



# International Student Services Newsletter

Office of International Programs

Block 4, Volume IV  
November 27, 2017

## Travel Reminders for F-1 & J-1 Students

### TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF THE U.S.

If you are planning to travel abroad during Winter Break, now is the right time to make sure you are prepared, from an immigration perspective, to depart and re-enter the United States. Understanding your immigration obligations can help minimize delays on re-entry.



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

- Check your passport validity.
- Check your visa to make sure it is valid for re-entry to the United States.
- Check to make sure that your Form I-20 (Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Status) or Form DS-2019 (Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor Status [J-Nonimmigrant]) has been endorsed for travel.

### Same-Day Service Travel Signature Days:

Need a travel signature on your Form I-20/Form DS-2019? Stop by the Office of International Programs (OIP) with your document on the following days and we will be able to sign your form the same day:

- Monday, December 18th 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
- Tuesday, December 19th 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
- Wednesday, December 20th 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

### 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, your current I-94 arrival record, and your current Certificate of Eligibility (Form I-20/Form DS-2019).

## Winter Break Housing Requests

As you may know, the CC residence halls will close at noon on December 21, 2017 for Winter Break and re-open (with Gold Card access restored) at 8:00 am on Sunday, January 7th, 2018. Students and exchange visitors who are temporarily in the U.S. with a nonimmigrant visa may request special permission to remain in their current residence hall room (at no extra cost) during Winter Break as long as they are continuing their studies on the CC campus in Block 5.



**Please be advised that there will be limited campus services available during Winter Break**, so if your request for Winter Break housing is approved, you should be prepared to make your own arrangements for meals, since the campus dining facilities will be closed.

If you would like to request on-campus housing for ANY part of the Winter Break period, you must complete the online [Winter Break Housing and Intent Form](#) and submit it **by 3:00 pm on Friday, December 15th**. If you submit your request before the deadline date, you will be approved for break housing. Do not expect to receive a confirmation email.

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### Finishing Your Program of Study at CC in December 2017?

F-1 students who have maintained lawful status have a 60-day "grace period" following their program end date at CC 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



## Christmas in the U.S.



In the United States, Christmas is observed on the 25th of December. The festive season traditionally begins on the fourth Thursday in November, just after the Thanksgiving holiday. On Thanksgiving Day, a spectacular parade is held in New York City that has the smiling figure of Santa Claus participating in it. It indicates the beginning of the Christmas shopping season. Department stores, shopping malls and small shops ready themselves appropriately for the season to attract shoppers and get them to spend quite a few bucks on Christmas trees, gifts, apparel, greeting cards and suchlike. In the final days leading to December 25, small evergreen trees are seen to be established in every home and beautifully decorated with colored lights, tinsel, angels, stars and bright ornaments. The exterior of almost every house and the adjoining shrubbery is adorned with strands of electric lights. Strings of electric lights are used not only to adorn mantles and doorways, rafters, roof lines, and porch railings of individual homes but also of public/commercial buildings, departmental stores and even business hubs. Christmas trees are also seen to be set up in most of these places. It is often a pastime for the American people to drive or walk around neighborhoods in the Christmas evenings to see the lights displayed on and around other homes. Those with deep pockets are often found to place life-sized, illuminated Santas, reindeers and snowmen on their lawns and roofs. Many churches and private homes display illuminated Nativity Scenes commemorating the humble birth of Jesus Christ.

Christmas Eve is not an official holiday here. Hence most people have to work. However, many workplaces hold Christmas parties or celebrations, so there is a celebratory air to the day. For kids, it is a day of great joy since most schools and other educational establishments are usually closed. In the evening, most people add final touches to their home decorations. Many also set up the Christmas tree in their homes on this day. Many organizations and department stores are usually open for last minute Christmas shoppers, but may close earlier. Many people travel to visit family members or friends on Christmas Eve. Some people, especially Roman Catholics, attend a Midnight Mass service at church and participate in singing carols. Traditionally, the midnight mass starts at midnight, the point of transition from Christmas Eve to Christmas Day. Many Protestant churches also hold special services on Christmas Eve, complete with displays of beautiful manger scenes and candle-lit religious observances.

The Christmas dinner in the U.S. includes turkey or ham, potatoes and pie. Cakes are, of course, a must for the occasion. Baked breads and cookies are also part of the dinner list. At Christmas Eve gatherings adults drink eggnog, a drink made of cream, milk, sugar, beaten eggs and brandy or rum. After dinner on Christmas Eve, children go to bed early but not before hanging up their stockings on the fireplace or the end of their bed to be filled with gifts and goodies by Santa Claus. On the following morning, children wake up to look for their desired items in their stockings and also find nicely wrapped presents under their Christmas tree.

Source: <http://www.theholidayspot.com/christmas/worldxmas/us.htm>



## Winter Break Shuttles

Are you planning to travel by air during Winter Break? Stop by the Worner Desk to sign-up for a Winter Break Shuttle to Colorado Springs Airport or Denver International Airport! The Worner Desk accepts cash, check, Gold Card and credit card payments.

