



Congratulations and welcome to Kellogg! We could not be more excited to welcome you to the Kellogg South Asia Club community. This guide is meant to help ease your transition to Kellogg and Evanston life. We hope you find it useful as you embark on this incredible journey.

Disclaimer: We have endeavoured to make this guide as per the latest information we know, but we recommend you conduct your own thorough research as well.

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1. Shopping - US vs. India debate

A global move can be scary, and you may be tempted to bring along as much of India as you can but rest assured: you really can get everything you need down here. Here are our recommendations on what to purchase in the US vs. India:

✓ - AKA probably better off buying here

1. Winter wear: We highly recommend not purchasing winter clothing from India. Carry a light jacket for the flight/ if you get cold in 20 degrees C but plan to do heavy shopping here (see Winter section for in-depth coverage).

2. Spices & Indian food: There are plenty of sources here, so even if you choose to not bring anything you should be fine

- Patel Bros. on Devon Avenue (<https://goo.gl/maps/xgJqNMoZuiN4jok79>)
- Quicklly (standalone website or through Instacart) (<https://www.quicklly.com/>)
- ShopNow (for any emergency grocery needs) (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/9QeiwjHDxcoDq8K47>)

X - AKA probably better off buying from India

1. Regular (non-winter) clothing: Formal wear (especially custom stitched ones) are much cheaper in India. At a comparable price you are more likely to find higher quality items in India.

- US options: Express, American Eagle, Zara, H&M, Lulu's

2. Costumes: Kellogg takes costumes seriously, especially on KWEST so investing in a onesie or two may not be a bad idea. Also, you can always borrow/share from classmates. Being resourceful and mix-n-matching is highly encouraged.

- Common themes: All white, animal onesies, Hawaii/floral, beachwear, neon night, throwback – 70s/80s/90s

- Sources: Amazon, Kellogg Marketplace (on slack and facebook)

(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1151334824917062/>)

- Side note: traditional wear for Diwali and/or Bollywood Bash is highly encouraged!

3. Specialized/professional cooks: Super-niche spices and special cooking equipment e.g. a pressure cooker if you'd like **but** there are substitutes

- An [Instant Pot](#) works well for pressure cooking
- A [NutriBullet](#) works great for grinding spices and making smoothies
- 10/10 recommend a [vegetable chopper](#) if you plan on regular cooking

A good idea is to check on the Amazon US website to see the comparison between buying and bringing a specialized equipment. If you are able to wait, you may snag some deals from the graduating MBAi class in December.

2. Immigration and Documents

2.1 Before Travel

1. Carry your **I-20** with you in cabin baggage (not check in luggage). Your visa is incomplete without it. It is as important as your passport – Cannot stress this enough.
2. Your first entry is a critical one. Make a document packet including your passport, I-20, Kellogg admission letter, financial proofs, SEVIS, etc. in your cabin bag as well. Some people get asked and some don't (50-50) but no harm in being prepared
3. Make a Dropbox/Google drive with scanned copies of all documents in Point 2 as a backup. Make sure you make it available for offline access.

2.2 Upon Arrival

1. Check your I-94 (<https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/#/home>) to confirm if it has you on an F-1 status and the correct date of entry
2. Get a **Wildcard**- this is your Northwestern Student ID. You need a wildcard to access printers, swipe into meeting rooms at the Hub and get student discounts at many local restaurants. Wildcards can be made at the Norris Center. Find more information here <https://www.northwestern.edu/wildcard/>

Check out the OISS website for more information:

<https://www.northwestern.edu/international/>

3. Day to Day Life

3.1 Banking

Try to get a new bank account set up before KWEST because debit/credit cards usually take 7 – 10 days to arrive anyway. The closest banks are Citi and Chase. Between the two, international students without an SSN (social security number) usually prefer Citibank over Chase because they allow you to get a student credit cards without an SSN. The typical monthly credit limit is \$1,000. You can book an appointment in advance if you'd like. A Discover card is an additional option for you to consider if \$1000 seems too low.

Documents you would need to open a new account:

- Proof of residence
- Passport with visa
- Wildcard
- Sometimes they also require an Indian debit/credit card (Visa/MasterCard ideally)
- There may be other documents, best to check with other students who may have done the process recently

If you have an American Express, you can try to check if they will be willing to give you a card here based on your credit history in India.

Additionally, there are other cards that are offered in India (E.g., Zolve). Best to check with your classmates/seniors on their experience.

A side note on finances: Setting up a new place is expensive and hectic. In your first couple of weeks you'll be buying a bunch of random things (pillows, Tide, plates) and eating out a lot (section events, KWEST meetups, etc.). Budget roughly \$1,000 to \$1,500 for this based on your spending patterns.

