Reminders for F-1/J-1 Students Travelling Internationally During Spring Break

Students are required to carry the following documentation when re-entering the United States:

- Passport valid at least 6 months into the future.
- Most recent I-20 or DS-2019 including up to date information and a valid travel signature. For most current full-time students, the travel signature is valid for one year. For students on OPT, it is valid for 6 months. If your travel signature is older than 6 months, check with ISSS before travelling to find out if you need a new one.
- Unexpired F-1 or J-1 visa stamp – (citizens of Canada and Bermuda are exempt from the visa requirement). You need this in order to re-enter the United States.
- **Students on OPT:** Students on OPT must additionally carry a valid EAD card, I-20 signed within the past 6 months for travel, and proof of ongoing employment (i.e. contract or letter from employer). Consult ISSS before travelling while on OPT.

Students are recommended to also carry the following:

- If the country you are traveling to requires that you have a visa to enter that country, you will need to go through the process of applying for that visa. You will need to check with that country’s Department of Immigration. If you are transiting through a country, check to see if you need a transit visa for that country.
- Proof of Enrollment or transcript at the University at Albany
- Proof of funding – Verifying the funding shown on your I-20 or DS-2019. Examples include personal or family bank statements, affidavit of support, and copy of scholarship, assistantship, or fellowship letter.
- For J-1 students, it is a good idea to carry proof of health insurance as well.

Note on Special Circumstances/Travel Restrictions Related to the COVID19 (Coronavirus)

Several countries have reported outbreaks and/or cases or COVID19 (Coronavirus) and the situation continues to develop globally. Students who are travelling internationally should be aware that any country could impose travel restrictions at any time, and that these changes may be given with little notice or predictability. Out of caution due to this developing situation, we recommend that students choosing to travel internationally also do the following:

- Travel with a copy of your I-94 and I-94 travel history (available at https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov) or other documentation as evidence of your travel history in case you are asked to demonstrate whether or not you have been to an impacted area
- Closely monitor the travel advisories and updates for any country you are travelling or transiting through, including WHO, local/national departments of health, and visiting country consular website. Be aware of any travel restrictions the US might impose limiting reentry by monitoring the CDC website.
- Consider registering with your home country’s consulate in the country you’re visiting
- Make precautionary plans for what you will do if your return to Albany is delayed. For example, if you choose to travel internationally during Spring Break and cannot return as planned due to a travel restriction: you may still be financially liable for your registered courses. Please consult professors about whether or not you can complete coursework remotely if delayed, and if yes for how long. If you are graduating this term and want to apply for OPT you must be physically present in the U.S. at the time you’re completing in order to apply.