

HANDBOOK for NEW INDIAN STUDENTS

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Prepared by

Indian students of Montana Tech [August, 2000]

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Indian Community of Butte

!!! Read disclaimer before you get started!!!

If you want to learn more about Montana Tech and Butte, visit our web site at URL, <http://www.mtech.edu>. Contact your advisor, admission office, or student life office for very specific questions. You are always welcome to write any Indian students too.

We appreciate for your valuable time to read this handbook. We hope this handbook helps you. Your suggestions are welcome to improve the contents of this book.

First, we want to congratulate you for achieving the heights and blooming with flying colors. We are glad to hear the news of your admission in ROCKIES "Montana Tech".

We, the graduate students at Montana tech, take this opportunity to explain few things that we think may be useful to your journey. This document has been specially prepared for Indian Graduate Students, who are planning to attend Montana Tech.

Things to be brought:

Keep in mind that what ever you can bring here from India, will always be useful because these things are cheaper in india in comparison to US Dollars, so bring everything in handsome quantities.

1. **Clothes:** 6-7 Jeans & Shirts/T Shirts, 2-3 formal wear, nightdresses, napkins, towels, hanky, blazer, formal interview tie, leather jacket other jacket (check the weather of place where you are going, accordingly take the jackets. Like in Montana, jacket should be lined with thermal lining, & should be quite warm because average temp is 15⁰C), thermal garments & gloves (minimum 2 pairs), monkey cap & muffler, woolen socks & sweaters.
2. **Shoes:** one or two formals & sports (keep in mind leather is costly here; so bring leather shoes from there only). If possible get the long shoes, which can protect you from snow, leather does not work efficiently during snow. Chappals and slippers, 10-12 pair of socks. Leather belt.
3. **Spices:** Bring spices in large quantity because Indian store may not be available at the place where you are coming. So bring all the spices in sufficient quantity which can last for atleast a semester, like: Turmeric, Chili powder, garam masala, Dhania,.) Bring some snacks & sweets not for

you instead it is for us. Dhals (toor dal in good quantity), papads, Indian tea, pickles, knife, scissors.

4. **Utensils:** Bring cooker (must), frying pan, other things which will be useful for cooking. Ask your mom to help you in this.
5. **Medicines:** Carry basic medicines & balm, band-aids.
6. **Your kit:** Shaving items & soaps, toothbrush, tongue cleaner, toothpastes, camera rolls, alarm clocks, few pencil cells. If you have hobby for music bring all your CDs & cassettes, Cigarettes if u smoke (if not then also bring some .It will be useful to your seniors), hair oils, perfumes, cold creams, combs, shampoos, deodorants, under garments 15 pairs (because you will not be doing laundry daily instead it will be once or twice a week), cap, goggles, (if you wear power lenses, bring atleast one extra pair of glasses with you, because it is very costly here), shoe polish & brush, bedsheets, pillow cover, one blanket (check your space availability), a wrist watch , an umbrella, calculator, stationary items(because it is costly here, like folders, pen, pencils, eraser, marker...), basic books which you think may be useful to your course, a dictionary .

Predeparture Preparation

1. If you do not know driving then learn driving. If you already have four-wheeler driving license then get an IDP (International Driving Permit) stamp on it.
2. Bring sufficient amount of money (draft & cash) because sometime immigration consular asks you to prove the amount, specified in I-20, so bring sufficient money at least one semester fee & also to cover up the expenses for initial months. This suggestion is to convince them that you will get more money from your sponsor as will be required. (Keep ready the bank statement of your dad & the letter from the bank from where you have converted your money).

Students who have been awarded any sort of financial-assistance (like instate & out of state tuition waivers, GTA) should compare the expenditures with awards. Like a lucky one, who has all three may not be required to bring more than \$1000 as cash or travelers cheque.

3. If you were working in India and do not have problems in getting income tax clearance certificate, then take it otherwise leave it.
4. Have medical check ups for your dental & eyes and get the certificates. Montana Tech Graduate School also requires you to bring the proof of TB test, DPT, Polio and few other tests. Check these requirements with graduate school administrator and bring all the proofs.
5. Check the immunization requirements with school and bring all the proofs as stated in your admission letter (like TB test, MMM test, other immunizations proof).
6. Try to acquire basic knowledge of using windows based software if you

do not know how to use it, because without computer knowledge you will be virtually handicapped here. So it is advisable that you know the software. Indians run software industry here, so why don't you also become a part.

7. People are really very good in dealing with emails and Internet services, so you should learn these things in India itself, if not then you will take some time to cope with school's environment.
8. Try to pack the suitcases as tight as you can, check with your airlines for weight limits of suitcases. You can also bring one or two carry-in baggage with you. Although they specify the weight limit, which should not exceed more than 10 kgs but in this case they can relax you. Keep carry on bag with specified dimensions and then you can exceed weight allowances.
9. Get some gift items like our traditional handicrafts items, greetings depicting India's culture. It will help you here to develop good relations with few, who will always be helpful to you.
10. If possible become a youth hostel member like YMCA.
11. Do not forget to bring your I-20 (both copies), Passport, and evidence of your financial documents.
12. Bring all the materials, which you sent for your application (like SOP, RESUME, other stuff).
13. Original degree certificates and transcripts.
14. Your college curriculum (from where you did BE or undergrad certificate)
15. If you have any medical health insurance there, check with your insurance company whether it can cover you in USA, including repatriation. If yes then get a letter

from your insurance company that they will be covering you in USA & bring all the proof of it. If not then do not worry. You will get insurance here. Insurance is must for every F-1 VISA student students. Check with Margie Pascoe (14064964477/Mpascoe@mtech.edu) for the insurance waiver. We have found that International Community Services (<http://www.icsweb.org>) provides the cheapest insurance in USA to Indian students. Margie will help you out in this matter.

