

TRAVEL ADVISORY FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS, VISITING SCHOLARS & EMPLOYEES

November 21, 2005

If you are planning to travel outside the U.S. during winter break, we urge you to read this travel advisory so that you will not have problems during your trip and when you return to the U.S.

The topics addressed in this advisory include:

- Departure Procedures for Individuals who are Subject to Special Registration
- Advice about Travel Inside the U.S. and Re-entry to the U.S.
- Important Reminder about your Passport
- Things to Consider about Renewing your U.S. Visa

Departure Procedures for Individuals who are Subject to Special Registration

Individuals who are subject to Special Registration must notify Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) when they leave the U.S. and may only leave through designated ports. Any individuals who are subject to Special Registration and do not follow these special departure procedures may be denied re-admission to the U.S. at a later date.

A list of designated ports can be found on pages 7-26 at:

<http://www.ice.gov/graphics/specialregistration/WalkawayMaterial.pdf>

If you are not sure if you are subject to Special Registration, please consult

www.ice.gov/graphics/specialregistration/archive.htm

Advice about Travel Inside the U.S. and Re-Entry to the U.S.

If you will travel inside or outside the U.S. during winter break, you must carry the following documents with you.

* Valid passport

* (For travel outside the U.S.) Valid U.S. visa stamp with at least one remaining entry (Exception: Travel to Canada, Mexico and Caribbean islands as explained at <http://wings.buffalo.edu/intlservices/reentering.pdf>)

In addition, you will need to carry the following:

For F-1 Students

- Valid SEVIS I-20 with unexpired signature of Designated School Official on Page 3 AND all previous I-20's (Note: If the DSO signature on Page 3 is less than one year old, you do not need a new signature.)

For J-1 Students and Scholars

- Valid SEVIS DS-2019 with unexpired signature of (Alternate) Responsible Officer in the Travel Designation box on Page 1 AND all previous DS-2019's and/or IAP-66's

For Students on Optional Practical Training (OPT) or Academic Training (AT), such proof should include:

- Valid SEVIS 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**

- Valid SEVIS DS-2019 with unexpired signature of (Alternate) Responsible Officer in the Travel Designation box on Page 1 AND all previous DS-2019's and/or IAP-66's + Letter authorizing Academic Training (for J-1 students on AT)

* 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 or AT, you may have difficulty re-entering the U.S. for this purpose.

For Visiting Scholars and International Employees, such proof should include:

- Valid Form I-797 form (for H-1B Temporary Workers)

- A letter from your employer confirming your employment, your responsibilities and the dates of your employment

Important Reminder about Your Passport

As you know, your passport must be valid at all times while you are in the U.S. and traveling outside the U.S. In addition, your passport must have at least SIX MONTHS' validity remaining when you enter the U.S. The only exception to this requirement is for individuals from one of the countries listed at the end of this section.

Please check the expiration date on your passport and calculate how many months you will have left on the day you plan to enter the U.S. If you will have fewer than six months left and are not from one of the countries listed below, you should renew your passport before you return to the U.S. If you don't renew your passport, you will most likely be denied entry to the U.S.

ALGERIA, ANTIGUA & BARBUDA, ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, BAHAMAS, BANGLADESH, BARBADOS, BELGIUM, BRAZIL, CANADA, CHILE, COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA, COTE D'IVOIRE, CUBA, CYPRUS, CZECH REPUBLIC, DENMARK, DOMINICA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, ECUADOR, EGYPT, EL SALVADOR, ETHIOPIA, FINLAND, FRANCE, GERMANY, GREECE, GRENADA, GUATEMALA, GUINEA, GUYANA, HONG KONG, HUNGARY, ICELAND, INDIA, IRELAND, ISRAEL, ITALY, IVORY COAST, JAMAICA, JAPAN, JORDAN, KOREA, KUWAIT, LAOS, LEBANON,

LIECHTENSTEIN, LUXEMBOURG, MADAGASCAR, MALAYSIA, MALTA, MEXICO, MONACO, NETHERLANDS, NEW ZEALAND, NICARAGUA, NIGERIA, NORWAY, OMAN, PAKISTAN, PANAMA, PARAGUAY, PERU, PHILIPPINES, POLAND, PORTUGAL, QATAR, RUSSIA, ST. KITTS & NEVIS, ST. LUCIA, ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES, SENEGAL, SINGAPORE, SLOVAK REPUBLIC, SLOVENIA, SOUTH AFRICA, SPAIN, SRI LANKA, SUDAN, SURINAME, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, SYRIA, TAIWAN, THAILAND, TOGO, TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, TUNISIA, TURKEY, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, UNITED KINGDOM, URUGUAY, VENEZUELA, ZIMBABWE

In addition, your passport should be valid for six months after the expiration date on your U.S. visa stamp. Please check this point as well.

Things to Consider about Renewing Your U.S. Visa

If you are planning to renew your U.S. visa during winter break, you should consider whether or not you will have sufficient time to renew it. Due to background checks, mandatory visa interviews and scrutiny of individuals studying or doing research in “sensitive fields,” you should be prepared for the possibility of delays in the processing of your visa application.

If your field of study or research is on the Technology Alert List (available at the links below), you should obtain a letter from your professor explaining in detail the nature of your studies or research. This letter should be written in simple language so it can be easily understood by non-specialists.

If you are applying for an F-1 or J-1 visa for the first time, you may have to pay the new SEVIS fee. To find out if you must pay the SEVIS fee, please read “The New SEVIS Fee” handout for F-1 students (available at <http://wings.buffalo.edu/intlservices/sevisfee.pdf>) and for J-1 Exchange Visitors (available at <http://wings.buffalo.edu/intlservices/SEVISFee2.pdf>).

For a list of fields of study which appear on the Technology Alert List, please visit:

http://www.hio.harvard.edu/students_scholars/travel/technology_alert_list.php