### Denver International Airport (\$45 non-refundable)

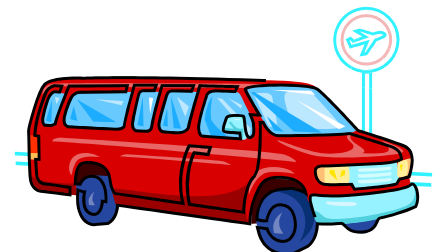
Departs from Boettcher Health Center:

- Wednesday, December 20th @ 12:30 PM, 2:30 PM and 4:30 PM
- Thursday, December 21st @ 6:00 AM, 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM and 12:00 PM

### Colorado Springs Airport (\$7 non-refundable)

Departs from the south side of Worner Center on Cache La Poudre:

- Wednesday, December 20th @ 12:00 PM, 1:00 PM, 2:00 PM, 3:00 PM, 4:00 PM, and 5:00 PM
- Thursday, December 21st @ 7:00 AM, 8:00 AM, 9:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 11:00 AM and 12:00 PM

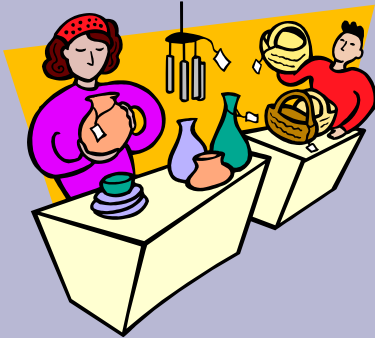


## Winter Break Campus Office Closures

Please note that most Colorado College offices will be closed for Winter Break from Friday, December 22, 2017 through Friday, January 5, 2018. The Office of International Programs will re-open for business on Monday, January 8, 2018. If you have an emergency during the Winter Break office closure period, please contact the Office of Campus Safety at (719) 389-6911.



## Colorado College Arts & Crafts Sale 2017



Support your community artists! Come to the Colorado College Arts & Crafts Sale, which will be held in Worner Campus Center during the following dates and times:

**Friday, December 1st 4:00 PM—8:00 PM**

**Saturday, December 2nd 10:00 AM—5:00 PM**

**Sunday, December 3rd 10:00 AM—5:00 PM**

## Optional Practical Training Workshops for Seniors



Mark your calendars! Graduating in May and planning to apply for OPT? Post-completion OPT is employment authorization approved by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for eligible F-1 students interested in engaging in employment in the U.S. directly related to their field of study after their degree completion. Come learn more about this important immigration benefit: eligibility, application process, types of employment allowed, reporting requirements, and limits on unemployment.

**Thursday, December 14, 2017 3:15—4:45pm WES Room (Worner Campus Center)**

**Monday, February 5, 2017 3:30—5:00pm WES Room (Worner Campus Center)**

## OIP News & Notes



### GSP Mentor/ISO Mentor Positions for AY 2018-2019

Think you may want to apply to be a GSP mentor for our summer program or ISO mentor for next Fall? In order to be considered for a GSP mentor position, you **must** have a valid U.S. driver's license and have CC driver certification as it is a requirement for the job. We also **prefer** that ISO mentors hold a valid U.S. driver's license. If you think that you may want to apply for either of these jobs, the time is now to learn to drive/obtain your U.S. driver's license! Information on driving schools in Colorado

Springs can be found [here](#).

Don't delay.....start today! Stop by OIP if you have any questions about obtaining your U.S. driver's license.



### OPT/CPT Workshop

Friday, December 1, 2017

12:15 pm—1:15 pm in Worner Campus Center Room 211



Have you heard these two terms used by other international students since you've been on campus? Are you planning to do an internship while you are a student at Colorado College? Did you know that you have to have authorization to do so? International students have the option of working within the United States by engaging in practical training either during their program or after it ends. Practical training can provide valuable work experience by sharpening and adding to the skills you are learning in school. There are two types of practical training available for F-1 students: Curricular Practical Training (CPT) and Optional Practical Training (OPT). This workshop will discuss the requirements, how to request authorization, and other information related to CPT/OPT. Bring your lunch and join us!



## Office of International Programs

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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](mailto:ISS@ColoradoCollege.edu).

### We're on the Web!

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

## December Birthdays

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

**Nils Bannert**

**Yuhan Chen**

**David Gonzales Salgado**

**Ziyu (Alan) He**

**Jiayu (Amy) Ji**

**Hanqing Li**

**Guang Zhen Loy**

**Shaojie Lu**

**Marta Nowotka**

**Anthony Rojas Chavez**



**Chengtian (Scott) Shen**

**Saluja Siwakoti**

**Jiarun (Judy) Wang**

**Gayathri Warriar**

**Boyang Xu**

**Wei Xu**

**Zhuang (Michael) Xu**

**Dexuan (Stan) Zhang**

**Shu Zhou**