



**International Center**

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**TO: International Students**  
**FROM: International Center**  
**SUBJ: INFORMATION ON TRAVEL, PRACTICAL TRAINING, LEAVES**

**Travel** - Please be sure to review your immigration documents prior to your leaving the U.S. **We urge you to read the travel section of the I-Center website, for more comprehensive information, <http://www.ase.tufts.edu/center/travel.htm>.**

- New I-Center Signature for Form I-20 or Form DS-2019 if:
  - The form has not been signed in the past six months.
  - If you are a new student and have not yet traveled outside of the US since arriving at Tufts, you will definitely need to have a signature.

*Bring the document in for I-Center signature 1-2 weeks prior to your intended departure date.*

**Declaring a Major/New I-20: If you have received an email from the International Center to pick up an updated I-20 based on a recent major declaration or change, please be sure to have this new I-20 in your possession when you travel.**

- Visa Stamp Renewal: If the visa stamp in your passport has expired and you are traveling outside the U.S., you will be required to go to a U.S. Embassy to secure a new visa stamp. You may need documentation from the International Center to present at the U.S. Embassy. Be sure to read the travel section of our website first, as mentioned above, then contact us with any questions you may have.

**UPON RE-ENTRY TO U.S., NON-IMMIGRANT VISA HOLDERS MUST HAVE:**

- a valid passport (valid at least six months into the future beyond the expiration date of the visa document);
- valid visa document (Form I-20; Form DS-2019)
- valid visa stamp in the passport (a visa stamp which corresponds with the visa document)
  - Form I-20 (requires a valid F-1 visa stamp)
  - Form DS-2019 (requires a valid J-1 visa stamp)

While you are in student status, do not re-enter on a tourist visa (unless you have been advised by the International Center to do so). Every time you re-enter the U.S., you need to verify that your I-94 card was properly processed at the port of entry. It should say either “F-1, D/S” or “J-1 D/S”. If you re-enter in tourist status, you automatically cancel your F-1 status and will need to be re-issued a new I-20 or DS-2019 from our office. This applies even during the summer months, and vacation periods.

**NSEERS/Special Registration**

**National Security Entry-Exit Registration System (NSEERS) Registrants** need to be very cautious when entering and departing the U.S. Individuals must go through a special registration process at the ports of entry and exit to the U.S. This process is only available at certain U.S. airports. Logan Airport is an acceptable NSEERS airport. We refer you to the attached link for detailed information on NSEERS, <http://www.ase.tufts.edu/center/travelreminders.htm>. Failure to enter and exit properly could jeopardize your visa status in the U.S.

**Practical Training**

If you are interested in working in the US in the summer or after graduation, you must apply for Optional Practical Training

(OPT). You need to first attend a mandatory Practical Training Informational Workshop. You can register for the workshop on-line through our website, <http://ase.tufts.edu/icenter/eventsOPTsession.aspx>. This process takes 3-4 months to complete so please do plan early!

### **Leaves from Tufts University**

If you plan on being on a Leave of Absence from Tufts University for the next semester, you must obtain all of the necessary approvals prior to the end of this semester. This applies to any type of leave (Tufts Study Abroad; Non-Tufts Study Abroad; Medical Leave; Military Leave; Personal Leave, etc.). Undergraduate students must obtain approval of Leave from their appropriate Academic Advising Dean at Student Services, Dowling Hall, and then inform the International Center. Graduate Students must obtain approval of Leave from the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, and then inform the International Center of their Leave. ***Some Leaves cause you to lose your option to apply for practical training upon returning to Tufts.*** For more detailed information on leaves, check this section of our website, <http://ase.tufts.edu/icenter/currentleave.htm>, or schedule an appointment with your International Center advisor to fully understand how the leave will affect your status in the U.S.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us.

If your last name begins with the following letter, contact your International Center Advisor:

**A-I** contact Naoko Kotoge ([Naoko.Kotoge@tufts.edu](mailto:Naoko.Kotoge@tufts.edu))

**J-R** contact Jodi Hanelt ([Jodi.Hanelt@tufts.edu](mailto:Jodi.Hanelt@tufts.edu))

**S-Z** contact Monica Rodriguez ([Monica.Rodriguez@tufts.edu](mailto:Monica.Rodriguez@tufts.edu))