16. Usually Indian student stay off campus so bring all the items, which you think, will be needed. Start thinking what you need once you get up & go to bed. You have to cook also.
17. Bring your Walkman/CD player, but don't bring any electrical appliances because that won't work here. You can bring camera.

Travel and Arrival Information

1. Send your travel plans to us as earliest as possible so that we guys can make necessary arrangements for your pick up from airport and lodging.
2. If you know any one here then get one prepaid telephone card so that you can dial from airport in case of any problem, otherwise dial 1-800-CALL-ATT, then ask for collect call (receiving person will be paying for that call, but usually it is very expensive so get one prepaid card of \$10 amount).
3. Bring your address diary; write all the numbers and emails ids, which you know in USA.
4. Bring things to survive for a week in your carry-in luggage in case your check- in luggage gets lost.
5. Keep your valuables in handbag (like all the document).

6. Get the receipt of your traveler's cheque incase you are bringing TC's. Also get photocopies of your air tickets, I-20, passport, Bank documents, academic documents, medical immunizations.
7. Keep in mind BUTTE, Montana, is very cold place. In winter temperature goes to -30C & in summer maximum temperature will be 20C so be ready to bring all the possible warm clothing with you.
8. Finances: a month's typical expenses (on a shared apartment), in Butte, Montana

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Rent | : \$100 |
| Food | : \$70 |
| Telephone | : \$40 |
| College fee | : \$1600/4 (months) varies and depends on the awards. |
| Health Insurance | : \$ 300/6 (months) |
| Electricity | : \$30-40 |
| Utensils | : \$20 |
| Books | : \$30 |
| Other (smoke/drink) | : \$100. |
9. You can get TA/RA but usually priorities are given the student who are already enrolled not to the new students, but it depends on your luck. You can always work part time in campus that can fetch you \$6-10 per hr. You have limit to work maximum 20 hr. a week when school is going on or 40 hr. a week when it is closed.
10. In case no one has reached to pick you up from airport & you don't know where to stay on the first day then ask airport representative to help you out in this matter, or call 1-800-4-MOTEL6, cheapest chain in USA, where you can stay, or call local 1-406-782-4249, City Center Motel, Butte.
11. In case you don't know how to go, simply call local 723-6511 for taxi cab. They will take you where you want go but I guess they don't drive in late

hours of night, if you are reaching late then simply talk to HERTZ or Budget Rent a Car transportation at airport.

12. In case of any emergency, know one important number of USA-police, which is 911.
13. Like in India here also tips are given to hairdressers, taxi drivers & hotel bare but don't give more than maximum \$5. (Or ~10% of the bill)
14. In USA, telephone system is like this: any number starting with 800/888 is toll free, and recipient will pay the bill. First three numbers of phone number are area code then next three are local code & last four are the telephone no.

Like if it is BUTTE, then area code is 406 then it has four locals code 494/496/723/782, then last four are particulars telephone number. Local call are almost free but if you use pay phone then you have to insert 35 cents so keep some change ready to dial local numbers. Our number is 1(406) 782-6884/ 723-8397.

Calls outside the area code are called as Long distance calls, for that first dial 1-XXX (area code)-XXX (local code)-XXXX (no), all call to other countries are international calls, first dial 011-91(India) –11(Delhi)-XXXXXX (no), in case u r dialing any mobile no of India just 011-91-mobile no.

We guess, now you have all the necessary information that will enable to get in to BUTTE safely. We will feel better when we will see one more PIGS (Poor Indian Graduate Student) with us.

For further correspondence: please get in touch; don't feel that you are troubling us because we also did the same things with other PIGS.

Contact Information of Indian Students

Phone: 1-406-782-6884 or 723-8397

Vineet : vineet_masuraha@hotmail.com
Sandeep Tatake: statake@hotmail.com
Sandeep Kadam: sankad@yahoo.com
Vibhav : vibhavmankad@hotmail.com
Kiran: kirannkumar@hotmail.com
Subba Rao: nagulapatys@usa.net

Our address is 614 West Park Street, Butte, MT, 59701.

- Really if you feel that you have any problem in getting in touch with us, you can dial Dr.Kumar Ganesan, Chair and head of the department Environmental Engineering Department, Montana Tech, but use this contact, only in case of emergency, his telephone no. 1-406-496-4239 (Off) & 1-406-494-1070 (Resi). He is always helpful to all.
- Other important telephone no of Montana Tech for you;
Student Life: Margie Pascoe 496-4477
Graduate office: Cindy Dunstan496-4128
Security: Montana Tech Campus496-4357
Express care hospital: Butte723-6889

Disclaimer:

This document has been prepared based on our personal experiences. Information may vary from person to person. Information is provided just to help new students. GOOD LUCK and WISH YOU VERY BEST for your GRADUATE STUDY.

We know that you will enjoy your stay in Butte. After couple of years of stay in USA, we have realized that Montana is the best place in the world to live (Exception: Cold Weather). You will never find so cooperative and helpful people in USA as you find in Butte.

Butte is a small town with 30K population but people, town, outdoor activities, mountains, snow, Montana tech, and you guys make it a wonderful town.

THANKS FOR YOU TIME & WELCOME .