3.2 Mobile connection

Common providers are Verizon, AT&T, Spring, and T-Mobile. Expect to pay about \$30-\$60 based on your data and minute requirements. As a heads up, data is more expensive than international calling but given that campus & apartments have great Wi-Fi, it may not be necessary to get a large data plan. One way to reduce costs is to get into groups of 4-5 people and take up a family plan. Another way is to opt for low-end providers such as Mint, GoogleFi etc.

3.3 Setting up House

Regarding renting a place, you can utilize various websites like VeryApt, Zillow etc. Additionally, be sure to keep an eye out for the lease takeover sheet which usually has great deals on the furniture packs in addition to housing. Popular buildings include E2, Centrum/The Scholar Apartments, Park Evanston, Optima Horizons, McManus, Albion, Optima Views etc. For some buildings, there is a centralized building management (e.g. E2, Scholar) whereas for others it is a

condominium association and you'll have to deal with the landlord directly (e.g., Optima Horizons).

Different buildings have different vibes (e.g. % Kellogg population, common amenities etc.), so best to speak to people to understand if that vibe is for you. You can also check out the various amenities present in different buildings here <https://www.veryapt.com/Apartments-L727-chicago-evanston>

If you like planning in advance, check with your apartment about pre-ordering items in the week before you arrive. Many apartments will offer to store bulky products for a week-ish so you can hit the ground running when you get here and minimize in-person movement of heavy/big goods.

You can find most items either through the Kellogg Slack Marketplace, Target, Ikea, Walmart

3.4 Groceries

Day to day shopping (for non-Indian ingredients) is typically done at a handful of stores.

- Whole Foods: Great variety, top notch quality but slightly on the pricey end. Carries a lot of own brand products but has a lot of fresh produce. Be sure to scan your Amazon Prime in-store code!
- Target: Anything packaged including milk/ eggs/ etc. are cheaper here than WF. Fresh produce is also available, though it has lesser variety. Target also carries a wider range of home and personal care products than WF.
- Trader Joes: Slightly far from conventional residences but great (best?) fresh and packaged food at reasonable prices. Known for their meal kits, trademark "TJ-only" snacks and ready to eat meals.
- Jewel Osco: Again, slightly far away but good quality and affordable groceries
- Instacart: If you are OK with paying for delivery + tip check out Instacart which offers doorstep delivery from local chains including Mariano's (and also Quicklly). You can potentially split the subscription with your flatmate/neighbours in the same building

3.5 Restaurant Recommendations

Devon has quite a few Indian restaurants. Hit up your seniors in the group chat/or Kellogg's food slack channels (Eatz, Asian Food Squad etc.) to get more recommendations in and around Chicago!

Also, free food is best food. So don't forget #FoodandLeftovers.

3.6 Chicago Life

Transportation:

- Uber/Lyft
- Metra – an absolute personal favourite

- Purple/Red Line
- Check the intercampus shuttle if you are heading to the River North area and don't mind walking a bit
- Chicago CTA/Pace Buses

To access the buses, the train line and the Metra – download the Ventra app and top-up your balance as required

Things to do:

Chicago has one of the most stunning skylines in the world so take a river cruise if the weather is warm enough or wait for the summers. The city also has a bunch of great museums and an amazing planetarium. If you like walking add the Chicago Zoo, Navy Pier, Millennium Park to the list. If you like shopping/window-shopping check out The Magnificent Mile road. The architecture boat tour is highly recommended!

Fall Activities

- Thanksgiving parade
- Millennium Parks Lights Festival
- Christmas tree lighting
- Fireworks at Navy Pier (specific days of the week)

Winter activities

- Ice Skating at Millennium park
- Christmas Market
- The Nutcracker (Joffrey Ballet)
- Chicago Symphony Orchestra (also check out the concerts at the NU music school)
- Christmas pubs
- Chicago Restaurant Week (Jan – Feb) <https://www.choosechicago.com/chicago-restaurant-week/>
- Chicago Theatre Week (February) <https://www.choosechicago.com/chicago-theatre-week/>
- Lincoln Zoo lights

Spring Activities

- St. Patrick's Day Parade and the dyeing the river green
- Botanical Gardens

Summer Activities

- Lollapalooza and other music festivals
- Six Flags amusement park
- Air and Water show

Find more details here: <https://www.choosechicago.com/explore/chicago-year-round/>

Additionally, several instagram pages (secret chicago, explore chicago etc) have interesting ideas for activities and share free days for museums/zoos/art institute etc.

