

COLLEGE of CHARLESTON

iCHARLESTON

THINGS TO DO BEFORE PRE-DEPARTURE ORIENTATION at JFK HILTON

1. Immigration Letter
 - a. London – print this off by logging into your FIE Student Portal and clicking on “Attached Documents”
 - b. Dublin – your letter will be given to you at Pre-Departure Orientation by a CofC staff member
 - c. Rome – your visa should be in your Passport prior to departure
2. Check your Passport – make 2 copies: one for yourself and one to leave at your family’s house
3. Plan for Pre-Departure Orientation – dates, times, and locations are on the ichs.cofc.edu website
4. Research your soon to be new academic home. What can you do on-campus? What resources are available? What is the surrounding location look like?
5. Talk about your semester budget and spending allocation while abroad. How will you access your funds?
6. Learn to cook a few simple meals and practice your laundry skills!
7. Start thinking about what you might bring – **remember: 1 checked bag; 1 carry on; 1 backpack ONLY**
 - a. Charleston journal and “Rising Out of Hatred” for Passport to CofC experience
 - b. Prescriptions for entire semester
 - c. Contact lens stuff
 - d. Photos, reminders from home
 - e. Bring an umbrella and rain jacket
 - f. Site appropriate clothing
 - i. **PRO TIP:** check the weather for the fall semester at your location! Don’t be that person who packs 12 pairs of shorts for Dublin only to realize the September high is 56 F!
 - g. Converter for Dublin/London/Rome
 - i. **PRO TIP:** get one with multiple USB ports so you can charge multiple devices at the same time!
8. Things not to bring
 - a. Do not bring electric appliances like hair dryers, electric shavers, straighteners, etc. - they will burn out! You can purchase these inexpensively once you arrive.
 - b. Do not bring COSTCO size shampoo and conditioner...pack a travel kit to get you through the first few days and buy product in your new city! Near your residence will be a variety of stores that will have these kind of things (and you can get your school supplies there as well!)
 - c. Do not bring bedding or towels (duvet and pillows are provided at all sites)
 - i. London DOES provide sheets...you will need to buy a towel upon arrival (about \$10USD)
 - ii. Dublin DOES NOT provide sheets or towels...you will need to buy upon arrival (about \$25USD)
 - iii. Rome DOES provide sheets, towels...no need to pack or purchase
9. Make a “Bucket List” of things you want to do in your new city and during the fall semester!
Prepare to be a rock star among your friends...it happens every fall in iCharleston...your friends become quite jealous of your FaceBook/Instagram/Snapchat posts of all the things you are doing during your academic abroad program!