Family Life in Pittsburgh

Deb Prvanovic, Assistant Director
Office of International Services
Basics for settling-in to life in Pittsburgh

• Bus Passes – Port Authority ConnectCard
  – Purchase here: United Check Cashing at 3711 Forbes Ave in Oakland or ANY Giant Eagle (see http://www.connectcard.org/connectcard-locations.aspx)

• PA State ID card/PA Driver’s License

• ITIN (in lieu of SSN)

• Health Insurance – student spouse should include dependent(s) on enrollment
Getting a Driver’s License or State ID

• F-2 & J-2 Dependent
  - Passport
  - I-94
  - Form I-20 or Form DS-2019
  - Social Security Card, or denial letter from Social Security Office
  - Two documents verifying your PA address
  - Driver’s License Application Form OR Application for Initial Photo ID card

www.dmv.state.pa.us/
Form W-7 ITIN application

- Avoid applying for it, if you can
- Do NOT send your passport, despite instructions
- Use the SEVP exception rule, only applies if you don’t file WITH the tax return
- If you must apply, schedule an appt with your spouse’s Immigration Specialist in OIS

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English as a Second Language

For your dependent spouse

• Allegheny Intermediate Unit: Adult ESL
• Pitt’s ELI, Chatham, Duquesne, Point Park & CCAC
• Carnegie Library, IWAP, PRISM & others

For your dependent children

• Pittsburgh Public Schools provides in school

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Childcare Options in the United States

• Childcare options in the United States are **EXPENSIVE**

• Childcare options:
  
  – Daycare Centers
    
    • provide child care in small groups with well-trained employees
    
    • Must be licensed by the state
    

  – Family and In-Home Care Providers
    
    • Family care providers offer to care for children in their own homes in small groups
    
    • In-home care providers, such as nannies, take care of your children in your home
Childcare Resources

- [www.care.com/daycare](http://www.care.com/daycare)
- [www.pakeys.org/docs/a%20Parents%20Guide.pdf](http://www.pakeys.org/docs/a%20Parents%20Guide.pdf)
- Other parents

**ALWAYS ASK QUESTIONS**
Secondary School in the United States

• In Pennsylvania, attendance at school is compulsory for children ages 8-17 [most children go to school from age 5-18]
• Public school is free
• Eligibility for attendance at a particular public school is based on where you live
Secondary School Resources

• If you live within the city of Pittsburgh
  – www.pps.k12.pa.us

• If you live outside city limits
  – www.aiu3.net

• Independent Schools
  – www.paista.org

• For information about ESL programs call 412-529-3516 in Pittsburgh public schools system
Enrolling your Child in Secondary School

• Proof of your identity and current visa status for you and your child, i.e. passport (and that of the child), immigration documents, and a birth certificate for the child

• Immunization records, which have been officially translated (including dates)

• The US Social Security Number of at least one parent

• Proof of residence in the City of Pittsburgh by providing two documents which show a current Pittsburgh address, (any two of the following: driver's license, utility bill, tax statement, copy of a lease)

• Official translated transcripts if you wish your child to attend a grade level higher than which is considered typical for his/her age in the US
Enrolling your Child in Secondary School

Immunizations needed?

Use Allegheny County Health Dept Immunization Clinic

http://www.achd.net/infectd/clinic.html

Participate in your child’s school

Through PTO/PTA (Parent-Teacher Orgs/Assoc)
Raising a Family in Pittsburgh

- Pittsburgh Parent
  - www.pittsburghparent.com

- Children’s Hospital
  - www.chp.edu/CHP/for+parents

- Carnegie Library
  - www.carnegielibrary.org/research/parentseducators/parents

- Mom’s Club of Pittsburgh East
  - https://sites.google.com/site/momsclubpittsburgheast/
Family Friendly Activities

- Museums
- Pittsburgh Zoo & Aquarium
- Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh
- City Parks
- Cultural District
- Pittsburgh Toy Lending Library
Experience America

• An on-going cultural orientation session for scholars, graduate students, and their dependents

• [www.ois.pitt.edu/media/experience-america](http://www.ois.pitt.edu/media/experience-america)

• Types of events:
  - Picnics
  - Educational lunches
  - Winter activities
  - Cultural activities
Pittsburgh Organizations

• International Women’s Association of Pittsburgh (IWAP)
  – Regular meetings, cooking classes, field trips & English classes
  – iwap-home.blogspot.com

• Global Pittsburgh
  – Potlucks, happy hours, free tickets to cultural events & much more!
  – www.globalpittsburgh.org

• Parents’ Meetup Groups in Pennsylvania
  – Find a group of parents in your area!
Volunteering in the United States

• What is volunteering:
  – A volunteer is a person who donates his or her time or efforts for a cause or organization without being paid

• What is NOT volunteering:
  – The Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) says that if a person provides a normal service for which a person would normally be employed, the activity is considered employment and cannot be considered a volunteer activity

  – www.hr.pitt.edu/careers/volunteering-pitt
Resources for Volunteer Opportunities

• Pitt Serves
  – www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/pittserves

• Volunteer Match
  – www.volunteermatch.org

• Pittsburgh Cares
  – www.pittsburghcares.org
Other Resources

• Graduate & Professional Student Gov’t (GPSG)
  - http://gpsg.pitt.edu/resources/

• Vibrant Pittsburgh
  - http://vibrantpittsburgh.org/welcome/newcomers-guide/

• Internations
  - https://www.internations.org/support/faq/getting-started
International Grocery Stores

• Chinese
  - Lotus Foods (Strip District)
    1649 Penn Avenue
    Pittsburgh, PA 15222

• Middle Eastern
  - Labad’s (Strip District)
    1727 Penn Avenue
    Pittsburgh, PA 15222

• Indian and South Asian
  - Bombay Mart (Oakland)
    4605 Centre Ave
    Pittsburgh, PA 15213

  - Kohli’s Indian Emporium (Oakland)
    319 South Craig Street
    Pittsburgh, PA 15213

• African & Caribbean
  - Global Food Market (East Liberty)
    132 South Highland Avenue
    Pittsburgh, PA 15206

• Latino
  - Las Palmas (Oakland)
    326 Atwood Street
    Pittsburgh, PA 15213
F-2 Dependent Regulations

• F-2 Dependents are permitted to:
  – Volunteer
  – Study (part-time only)

• F-2 Dependents are NOT permitted to:
  – Work
  – Remain in F-2 status after the age of 21 [child]
Activities Permitted for J-2 Dependents

• J-2 Dependents are permitted to
  – Study
  – Volunteer
  – Work with Employment Authorization Card

• J-2 Dependents are **NOT** permitted to
  – Remain in J-2 status after the age of 21 [child]

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Don’t Forget!

• F-2 and J-2 dependents need valid travel signatures when travelling

• A dependent’s status is valid ONLY if the primary’s status is valid
“Trailing Spouse”

Someone who joins their partner in a move abroad without having secured suitable employment in the new location.

Resources/Perspectives


Questions?