Travel Considerations

December 10, 2020

Based on university travel guidelines [1] all non-essential travel outside of Connecticut is discouraged for students, faculty, and staff for the duration of this public health crisis.

In addition, due to the continued uncertainty in the availability of international flights and federally imposed travel restrictions, for those of you who choose to travel, your return to the U.S. might be delayed temporarily or for the whole semester. Please listen to the recording of the OISS Town Hall [2] that we held on November 18th where we discussed all of these travel considerations you will want to consider (you will need to be logged into you Yale Zoom account to access it). You can access the slides with this link [3].

Spring 2021 Graduates: OISS recently held a Town Hall regarding additional travel considerations for students graduating in Spring 2021, or you'd like to review the information from the session, you can now log in with your Yale credentials and watch the recording [4] and view the slides [5].

If you are still considering travel this winter break, be sure to first check our COVID Travel Restrictions page [6] and talk to your OISS Adviser [7]. You should also make sure you have all of your documents and they are valid for travel (F-1 student travel [8] and J-1 student travel [9]). This includes making sure you have a valid travel signature on the second page of your I-20 or first page of your DS-2019.

Email your adviser 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.

Below are some additional precautions you should take before traveling this winter.
1. Pay close attention to COVID 19 Travel and Health Information Updates [1]

2. Register your travel [10] with Yale. In the event of a major emergency, Yale will be able to contact you.

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 [12] on your smartphone for easy access to the services.

4. Check your medical insurance [13]
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.

5. Leave electronics that you don’t really need at home [14]
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.

8. 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 [15] for more information. This includes travel to Cuba. Please review the guidelines for travel to Cuba [16] 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.

Additional Yale Resources

- Travel Health Resources [17] - consultations and vaccinations

Source URL: https://oiss.yale.edu/news/travel-considerations

Links:
[2] https://yale.zoom.us/rec/share/ytP6RdDWspen3dKUopduF286quDzvtFXI1Oi7XFowwgh4jNcCslEvkzOBcekDlS1.4s_j4ILAA7xeYKh
[3] https://yale.box.com/s/1mww5r19h28bhq8hox2qvt61qkx6f
[4] https://yale.zoom.us/rec/play/JYV3xN-HyIarMVdOPysFqAR41uYhDLGuaHLixszpUOx0ozQwlpATfuYUWWsIRMd__SS7gwd2JpUFeuP.ZFrSbehkHb36RYXZ?continueMode=true
[5] https://yale.app.box.com/s/cvbrmxh1nz0aeumlw91lx6y0yb4f3m67
[7] https://oiss.yale.edu/about/contact-oiss
[8] https://oiss.yale.edu/immigration/f-1-students/traveling-in-f-1-status
[9] https://oiss.yale.edu/immigration/j-1-students/traveling
[12] https://www.internationalsos.com/assistance-app
[14] https://cybersecurity.yale.edu/travelsecurely
[15] https://world-toolkit.yale.edu/
[17] https://yalehealth.yale.edu/more/preparing-travel-abroad-plan-ahead