

What to Bring

Preparations for the course

Passports and Visas

You will need to obtain a U.S. entry visa from the U.S. Embassy in your country. Because you will be representing your government, your visa “A-2” category (“NATO-2” for students from NATO countries). To avoid difficult renewal problems, ensure your passports will be valid for the entire time you will be in the United States and make sure your visa is a “Multiple Entry” visa, valid for the same period.

When you enter the United States, the immigration official who examines your passport and visa will insert a white card into your passport, known as the Immigration Form I-94. Form I-94 states when you must leave the country. It must show the visa status as it appears in the passport (“A-2”) and the “Valid Until” line must be marked “D/S” meaning “Duration of Status” of the A-2 visa. It is not unusual for the official to make a mistake, so make sure you pay close attention and do not hesitate to correct him immediately if you suspect an error.

It is most important that your I-94 form is properly filled out. Check it carefully before you leave the immigration official. Be particularly careful if you arrive in the United States on a military aircraft. The immigration officials who process military aircraft sometimes forget to issue I-94s.

Invitational Travel Orders (ITO)

The designated U.S. military representative in your country will issue Invitational Travel Orders to you. You need the original and 3 copies of your ITO when you report to the Naval War College. Ensure all blocks on your ITO are completed before leaving the U.S. representative in your country. Make Sure:

- The inclusive dates are correct to include your specific arrival and departure dates. For example, 24 August – 16 November 2018.
- The visa codes are appropriately marked as described above.
- Medical coverage is completely understood by you.

Remember that YOU are the International Military Student (IMS), so if it says medical costs are the responsibility of the IMS, make sure you have medical insurance coverage. This is covered in more detail in the [Medical/Dental Information](#). Medical coverage for IMSs varies by country but regardless of the method, all IMSs must have coverage before they arrive CONUS.

Clothing/Weather

Temperatures in Newport vary greatly depending upon the season. In the coldest part of winter, November to March, temperatures can be as cold as 10 to 30 degrees Fahrenheit (-1 to -12 degrees Celsius). From January to March you can expect 1 to 3 snowstorms per month. April begins to warm up, but winter effects are not completely over; there may be a rare snowstorm early in the month. However, the last freeze occurs by midmonth. In May, daytime temperatures average near 70 degrees. Temperatures in June rise slightly and because of the warm moist air, fog can be expected to occur on about half of the days of the month.

In the hottest part of the summer, July to September, temperatures can be as high as 75 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit (22–30 Celsius). October is usually one of the best months of the year—warm, dry days and cool nights. In November, freezing temperatures are common by the end of the month with the possibility of the first measurable snowfall. December is characterized by moderate to strong outbreaks of cold polar air.

Uniforms and Attire Policy

Informal

Daily uniform attire: National Working Uniform.

Civilian attire: Business – Trousers, jacket, shirt and tie. Business casual – jacket, no tie.

Working uniform is the primary dress while attending academic classes.

Note: There will be a class photo and graduation ceremony.

Casual

Collared shirt, casual slacks, and casual shoes. **No blue jeans, shorts, or athletic shoes.** This is the attire for conducting after-hours or weekend business/studies within the NWC complex; may be prescribed during designated holiday periods.

Athletic

T-shirts, shorts, jeans, sports slacks; primarily for sports, picnics/cookouts.

Uniform Replacement

The Navy Uniform Shop does not carry any uniform supplies for non-U.S. Navy uniforms. You are allowed to purchase any U.S. Navy uniform item that is not distinctive (for example, uniform trousers and coats without U.S. Navy insignia).

Civilian Clothing

Suits, dresses or sport coats with ties and slacks are appropriate for all activities when the uniform is not required. Casual clothes, such as open-collar shirts, shorts in summer, sweaters in winter, etc., are appropriate during leisure time. Lightweight fabrics during summer and wool during the cool and cold months will be the most comfortable. A raincoat, a lightweight coat for cool weather, and a heavyweight coat for cold weather are necessary, as well as gloves and boots.

Buying Clothing in the Newport Area

There are numerous stores in Newport and Middletown representing most price ranges for men, women, and children. Even greater selections are available in shopping malls in Providence, Warwick, and Wrentham. The Navy Exchange on base often has good prices on clothing items for the entire family. The Navy Relief Thrift Shop on base is also a source of inexpensive previously owned garments.

Credit Cards

Even if you are reimbursed for your living allowances, you will need either a credit card or sufficient amount of cash to initially pay for your lodging expenses in Newport. Visa, Master Card, and American Express are widely accepted in the United States.

If you do not have a credit card, it is highly recommended that you get one before coming to the United States since you may not be able to open a credit card account with a U.S. bank.

Traveler's Checks

Traveler's checks are recommended any time you travel to reduce the amount of cash you carry and to ensure that you are able to pay for your needs. There are still a few places that accept neither credit cards nor checks. Almost every vendor accepts traveler's checks.

