

# 2017 FLTA Summer Orientation at MSU

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Dear FLTAs,

We are excited to meet you all in about ten days! We have a lot of important information for you in this email, so please read it carefully.

Please also print the attached document titled “2017\_FLTASO\_printntake” and bring it with you.

## 1. Please Bring

- A copy of the attached travel sheet (*printntake*)
- A light sweater or jacket (most FLTAs think our air conditioning is much too cold)
- An umbrella (Michigan often gets a lot of rain-and the extended forecast is predicting rain.)
- A toothbrush and basic change of clothes **in your carry-on luggage** (in case your luggage is lost)
- Any necessary medications, prescriptions, glasses, etc. **in your carry-on luggage**
- Comfortable shoes for walking (about 2 km on Tuesday and Thursday)
- Socks for bowling

## 2. Arrivals

We are expecting you at your scheduled time. We can usually keep track of late flights, but if you make a change to an earlier flight, the greeters at the airport won't know. The airport is very small, so if you arrive earlier, you should be able to still find our greeter.

For those of you arriving before 11:00 am on August 7, you may check in at the Marriott Hotel **between 11:00 am and 8:00 pm** on Monday, August 7. Danielle and Dustin will be there at 11:00, but there is a slight chance that your room won't be ready until 3:00 pm. If that happens, you will be able to leave your bags at the front desk and walk around the area.

For those of you arriving after 10:00 am on August 7, there will be staff greeters at the airport until the last scheduled flight (currently 11:45 pm) to help you get your bags and find the hotel shuttle (or in rare cases, an arranged taxi).

When you arrive at the hotel you have to do two things: 1) check in at the hotel, and 2) check in at our registration table. It doesn't matter in which order you check in at these two locations.

We will have tours of the downtown area starting every hour and half hour (2:00 pm, 2:30 pm, 3:00 pm, 3:30 pm, etc. until 10:30 pm). You may also just rest in your room, exercise in the fitness room, chat in the lobby, or check email and surf the Internet at MSU computer near registration. There is also wifi in the lobby if you want to use a laptop.

If your flight is delayed until August 8 and we are informed, we will TRY to have a student assistant meet your new flight at the airport. If there is no one there, take a taxi to the Marriott Hotel. All taxi drivers will know where it is located. The hotel will help you check in and then find the group.

## 3. Tuesday Schedule

7:30-8:40 am Breakfast will be served in University rooms C and D at the Marriott Hotel.

9:45 am Meet in the Marriott lobby (near the registration desk) for your first REQUIRED session – wear comfortable shoes for lots of walking. You will not be returning to the hotel until late afternoon, so be sure to bring your program and bag, **and a light sweater/jacket.**

9:00-10:30 am Late registration if needed for anyone whose flight arrived after midnight on Monday.

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### 4. Meal Information

Please remember that the food in the US will not be what you are used to eating – be adventurous and try everything. The times of meals will also be different. Given our tight schedule, we are often eating much earlier than might be usual for you. Check the menus on our website to prepare yourself for what and when you will be eating.

We have informed the caterers of any allergies you listed, and arrangements have been made to have separate plates when needed. If you have a food allergy, **make sure you read labels carefully** and ask wait staff specifically about ingredients. US food service employees are familiar with allergies and expect you to be assertive when telling them what you cannot eat.

### 5. US Currency

There are ATMs close to the hotel where you can withdraw money using your credit/debit cards. However, there are NOT any locations for you to exchange foreign currency. If you wish to do so, please change some money before you travel or at one of the bigger airports as you travel. Some FLTAs in the past have had trouble with their credit cards (accepted in some places, but not others,) so we suggest carrying some US currency.

Please also note that hotels in the US frequently require a valid credit card to stay there—even if you plan on paying in cash. This is especially true for hotels near airports. You won't need a credit card for the Marriott for the days covered by the orientation, but if you are staying at any hotel before going on to your host institution, you should confirm with them if a credit card is required.

### 6. Double check your flight information with the airline

Airlines sometimes shift their schedules. A few minutes won't matter, but sometimes it changes as much as an hour, so it's best to be sure. Also double check flight numbers, as those also often change.

Please check to make sure that you won't need a transit visa for any of your stops on the way to the US.

Traveling is exciting, but it can also be exhausting. Remember to check the website for travel tips!

<http://celta.msu.edu/flta-summer-orientation/resources/travel-tips/>

Remember also that your flight from Lansing to your host institution will be considered DOMESTIC—which typically means only one checked suitcase and a lower weight limit. Please check with the airlines now.

### 7. Print your health insurance card and carry it with you

Make sure you have gone online and printed your health insurance card and carry it with you in your wallet!

### 8. Last notes

- a. Limited free time: Please remember that we have a very full schedule as required by our sponsors. Do **not** plan on having time for shopping, running errands, extra sightseeing, or napping. You will have time for all of those activities when you arrive at your host institution.
- b. All our sessions have very important information designed to help you during your time in the US. Please note that FLTAs come to the program with different backgrounds. In addition, some FLTAs have pre-departure orientations and some don't. This means that some of our workshops might feel repetitive to some of you. Please still be respectful and pay attention and use the time to get to know your fellow FLTAs.

See you all in about ten days!

Danielle, Angelika, Matt and Dustin