

Dear International Student,

As we approach this year's holiday season, it is essential to keep in mind that multiple travel restrictions remain in place because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Countries worldwide have a variety of restrictions, so it is strongly recommended that you check with the authorities of the countries you intend to visit both when making travel plans and again before traveling so they have the most up-to-date information.

### **Cross-Border Traffic from Mexico and Canada**

The U.S.-Canada and U.S.-Mexico borders continue to be closed to non-essential travel through December 21, 2020 and given the current surge in COVID-19 cases, chances remain high that the closure will be extended again before this date. The restriction expressly exempts F-1 student and air or sea travel. Please refer to our [website](#) for more details on this restriction.

### **Travel from Specific Regions**

Presidential Proclamations suspended entry into the U.S. of all F-1 students who were physically present within the following countries during the 14-day period preceding their entry to the U.S.

- People's Republic of China (excluding Hong Kong and Macau)
- Islamic Republic of Iran
- Brazil

In addition, the U.S. Department of States has advised that students with **valid F-1 visas** traveling from the Schengen Area (Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland), the U.K., and Ireland **may** travel to the United States.

### **Avoid Unnecessary Travel**

If you decide to travel, be prepared, understand the risks, and be advised that you might not be able to return to the U.S. for an unknown period of time. Your trip could be disrupted, or you may be quarantined upon your return. Also, if your existing F-1 visa will expire before your return, you would need to apply for a new stamp at an Embassy or

Consulate of the U.S. before you can return to the states. Please review your country's Embassy or Consulate's visa appointment information before you make final travel plans.

### **UTRGV's International Travel Guidelines**

Students who travel outside the United States are required to report their travel to the University. Please complete the UTRGV's [Self-Reporting Travel Form](#) to let us know about your recent travel or your upcoming travel plans. Members of the UTRGV community who reside or must make frequent trips to Mexico border cities abutting the Rio Grande Valley Counties are not required to complete the travel form.

Please be advised that these rules can change at any time so please monitor your UTRGV email for any updates. We will continue to monitor the news, airline information, or travel information, and we will email you any updates. For any additional questions, please email us at [international@utrgv.edu](mailto:international@utrgv.edu)

Sincerely,

IASS Staff



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