

# TRAVEL INFORMATION PACKAGE



# WELCOME LETTER



## DEAREST DELEGATES, ADVISORS, CHAPERONES, & PARENTS,

Welcome to **Pacific Model United Nations 2019**. My name is **Skyler Chan**, and it is my honour to serve as the **Under-Secretary-General of International Affairs of Pacific Model United Nations Seattle 2019 (PACMUN Seattle)**.

On behalf of my Secretariat team and the MUN Northwest Board of Directors, I would like to formally invite you to the sixth session of PACMUN, from **November 22 to November 24, 2019, at the Sheraton Seattle** in the heart of Downtown Seattle, Washington State.

PACMUN is a Model United Nations conference run entirely by local high school students, hosting over 700 students annually from across Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Canada, Mexico and beyond. Our three-day simulation of United Nations committees is the largest of its kind in Washington state, giving students the opportunity to learn about diplomacy, negotiation, and compromise. We foster growth and leadership within our community by encouraging students to think critically about the world around them.

This year, we are broadening our horizons to better serve not only our American delegates but our friends abroad as well. **No matter where you are from, rest assured that PACMUN Seattle will welcome you with open arms.**

**SINCERELY YOURS,**

**SKYLER CHAN**

**UNDER-SECRETARY GENERAL OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS | PACMUN 2019  
@PACIFICMUN.COM**

*Our conference fee covers all hotel costs, and for the first time in conference history, includes Friday nights. The additional rooms for delegations staying **Thursday night** can be requested through the Delegate Registration Form at <https://pacificmun.com/registration/>. The price of \$235 per room per night, irrespective of the number of occupants. Other extra rooming requests may be made by emailing [delegateaffairs@pacificmun.com](mailto:delegateaffairs@pacificmun.com).*



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# AMERICAN DELEGATIONS



Seattle is located at the heart of the largest metropolitan area in the Pacific Northwest, with 3.6 million people calling the area home. Located in the State of Washington, in the Pacific Northwest region of the United States, the city sits on Puget Sound, an inlet of the Pacific Ocean.

## SEASONAL WEATHER

Despite being the northernmost city of its size in the United States, **snow and below-freezing temperatures are extremely rare in late November**. Historical average temperatures for the conference dates are **50°F/38°F**. On November 22, sunrise will occur at 7:24 am and sunset at 4:26 pm in Seattle.

**Be prepared for a wet conference outside** the friendly confines of the Sheraton: November is typically Seattle's rainiest month. Unlike elsewhere in the country, Seattle's rain only occasionally come from storms; overcast skies blanket the region for days at a time in the winter, leaving only a light drizzle every other hour. It's not the rain itself but the constant overcast that gives Seattle its wet reputation.

**Pro tip: leave your umbrella at home; pack a rain jacket or coat instead.** Downtown Seattle, where PACMUN 2019 is located, is prone to strong gusts of wind coming off the Puget Sound. To locals, the wind and fleeting nature of the rain make it more trouble than it is worth to carry an umbrella around. There typically won't be a great place to store it in buildings either.

## TRANSPORTATION

The Sheraton Grand Seattle is located at 1400 6th Ave, Seattle, WA 98101. Friday check-in will begin at 2 pm 22 November 2019, and the conference program will be complete by 4:30 pm on Sunday, 24 November 2019.

In this section we will cover three topics: Seattle-area delegates (Snohomish, King, and Pierce counties) arriving in Seattle, getting around downtown, and out-of-area delegates travelling to Seattle.

# AMERICAN DELEGATIONS



## Local delegates:

Unlike in years past, PACMUN's three-day programme in 2019 means that delegates will have to arrive in Seattle Friday afternoon. **Traffic in Downtown Seattle is bad during weekdays, and driving to the Sheraton is highly discouraged. PACMUN strongly encourages local delegates to travel to the conference via public transportation, or carpools when transit is not available.**

Private parking is offered on-site at the Sheraton for \$57/night. Other private garages are also available in the area.

Public transportation options include: King County Metro, Sound Transit Express Bus, and Link Light Rail. The Sheraton is conveniently located two blocks away from Westlake Center, where Link Light Rail and Sound Transit buses all stop. From Westlake, walk along Pine St to 6th Ave and turn right. The Sheraton will be on your left after 1.5 blocks. For trip-planning information in the Puget Sound region, please visit <https://tripplanner.kingcounty.gov/>.

