SUNFEST FAQ – Summer 2017

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When is the move-in date, and where are our accommodations?

Move-in is Saturday May 27th, 2017. You will be staying in the International House of Philadelphia (http://ihousephilly.org), 3701 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104. Rooms will be available at 3pm. If you plan to arrive earlier than 3:00, you are permitted to keep one bag at the front desk of the International House; however, please make an effort to arrive on or after 3pm.

What are the living arrangements?

You will be living on campus in International House. Each student will have a private room in a suite (of 10 rooms) with shared kitchen and bathroom and living/dining area. Suites are separate for men and women. Each room has controls for air conditioning or heating (depending on time of year) and is furnished with a bed, desk and chair, built-in dresser and closet & bookshelves, lamps, and a small refrigerator.

We ask each to clean up after using the kitchen. Stove, table, floor, etc need to be kept clean at all times.

Included is local telephone with internal phone service, voicemail, a cable jack in the room, wireless internet in the common areas, the use of the 24/7 computer lab, the study room, the student center and café, and the laundry room (pay per use laundry machines). Also included are access to most films, concerts and social programs offered at IHouse.

When is the move-out date?

Move-out at the International House is Saturday, August 5, 2017. The SUNFEST program itself
ends after the Symposium, around 5pm on Thursday August 3. Please plan your travel accordingly.

Do you offer a travel reimbursement?
SUNFEST offers a reimbursement of up to $400 for students who travel more than 150 miles. If you plan on obtaining a reimbursement for your travel expenses, please keep all necessary receipts and please email Colleen Kennedy (colk@seas.upenn.edu) to let her know that you want to be reimbursed. Students collecting reimbursements will be granted access to Penn’s Concur Travel and Expense Management System where they will submit an expense report to the Moore Business Office and Business Services.

Do we need to bring blankets and towels?
Yes, you need to bring linens and towels. The beds in IHP are standard twin sized.

Do we need to bring kitchen supplies?
We suggest everyone bring their own cup, plate, and silverware. Most kitchens at the International House are equipped with some pots and pans for use, but we can’t guarantee what your kitchen will contain as far as cookware is concerned. We suggest you arrive, assess your situation, and you can purchase any missing pieces after you have settled in.

How do I get to campus?
Direction to Penn’s campus can be found at the following website: http://www.admissions.upenn.edu/visit/directions-and-parking

If you arrive by plane at the Philadelphia Int. Airport, the easiest way to get to campus is to take a taxi, which costs $28.50 (plus tip), Uber, or Lyft. You can also take the SEPTA Airport Express train and get off at University City Station on Convention Ave. Airport Line service runs seven days a week, between 5:00 a.m. and 12 midnight. The fare is $12 (fares on-board trains are cash only) and it takes about 18 minutes. You can walk from the station to campus (walk west (away from the bridge) to Walnut Street and walk a few blocks to International House (about 10-15 minute walk).

Where is the Startup Meeting (SUNFEST Orientation)?
The start-up meeting, or Orientation, will be in the Moore 317 Conference Room at 12pm on Tuesday, May 30th. Lunch will be served, so come hungry and try to arrive at least 15 minutes early. Your faculty/mentors will take you to your lab after lunch. Please visit this link to learn more about the buildings that make up the SEAS Campus: http://www.seas.upenn.edu/about-seas/buildings.php

How do I find out about required activities such as workshops, meetings, and deadlines?
You will have access to the SUNFEST Google Calendar, which will contain details regarding all required activities, workshops, and deadlines. In addition to this calendar, there is a SUNFEST
weekly email that you will receive on Monday mornings throughout the program. This email will list upcoming events and deadlines, as well as some things going on in Philadelphia that week.

Where can I find information about the University of Pennsylvania campus?
The following website has plenty of useful information about Penn:
http://www.upenn.edu/campus/

Where do I find information about Philadelphia?
Visit: http://www.upenn.edu/campus/philadelphia.php

When will we be getting paid?
You will be paid in 3 installments, one paycheck at the end of June ($2500), a second at the end of July ($2000), and third at the end of August ($1000). Please sign up for direct deposit before June 20th to ensure timely payment.

Will taxes be taken out of my paycheck?
Yes, your REU stipend is taxable income. Federal, state and local taxes will be withheld from your paycheck.

Is there parking on campus?
The International House has a 23-space garage is attached to the back of our building. Please contact the Admissions Office at IHouse for more information on availability and rates.

You could also obtain a Student Parking Permit. These permits are issued on an annual basis valid from September 1 through August 31, or on an academic year basis valid from September 1 through May 31. Students may apply for any of the permits listed above and may also apply for 24-Hr parking permits issued for around-the-clock parking, including holidays. Specific parameters will apply to student parking permits and can be found on campusexpress.upenn.edu.

The alternative is to use street parking. There is free street parking a few blocks away from the center of campus.

Does the International House have a gym?
While there is not a gym (or fitness center) in the building, IHP residents are eligible for a discounted membership at Drexel’s Recreation Center. Please contact the Drexel Recreation Center for the most up-to-date information.

Alcohol and tobacco products:
No Alcohol or tobacco products of any kind will be allowed in the properties – including for students who are of age.