Information Technology

Free wireless internet is available within on-base accommodations, classrooms and at the cyber café on base.

Finances

Personal Finances

All students are strongly recommended to obtain a major credit card before departing home, or carry adequate funds to meet their needs.

Typical Monthly On-Base Living Expenses

NGIS/BOQ - \$75 USD/Day

Navy Lodge - \$80 USD/Day

Living Allowances

The cost of living in the Newport area may require special living allowances from your government. For most FMS case students, these allowances are paid by the home government, for some IMET students, the U.S. government pays a living allowance. This allowance is a supplement to the student's regular pay and allowances. Make sure you know the facts from your own government as you make your plans.

Currency Exchange

There are several banks in the Newport area that will exchange international currency for a nominal fee.

Automobiles (Rental)

If required Rental Car companies are available locally

Driver's License:

Each driver is required to have a valid driver's license at all times when driving. The easiest way to meet this requirement is to bring your valid driver's license from your home country. You do not have to obtain a Rhode Island license. Obtaining a Rhode Island driver's license is a lengthy and costly process.

Medical / Dental Information

Excellent medical and dental care is readily available in the United States, but it is expensive.

[Naval Health Clinic New England](#) (NHCNE) provides outpatient care to military members. Your ITO must, however, show that you have medical coverage or you cannot be seen at NHCNE. (Map: <https://www.bing.com/maps?v=2&where1=43%20Smith%20Road,%20Newport,%20RI>)

There are also several fine civilian clinics and a major civilian hospital in the area. Numerous civilian doctors and dentists practice in the local Newport area. We also have an agreement with the Newport Hospital for any service or specialty that NHCNE may not be able to provide.

Entitlement to Treatment

Medical care from a Military Treatment Facility (MTF) is not always without cost. Medical entitlements vary from country to country, and private medical insurance can be very expensive. Each foreign government has entered into a bilateral agreement with the U.S. government regarding medical care of military personnel. These agreements are different from country to country, and even change year by year. In most cases, preexisting medical or dental issues should be treated before arrival in CONUS. Read this section on Medical Information carefully, and ask questions of your embassy to ensure you have complete answers BEFORE you leave your country.

The Invitational Travel Order (ITO) is the only authority for receiving medical entitlements, so it is important for the student to understand the provisions of his/her own ITO. Block 12b of the ITO lists the medical entitlement of the student as well as the entitlement for authorized dependents, if applicable.

Treatment

International Military Students

Medical treatment at NHCNE for NCC and NSC officers is available following the same guidelines that apply to United States Officers.

Coverage for dental services is extremely limited. In most cases, dental care is an out-of-pocket expense. All students should ensure that all routine dental is completed in home country prior to departure.

The best time to ask health insurance questions is before you leave your country. It may be possible for your embassy in the United States to add you to their group insurance plan with a U.S. company, and in some cases, even pay for the coverage.

Pre-departure Checklist

Topic	No	Yes
1. Contact with U.S. military representative: Have you established initial contact with this officer at the U.S. embassy in your country for briefings and issue of Invitational Travel Orders (ITO)?		
2. Passports and Visas		
a. Are your passport and visas valid throughout the entire length of your visit?		
b. Do you have A-2 status, a visa stamped: D/S, and multiply entry?		
3. Invitational Travel Orders		
a. Do you have the original orders and 3 copies of the ITO?		
b. Have you had the ITOs thoroughly explained to you by the Navy representative?		
c. Are all blocks filled out properly?		
d. Did you fax a copy of your ITO to the Naval War College IMSO: Fax number (401) 841-6469		
4. NWC Enrollment: Have you completed the Student Enrollment Form and forwarded it to the NWC IMSO?		
5. Biography: Has it been sent or do you have a copy to bring with you?		
6. Travel Information		
a. Have you confirmed travel reservations to Providence, Rhode Island? (Airport code: PVD)		
b. Is your country representative aware of your travel itinerary?		
c. Is your arrival arranged so that you will arrive in Newport no later than 5 JAN 2018 ?		
7. Pay: Have you made arrangements to have your pay forwarded to you at the Naval War College?		
8. Personal Expenses: Have you brought sufficient funds to cover initial costs upon arrival in Newport? (This includes lodging, meals, and incidentals)		
9. Driver's License: Have you obtained a driver's license from your country?		
10. Mail: Have you made arrangements to have your mail forwarded to Newport? Try to maximize the use of on-line bill pay, subscriptions, etc.		
11. Medical		
a. Do you have a thorough understanding of the limits of medical care provided by the U.S. Navy, as contained in your ITO and as briefed by the Navy representative in your country?		
b. Does your ITO authorize all medical billing to be sent directly to your government?		
c. Do you have a medical history, including immunizations, for yourself?		