## GETTING AROUND

PACMUN's location in the heart of Downtown Seattle is easily walkable. There are hundreds of dining options within 10 minutes of the Sheraton, assuring that your delegation will be able to satiate their palates no matter what. Walking in Seattle is generally easy, but do be advised that certain streets downtown have slopes of up to 19% (<https://www.seattlebikeblog.com/2013/01/17/the-steepest-streets-in-seattle/>).

## GETTING HERE

Seattle is served by a major airport, the Interstate Highway System, Amtrak, Washington State Ferries, and intercity bus services. Please be aware that PACMUN 2019 will be held the weekend before Thanksgiving; while PACMUN 2019 is early enough to avoid peak travel delays, please factor in additional time to complete your journey.

# AMERICAN DELEGATIONS

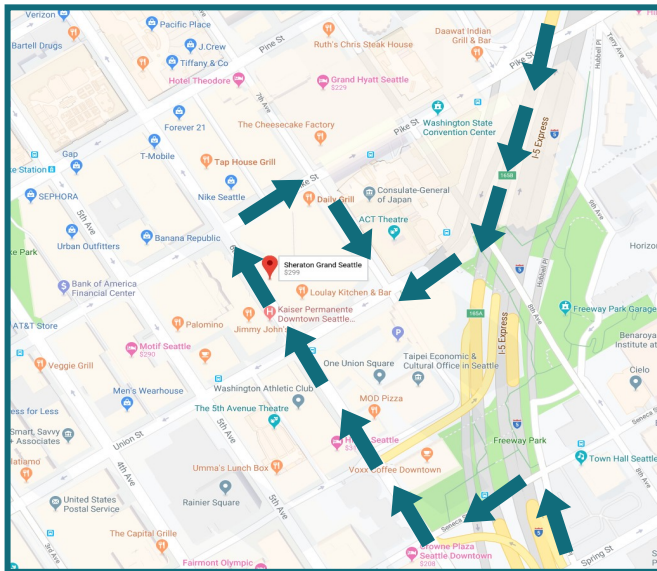


**By Air:** Seattle is served by **Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA)**, located 14 miles south of Downtown Seattle. Hometown carrier Alaska Airlines has its main hub at the airport, as does Delta Air Lines. All major US airlines serve the airport as well – the airport’s North American route map can be found here: <https://www.portseattle.org/sites/default/files/2019-04/North%20American%20Map%202019.pdf>

It is easy to reach the Sheraton Grand Seattle from Sea-Tac Airport. Ride Link Light Rail for 40 minutes to **Westlake Station**, then walk along Pine St to 6th Ave and turn right. The Sheraton will be on your left after 1.5 blocks. All Link stations are ADA accessible.

**Paine Field (PAE)** is a recently-opened secondary airport serving Seattle’s northern suburbs. As it is located 25 miles north of Seattle with few ground transportation options, it is not advised for your delegation to travel through Paine Field.

**By Road:** Two major interstate highways serve Seattle: I-5 and I-90. All routes listed below are toll-free.



*If travelling from points south of Seattle:* Head north on I-5 towards Seattle. Take Exit 165 (on the left) for Seneca St. Turn right at the traffic light onto 6th Ave; the Sheraton will be on the third block on the right.

*If travelling from points north of Seattle:* Head south on I-5 towards Seattle. Take Exit 165B for Union St on the right. Turn right onto 6th Ave; the Sheraton will be on the right.

*If travelling from points east of Seattle:* head west on I-90 towards Seattle. Take Exit 2C for I-5 North towards Vancouver, BC. Follow signs for the unnumbered Madison St/Convention Pl exit on the right, and exit I-5. Continue straight on 7th Ave. Turn left on Seneca St. Turn right on 6th Ave; the Sheraton will be on the third block on the right.

# AMERICAN DELEGATIONS



**If your delegation is travelling via charter bus:** the Sheraton Grand Seattle has a bus staging area on Union St between 7th Ave and 6th Ave that PACMUN delegations are welcome to use Friday. Delegation buses will be asked to use the Sheraton's main entrance on 6th Ave for Sunday departures, as the bus staging area will be occupied.

**Friday arrival instructions:** For delegations arriving from points north (blue arrow), the staging area (yellow highlight) is on the right hand side of Union St past the very first intersection off the freeway. For delegations arriving from points south (red arrow) and points east (orange arrow), stay on 6th Ave past Union St. Turn right on Pike St. Turn right on 7th Ave. Turn right again on Union St and the staging area will be on the right. Private parking is offered on-site at the Sheraton for \$57/night. Other private garages are also available in the area. The Sheraton does not have bus parking.

