

To: All International Students enrolled for Fall 2021
From: oiss@risd.edu
Subject: F-1 International Students: Upcoming Breaks and Travel

F-1 International Students : Upcoming Breaks and Travel

Dear [Name],

If you are planning on traveling during the upcoming school breaks, please read this email carefully and thoroughly.

It is organized into the following categories:

- Traveling outside of the U.S.
- International Travel & Vaccination Requirements
- If you need to Renew your F-1 Student Visa while Traveling outside of the U.S.
- Traveling within the U.S.
- Wintersession Term
- Spring Term
- OISS Office Hours during breaks
- What to do if there is a travel or immigration emergency

Traveling outside of the U.S.

Traveling outside of the United States is not recommended at this time. Reentry to the United States is not guaranteed and is determined by U.S. Customs & Border Protection at the port of entry. If you must travel outside the country, OISS needs to sign your I-20 on page 2 once a year to verify your travel eligibility. To request an I-20 signature, please complete the [I-20 Signature Request Form](#).

Always travel with your signed I-20, your valid passport and your valid F-1 student visa (Canadian citizens are exempt from the visa stamp requirement in your passport)

International Travel & Vaccination Requirements

Leaving the United States: Check the vaccination and/or [COVID Test Result requirements](#) for the country you are traveling to.

Returning to the United States: - [Before boarding a flight](#), you are required to show one of the following:

- **Fully vaccinated:** Proof of vaccination and a negative COVID-19 test result taken no more than 3 days before travel.
- **NOT fully vaccinated:** A negative COVID-19 test result taken no more than 1 day before travel.

[Fact sheet from Whitehouse dated October 25, 2021:](#) Starting on November 8, non-citizen, non-immigrant air travelers to the United States will be required to be fully vaccinated and to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination status prior to boarding an airplane to fly to the U.S., with only limited exceptions.

If you need to renew your F-1 Student Visa while traveling outside of the U.S.:

Notify the Office of International Student Services that you will be renewing your F-1 Student Visa during the break. You will need additional documents from RISD for the renewal process and they are easier to obtain while in Providence. Most offices across campus will be closed from Friday, December 24, 2021- Monday, January 3, 2022.

Traveling Within the U.S.:

Travel within the U.S. is permitted, but check with the airline requirements to make sure you are up-to-date on their protocols. Always travel with your I-20, valid passport, valid F-1 student visa and I-94 record, even within the U.S. The U.S. includes Hawaii, Alaska and Puerto Rico.

Wintersession Term:

As an International student on the F-1 Visa, you MUST be enrolled in AT LEAST one class (3 credits) to be considered enrolled full-time during Wintersession. Remote study can only be requested through remote@risd.edu and will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. If you will be entering the U.S. for the first time during Wintersession, you CANNOT study remotely within the U.S.

Spring Term:

As an International student on the F-1 Visa, you MUST be enrolled in AT LEAST 12 credits to be considered enrolled full-time during the Spring term. Students who are in their final semester at RISD may go below 12 credits as long as they complete an [Academic Exception to Policy Form](#) and as long as they are on track to complete their graduation requirements in June 2022. Remote study can only be requested through remote@risd.edu and will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. If you will be entering the U.S. for the first time during the Spring term, you CANNOT study remotely within the U.S.

OISS Office Hours during Breaks:

The Office of International Student Services will be closed on the following dates:

Thanksgiving Break: Wednesday, November 24- Sunday, November 28, 2021

Reopens: Monday, November 29, 2021

Winter Break: Friday, December 24, 2021- Monday, January 3, 2022

Reopens: Tuesday, January 4, 2022

Should you have any travel-related questions or immigration emergencies while the Office of International Student Services is closed during either of the breaks:

Call RISD Public Safety at: 401-454-6376. They are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and they can get in contact with an OISS Advisor should you need to talk with someone.

OISS is here to support you and your international student experience at RISD. We are advising students to be cautious in their international travel due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please contact us with any questions about your individual case should you need clarification.

We wish you safe and enjoyable breaks!

Sincerely,

OISS Team