Things you should learn about your host country prior to arrival:

Nine information gathering areas to help you get to know your host country:

1. **History**: Develop a time-line giving the main eras, approximate dates and general characteristics of each era.

2. **Basic Factual Information**: geographical features, natural resources, family organization, religion, art, political structure, etc.

3. **Develop a profile of an average young person at the University** where you will be studying. A suggested approach is to put yourself in the position of a grandparent faced with the task of transmitting the values, behaviors, and basic social processes of the country to your grandchildren.

4. **Make a list of specific dos and don'ts for strangers.**

5. **Make a list of the present-day problems and current national affairs.**

6. **Consider the problems you, as student from the United States, may encounter.**

7. **What are the best ways to meet your logistical needs**: banking, public transport, telephone systems, etc.

8. **What are some of the principal sights, monuments, and scenic areas in your host country?**

9. **Identify the folk and national heroes, and heroines of your host country.**
Things you should learn about your host country prior to arrival:

Quiz to check your cultural knowledge of your host country:

1. How many people who are prominent in the affairs of your host country can you name? (Make a separate list for politics, religion, the arts, athletics, etc.)
2. Can you recognize the national flag? National anthem?
3. What is the dominant religion? Is it a state religion? How do people of the predominant religion feel about other religions? What other religions are widely practiced?
4. What is the attitude toward television?
5. What is the attitude toward drinking alcohol?
6. What is the attitude toward gambling?
7. What are the host nationals proud of?
8. What are the main values in this society? What is the attitude toward family?
9. How do people organize their daily activities? What is the general meal schedule?
10. What is the attitude toward work? What is the expected work schedule?
11. If you are invited to dinner, should you arrive early, late, or on time?
12. What is the customary time for visiting friends?
13. How do people greet each other? (handshake/hug/kiss?) How do they take leave of each other? Does this vary by gender?
14. What things are taboos in this society?
15. What are the important holidays? How are they observed?
16. What kinds of public transport are available? Do all classes of people use this form of transportation? Are they any special behaviors or rules in the public transport system?
17. What is the largest circulation of newspapers? Are they generally friendly in their attitude toward the United States?
18. What is the history of the relationship between your host country and the US? What is the relationship like today?
19. Are there many American expatriates in this country?
20. What kinds of health care services are available?
21. Is education free? What kinds of schools are considered the best: public, private, religious?
22. What is the education system like? What is the usual school-leaving age?
23. Where are the most important Universities?
24. What are the largest export of products in this country?
25. How do people greet each other in this culture?
26. Are there any norms for making a telephone call?
27. How do people address each other? How do people exercise formality in conversation?
28. Are there different expectations for women and men? How do gender relations demonstrate the social position of women and men in the community?
29. Are there special norms for complimenting?
30. How is a refusal practiced?