Reminders for Students Travelling Internationally During Spring

Several countries have reported outbreaks and/or cases of COVID19 (Coronavirus) and the situation continues to develop globally. Students who must travel 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. Due to this, we advise students to first carefully consider the situation before choosing to travel at this time.

Based on the Albany County and NY State Departments of Health guidance, the University at Albany is highly discouraging travel to countries or regions impacted by the coronavirus. If you must travel, please note that NYS Department of Health has advised that “Student and faculty returning from currently impacted countries or regions of impacted countries will be required to be quarantined for 14 days upon return.” What constitutes a currently impacted country or region may continue to expand as the situation develops, but these are the areas NYS DOH currently links to as “areas of concern:” [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/locations-confirmed-cases.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/locations-confirmed-cases.html). A quarantine would require a student to remain in a single room; arrange for food delivery and other services; and check in with the local health department and receive clearance from that department at the end of the 14 days before leaving the quarantine room. More details on the requirements of a quarantine are available here: [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/risk-assessment.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/risk-assessment.html)

Students who must travel during this spring break to impacted countries or regions are required to call UAlbany Student Health Services at 518-442-5229 before returning to campus. For more instructions on this critical process, please visit [https://www.albany.edu/risk-management/coronavirus-covid-19-information](https://www.albany.edu/risk-management/coronavirus-covid-19-information) (section heading beginning with “I am planning a trip or have returned from a trip to on the geographic areas...”). F-1 students on OPT are recommended to check with their local health department for guidance upon return.

Special Announcement on U.S. Department of State Worldwide Travel Advisory, Level 4 (effective 3/19/20)

As of March 19, 2020, the U.S. department of State has issued a Global Level 4 Health Advisory urging individuals not to travel. We urge students consider this health and safety advisory before making the choice to travel. International travel is highly discouraged at this time. Below are some of the current travel restrictions in place, though more may be imposed at any time:

- On March 11th, 2020, President Trump announced a 30-day ban on travelers returning from Europe from entering the U.S. This ban begins on Friday, March 13th. The ban will be expanded to include travelers from the United Kingdom and Ireland, effective midnight (EST) on Monday, March 16th. U.S. citizens and permanent residents are exempted but non-immigrants are not. In this case, F, J and other non-immigrant international students are subject to this ban.
- Indefinite travel bans continue to be in place for travelers from China or Iran who have been present in either country within the past 14 days
- Based on the Albany County and NY State Departments of Health guidance, the University at Albany is highly discouraging travel to countries or regions impacted by the coronavirus. If you must travel, please note that NYS Department of Health has advised that “Student and faculty returning from currently impacted countries or regions of impacted countries will be required to be quarantined for 14 days upon return.” What constitutes a currently impacted country or region may continue to expand as the situation develops.
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)**

- Travel with a copy of your I-94 and I-94 travel history (available at [https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov](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. If returning to NYS, monitor the NYS Department of Health at [https://www.health.ny.gov/](https://www.health.ny.gov/) for any updates on quarantining and other restrictions within the state. Also continue to check the University at Albany webpages dedicated to coronavirus information and updates at [https://www.albany.edu/risk-management/coronavirus-covid-19-information](https://www.albany.edu/risk-management/coronavirus-covid-19-information).
- 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 (including if you must quarantine upon return), 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.