

Hi all,

Here is the list of few things which I felt important and needed to be taken. However this list is not complete enough. Few things can be added or deleted based on your needs and comfort.

What should we bring from INDIA?

- Medicines are pretty costly there. Do get some medicines from home, especially if you have some known problem. Get proper prescription for any 'special' medicines you bring along. It's very important as we might be asked at the airport and plus try and get a small note as to what medicine to take for which illness. Medicines will go in check-in luggage.
- While packing stuff below bags can be over-weight. I am sending a parcel to my address at the cost of avg. 500 Rs. per kg from Mumbai. So do not panic if you are not able to get all stuff!! Do inquire at your nearest location if needed.
- The utensils mentioned below can be split within a house. Everyone need not carry everything.
- Many of the things are priced the same as you get in India, I will try mentioning the price in USD here as well, so that you have a better view.
- All International students visit Big supermarkets during the first week, hence you will be fully equipped soon!!
- Students usually laundry once a week
- It'll be burning hot when you arrive here in August. Do not bring any winter clothes from there. You will get 2 months of time to buy winter clothes here on sale!
- Please bring small bottles of shampoos, moisturizers, creams, lotions, etc. All major brands are readily available here in every grocery store. This will save a lot of weight and space!

Item	Quantity Recommended	USD Prices	Comments
A CLOTHES			
Formal Shirts	3+	Same as India	
Formal Trousers	2	Same as India	Girls may decide their formals quantity accordingly
Formal Suit	1 +		Highly Recommended (Difficult to get tailor made in USA)
Tie	2 to 3		Buy from INDIA
T-shirts / Casual shirts	6 to 7		You will eventually buy Duke merchandises 😊

Jeans	2 to 3	30\$+ (branded)	
Shorts / Cargo / Bermuda	4	Same as India(20\$+)	Some/All can be bought from US
Belts	2		Brown/Black
Traditional	1+		Highly Recommended (Holi,Diwali, navratri, etc)
Sweater	1+		A simple sweater you may already be having which will be just a back up
Pajamas / Night Suit	2 to 3		
Towels	1 to 2	\$3+	I have taken thin ones as they dry up easily in cold weather too
Handkerchiefs	5+	Cheap	Tissues are provided everywhere in US, so handkerchiefs are not used much in a day
Blanket (Light Weight)	1	1 – Simple Indian thin pullover	For winter we would need to purchase one in US as Indian ones don't work well in extreme winter. We get better ones in US which can do good in their winters
Single Bed Sheet	1	-	You will buy one in US as the bed sizes are pretty different here(twin, full, queen, king)
Pillow Cover	-	-	Buy in US
Woolen Gloves	-		Purchase from US, Indian ones won't work
Jacket	-	50-100\$	Will only require in Winter. Do not buy from India. They do not work
Thermal wear set	1+		Highly Recommended to buy from India
Caps	-		I personally don't need one (Optional)

B FOOTWEAR			
Chappals / Sandals	1		1 - Traditional Footwear
Slippers/ House wears	1+		
Formal Black Leather Shoes	1		
Casual Sport Shoes	1+		If you have to buy new, purchase from US
Liquid Shoe Polish	1		
Socks (black for formal Shoes)	2+		
Socks (Casual)	-	\$5- for 6 pairs	Cheaply Available USA
C MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS			
Charge-Converter	1+	-	Highly Recommended
Glasses / Contact Lenses	3	\$100+	Absolute Must (Optics very expensive USA)
Contact Lenses Solution	Check for yourself		
Stitching Kit	1		
Camera	Optional		
Wallet	1		
Hangers	10+		Don't bring. Cheaply available in Dollar Stores
D TOILETRIES			
Shaving Blades / Cartridges	12	Expensive here	Depends on type of one you use
Razor	1	-	
Shaving Cream	1		
Shaving Brush	1	-	
After Shave Lotion	1		
Trimming Scissors	1		
Tooth Brush	2	\$1.5 most basic	
Tooth Paste	1	\$3+ (big tube)	
Comb	2+		
Hair Oil	2	-	You won't get one there and in Indian stores its pretty costly
Nail Cutter	1		Don't forget this. Lol
Talcum Powder	1		Optional
Shampoo	1	Cheap	Cheaply available
Bathing Soap	1	Cheap	Cheaply available

E COOKING HARDWARE**(BE SURE THAT ALL VESSELS ARE FLAT-BOTTOMED, B'COZ U HAVE ELECTRIC STOVES HERE)***(Nonstick cooking utensils preferable!)*

Pressure Cooker 3 Litres	1	Not available	Bigger the better. 2 per apartment is sufficient
Spare Dead Weight Valves	1		
Spare Safety Valves	1		
Spare Gaskets	1		
Chakla/Belan	1		
Frying Pan (Non-Stick)	1		Very good quality such as Nirlep/Anjali etc recommended
Spoons Small Size	3-4	Cheap	
Big Spoons / Spatula	2-3	Cheap	Bring wooden or plastic if your cooking vessels are non-stick
Steel Plates / Dishes	2-3		
Steel Glasses	2-3		
Pakkad / Tongs	1		Indian Store only
Kadhai	1		Bigger the better. 2 per apartment is sufficient
Utensils / Patelis	1		3 to 4 of different sizes per apartment is sufficient
Tea Filter	2-3		Do get more. They get spoilt over time
Tea Making Utensil	1	-	
Knife	2	Cheap	Good Quality (If u get, don't keep it in Cabin Baggage!!!)
Cutting Board	1		Do not bring. Readily available in US of better quality
Cooking Book	Personal choice	-	Your mother's recipes highly recommended ☺
Hand-Blender with mixer/crusher (110 W)	1		Costly in USA

F COOKING GROCERIES

You get EVERYTHING here in Patel Brothers stores, which is half an hour from Duke and Indians go there once a month. Feel free to cut down on quantity if space is an issue.