**Travel advisories:** While snow is rare in Seattle in November, attendees travelling via road from east of the Cascades should beware of adverse winter conditions crossing the passes. I-90 crosses the Cascades via Snoqualmie Pass around 50 miles east of Seattle. Pass closures due to collisions are not uncommon in late November and snowfall can become heavy, so please plan accordingly.

**For important information about winter driving in Washington, please visit <https://www.wsdot.com/winter/default.htm>.**

## **\By Train:**

Three Amtrak Services stop at King Street Station:

**- Amtrak Cascades - Eugene, OR to Vancouver, BC.** Two trains a day from Vancouver / points north and four trains a day from Portland and points south

**- Coast Starlight - Los Angeles, CA to Seattle, WA.** One train a day from Los Angeles. Two-day journey with stops along the Willamette Valley in Oregon.

**- Empire Builder - Chicago, IL to Seattle, WA.** One train a day from Chicago. Stops in Sandpoint, ID and Spokane, Ephrata, Wenatchee and Leavenworth Eastern Washington.



# AMERICAN DELEGATIONS



From King Street Station, most public buses running north on 3rd/4th Ave will take you to the Sheraton in 3-4 stops. Alight at Pine, Pike, or Union streets and walk to 6th Ave & Pike, where the Sheraton is located. Alternatively, Link Light Rail's International District/Chinatown Station is a 5-minute walk away from King Street Station, with frequent service to Westlake Station. Once there, walk along Pine St to 6th Ave and turn right.

The Sheraton will be on your left after 1.5 blocks.

The hotel is 1.2 miles away from King Street Station by foot.

## **By Ferry:**

The Puget Sound is served by Washington State Ferries, the largest ferry system in the United States. Car ferries from Bainbridge Island and Bremerton as well as non-WSF passenger-only routes from Vashon Island and West Seattle dock at Colman Dock. It is a 20-minute walk from Colman Dock to the Sheraton with moderate uphill climb.

Delegates travelling from Vancouver Island have the option of taking the Victoria Clipper, a fast, passenger-only ferry. The Clipper docks at Pier 69, a 30-minute walk from the Sheraton.

To take public transportation to the Sheraton from either dock, walk uphill to 3rd Ave and take any bus (northbound buses from Colman Dock, southbound buses from Pier 69). Alight at Pine, Pike, or Union streets and walk to 6th Ave & Pike, where the Sheraton is located.

## **By intercity bus (not charters):**

**Amtrak Thruway** coaches arrive in Seattle at King Street Station, with connections from Vancouver, BC. Please see the "By train" section above for more information about getting to the Sheraton.

The **Dungeness Line** connects the Olympic Peninsula to Seattle. Coaches arrive in Seattle at King Street Station. Please see the "By train" section above for more information about getting to the Sheraton.





# AMERICAN DELEGATIONS



**BoltBus** runs services to Seattle from Eugene, Albany, Portland, Tacoma, Everett, Bellingham, and Vancouver, BC. Services arrive at 5th Avenue South and Dearborn St, two blocks south of the International District/Chinatown Link Station.

To get to the Sheraton, ride Link Light Rail to Westlake Station. Walk along Pine St to 6th Ave and turn right. The Sheraton will be on your left after 1.5 blocks.

Direct **Greyhound** buses run to Seattle from Kelso, Centralia, Olympia, Tacoma, Spokane, Moses Lake, Ellensburg, Bellingham, Mount Vernon, and Everett; connections can be made throughout the network. Buses arrive at the Greyhound depot at 503 S Royal Brougham Way. To get to the Sheraton, ride Link Light Rail from Stadium Station to Westlake Station. Walk along Pine St to 6th Ave and turn right. The Sheraton will be on your left after 1.5 blocks.



## TRAVEL INFORMATION

*As of August 14, 2019, according to the Government of Canada, procedural changes have been made to entry and exit of Canadian citizens to the United States of America. The following information is an outline of the data presented in this update.*

### HOW DO I GET TO SEATTLE?

The most popular method of transportation is the train. Often, delegates enjoy the train ride from the Pacific Rail Station in Vancouver, British Columbia, to King Street Station in Seattle, Washington State. Once you arrive in Seattle via train, **the hotel is around 10-minute ride by car or bus.** However, carpooling to Seattle is another popular option among delegations.

