International Travel Reminders for the Upcoming Breaks

November 18, 2021

Thanksgiving and winter recess are around the corner and many of you might be thinking of travelling internationally. We understand that these break periods are a chance for many of you to reunite with your families, loved ones, and friends. However, please keep in mind that based on university travel guidelines [1], travel is still identified as a significant risk for exposure to COVID-19 and the university continues to discourage non-essential travel for faculty, staff and students for the duration of this public health crisis.

In addition, due to the continued uncertainty in the availability of international flights and various travel restrictions that are still in place in countries you might travel through, for those of you who choose to travel, your return to the U.S. might be delayed temporarily or for the whole semester.

If you are still considering travel this Thanksgiving and winter break, be sure to check our Travel Guidance [2]. You should also make sure you have all of your documents and they are valid for travel (check the specific requirements for your specific visa category on our Traveling to the U.S. [3] page).

Below are some additional reminders before you travel during the upcoming breaks.

Check you travel signature and make sure it will be valid for your re-entry to the U.S.
The travel signature is on the second page of your I-20 or first page of your DS-2019 and is valid for a year from the date it was given. If you need a new travel signature you can either come to OISS any time between 9 am and 5 pm from Monday to Friday, or you can email your OISS adviser [4] with the subject line “Need new travel signature” if you need a new travel signature. Your adviser will then communicate with you directly to see that you obtain one before you return to the U.S.

Print and sign your electronically signed and transmitted I-20.
Please note that on November 1st SEVP published a guidance permitting OISS advisers to electronically sign and transmit I-20s, so your adviser will be able to email it directly to you. Although your adviser is allowed to send your I-20 electronically, you still need to print it (double-sided) and sign it in ink yourself. Please note that this provision is only for F-1 students and I-20s; OISS advisers are still not allowed to electronically sign or transmit DS-2019s.

Pay close attention to Travel and Quarantine Requirements for International Travelers [5]. On October 25, 2021, President Biden issued a Proclamation [6], effective November 8, 2021, removing most travel restrictions on entry to the U.S. by nonimmigrant air travelers.

- If you are fully vaccinated: You must show proof of vaccination and a negative COVID-19 test result taken no more than 3 days before travel.
- If you are NOT fully vaccinated: You must show a negative COVID-19 test result taken no more than 1 day before travel.

Register your travel [7] with Yale so that in the event of a major emergency, Yale will be able to contact you.

Contact International SOS travel assistance [8] if you need it. All members of the Yale community are automatically enrolled with International SOS (ISOS), which provides pre-travel consultations and 24/7/365 domestic and international emergency medical, security and travel assistance for Yale travelers and accompanying family while more than 100 miles from home. Install the International SOS travel app [9] on your smartphone for easy access to the services.

Check your medical insurance. [10]
Check with your medical insurance provider before you travel to verify coverage of routine medical needs and coverage limitations while you are outside the U.S. For students enrolled in Yale Health Basic and Hospitalization/Specialty Coverage, your Yale Health insurance coverage is good worldwide in the event of a health emergency.

Check out Travel Health Resources [11] for consultations and vaccinations for traveling outside the U.S.

Leave electronics that you don’t really need at home [12]. Before you get on a plane, train or in an automobile consider protecting your electronic devices while away. Take a quick look at these travel tips and look into registering a secondary or alternative phone for multi-factor authentications.

U.S. sanctions and embargoes may require you to have U.S. government approval before you travel to an embargoed country or may restrict your activities in that country. See the Yale World Toolkit [13] for more information. This includes travel to Cuba. Please review the guidelines for travel to Cuba [14] as they apply to anyone, regardless of citizenship, traveling from to Cuba directly from the U.S. or anyone traveling to Cuba using Yale funding or in connection with a Yale activity, where they travel to Cuba directly from the U.S. or from another country.

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Links:
[8] https://ogc.yale.edu/erm/ISOS
[12] https://cybersecurity.yale.edu/travel-securely
[13] https://world-toolkit.yale.edu/