GETTING SETTLED/GETTING AROUND

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville
The University of Tennessee, Knoxville is a large but friendly campus. It has existed a long time by American standards, since 1794. However, it is a very modern campus with excellent libraries, superb wireless and internet facilities, and excellent sports facilities. Bring a good pair of walking shoes and be ready to walk once you arrive. You can also use the free bus service (the ‘T’) that runs all over campus.

At the following website: http://www.utk.edu/aboutut/, you will find general information about the university as well as numerous maps and directions on how to get here. Once you are here, do not be shy about asking directions or questions. People are generally very friendly and willing to help if you approach them in a polite manner.

The City of Knoxville
Knoxville is a medium-sized city that still retains the friendliness of a smaller town, yet has plenty for college students to do and see. Downtown and the adjoining 'Old City' offer live music, coffee shops, and a host of unique shops. All of this is located one mile from campus - great to walk to or you can take the trolley bus for free if you prefer.

Knoxville hosted the 1982 World's Fair, so it is no stranger to folks from out of town. Perhaps more impressively, Knoxville is the home for many significant blues and country artists. Today you will still find a thriving music scene.

There are the usual assortments of shopping malls and suburban sprawl for those who want to see those sorts of things up close. Knoxville is one of the cheapest cities of its size in the United States. Even things like movies and restaurants are usually cheaper than in Atlanta, Charleston, etc.

For more information check out: http://www.knoxville.org/. You can also learn about what’s going on in town with the online version of the Mercury, Knoxville’s free weekly newspaper: http://www.knoxm mercury.com/. For even more news you can read the daily newspaper, the Knoxville News-Sentinel online at: www.knoxnews.com. Visit the Great Smoky Mountains National Park website at: http://www.nps.gov/grsm/

As for the people, like most places, you will find all types. We think it is a good idea to get to know and appreciate as many different types of people as possible as opposed to just looking for people who are similar to you. Knoxvillians tend to be more conservative and religious than people from other parts of the country. However, it is probably not wise to automatically assume what this actually might mean or how true it really is for each individual you meet. Overall, people are usually friendly but might take a while to get to know, as is the case around the globe.

If you get bored with Knoxville, you can take comfort in the fact that the city is within a day’s drive of Washington, D.C., New York City, Florida, Charleston, and New Orleans. There are 8 states that border Tennessee, so you can easily explore different states and cities on weekends with the appropriate transportation.

Accommodations
The purpose of the exchange program is for you to immerse yourself in another culture which means you will be living on campus in university housing and will not be allowed to move off campus at any time during your stay in Knoxville.
Clement Hall is suite style accommodations. Yes, this does mean that you will be sharing a bedroom, an experience common to American college and university students. We will let you know about your housing arrangements as soon as possible, most likely in early August for fall, early December for spring.

Sheets, towels and linens are NOT provided for you in the residence hall. You can find these items in many stores in Knoxville and perhaps less expensively than at home, so you do not really need to bring them with you although you may want to bring a sheet and pillowcase for the first couple of nights. You should be able to purchase a bath towel, a set of sheets, a pillow, a blanket and a bedspread for about $50.00 to $100.00 US. The International House will arrange shopping trips during orientation.

At the end of your stay at UT, you are welcome to leave items that you cannot fit in your suitcase for future exchange students.

The bus
You will be living on campus, so there are many places you can walk. Knoxville is a car lovers’ town – people love to drive around here. If you are lucky, one of your roommates will have a car, and they may offer to drive you to the grocery store or the movies. There is a bus system, the KAT (Knoxville Area Transport) that can take you out to both malls and the grocery store as well as all over the campus and to the Old City on those times you do not feel like walking. If you want to get out of Knoxville to see what else the US has to offer, there is a Greyhound bus station and airport.

Driving in Knoxville
One option for transportation is to buy your own car. Many students buy cars to give them the freedom to travel around town and well beyond. Prices are reasonable, and one can buy a working used car for around $1,500. However, the state of Tennessee has imposed strict new laws regarding driver’s licenses. Only U.S. Citizens and permanent residents now qualify for a driver’s license. All others may apply for a temporary driver’s license. You should bring to the driver license testing station the following paperwork: passport, original I-94, DS-2019, and at least 2 documents showing residence in Tennessee, such as your UT housing contract, bank statement, etc. Legal issues surrounding a driver’s license in Tennessee can change. Therefore, please check the following web site for the most up to date information: http://www.state.tn.us/safety/.

Cars are great for freedom but hard on the budget. Insurance is required (at least $400 per year or more), and taxes, gasoline, etc., all add to your costs. If your car breaks down, be prepared to spend more money to have it repaired. If you are thinking of getting a car, there will be an orientation session just for you called GET MOVING. Finally, do not forget that you will make friends with Americans who have cars who will probably be happy to give you a ride from time to time.

Mandatory orientation
CIE has worked hard to schedule an informative and fun orientation for you. We want to help you get settled at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville. You will receive an orientation schedule upon opening your immigration file. At orientation, you will learn valuable information about how remain legal in the U.S.; how to read the course timetable so that you go to class in the right building at the right time; meet other international students; and begin to understand some of the cultural differences that you will encounter in the South. What does “y’all” mean anyway? The PAO will also have one session designed specifically for you, the exchange student. You are required to attend this special exchange student session (for the time and location check out the orientation schedule) http://international.utk.edu/issis/check-in-and-orientation/students/.
Paying fees
You can check to see if you owe any money on your myUTK account (https://myutk.utk.edu/). Please check
the table detailing the benefits received on each program at the end of the handbook (Appendix B). Over the
next few months you will receive automatic emails from UT telling you to check your fees online.

DO NOT PAY FOR ANYTHING UNTIL YOU ARRIVE AT UT!!!

Once you arrive on campus, and we have fixed your program costs, you can pay online via credit card or
PeerTransfer. The university does not accept cash any more. If you choose to pay by credit card, you will
have to do so online, and you will be charged an additional processing fee of 2.5%. Please check with your
credit card company to see if there is a limit on how much you can charge each day.

You should check your UT account regularly throughout the semester to see if you owe anything such as
parking tickets (if you get a car), library fines, classroom fees or health center fees. If you do not pay on
time, you will be charged late fees, and UT will not release your transcript at the end of your program.