



International Student & Scholar Center
Pine Dale Hall, Suite 7123
285 Old Westport Road
North Dartmouth, MA 02747
Phone: 508.910.6633
Fax: 508.910.6588
Email: INTL_OFFICE@umassd.edu

Additional Information on Important Matters

1. Original Documents – When to Take Them

- When traveling out of the country or away from the local Dartmouth area
 - Make two sets of copies, one for your room or apartment and one to take in your luggage separate from your originals. It's easier to get replacements when you have copies to work from.
 - Send a set of copies to a family member in your home country
 - Scan your original documents and email them to your phone so you have an electronic copy.

***US law allows US Immigration and Custom Enforcement (US ICE) officers to randomly stop individuals within 100 miles of a port of entry. Although this happens much more often near the Canadian and Mexican borders, it is possible for it to occur near international airports (Logan in Boston, MA) or seaports (Providence, RI) as well.

2. Copies of Documents – When to Take Them

- When traveling locally—Dartmouth, Fall River, and New Bedford

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- Keep another photo ID (identification) with you. Your student UMass Pass is good and/or a US driver's license.

3. Travel Signatures – Don't Wait Until the Last Minute

F-1 and J-1 students need valid travel signatures on the I-20 or DS 2019. Signatures are valid for one year and need to be valid both leaving and returning to the U.S. If you aren't sure they are valid, come by the International Student and Scholar Center and we will review your paperwork with you. You may come by anytime without an appointment for a travel signature.

4. Need a new entry visa? Plan well in advance. Let us review your paperwork first and update your SEVIS record.

- Canada is the closest place to apply for a renewal of your entry visa. Remember, citizens of some countries need visas to enter Canada, in addition to all your other paperwork for entering and studying in the U.S. <http://www.cic.gc.ca/>

- Citizens of different countries require different amounts of processing times at the U.S. Embassy or Consulate in Canada; check this website for locations and information about consulate schedules and procedures

http://usvisa-info.com/en-CA/selfservice/us_consulate_information

- Documents you will need
 - current passport
 - two sets of original financial documents for you and any dependents in the U.S. with you; the ISSC will keep one set of documents and you will use the other in your visa application:
 - a recent bank statement;
 - TA, RA, or GA appointment paperwork;
 - a pay stub from employment;
 - financial sponsor documents;
 - Up-to-date I-20 (F-1) or DS 2019 (J-1)
 - An official copy of your University transcript; don't open the envelope!

Some people may be subject to security checks by the US State Department which will extend their processing time. The embassies and consulates will ask for original documents for verification of finances, even for a visa renewal. Again it is important that you check with the embassy that you may use to apply for a new visa.

<http://usembassy.state.gov>

5. Helpful But Not Essential

- A form from the UMass Dartmouth Registrar verifying your enrollment in the following semester

6. Need a new Passport? You can't travel in and out of the U.S. without one

You will need to contact your embassy or consulate in the United States. Many countries maintain consulates in Boston and/or New York City. Most countries with active recognized relationships with the United States have embassies in Washington DC.

Most governments will do passport renewal by mail or in person but procedures do differ from country to country and can take extended periods of time. Here's our Special links Page which has the web address for a list of *International Embassies and Consulates in the US*:

http://www.umassd.edu/international_students/embassiesconsulatesandotherlinks/

Have your mail and any newspapers held for you while you travel

If you live off campus be sure to make arrangements to cancel any newspapers you receive and for your mail to be held by the Post Office if you are gone for an extended time. Mail piling up in the mail box is a sure sign that the occupant is away.

<https://holdmail.usps.com/holdmail/>