you can get a calling card for \$5 at the nearby store and call up. You could use that with a land-line or a mobile(but a call from a mobile in the daytime costs the owner a few minutes, whereas there is nothing as such in a land-line).

Regarding phone calls in general : You could apply for a basic land-line connection with Qwest for around \$22 per month. For a mobile connection, you need to have a good credit history or pay a security deposit. You could get a mobile using someone elses credit history as well(so look out for friends who have been there for sometime and ask their help to get a mobile). Also VoIP and google talk is pretty useful initially and later too.

On-campus jobs : You next look out for an hourly job if you dont have an assistantship yet. This is important to get a SSN. This can be done by looking on the internet www.asu.edu/hr and check out for the Jobs@ASU option and proceed to check the student jobs. A normal job should pay around \$ 8 minimum. It is best to apply for as many jobs as possible. For this you need to prepare a good resume which highlights the skills the job requires(this varies with the job you apply to, and you genuinely need not have those qualifications, but make a mention of that in your resume. Make a common resume and then modify as need be). Also have a strong cover letter. A few jobs need you to apply online and a few more in person. The places where there is a requirement for jobs usually include Library, Math Tutoring Center(lots of grader, tutor and instructional aide positions, and the positions usually come up before or in the first week of classes), Memorial Union(lots of Event assistants positions), Campus Dining(also at Memorial Union for the cafeteria, usually cashier positions), Disability Resources center, College of Nursing, Bio-Design Institute, grader positions(for undergrad courses) in your respective depart-

ments, ASU bookstore etc. Meanwhile look out for assistantship positions as well within your department as well as in other departments. Build good contacts for that. An assistantship is a highly unpredictable affair.

HR work and obtaining SSN : After you get a job, you need to have a few formalities completed at the University Services Building where the HR department is located. You need to fill out a few forms and give a few copies of your documents. You might need to make 2 trips to this place to ensure that the work is completed. Once you complete these formalities, it is legal for ASU to hire you. You then ask for an offer letter from your employer and present the same at the ISO to get an SSN letter. You present this SSN letter(with a few other documents) to the SSN office which is in Mesa and the ISO gives you the directions to go there. It is best to go there as a group and in the middle of the week. After you get your SSN, you can apply for a credit card at the AZSTCU. Use this for all your purchases and build a good credit history(which is very important).

You are free to ask me for help at anytime. My email address is lakshminarayan.r@gmail.com. Have a great time at ASU! Good luck!

Things to purchase for your apartment initially This is mostly if you are moving into a vacant apartment, and all of you being new admits.

Paper towels
Bathroom tissues
Paper tissues
Cloth cleaning detergent(like Tide)
Fabric Softener(to put into the clothes dryer)
Dish-washing liquid
Dish-washing brush
Shower curtains
Bathroom cleaning liquid
Brushes to clean the bathroom and stuff
Trash can(1 large one and a few small ones)
Trash Bags(to fit in the trash can)
Fit sheets(to put on your mattress)
Shoe rack
Vessel/Utensil Stand
Cutlery set with bowls and mugs included(get a microwaveable one)
Tube-light holder and tubes and some screws to hang the same
Floor-mat(for the entrance, kitchen and the bathrooms)
Wet-mop and broom for the kitchen(usually tiled, and all other rooms are carpeted)
Electric Iron
Hangers
Microwaveable cookware
Microwave(if your apartment doesnt have one)
Toaster
Rice cooker(Black and Decker is a good one)
Vacuum cleaner to clean the carpet(need not be bought initially)

Most things can be bought at Walmart and a few things that need to be bought in bulk like Paper towels, bathroom tissues etc. at Costco. Quite a few things can be bought at the Dollar store for pretty cheap. This list is not exhaustive, I might have missed out a few things. Apart from this you might need groceries to start upon. The best place and the nearest place to buy groceries is Food city. India Plaza is a good place to buy Indian items that you need for cooking.

Initial Groceries

Sugar

Milk(comes usually in 1 gallon cans, buy the 2% reduced fat milk, blue lid one, or red lid one(Vitamin-D milk))

Salt

Bread(White/Wheat)

Juice(get plenty of them)

Coffee powder(Folgers)

Vegetables such as potato, tomato, onions, cabbage, beans, etc.

Fruits such as Banana(definitely) and others

Cheese

Jam(Do not buy preserves)

Tortillas(Chapathi kind of things, usually rolled, only thing is that you need to cook them on a pan) - Wheat ones/Flour ones

Yogurt(plain and flavored)

Cornflakes and Cereals etc.

Canned Vegetables

Frozen Vegetables

Rice(Sona masoori available) and Toor Dal(and other dals) at India Plaza