For delegations hailing out of the Lower Mainland in British Columbia, **air and sea travel are viable** options as well. Flights from Vancouver International Airport (YVR) to Seattle (SEA) are a short 1-hour ride, and flights from Toronto Pearson International Airport (YYZ) to Seattle (SEA) are around 5 hours.

#### **Suggested Links:**

<https://www.tripsavvy.com/ways-to-get-from-seattle-to-vancouver-ranked-3573490>

<https://www.wanderu.com/en-ca/train/us-wa/seattle/ca-bc/vancouver/>

<https://traveltips.usatoday.com/travel-between-vancouver-bc-seattle-washington-33042.html>

### DO I NEED A VISA?

Canadian citizens generally do not require a visa to enter the United States directly from Canada to visit or study; however, there are exceptions.

For more information and a list of the exceptions, please consult: <https://ca.usembassy.gov/visas/do-i-need-a-visa/>



## METHOD OF TRANSPORTATION

You must provide proof of your Canadian citizenship upon entry to the U.S. Several documents can satisfy this requirement.

### Travel by Air

Canadian citizens travelling by air to the United States must present one of the following documents:

A passport, which must be valid until the date of your intended departure from the United States or a valid NEXUS card, used at self-serve kiosks at designated airports.

### Travel by Land or Water

As per the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI), Canadian citizens aged 16 years and older must present one of the following documents when entering the United States by land or water: (the driver must have a valid Canadian drivers license)

- A valid passport
- A Trusted Traveler Program card
- An enhanced driver's license (EDL) or enhanced identification card (EIC) from a province or territory where a U.S.-approved EDL/EIC program has been implemented
- A Secure Certificate of Indian Status

The WHTI-compliant document you choose to use must be valid until the date of your intended departure from the United States.

*Canadian citizens aged 15 years and under entering the United States by land or water require a passport or one of the following documents:*

- Original or a copy of a birth certificate
- Original Canadian citizenship certificate

*Canadian citizens under 19 traveling with a school or other organized group under adult supervision must travel with written consent from their own parent/guardian.*

# CANADIAN DELEGATIONS



For more information, please consult: [https://help.cbp.gov/app/answers/detail/a\\_id/619/~/visiting-the-u.s---documents-required-for-canadian-citizens-%2F-residents-%2F](https://help.cbp.gov/app/answers/detail/a_id/619/~/visiting-the-u.s---documents-required-for-canadian-citizens-%2F-residents-%2F)

## Dual Citizenship

For delegates with dual citizenship, it is recommended to carry both passports (Canadian and American) for travel across the border. For more information, please consult: <https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/documents/dual-citizenship>

## Notable links (click to see link)

[Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative \(WHTI\)](#) - U.S. Customs and Border Protection

[Trusted Traveler Programs](#) - USCBP

[Enhanced Driver's Licenses: What Are They?](#) - The United States Homeland Security

[Apply for a Secure Certificate of Indian Status](#)

Finally, for further more information, please consult: <https://travel.gc.ca/destinations/united-states>

## NON-TRAVEL INFORMATION

### Financial

Note that Canadian currency and personal cheques from Canadian banks are not widely accepted in the United States. Most banking transactions require a U.S. bank account.

### Planning

**Interested students**, we strongly encourage you to approach your club leaders and sponsor teachers/advisors for information regarding the logistics of travelling to PACMUN 2019.

Should you have any inquiries, please email our USG of International Affairs, Skyler Chan, at [internationalaffairs@pacificmun.com](mailto:internationalaffairs@pacificmun.com)





## TRAVEL INFORMATION

Generally, a citizen of a foreign country who wishes to enter the United States must first obtain a visa, either a nonimmigrant visa for a temporary stay or an immigrant visa for permanent residence. The visa allows a foreign citizen to travel to a U.S. port of entry and request permission of the U.S. immigration inspector to enter the United States.

**However, there is a list of countries that are exempt from this rule (including Canada). The Visa Waiver Program (VWP) allows delegates from their list of countries to travel without a visa. There are over 30 VWP countries, including but not limited to: France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and South Korea.**

Please see this link: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/tourism-visit/visa-waiver-program.html#reference>

Finally, for further more information, please consult: [https://help.cbp.gov/app/answers/detail/a\\_id/572/kw/Visiting%20the%20U.S.%20-%20Documents%20required](https://help.cbp.gov/app/answers/detail/a_id/572/kw/Visiting%20the%20U.S.%20-%20Documents%20required)

# CONTACT US



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