May 5, 2013

Dear International Students,

In the aftermath of the Boston Marathon bombings and arrest of an out-of-status international student for hiding evidence in the case, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has ordered Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents to verify that every international student who arrives in the U.S. is in valid immigration status. This means that CBP agents will check each student’s SEVIS record to be sure it is still active.

**Students who arrive at land borders in the U.S. will automatically be sent to secondary inspection for their SEVIS records to be checked.** Students who arrive at airports may not experience any new procedures as their SEVIS records will be checked while they are in the air en route to the U.S.

**Due to these measures, you should expect delays at U.S. Ports of Entry, even if you travel only to Canada.** Since you could be delayed as long as a few hours at the Canadian border, we urge you to plan ahead and allow sufficient time for immigration processing at the border.

We remind you to carry the following documents when you travel outside the U.S.:

- Valid passport
- Valid U.S. visa stamp with at least one remaining entry
  *Exception: travel to Canada, Mexico and, for F-1 students, Caribbean islands as explained at [www.buffalo.edu/intlservices/traveltocanada.html](http://www.buffalo.edu/intlservices/traveltocanada.html)*
- I-94 Card (if you have one)

In addition, you will need to carry the following:

For **Students on Optional Practical Training (OPT)**
- Valid I-20 with unexpired signature (not more than six months old) of Designated School Official on Page 3 AND all previous I-20’s + written job offer * + valid EAD card (for F-1 students on OPT) **OR**
- A letter from your employer confirming your employment, your job description and the dates of your employment
  
  *Please note that, if you are near the end of your OPT, you may have difficulty re-entering the U.S. for this purpose.*

We hope that you take this advice to heart. Please be sure that all of your immigration documents are in order and you are in valid immigration status when you travel outside the U.S. and seek to re-enter the U.S.

Sincerely,

Ellen Dussourd