



Education | Healthcare | Public Services

Summer Travel Guide for International Faculty, Staff and Students in the United States

As summer approaches, international faculty and students planning to travel—whether within the U.S. or abroad—should take proactive steps to be cautious in light of recent visa revocations and deportations. Here's a concise checklist to help you prepare:

1. Verify Travel Documentation

- **Form I-20/DS-2019:** Ensure your travel signature is valid. For F-1 students, signatures are valid for one year; for J-1 students/scholars, signatures are valid for six months. H-1B holders need a valid H-1B visa stamp in their passport and a valid I-797 approval notice to re-enter the U.S. after international travel.
- **Passport and Visa:** Confirm that your passport is valid for at least six months beyond your planned return date. Ensure your visa is valid for re-entry.
- **For Students:** Check that your SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System) record is active and up to date.

2. Consult Your Designated School Official or an Attorney

Before traveling, meet with your DSO to:

- Confirm your SEVIS record is active.
- Obtain a valid travel signature on your I-20/DS-2019.
- Discuss any pending applications, such as Optional Practical Training, as leaving the U.S. during this process can affect your application.
- For faculty, staff and students, it's advisable to speak with an attorney before leaving for legal advice regarding international travel.

3. Prepare Essential Documents

Carry the following documents with you:

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Randi Weingarten
PRESIDENT

Fedrick C. Ingram
SECRETARY-TREASURER

Evelyn DeJesus
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

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- Valid passport and visa
 - Signed I-20/DS-2019 or valid H-1B visa stamp
 - Downloaded I-94 record and a copy of admission records/dates (Download [I-94 form here.](#))
 - Proof of enrollment and financial support for students
 - Travel itinerary and emergency contact information. Have at least one emergency contact in both the U.S. and your destination internationally, with copies of your travel itinerary. Ensure that these two people have each other's contact details in case there is any interruption in your trip, and that they are able to work together to facilitate a search.
 - Health insurance documents and any necessary medical records
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4. Health and Safety Preparations

- **Medications:** Bring enough prescription medication for the duration of your trip, along with copies of your prescriptions.
 - **Vaccinations:** Ensure you are up to date on required vaccinations and as well as compliant with college- or university-specific health requirements.
 - **Travel Insurance:** Consider purchasing travel insurance that covers health, trip cancellations and lost baggage. Travel insurance is also another layer for your contacts to track your trip, be sure to add a contact person when applying.
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5. Familiarize Yourself with U.S. Travel Regulations

- **Domestic Travel:** Carry identification, such as a state-issued ID or passport, when traveling within the U.S., as you may encounter immigration checks. For domestic air travel, be sure your identification is REAL ID compliant by May 7, 2025.
 - **CBP and TSA Guidelines:** Be aware of Customs and Border Patrol guidelines for reentry as well as Transportation Security Administration regulations, including restrictions on liquids and electronics in carry-on luggage, to help potentially avoid search or detainment by TSA agents.
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6. Stay Informed

- **Embassy Registration:** Register with your home country's embassy or consulate for travel advisories and assistance.

- **Pertinent Updates:** Keep informed about any travel advisories or policy changes issued by your institution or relevant U.S. authorities such as the Department of State.

By taking these steps, you can help ensure a safe and compliant travel experience this summer. Always consult with your Designated School Officer, international office or attorney for personalized guidance.

AFT Immigration Resources

[Know Your Rights – in English and Spanish](#)