3.7 Tech Note – relevant websites for day to day

The following websites are the most used, so bookmarking them will be helpful! For technical support, reach out to <https://kiskellogg.service-now.com/sp> and check this [Getting Started](#) guide

- Canvas (Students): Access class announcements/ assignments/ readings/ grades will be easily accessible through your phone
- Outlook: Most critical for day-to-day organization. Everything at Kellogg is pushed to your Outlook calendars. Be sure to sync your canvas calendar to outlook so as to not miss anything!
- SERIAL – <https://www.kellogg.northwestern.edu/serial.aspx>. It is a dashboard for all critical websites you'll need.
- CampusGroups: This is where you register for non-class events including all student group/ club events and CMC workshops.
- Zoom: Haha. Also, be sure to sign in through SSO, and choose northwestern as the domain name and then sign in via your credentials.
- Venmo: Make and receive payments (You can set this up after you set up a bank account)
- Slack: Slack is used by everyone at Kellogg (including the CMC, Academic Advising etc.) for all communication, group work and events. Once you get the invite to join Slack, follow the steps and download the app (desktop apps are also available for your Mac/PC). A pro-tip is to organize your channels in different sections (recruiting, section, Kellogg notifications, events etc.) so that you don't feel overwhelmed. Please don't forget to follow the Slack etiquette as outlined in the guide that will be shared by Kellogg Admin.
- Some relevant and not so relevant channels:
 - #general **Pro tip: Do not post in #general unless it is something 3,000 people need to know. Seriously.**
 - #tickets – if you want to buy or sell tickets, this is the place to post about it
 - #marketplace – to buy and sell anything other than tickets
 - #transportation – in case you would like to share transportation to an event, but mostly to and from ORD
 - #ksac– voted the best club at Kellogg, many years in a row.
 - #singlesatkellogg – if you're single, and want to make it known, join this channel.
 - #hottakes – our very own Koffee with Karan (or at least a wannabe)
 - #buy-nothing – someone's spring clean up could be your treasure
 - Your building's slack channel

Buying a new laptop: If you are considering buying a new laptop please do so in the US because (A) taxes are lower and (B) you can utilize student discounts either directly through the retailer (e.g. Best Buy) or through [Northwestern Partnerships](#) [Check discounts here](#)

3.8 Free Stuff and discounts

- Cloud Storage: Box

Free unlimited cloud storage for northwestern students during your time at Kellogg.

<https://northwestern.account.box.com/>

- Media subscriptions

Popular free subscriptions with a Kellogg login include WSJ, Financial Times, Gartner, etc.

https://library.kellogg.northwestern.edu/az.php?_ga=2.201912849.1271416566.1592085360-653770327.1585879221

- Software

A bunch of software including Windows, Office, and Adobe creative suite are available free for students. (Hardware covered under Tech section above)

<https://www.it.northwestern.edu/software/secure/index.html>

- Printing & Computer rooms

All computer room access and printing at the Global Hub and McManus is free. Both locations also offer study rooms.

- Inspiring Grounds (Kellogg coffee shop)

Carry your own mug/flask for a discount on daily coffee refills

- Local restaurants

Student discounts are popular especially at restaurants with the “Wildcat” logo.

- Non-school but great for life

<https://www.spotify.com/us/student/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Amazon-Student/b?ie=UTF8&node=668781011>

- LinkedIn Premium for 6 months (with Amazon student, if applicable – may have been discontinued)

4. Winter Clothes

Welcome to the Midwest! It is a wonderful place full of nice people, great rooftop bars, and impressive amounts of cheese. Unfortunately, it's also full of winter. As you ease into school, you'll also need to ease into warmer clothes and boots. Below you'll find a quick primer on how to prepare for a Midwestern winter. (And, DON'T PANIC.)

WHEN IS WINTER?

For a Southerner, Winter is approximately from the end of November until mid-April. Northerners may disagree (they may say December – February) but this document is about the real real.

THEY KEEP SAYING LAYERS ARE IMPORTANT.

Yeah, layers are extremely important. From about October to December, layers are the name of the game. Layers will help you vary your warmth levels from morning to evening as the temperature changes. From January onwards, you are going to need heavier jackets.

WHAT IS DOWN AND HOW MUCH DO YOU NEED?

Traditionally down is the soft under-feathers from a duck or goose. Layers of down create air pockets that insulate and trap heat. You can find down alternatives as well for lower prices. Here's a primer on down and alternatives. It's hard to pinpoint how much you need – the higher the number (it goes from 450-900) the better the insulation will be. Personal experience says 500-600 will do in Chicago winters.

