

# TRAVEL ADVISORY FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

May 10, 2017

If you are planning to travel outside the U.S. during summer break, please read this travel advisory so you will be less likely to have problems during your trip and when you return to the U.S. This advice should also help you return to the U.S. on time as it is not reasonable to expect exemption from assignments and exams due to your late return to the U.S. The topics addressed in this advisory include:

- Domestic and International Travel Documents
- Important Reminder about Your Passport
- Things to Consider about Renewing your U.S. Visa
- **Re-Entry to the U.S.**
- **Executive Order Travel Ban**
- Important Advice about Bringing Money into the U.S.

## **Domestic and International Travel Documents**

If you will travel outside Buffalo, we advise you to carry the following documents with you. If you will travel outside the U.S., you must carry these documents with you.

- Valid passport
- Valid U.S. visa stamp with at least one remaining entry (*for travel outside the U.S.*) (Exception: travel to Canada, Mexico and, for F-1 students and J-1 Exchange Visitors, Caribbean islands as explained at

[www.buffalo.edu/intlservices/traveltocanada.html](http://www.buffalo.edu/intlservices/traveltocanada.html))

In addition, you will need to carry the following:

For F-1 Students - Valid I-20 with unexpired signature of Designated School Official on Page 2 AND all previous I-20's. (Notes: **Please be sure to confirm that you have a DSO signature on Page 2 of your I-20. If you joined UB in Fall**

**2016 or Spring 2017, you may not have one. If that is your situation, you must come to ISSS, Talbert Hall 210 for a signature or you will not be able to re-enter the U.S.** Each DSO signature is valid for one year. If the signature will be less than one year old on the day you return to the U.S., you do not need a new signature. Also, if you have multiple I-20's, bring all of them but only present your current I-20 initially.)

- Financial Documents showing ability to cover the costs of a U.S. education - UB Card + Proof of Full-time Enrollment (e.g. course schedule print-out with name on it)

*For J-1 Students*

- Valid DS-2019 with unexpired signature of (Alternate)

Responsible Officer in the Travel Designation box on Page 1  
AND all previous DS-2019's

- Financial Documents showing ability to cover the costs of a U.S. education

- UB Card + Proof of Full-time Enrollment (e.g. course schedule print-out with name on it)

*For Students on Optional Practical Training (OPT) or Academic Training (AT)*

- Valid I-20 with unexpired signature (not more than six months old) of Designated School Official on Page 2 AND all previous I-20's + written job offer\* + valid EAD card (*for F-1 students on OPT*) **OR** - Valid DS-2019 with unexpired signature of

(Alternate) Responsible Officer in the Travel Designation box on Page 1 AND all previous DS-2019'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

**Important Reminder about Your Passport** As you know, your passport must be valid at all times while you are in the U.S. In addition, your passport must be valid for six months beyond the period of your intended stay in the U.S. unless your

country of citizenship is one of the Six-Month Club countries.

Please check the “Six-Month Club” list at [https://www.cbp.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Six%20Month%20Club%20Update\\_0.pdf](https://www.cbp.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Six%20Month%20Club%20Update_0.pdf). If your country of citizenship is not on this list, then check the expiration date on your passport. If you do not have six months beyond the period of your intended stay on your passport, you should renew it before you return to the U.S. If you don't renew your passport, you will likely be denied re-entry to the U.S.

### **Things to Consider about Renewing Your U.S. Visa**

If you are planning to renew your U.S. visa during winter break, we recommend that you read “Applying for a Non-Immigrant U.S. Visa” at [www.buffalo.edu/intlservices/visa2.html](http://www.buffalo.edu/intlservices/visa2.html).

You should apply to renew your U.S. visa in your home country as it is easier for Consular Officers to verify your information there. Note: Applying for a U.S. visa in a third country (including Canada) is always riskier than applying for one in your home country.

You should also consider whether or not you will have sufficient time to renew your U.S. visa during summer break. Due to background checks, mandatory visa interviews and scrutiny of individuals studying or doing research in “sensitive fields”, you may encounter delays in the processing of your visa application. Note: Each semester, at least one UB student is not able to return to Buffalo to resume his/her studies because of visa processing delays due to background checks. Therefore, you should think carefully before you decide to return to your home country with an expired U.S. visa.

If you are a graduate student and your field of study or research may be considered sensitive (e.g. electrical engineering, computer science, biological science, physiology and biophysics, urban planning, etc.), 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.

### **Re-Entry to the U.S.**

**Although the Executive Order travel bans signed by President Trump have so far not been upheld by U.S. Courts, the procedures at Ports of Entry are much tighter now than in the recent past. You should expect to spend much longer being cleared at Ports of Entry. Among others, Customs & Border Protection officers may check your cell phone, including email, social media, websites, etc.**

### **Executive Order Travel Ban**

**As you know, both of President Trump's Executive Order travel bans were blocked by U.S. Courts. However, the Trump Administration appealed those decisions and the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals courts agreed to hear the Administration's arguments for the second time. The Court is expected to hear oral arguments this month. Since neither the outcome nor timing of the Court's decision is known, we urge you to think carefully before traveling outside the U.S. (including to Canada) if you are from one of the affected countries (Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Yemen).**

### **Important Advice about Bringing Money into the U.S.**

If you plan to bring money (e.g. cash, money order, certified check, travelers' checks, letter of credit) into the U.S., please note the following from the Customs & Border Protection (CBP) website:

“Travelers leaving or entering the U.S. are required to report monetary instruments (e.g. currency or checks) valued at \$10,000 or more on a "Report of International Transportation of Currency or

Monetary Instruments" form FinCEN 105"  
(available at  
[https://www.fincen.gov/sites/default/files/shared/fin105\\_cmir.pdf](https://www.fincen.gov/sites/default/files/shared/fin105_cmir.pdf) or from a CBP officer). "Failure to declare currency in amounts over \$10,000 can result in its seizure."

Please Note:

- Do not assume that you can multiply \$10,000 by the number of people in your group and bring that amount of money. The border officer will try to determine to whom the money really belongs. If s/he determines that it belongs to one person, s/he will seize it if the total amount exceeds \$10,000.
- Never make false statements to a border officer about money or anything else. The penalty for making false statements to border officers is very severe, including a fine and up to two years of imprisonment.
- If you do not follow the above-mentioned advice and your money is seized, please contact ISSS, Talbert Hall 210 (Tel. 716-645-2258, E-mail: [iss@buffalo.edu](mailto:iss@buffalo.edu)) for advice.