

Before Arriving: Getting ready for the rest of your life

You will need:

- **A CURRENT PASSPORT & DRIVER'S LICENSE** and won't expire while on the island.
- A few extra **passport pictures** (just in case)
- A few **CASH & TRAVELER'S CHECKS** on hand when you leave. Notify your bank and credit card companies that you will be in St. Maarten.
- **Your Acceptance Letter from AUC on your carry-on.** No acceptance letter, no entry into St. Maarten. Immigration is stricter than you might think. Customs isn't. If you do not have an acceptance letter then bring whatever AUC material you have.

- **HOTELS** in the area:
 - Sonesta Maho Resort (3-5 minute drive from campus)
 - Wyndam Sapphire Hotel
 - Summit Hotel (2 min walk from campus)

- **HEALTH INSURANCE** – Confirm with your current insurance has international coverage. If not, AUC offers health insurance which you can purchase once you arrive.

- **LIVING ACCOMMODATIONS** (verify with your housing management if you need the following items, some of the items may be provided)
 1. **Bedroom**: Sheets(Extra Long Twin size if you are in the dorms), blankets, pillows, alarm clock (battery operated), hangers
 2. **Bathroom**: Towels, washcloths, hair dryer, shower curtain, bathroom rug
 3. **Kitchen**: Cookware, cooking utensils, dishes, silverware, specialty food items that may be harder to find (i.e. Kosher foods, gluten-free foods, etc)
 4. **Study area**: Desk lamp
 5. **Clothes**: Summer clothing, sweatshirt (classes could be cold), dress clothes
 6. **Medications**: Until you know if your prescription medications can be found here, having a semester's supply of meds, lotions, shampoos, salines, etc. may be a good idea.Misc: Umbrella, flashlight, webcam

- ****Most items can be found on the island, although it will be more expensive. Just remember that you are only allotted two suitcases & a carry-on/person on the plane.****

- **COMMUNICATION**– You can bring down a GSM (unlocked) phone, sign up for a callback service (www.cardsforstudents.com) or use a **VOIP (Vonage or Skype)**.

Day of Arrival: Go with the flow

- **Culture Alert:** A few tips on local customs...
 Greet people as you walk by them or enter a business.
HAVE PATIENCE – Things tend to work in a more relaxed mode here.
 Be nice. St. Maarten is small, you will encounter the same people all the time.
 Tip the service.
 Living outside the United States and being ethnocentric (BTW, a great word to add to your medical vocabulary) makes enemies not friends.
 The tourist act won't be advantageous.
 Sometimes business just decide to be closed for the day. It happens...
- **Transportation to AUC**
Bus – The cheapest, after walking, but probably not the best way to travel with all your luggage.
Taxi – It should cost you **no more than \$10**. It might be a good idea to ask them how much the fare is going to be, they don't use meters. Also, some taxis may charge you for loading and unloading your luggage into the taxi. Let them know that you're going to AUC in Cupecoy Bay. **For those of you in the dorms, your keys will be at the guard gate**, the guards will show you your room.

GETTING AROUND

- To call the US or Canada from a local cell phone: **dial 001 + Area Code + Phone Number**
 Pre-paid cell phone from Telcell, UTS or ETS starting at around \$60 (includes phone, SIM card and a \$10 phone card.) Calls to the 48 contiguous states are about \$0.32-34/min, calls to Alaska & Hawaii are about \$2.99/min.
 Phone companies will be at the School Fair at the beginning of the semester.
 There are places around the island that offer wireless internet. The closest is Sugar Cane Café. Other places are Sunset Beach Bar in Maho or Bubble Tea in Simpson



Bay.

- Although the island is only 37 square miles, *transportation is necessary*.
Buses – It only costs about \$1 to get from AUC to Simpson Bay, a little more (\$1.50) if you want to go to Phillipsburg.
Taxi – Can get costly after a while.
Rent – You can rent a car for the weekend and split the cost with your friends.
Always ask if they have a student discount.

Alamo Car Rental – 545-5546
Alpha Car Rental – 545-2885
Avis/Quality Car Rental – 545-2847
Best Deal Car Rental (airport) – 545-3061
Budget Rent-A-Car – 545-4030
Hertz Car Rental – 545-4541
Paradise Car Rental – 545-3737
Payless Car Rental (airport) – 545-3061
Safari Car Rental – 545-3186
United Car Rental (airport) – 545-3335
Sunshine Car Rental N.V. – 545-2684
Thrifty Car Rental (airport) – 545-2393

Lease – Again, you can split the cost of the lease with your friends. You don't have to worry about taking care of insurance or maintenance of the car, but you won't get anything back.

DO NOT LEASE AN AUTOMOBILE UNTIL AT LEAST THE SECOND WEEK OF THE SEMESTER AFTER YOU HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK WITH OTHER STUDENTS AND YOU HAVE THE CHANCE TO ASSESS YOUR NEEDS

DO NOT SIGN ANY CONTRACTS TO LEASE AN AUTOMOBILE WITHOUT GETTING A SIGNED WRITTEN STATEMENT WHICH OFFERS YOU A CANCELLATION OPTION IN THE EVENT THAT YOUR NEEDS FOR TRANSPORTATION CHANGE.