WHEN TO BUY

- Come to Evanston with a couple of light jacket or sweater
- Outlet malls: There are outlet malls about an hour or so away. Plan a day trip
 - <https://www.premiumoutlets.com/outlet/chicago> (Aurora, IL)
 - <https://www.premiumoutlets.com/outlet/pleasant-prairie> (Wisconsin)
- Other malls: Old Orchard mall (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/sacedsusEa9fYwY98>)
- Online: Uniqlo and Costco great heat-tech year round
- Sales to look out for:
 - Labor Day (beginning of September)
 - Black Friday (after Thanksgiving) – This is really late so use as an absolute final deadline or to pick up any last minute/ “must have” items. However, Black Friday sales for some brands may start 1-2 weeks early so keep an eye out !

WHAT YOU NEED IN YOUR CLOSET

Note: Everyone's price point is different, so the brands listed below offer a variety of options with good quality

1. Outer Layers:

- Heat tech (2-3 pairs) and Cardigans i.e. 1-2 light jackets that you can layer
- Brands: Burlington Coat Factory, Macy's, JC Penny, JCrew

2. Appendages:

- Wool socks (3-5 pairs minimum, recommend Merino wool) - can buy online
- Scarves (wool) that are fairly long (to wrap around) and thick to keep out the wind (1-2) - can buy online
- Beanie (1-2) with a tight knit to truly keep your head warm - can buy online
- Gloves (recommend the kind that allow you to open your phone) - can buy online
- Face covering: you may consider a scarf or neck gaiters to protect yourself from the chilly winds

3. Medium jacket: for 15-30 degree F days (from -9 to 0 C)

- Length should be waist or thigh length
- Material - Down or down alternate
- Pockets deep enough for hands
- Weighted hood (with fur or faux fur) helps keep the hood on during windy walks
- Water-resistant (super important when it's snowing)
- Brands: Patagonia, Columbia, Mackage, Lululemon, Eddie Bauer, Calvin Klein, any designer brand really!

4. Heavy Jacket: for negative to 15 degree F days (below -9 degrees C)

- Length should be knee length or lower
- Material - Down or down alternate
- Pockets deep enough for hands
- Weighted hood (with fur or faux fur) helps keep the hood on during windy walks
- Brands: Columbia, North Face, Canada Goose, Arc'terxy, Moose Knuckles, Pajar, Moncler

Note on heavy jacket: Consider investing in a slightly "formal-esque" jacket to be interview-appropriate.

5. Snow boots:

- Water resistant
- Strong traction on bottom for anti-slippage
- Recommend light-color boots - otherwise salt shows up on the dark colors
- Most shoes have a degree rating – recommend -35
- Brands: Columbia, Sorel, La Canadienne, Aquatalia, Ugg, Eddie Bauer, LL Bean, Pajar, Sperry

Note on snow boots: Consider buying two pairs (one more “industrial”/rugged and one more formal). This will help you during recruiting season when you want to look very put-together

5. Miscellaneous

5.1 Health and Immunizations

Your Kellogg admit checklist would have a list of immunizations to be completed. Please make sure you read those in time because some vaccinations would require multiple doses that need to be spread out over time.

<https://www.northwestern.edu/healthservice-evanston/new-students/immunization-requirements/>

Additionally, since you would be required to enroll in the student health insurance plan, please be sure to download MyNM app to book any appointments. US healthcare system is unlike India's – so keep an eye out for any information session to familiarize yourself with it.

5.2 Helpful Links

On most pages you can find contact emails if you have further questions

Financial Aid: <https://www.kellogg.northwestern.edu/admissions/financial-aid.aspx>

- Budget Worksheets:
<https://www.kellogg.northwestern.edu/admissions/financial-aid/budget-worksheets.aspx>
- Billing dates: <https://www.kellogg.northwestern.edu/admissions/financial-aid/billing-info-important-dates.aspx>
- Financial Aid Handbook:
<https://www.kellogg.northwestern.edu/admissions/financial-aid/handbook.aspx>

Mental Health Support: <https://www.northwestern.edu/counseling/>

Northwestern Ventra Card: <https://www.northwestern.edu/transportation-parking/shuttles/routes/cta-201.html>

OISS Website: <https://www.northwestern.edu/international/> **(Highly recommended to read through !!)**

OISS Portal: <https://oissportal.northwestern.edu/>

5.3 ACE and Culture Camp

Be sure to keep an eye out on the admitted students slack to register for these opportunities that will allow you to immerse yourself in the Kellogg experience along with other international and domestic students. Currently ACE is not available for summer start programs (so only available to 2Y and MBAi).

ACE: <https://www.kellogg.northwestern.edu/the-experience/global-opportunities/resources-for-international-students.aspx>

Culture Camp: <https://www.kellogg.northwestern.edu/news/blog/2022/09/30/culture-camp-2022.aspx>