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# **OIA Winter Break Travel Information Session and Q&A**

December 18, 2020

# OIA Winter Break Travel

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- 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signature during this time, you will need to use the I-20 or DS-2019 in your possession for travel, **even with an outdated signature.**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](mailto:yyliu@uchicago.edu) to inquire/sign up
  - [Student Counseling](#)
  - [COVID Testing for International Travel](#)

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Q & A