

IMPORTANT TRAVEL GUIDANCE

for Fulbright Visiting Scholars

As you prepare to travel, you should be aware of security regulations for flights originating or terminating in the United States. This handout highlights some key regulations to keep in mind. You can find more detail on the U.S. Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) Web site: www.tsa.gov. Also, most importantly, this handout explains what to expect at your U.S. Port of Entry.

Considerations for packing your checked baggage:

- Place identification tags with your name, address and phone number on all of your baggage, including your laptop computer. Placing identification tags inside your luggage is also advisable.
- Checked baggage should be left unlocked so TSA screeners do not have to break your lock to inspect the contents. Also, avoid over-packing so your articles won't spill out if your bag is opened for inspection.
- Leave gifts unwrapped until after you arrive at your destination. TSA screeners will open them if X-rays are unable to identify the contents. (This applies to carry-on baggage as well.)

Considerations for packing your carry-on baggage:

- Think carefully about the personal items you place in your carry-on baggage. TSA screeners may have to open your bag and examine its contents. Consider putting personal belongings in clear plastic bags to reduce the chance that a screener will have to handle them.
- All liquids, gels and aerosols in your carry-on baggage must be in three-ounce or smaller containers. Larger containers that are half-full or toothpaste tubes rolled up are not allowed. Each container must be three ounces or smaller, and must be placed together in one quart-size, zip-top, clear plastic bag. Gallon size bags or bags that are not zip-top are not allowed. Each traveler can use only one, quart-size, zip-top, clear plastic bag.
- Do not carry any prohibited objects or items that may seem to cause risk in your carry-on luggage (e.g., pocketknives, carpet knives and box cutters, ice picks, straight razors, metal scissors, and metal nail files.) Such cutting and puncturing instruments will be confiscated.

While at the airport:

- Be prepared to cooperate with all airport personnel.
- Do not joke about having a bomb or firearm. Don't discuss terrorism, weapons, explosives, or other threats while going through the security checkpoint. The mere mention of words such as "gun" or "bomb" can compel security personnel to detain and question you. They are trained to consider these comments as real threats.
- Do not accept packages from strangers. Watch your bags and personal belongings at all times. When asked who packed your bags and if they've been unattended at all, think carefully and answer honestly.
- When passing through security, all travelers must remove their quart-sized plastic, zip-top bags from their carry-on and place it in a bin or on the conveyor belt for X-ray screening.

- Security personnel will search a bag if the X-ray scan cannot determine its contents.
- Electronic items, such as laptop computers and cell phones, may be subjected to additional screening at security. Be prepared to remove such items from your bags for inspection.
- Be prepared to provide emergency contact information to airline personnel; for international flights, airlines are required to collect your full name and ask you for a contact name and phone number.

Arriving at your U.S. Port of Entry:

Please read this section carefully and remember that failure to comply with U.S. government entry-exit procedures may result in denial of entry to the United States.

- Flight attendants or U.S. Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) officers will distribute Customs Declaration Forms (CF-6059) and Arrival-Departure Record Forms (I-94). These must be completed prior to landing. The Form I-94 should be completed to match your passport, visa and DS-2019 and should reflect the address where you will live, not the address of the program. If you do not have a permanent address, indicate a short-term address, such as a hotel address.
- Be prepared to present the following: your passport, the sealed envelope containing your DS-2019, Arrival-Departure Record Form (I-94), Customs Declaration Form (CF-6059), and a copy of your Fulbright grant Terms and Conditions.
- When a CBP officer asks your reason for entering the country, it is important to respond that you are an exchange visitor. The CBP officer may ask you a few questions (e.g., the purpose of your trip, how long you will be in the United States, your residence abroad). As part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security US-VISIT Program, all exchange visitors will be photographed and fingerprinted by a CBP officer.
- The CPB officer may send you to a second inspection area for further review or issuance of additional documentation. You should have the name and telephone number of your CIES contact in case the CBP officer needs to verify your admission/participation.
- Once your inspection is successfully completed, the CBP officer will stamp your Form DS-2019 for duration of status (“D/S”) for J visa holders with date and port-of-entry, stamp the Arrival-Departure Record Form (I-94), and staple it in the passport. Your I-94 form should be annotated “J-1 D/S”; your dependents’ forms should be annotated “J-2 D/S.”
- In some cases, the CBP officer will issue Form I-515A (“Notice to Student or Exchange Visitor”), which authorizes temporary admission into the United States. If you are issued an I-515A, inform your CIES contact person immediately.
- Some individuals may be asked to provide additional information under the National Security Entry-Exit Registration System, or NSEERS. If you are selected for NSEERS, a packet of information will be given to you at the port-of-entry explaining the registration and departure procedure.
- Do not lose the Form I-94; you will need it when you leave the country. Keep the original in your passport. Once you arrive at your destination, make a copy to carry with you at all times for the duration of your grant.