

To: All SEVIS Users
Date: December 9, 2013
Re: Preparing Students for Holiday Travel
Number: 1312-01

General Information

As the holiday season approaches, many students are preparing to leave the United States for vacation and return to their home countries. As their designated school official, you can help them prepare for their 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 your 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**
- **Your contact information, including a 24-hour emergency phone number, if necessary**

They also should consider bringing the following:

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

You also can help your students prepare for arrival to the United States by explaining what happens at the port of entry. 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 you can help them through these processes.

You can direct them to find more information about returning to the United States in *Travel Tuesday* posts on the [Study in the States blog](#).

Disclaimer

The Broadcast Message is not a substitute for applicable legal requirements, nor is it itself a rule or a final action by SEVP. It is not intended to, does not, and may not be relied upon to create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law by any party in any administrative, civil, or criminal matter.