



International Student Services Newsletter

Office of International Programs

Block 3, Volume III

November 3, 2016

F-I & J-I Travel Reminders



If you are planning to travel abroad during the upcoming holiday season, now is the right time to make sure you have the immigration documents and instructions you need to depart and re-enter the United States. Understanding your immigration obligations can help minimize travel delays.

WHAT INTERNATIONAL TRAVELERS SHOULD DO NOW

Before you travel abroad this holiday season, make sure to do the following:

Check your passport validity. In general, your passport must be valid for at least six months beyond the expiration of your period of admission to the United States. This is to ensure that you will be able to leave the United States

at the end of your stay and proceed to your home country or another country. There are some exceptions to this rule. Many countries have an agreement with the United States under which a passport is deemed valid for an additional six months past its expiration date so that the passport holder can return to his or her country of citizenship.

If you have questions about whether your passport is valid for re-entry, contact the Office of International Programs.

Check your visa to make sure it is valid for re-entry to the United States. When you come back to the United States after international travel, the visa stamp in your passport must reflect your current nonimmigrant visa status, it must be unexpired, and, if the visa has a limited number of entries, it must have a remaining valid entry available on the intended date of re-entry to the United States. Note: Canadian citizens are not required to have a valid visa to enter the United States as an F-1 student.

Under certain circumstances, if you are making a short trip of 30 days or less to Canada or Mexico and have a valid I-94 arrival record, you can re-enter on a previously issued visa even if it has expired. But if you have applied for a new visa while in Canada or Mexico or if you are a citizen or national of Iran, Sudan or Syria, you must wait to obtain the new visa in order to re-enter the United States. For more information about the "automatic visa revalidation" regulations, see: <http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/general/automatic-revalidation.html>.

Check to make sure that your Certificate of Eligibility (Form I-20 for F-1 students/Form DS-2019 for J-1 exchange visitors) has been endorsed for travel. Your Form I-20/Form DS-2019 should be endorsed for travel by a Designated School Official (DSO) or Responsible Officer (RO) in the Office of

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Fall Break Shuttles

Traveling for Fall Break? The Worner Desk is sponsoring shuttle service to both Colorado Springs Airport (COS) and Denver International Airport (DIA) on the following dates:

DIA:

Wednesday, November 16th: 12:30, 2:30 & 4:30 pm

Thursday, November 17th: 6:00, 8:00 and 10:00 am & 12:00 pm

COS:

Wednesday, November 16th: 12:00—5:00 pm Every hour, on the hour

Thursday, November 17th: 7:00 am—12:00 pm Every hour, on the hour



The cost for the shuttle service is \$7.00 to the Colorado Springs Airport and \$45.00 to the Denver International Airport. The Worner Desk accepts cash, check, Gold Card and credit card payments, but these costs are non-refundable, so please be sure of your travel plans before paying for your shuttle reservation. Visit the Worner Desk today to book your shuttle reservation!

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Finishing Your Program of Study at CC in December?

F-1 students who have maintained lawful status have a 60-day "grace period" following their program end date at CC, and J-1 exchange visitors who have maintained lawful status have a 30-day "grace period" following their program end date, to:

- Depart the U.S.;
- Request a transfer of their SEVIS record to another school to begin a new program of study; or
- Apply for a change of nonimmigrant status



Enforcement of On-Campus Employment Work Hour Limits

Effective November 7, 2016, the Office of Financial Aid be regularly reporting to the Office of International Programs any F-1 or J-1 student who has exceeded the 20 hours per week limit on on-campus employment while school is in session. "While school is in session" means that an F-1 or J-1 student cannot work for more than 20 hours total during any work week (which, at CC, is defined as Sunday through Saturday) in which there is at least one day of class scheduled, i.e. the 20 hour per week limit on on-campus employment applies even during Week 4 of any block.

As a reminder, it is a **violation of your F-1 or J-1 nonimmigrant status** to engage in over 20 hours per week of on-campus employment while school is in session. Therefore, any F-1 or J-1 student who works for a combined total of more than 20 hours per week while school is in session will have their SEVIS record terminated. Termination of your SEVIS record means that your legal permission to remain in the U.S. ends immediately and that you are no longer eligible for any of the benefits of F-1 or J-1 status, including on-campus employment authorization, until you have taken the legal steps to regain, or be reinstated to, valid F-1 or J-1 student status.

If you are an F-1 or J-1 student employee, it is **VERY IMPORTANT** that you pay careful attention to the combined total number of hours that you are being asked by your supervisor(s) to work each week so that you do not jeopardize your legal status in the U.S. by inadvertently exceeding the 20 hours per week on-campus employment limit. We recommend that you enter your hours worked on your timesheet(s) on a daily basis, so that, at any given moment, you can easily add up your timesheet(s) hours to determine how many hours of employment you have already worked during a particular work week.



