Notes for International Students Taking Overseas Trips During the Holiday

This note is to prepare the international students’ return to the United States when they go through inspection with U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers at the U.S. port of entry.

It is important that the students hand-carry (instead of packing in checked luggage) the following documents:

- Valid passport with valid F or M visa (if applicable)
- Signed Form I-20, “Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Status”
- Proof of financial support
- A DSO’s contact information, including a 24-hour emergency phone number, if necessary

The students also should consider bringing the following:

- Evidence of acceptance to their school, like a recent tuition payment receipt or acceptance letter
- Proof of paying the I-901 Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) fee

Other helpful topics include the possibility of being directed to secondary inspection and either denial of entry or receiving a Form I-515A, “Notice to Student or Exchange Visitor,” for failure to have all necessary documents. Students should be prepared with what to expect, know what to do and understand how the DSO can help them through these processes.

The students can find more information about returning to the United States in Travel Tuesday posts on the site: [http://studyinthesates.dhs.gov/blog](http://studyinthesates.dhs.gov/blog).