Pack all the stuff very nicely (double packed), so that the smell of Masala doesn't get in your clothes

Tea Powder	1		Optional. Indian Store will be costly if you convert to Rs.
Instant Coffee / Nescafe	1	Cheap in USA	
Turmeric Powder / Haldi	500 gms		Pack it perfect or will spoil clothes if opened up in travelling.
Mustard Seeds / Mouri/ Mohari	500 gms		Seal it in black coloured bags and black coloured packaging tape coz customs may remove it as they are seeds.
Red Chilly Powder	1 kg		
Garam Masala (Homemade) or any other as per your choice	500 gms		Even more if u come from North-India
Dhana Powder	500 gms	-	
Jeera Powder	500 gms		
Asofotida / Hing	1 small box	-	
Cholle Masala, Rajma masala, etc.	As per your requirement	\$1.5	
Dals	As per your requirement		Optional
Elaichi / Veldoda	100gm		
Clove / Lavang	100 gm Optional		
Papad			Optional
Achar/ Pickles			Do not bring. All pickles are available in Patel Brothers. They'll mess up your luggage if you bring.
Sugar / Rice / Salt	-	-	Please Dont bring these. Readily available in US
Rava / Suji	As per your requirement		This is very helpful in beginning

G STATIONARY			
School Bag	1	25\$+	A little expensive here but totally worth it. If you are purchasing new, buy in US
Ball Point Pen	2	2	For initial use. We get many many many free stuff here
Refils	As per your requirement		
Bonded/Clutch Pencils	As per your requirement		
Sharpner	As per your requirement		
Clutch Pencil (0.5 mm)	As per your requirement		
Lead Box (0.5 mm/ 0.7mm)	As per your requirement		Depends on your pencil mm
Steel Scale 6"/12"	As per your requirement		Optional, not reqd.
Stapler	As per your requirement		Dont Forget these
Stapler Pins	As per your requirement		
Punch	Do not bring. 3 holes punch is required there.		
Scientific Calculator	1		Replace or bring extra batteries without fail
Cello Tape	1	1	Optional
Glue Stick / Glue	1	1	Optional
Sketch Pen	Optional		
Note books / Papers	1 Notebook		For initial use. Later need to purchase three punch papers there
Files / Folders	Do not bring. (Three punch folders needed there)		
H BOOKS (APART FROM COURSE-WORK)			
Oxford Concise Dictionary	Optional		
Books about India			
Religious Books			

I MEDICINES (MUST BRING, Keep in check in luggage. Not prescription reqd. for these general medicines)			
Vicks	1		
Balm (Amrutanjan, etc)	1		
Iodex	1		
Dettol	1	-	
Band-Aid (wash proof)	10		
Iodine	1		Optional
Burnol	1		Important!
Painkiller tabs like Combiflam, Brufen.	20-30	They don't go waste	
Drugs and Antibiotics (for common fever & cold etc.) Crocin , Amoxycillin, Disprin .			
Moisturizer	1 small bottle for initial use	-	The best moisturizers are available in USA especially ones which help to fight back the winter dry weather their

Add all the specialized medicines that you take.

And, the things I missed ☺

J MISCELLANEOUS

Recent passport size photographs (Haven't used them yet, but have 5-10 of them with you)

K OTHER (NOT LIMITED TO THESE)

Firstly remember that you have to keep all your original documents with you at any cost...don't ever put them in Check in bag...keep them in Hand bag or Carry-on luggage.

1. Passport / Photocopies - leave a copy in each bag.
2. I-20 & VISA photocopies - leave a copy in each bag.
3. Medical Prescriptions for special medicines - leave a copy with the medicines in the bag.
4. International Driving License (I.D.P.) Optional
5. Enough Money Cash with some change...First heads-up...In US they say \$ bills and not notes...Cash is needed if any problems with customs and more important bring few change like in value of \$5, \$10 or \$20 coz when we wish to withdraw a card for our baggage we have to pay around \$5 depending on each airport. There is a guy on airport who provides you change on \$1 but he only takes \$5, \$10, \$20 bills.
6. Travelers Check or Travel card...anything will do but let me suggest on this that Travel Card costs a lot. For every transaction around \$2.50 is charged which ends up as a problem. So have enough cash with you so that you can refrain from using them regularly. You can bring up to \$10,000 cash with you without any customs problems.
7. Also remember, people may sometimes do not understand "non-veg". Here they say 'no meat'!