

CONTENTS

2 PRE-ARRIVAL CHECKLIST

3 FOLLOWING ADMISSION TO WESTMINSTER

4 U.S. IMMIGRATION REGULATIONS

- 4 Choosing a Visa
- 4 Visa Application
- 5 901-Fee
- 5 F-1 Employment Options
- 5 Curricular Practical Training (CPT)
- 6 Optional Practical Training (OPT)
- 7 F-1 Employment Based on Severe Economic Hardship
- 7 J-1 Employment Options
- 8 J-1 Student Academic Training During Studies
- 8 J-1 Student Post Curricular Academic Training
- 9 J-1 Two-Year Home Residency Requirement
- 9 Maintaining your Legal Status
- 10 The I-94 Card
- 10 Leaving and Returning to the U.S.
- 11 Helpful Websites

12 ARRIVAL CHECKLIST

13 GETTING SETTLED IN THE COMMUNITY

- 13 Background Financial Information
- 17 U.S. Tax Regulations
- 18 Banking
- 19 Housing
- 19 Churches
- 20 Transportation
- 21 Shopping
- 21 Schooling for Children
- 22 Medical Information
- 24 Social Security/ITIN

26 STUDENT AND ACADEMIC LIFE

- 26 Financial Aid
- 26 Books
- 27 The Westminster Academic System
- 28 Academic Honesty
- 29 Employment
- 29 Life at Westminster

30 GETTING TO KNOW PHILADELPHIA

30 Upon Arrival

31 Weather

32 Entertainment and Recreation

34 GETTING TO KNOW AMERICANS

34 U.S. Culture and Values

37 Life in the U.S.

42 Culture Shock

43 Safety Precautions