On-Campus Employment Guidelines:

- ◆ May work at any on-campus job
- ◆ Employment cannot exceed 20 hours per week inclusive of all authorized on-campus employment
- ◆ Full-time (40 hours per week) during official school breaks only
- ◆ Employment must end on your graduation date
- ◆ J-1 students must apply to the Office of International Programs for specific on-campus work authorization before the employment begins

Thanksgiving in the U.S.



Thanksgiving in the U.S. is on Thursday, November 24. It is a federal holiday and all banks, post offices, and other government offices will be closed, as will most schools. Many businesses will also be closed on Friday, November 25 to allow their staff a 4-day holiday weekend.

In the United States, Thanksgiving is a time for tradition and sharing. People gather with family and friends on the fourth Thursday in November to enjoy a traditional meal and to give thanks for life's many blessings. The traditional Thanksgiving meal can vary somewhat from one geographic region in the U.S. to another, but it typically includes: turkey, stuffing or dressing (seasoned bread crumbs used to stuff the turkey), cranberry sauce, yams or mashed potatoes, gravy, and pumpkin pie.

Many Americans will travel to visit their families during the Thanksgiving holiday, which makes the day before Thanksgiving the busiest travel day of the year in the United States. If you will be traveling during Fall Break you are advised to plan ahead and allow yourself plenty of extra time, particularly if you will be traveling by air, as most U.S. airports will be very crowded and check-in and security clearance lines will likely be very long on the days before and after Thanksgiving Day.

For more information about the history of Thanksgiving in the U.S. and common Thanksgiving traditions and customs, check out the link below:

http://americanenglish.state.gov/files/ae/resource_files/thanksgivingday.pdf

News & Notes

HONOR COUNCIL ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

The Honor Council is now accepting applications for the Spring 2017 semester. The application can be found online at: <https://www.coloradocollege.edu/other/honorcouncil/>. Recommendation letters for each applicant are due on November 14th, at 7:00pm and the application is due on November 15th, at 7:00pm.

The Colorado College Honor System was established in 1948 to promote personal responsibility and academic integrity. Founded upon the value of mutual trust between students and professors, it is an essential tradition of the college. The Honor Code applies to all assignments completed for credit, and any potential code violation is the concern of the Honor Council. The Honor Council is the student-run organization that maintains and enforces the Honor Code through educating the campus community and administering Honor System procedures. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Honor Council Co-Chairs, Mayss Al Alami and Brittany Camacho.



F-I & J-I Travel Reminders (continued)

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International Programs. Although each travel signature is valid for one year while you are still a student or exchange visitor at CC, we recommend that you obtain a new travel endorsement signature from the OIP office if your previous travel endorsement signature will be more than 6 months old by the date that you plan to apply for re-entry to the U.S. Note: F-I students who are traveling abroad while authorized for post-completion Optional Practical Training (OPT) are required to have a travel endorsement signature on their Form I-20 that is dated within the past 6 months, along with other supporting documentation, such as a valid, unexpired Employment Authorization Document, and evidence of their employment, in order to seek re-entry to the U.S. as an F-I student to continue their OPT employment.

WHAT TO EXPECT AT U.S. CONSULATES AND U.S. PORTS OF ENTRY

Plan for the possibility of visa issuance delays at U.S. consulates. During the holiday travel season, U.S. consulates overseas are busier than ever and may have reduced hours. If you will apply for a new visa while abroad, check the relevant consulate or embassy for specific information about appointments, application procedures and processing times. Detailed information about F-I student visa and J-I exchange visitor visa application procedures is available here: <http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/study-exchange.html>.

Plan for possible security clearance delays during the visa application process. The U.S. consulate may require your visa application to undergo additional security checks based on your country of nationality, whether your name is similar to an individual listed in a U.S. government security database, or whether your degree is in a high-technology field, among other reasons. If a security clearance is required, your visa cannot be issued until the clearance has been completed. Because this process is confidential, the consulate will not confirm that a security clearance is underway but may indicate that “administrative processing” is required. Security clearances can take anywhere from a few days to several weeks or more. In general, the government will not expedite a security clearance.

At the U.S. port of entry, be prepared for security screening procedures. When you return to the United States, you will need to go through the Biometric Data Collection System (formerly known as US-VISIT), a check-in process where your fingerprints, photograph and travel documents are scanned against U.S. national security and police databases. You may also be subject to questioning about your immigration status, travel history, the purpose of your visit, background, employment and other issues.

It is important to remain patient during these procedures and answer all questions clearly. If you don't understand a question, ask for clarification. If you are detained at the port of entry, you are not entitled to legal representation, but you should ask for permission to call the Office of International Programs (OIP) if the need arises. You should simply explain that contacting the OIP office will allow us to provide further information about your program of study or exchange visit in the U.S., if it is required.

