OIA Winter Break Travel

Information Session and Q&A

December 18, 2020
OIA Winter Break Travel

• Welcome!

• Slides and recording will be available on the OIA website

• Zoom notes:
  – Please mute yourself
  – Use Q&A function to pose questions and upvote
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• Agenda:
  – What documents are required for international travel?
  – Additional considerations (vis-à-vis COVID-19)
  – Advanced planning
  – University closures
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What documents are required?

- Valid passport (6-months into the future from next dated entry)
- Valid F-1 or J-1 visa sticker in passport (unless Canadian citizen)
- Valid I-20 or DS-2019 (with valid travel signature dated within 12-months of latest dated signature – unless on OPT, then 6-months + carry EAD card)
  - I-20 travel signature on page 2
  - DS-2019 travel signature on page 1
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Additional considerations:

• Travel signatures are valid:
  – 12-months for current students (F-1 or J-1)
  – 6-months for students on F-1 OPT/STEM OPT

• Need an updated travel signature?
  – Visit the I-20/DS-2019 Reprint request: https://internationalaffairs.uchicago.edu/content/travel-signature-request-form
  – An I-20/DS-2019 will be emailed to you per federal guidance with an updated travel signature
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Additional considerations:

- **Travel signatures (continued):**
  - University/OIA to be closed from December 25, 2020 to January 4, 2021
  - If you forgot you needed a travel signature during this time, you will need to use the I-20 or DS-2019 in your possession for travel, *even with an outdated signature.*
  - An expired travel signature alone is not reason for denied entry into the U.S.
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Advanced Planning:

• Be aware of any COVID-related restrictions and requirements for the country you plan to visit, including COVID testing requirements.
  – The U.S. does not currently require a negative COVID-19 test result for entry.

• Travel plans may be disrupted due to the COVID-19 situation.

• Devise a back-up plan should you be required to remain abroad for some or all of winter quarter 2021.
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Advanced Planning:

- Please also review current travel restrictions issued by the U.S. government for certain countries. For more information: https://internationalaffairs.uchicago.edu/page/autumn-2020-planning-international-students
  - Current restrictions apply to anyone traveling from China, Brazil, Iran, the Schengen area, the UK and Ireland
  - Exemptions may apply for the Schengen area, the UK and Ireland, for more: https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/News/visas-news/national-interest-exceptions-from-certain-travelers-from-the-schengen-area-uk-and-ireland.html
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University and OIA closures:

- December 25 (Christmas Day)
- December 28 – 31 (Winter Recess)
- January 1 (New Years Day)

Normal operations will resume on Monday, January 4, 2021. Please plan accordingly.

**Reminder:** carry original documents when traveling, and be sure to have e-copies (photos, scans, etc.) available in case they are needed.
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Resources

• OIA Travel Information for F-1 and J-1 visa holders
• Regularly Updated Information about Travel Restrictions
• OIA 2020/2021 Planning Page
• OIA Virtual Office
• UChicago Go Forward
• Health & Wellness
  – International Student Support Group
    ✓ Email yyliu@uchicago.edu to inquire/sign up
  – Student Counseling
  – COVID Testing for International Travel
Q & A