

## **Message from the ISO: THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN YOU TRAVEL for F-1/J-1 students**

I. When traveling within the U.S outside the local area, you may be asked by an officer of the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement to show your immigration documents. Be sure you have your documents with you; keep them in a safe place so as not to misplace them or have them stolen from your car.

II. If you are traveling outside the U.S.:

1. Please check your DS-2019/ASU I-20 for a valid travel signature by a Designated School Official from the International Student Office. Signatures are valid for **1 year** from the date of last signature except for students on OPT\*.

- a) If the signature will be valid on the date that you will reenter the US you may use it for travel.
- b) If the signature will be expired on the date that you return to the US, submit your most current DS-2019/ASU I-20 to the ISO as soon as possible to obtain a travel signature. This process may take up to 7-10 working days. Failure to submit it in a timely manner may cause delay and the cost of mailing it to your country of destination will be your responsibility.

\*OPT travel signatures are valid for **6 months** from the date of last signature. For complete OPT travel information please go to the ISO website <http://www.asu.edu/international/opt.html> .

2. **DOCUMENTS to carry when you return to the US in student or exchange visitor status:**

- a) Valid F-1 or J-1 visa
- b) DS-2019 or ASU I-20 with travel signature endorsed within 1 year
- c) Passport, valid 6 months into the future
- d) ASU unofficial transcript & Enrollment Verification (request from the REGISTRAR's Office, SSV #144)

3. If you plan to travel to a country other than your own, you should contact the Consulate of that country to find out if you need a visa. You can access it through the State Government website <http://www.state.gov/s/cpr/rls/> and

follow to the list of Foreign Consulates in the U.S.

4. **Automatic visa revalidation:** Citizens of some countries who are in the US with an expired F-1/J-1 visa will be able to return to the US after travel to Mexico, Canada and the neighboring islands/US territories under the following conditions: visit is not more than 30 days and the purpose is pleasure or vacation only, maintained full-time status at all times, has DS-2019/ASU I-20 endorsed for travel within a year. Check with an ISO advisor if your country is on the list of non-eligibility to receive the automatic visa revalidation benefit.
5. If you are planning to renew your expired student visa in your home country you must apply early and expect delays. In addition submit your most current DS-2019/ASU I-20 to the ISO to obtain an updated travel signature.

**DOCUMENTS for visa renewal purposes :** DS-2019/ASU I-20 with updated travel signature, Passport, valid 6 months into the future, Financial guarantee (i.e., current semester TA/RA letter, bank statement obtained within the last 6 months), Enrollment verification and unofficial transcript (request from the REGISTRAR, SSV #144).

Consult individual embassy websites for periodic updates on country-specific visa processing. Lists of US Embassies abroad can be accessed through this website <http://usembassy.state.gov/>

6. Students subject to **SPECIAL REGISTRATION** should remember all entry and exit requirements to avoid delays. For additional information or specific questions on special registration, go to the USICE website link <http://www.ice.gov/pi/specialregistration/index.htm> or contact USCIS National Customer Service Center 1-800-375-5283.
7. US-Visit Program: **US-VISIT** is part of a continuum of security measures that begins overseas and continues through a visitor's arrival in and departure from the United States. For more information, visit the US-VISIT Program website [http://www.dhs.gov/xtrvlsec/programs/content\\_multi\\_image\\_0006.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/xtrvlsec/programs/content_multi_image_0006.shtm)

**The International Student Office**  
[ISOadvisor@asu.edu](mailto:ISOadvisor@asu.edu)