Obtain your Form I-94 arrival record. Once you have been cleared by U.S. Customs and Border Protection at an air or sea port of entry, your passport will be stamped to show the date and class of admission, and the expiration date of your authorized stay. Your immigration information and duration of stay will also be entered into CBP's online I-94 arrival record system. The expiration date on the passport stamp and on the I-94 record marks the expiration of your eligibility to remain in valid legal status in the U.S.

After your arrival in the United States, you must obtain a printout of your online I-94 at <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/i94/#/home> to retain for your records. Notify the Office of International Programs as soon as possible if you are unable to retrieve your online I-94 arrival record or if you note any errors in your I-94 record.

TRAVELING WITHIN THE U.S.

If you will be traveling within the U.S., driving on major highways, riding on buses, trains, or planes, we recommend that you carry with you your passport, I-94 arrival record, and Form I-20/Form DS-2019.

Adapted from “Holiday Travel Planning for Foreign Nationals” by Fragomen Worldwide (retrieved from <https://www.fragomen.com/knowledge-center/immigration-alerts#!25271>. 10 November 2015).



Make sure you carry the proper immigration documents with you when you travel, both within the U.S. and internationally!

Documents Needed for F-I/J-I Travel

- Valid passport
- Valid U.S. visa stamp (Canadians are exempt)
- Valid Certificate of Eligibility (Form I-20/Form DS-2019) signed for travel within the past 6 months
- Evidence of financial support (bring a copy of whatever funding is mentioned on your Form I-20/Form DS-2019: bank statement(s)/ sponsorship letter(s), CC Financial Aid letter, etc.)
- If you are an F-I or J-I student, proof of enrollment (print out of your course schedule or your transcript.)

Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour when you go to bed on Saturday night, November 5, because Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 6, at 2:00am.



New USCIS Fees Effective 12/23/2016



The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is adjusting the fee schedule for immigration and naturalization benefit requests processed by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). The new fees will become effective on December 23, 2016. The fee schedule was last adjusted in November 2010. USCIS states that the fee increases are required to recover costs for their services and to maintain adequate service. Applications or petitions mailed, postmarked, or otherwise filed on or after December 23, 2016 must include the new fee.

Quick-Reference of Changes to Fees for Frequently Used Forms:

Form #	Form Title	Current Fee	New Fee Effective 12/23/2016	% Change
I-129	Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker	\$325	\$460	42%
I-539	Application to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status	\$290	\$370	28%
I-765	Application for Employment Authorization	\$380	\$410	8%

International Education Week at CC: Schedule of Activities

What is International Education Week?

Founded jointly by the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education, International Education Week (IEW) is "an opportunity to celebrate the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide." This joint initiative is part of the U.S.'s efforts to promote programs that prepare Americans for a global environment and attract future leaders from abroad to study, learn, and exchange experiences in the United States.



When is the celebration of International Education Week at CC?

November 5-11, 2016

What is happening on campus during IEW?

Saturday, November 5	Kick-Off Event	5:30—7:00 pm	Bemis Hall; Dinner and Panel Discussion featuring: • Natalia Khan, Visiting Professor of Russian & Eurasian Studies • Rico Tenente, CC'16 from Portugal • Jennifer Zoya, CC'17 from South Africa Dinner will be served by Tucanos Brazilian Grill; RSVP
Wednesday, November 9	The Amazing Race	7:00—9:00 pm	Meet at the Language Houses
Thursday, November 10	Off-Campus Semester Student Symposium	5:00—7:00 pm	Slocum Commons
Friday, November 11	Photo Competition Awards	7:00—8:00 pm	McHugh Commons—submit your photo to Hoang.Pham@ColoradoCollege.edu by midnight on November 10
Sunday, Nov 6—Saturday, Nov 12	Global Focus Dinner every night	5:30—7:00 pm	Rastall Café

Sunday: Japan | Monday: Thailand | Tuesday: Germany | Wednesday: Russia | Thursday: Senegal | Friday: South Africa | Saturday: Chile



Office of International Programs

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Armstrong Hall, 2nd Floor



The Office of International Programs (OIP) serves students who study off-campus (domestically and internationally), incoming international students, faculty who lead students on off-campus programs, and international faculty who require immigration services.

OIP provides comprehensive services for degree-seeking international students and exchange students, including individualized immigration advising, specialized workshops, and orientation programs.

For more information, contact Lisa Kosiewicz Doran, International Student Specialist at ISS@ColoradoCollege.edu.

We're on the Web!

<http://www.coloradocollege.edu/offices/international/international-students/>

November Birthdays

The Office of International Programs would like to wish a very happy birthday to all the international students who are celebrating a birthday in November!

Andrej Blazhevski

Liwei (David) Cui

Elena Dumbs

Yifan Ji

Eden Lumerman



Mame (Ouli) Sane

Pan Tan

Sandor Teleki

Yaolin Yang