

# **General Travel Information**

## **Travel Planning**

When making any travel plans, please observe the academic calendar and housing opening and closing dates.

## **International Travel**

When entering the United States for the **first** time, you will need a valid passport, an F-1/J-1 visa stamp that matches the university on your I-20/DS-2019, Form I-20 (or DS-2019 for exchange visitors) and evidence of the financial support listed on page 1 of the I-20 and DS-2019. When **re-entering** the United States after time abroad, you will need the said documents and a valid travel signature from the ISSS Office. The travel signature is on page 2 of the I-20 and page 1 of the DS-2019. It is valid for one year. If you need a new travel signature, make an appointment with the ISSS office with your I-20/DS-2019 and passport to receive a new one. No signatures will be given without an accompanying passport and proof of registration for the coming semester. Travel situations are constantly changing, please look for email updates from the ISSS Office.

## **Domestic Travel**

Even when traveling domestically, it is a good idea to carry all of your original documents with you (passport, visa, I-20/DS-2019). If you will be traveling near any international border or on a plane, be prepared to show these documents.

## **Family**

If your dependents will be joining you in the United States, they will need their own separate dependent documents. They may travel with you or by themselves, but they should carry all of their documents if they will be traveling internationally.

## **Visiting Canada, Mexico or the Adjacent Islands**

Department of State (DOS) regulations permit certain non-immigrants to re-enter the United States after a 30-day or shorter visit to Canada, Mexico or the adjacent islands (except for Cuba) without having to obtain a new visa prior to re-entry. This is called automatic visa revalidation. You must travel with documents relevant to the particular status (passport, visa, I-20 or DS-2019) which must be carried and properly endorsed, if required.

## Exceptions

There are three exceptions to this provision. First, citizens of Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Syria and Sudan are no longer eligible for automatic revalidation. They need to have a valid visa in their passport in order to re-enter. Also, Chinese citizens who have CWOP (canceled without prejudice) on their visa stamps may be denied re-entry. Be sure to check your visa stamp carefully.

In addition, anyone who is visiting Canada or Mexico in order to apply for a new visa may no longer benefit from automatic revalidation. Many individuals schedule an appointment with a U.S. consulate in Canada or Mexico in order to obtain a new visa so as to facilitate future travel overseas. Those who choose to apply for a new visa in Canada or Mexico must wait until the visa is approved or denied to re-enter. If the visa is denied, they may not re-enter and would have to travel directly to their home country and apply for a visa there. The risk of denial in a country other than the home country is higher for those who must prove their ties to their home country in order to get a visa (such as Fs and Js). Those considering applying for a visa in Canada or Mexico should take this into account when making their plans.

## Canadian Citizens

Canadian citizens do not need a visa stamp in their passports to enter the United States. They will still need to carry all other documents (passport, Form I-20 or DS-2019 and financial documents).

**Bermudian Citizens** Bermudian citizens currently do not require a visa to attend school in the United States. Presentation of the I-20 for academic or vocational studies or the DS-2019 for exchange visitor's form plus proof of financial support to the U.S. Customs and Border Protections officer at the port of entry is sufficient for students to attend school in the United States. However, many students report that obtaining a visa eases their transition into student life. For instance, it is required in order to obtain a U.S. driver's license or other documentation in many states. For more information, go to

<http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/study-exchange/student.html>

## For More Information

Contact the ISSS Office 401-254-3400.

Please, when entering the USA at the border be sure to emphasize that you are a STUDENT studying at USA University. This will help insure you are entered in the CVP computer correctly.

2017-18 \* ISSS Office is located in the lowest level of the Intercultural Center. Cassidy Hammond is the Assistant Director of International Student Life – [chammond@rwu.edu](mailto:chammond@rwu.edu) appointment only