Own – And yet again, you can split the cost of the car and you can always sell it when you back, but remember, you have to take care of insurance, maintenance & repairs.



- The Simpson Bay Bridge goes up a few times during the day. Keep this in mind when you want to leave campus to do your groceries.
Low season hours (May 1 - Nov. 30) at 9:30am; 11:30am & 5:30pm.
High season hours (Dec. 1 – April 30) at 9:00am & 9:30am; 11:00am & 11:30am; 4:30pm & 5:30pm.

FOOD

A few places to eat right around school, should you need food right way.

Sugar Cane (5521111) – Down the road from school, in (front of) the Atlantis Casino.

Thai Savannah (5531204) – next to Sugar Cane.

Espresso Coffee House & Pizza Dan – Up the hill at the Rising Sun Apartment Building, next to Solutions Management Office.

BB's Grill – Up the hill at the corner of the intersection.

GROCERIES

Food Express – Mini Food mart close to campus

The store is located in Maho; right off the roundabout.

From campus, make a left onto the main road near Atlantis Casino & Sugar Cane. Go down the road, pass the golf course and get into the Maho Resort area. You'll come to the roundabout and see the store on the left.

You can park in the lot in front of the store or the parking garage (have them stamp your parking stub for free parking).



Gourmet Marche – 5% student discount with your ID

Pass Maho & the airport.

As you get into Simpson Bay, it will be on your left (see picture).

If you've hit the Shell Gas Station, you've gone too far.

There are three big places to shop for all the groceries you might need

Colebay



Grand Marche – 5% student discount with your ID!

Colebay: Drive past Simpson Bay; after the bridge until pass KFC & Pizza Hut on your left. You'll come to a roundabout where you will find for Marigot ahead or Phillipsburg to the right. Take the Marigot route, Next to Texaco gas station on your left, **Bush Road:**

Same as above until roundabout, take the Phillipsburg route. You'll

be going up a hill until you come to a roundabout, where you want to go around; making a left to come down the hill. At the next roundabout, you'll find Grande Marche (see picture Bush Road).

Bush Road



Cost U Less



It is similar to a Costco or a Sam's Club without the membership.

To get there, go as though you are going to Grande Marche, however, at the last roundabout go right (not into the parking lot). When turning right go immediately to the left lane. **Cost U Less** it's on your left, next to another KFC & Pizza Hut.

STUFF FOR THE APARTMENT

There are several places where to get things for your apartment, depending on what you are looking for. The places are:

ACE – Can't miss it on the way to Grande Marche and Cost U Less.

You can also find a mega ACE hardware store on the way to Marigot. Ph: 544-4433

Cost U less – See directions above. Ph: 542-9860

Kooyman – See directions for **Grande Marche**.

You'll find it to your right, coming down the hill.

Ph: 543-3333

Kwik Bargains – Past Cost U Less, it will be on the left.

It is usually cheaper than ACE. Ph: 542-5081

CELL PHONES

All phone companies come and sell at the school during the week of orientation.



UTS – In Simpson Bay, over the bridge. About a mile after the bridge, look for Dolphin Casino/Sunset Theater on the right. The UTS Store is in the front of casino, first floor.

TelCell – In Simpson Bay on the left hand side, past the Shell Gas Station, but before the MailBox store.

OFFICE SUPPLIES



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Blue Point - Phillipsburg, on the road along side the salt pond; after the bridge. Ph: 542-1200

Office World – Downtown Phillipsburg, on the road along side the salt pond. Ph: 542-4050

ACE – See above.

BRING #2 PENCILS & A GOOD ERASER WITH YOU, NO MECHANICAL PENCILS ALLOWED FOR EXAMS!!!

CLINICS



Mullet Bay Clinic (5454280)

Mobile/Emergencies: 5590444

From school, at the entrance of Maho, turn left.

Next to the Platinum Room (Don't ask.)

Website: www.mulletbayclinic.com

E-mail: shdeketh@hotmail.com

PHARMACIES

Mullet Bay (5454280) – From school, on your way to Maho.

Maho (5453200) or Mobile 24 hr on call 5571515 – Near the Mullet Bay Clinic, right before you turn left.

Simpson Bay (5452777) – As you enter Simpson Bay, it will be on your right, next to Windward Island Bank.

HAIR SALONS – When you need to get your hair done.

Hair Illusions - Telephone: 5454090 or 5452179

Email: mariaantoinette@stmaarten.com

Wyndham Sapphire Beach Club & Resort - 5452179

XPERTS Hair Salon - 545 2412

MAIL



For those of you who would like a mailbox account on the island, you can attain one from The Mailbox for approx. \$119/year.

Ph: 545-3890

You can get stuff mailed to the school & pick it up at Note Service on campus.

**Hope this information is of help to you.
We look forward to your joining us.
Have a safe trip to your new home.**

Orientation Advisors, Spring 2010