Academic Colleagues:

As we head into the holiday season, many of our international faculty and scholars have made plans to travel home or on vacation overseas. We have emailed the checklist below to your international faculty and scholars for review. If they have any questions, they can meet with an ISSS Faculty and Scholar Advisor by scheduling an appointment at [https://globalmaryland.umd.edu/offices/international-student-scholar-services/schedule-appointment-isss-advisor](https://globalmaryland.umd.edu/offices/international-student-scholar-services/schedule-appointment-isss-advisor)

### Travel documents for H-1B and J-1 Scholars:

- **H-1B employees will need the following documents for travel:**
  - Valid Passport - the passport should be valid six months beyond their entry date
  - Valid H-1B visa (Canadians are visa exempt)
  - Travel Packet including copy of I-797 approval notice and original “tear-off” sheet from I-797 approval notice (bottom portion)
  - Two recent paycheck stubs

- **J-1 Scholars/Interns will need a travel signature for their DS-2019 from an ISSS Faculty and Scholar Advisor. J-1s will travel with the following documents:**
  - Valid passport - the passport should be valid six months beyond their entry date
  - Valid U.S. visa (Canadians are visa exempt)
  - Valid DS-2019 signed for travel
  - Current proof of financial support

### J-1 Scholar Orientation

We will hold our last J-1 Scholar Orientation for the year on Thursday, December 16, 2021. Please follow-up with all of your new December arrivals to ensure that they check-in [online](https://globalmaryland.umd.edu/offices/international-student-scholar-services/schedule-appointment-isss-advisor) with ISSS and attend one of the J-1 Scholar Orientations on December 2, 9 or 16, 2021. We will resume J-1 Orientations on Thursday, January 6, 2022.

- As you may recall, non-paid J-1 scholars are required to purchase health insurance through the University of Maryland Health Center. When they check in online, the ISSS Graduate Assistant will prepare a health insurance letter which will be used to purchase the plan at the UMD Health Center. The letters are distributed during orientation on Thursdays.
- Paid J-1 scholars should enroll through the UMD employee plan, if eligible.
Travel and Obtaining a New I-94

Upon entry into the U.S. after the holidays, ISSS recommends that international faculty and scholars review their electronic I-94 record at https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/#/home to ensure it is correct, specifically the end date of their status.

New International Faculty and Scholars arriving during the holidays

Just a reminder that some of your international visitors will be arriving for the first time in the U.S. during the holiday period. Please ensure that you inform your newly arriving researchers/scholars and professors that the university is closed December 24, 2021 through January 2, 2022, and no services will be available.

COVID-19 Vaccination and Testing Requirements Took Effect Yesterday, November 8th

President Biden issued a Presidential Proclamation that implements a COVID-19 vaccination requirement for all non-U.S. citizens who are coming to the U.S. as nonimmigrants, unless you qualify under an exception. Travelers should visit CDC acceptable proof of COVID-19 vaccination for the detailed requirements and exceptions. Below are some of the key requirements:

- Individuals will need to be fully vaccinated in order to enter the U.S. According to the CDC, you are considered fully vaccinated 2 weeks after your final dose.
- The airlines will request proof of vaccination status at the airport.
- Proof of vaccination status may be digital or paper. Please note that the airline may request a certified translation of your document. Please be prepared accordingly.
- All air passengers two years of age or older boarding a flight to the U.S., must obtain a COVID-19 test within 3 days of flight departure (regardless of vaccination status). You will be asked to present a negative result to the airline before boarding your flight.

The proclamation also rescinds the travel bans in place for the Schengen area, United Kingdom, Ireland, China, India, Iran, South Africa, and Brazil. This means that scholars do not need to apply for a national interest exception. Although this Presidential Proclamation may facilitate travel, U.S. consulates and embassies abroad are reporting extensive backlogs and lengthy visa processing.

We invite you to attend our upcoming Town Hall on the new U.S. Travel Requirements on Tuesday, November 16, at 9:00 am. We will review the Presidential Proclamation, Advancing Safe Resumption of Global Travel During the COVID-19 Pandemic, and answer any questions you may have. Register for the Town Hall.

Communicating with a Faculty/Scholar Advisor

Chat online with ISSS for quick inquiries: M-F, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Our website contains most of the information you need to submit requests to ISSS.
Make an appointment with an ISSS advisor.
You can also review our updated COVID-19 FAQ.
Sincerely,
International Faculty & Scholar Advising Team