



## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS TRAVEL INFORMATION

### TRAVEL WITHIN THE UNITED STATES

If you are planning a trip within the United States by car, bus, train or plane, ***it is essential*** that you have your passport and visa documents with you. Therefore, we urged all international students to have their passport, visa document (Form I-20) and Essex County College student ID card with them for **ALL** distance travel.

### TRAVEL ABROAD

Whether or not to travel abroad is a personal decision. Traveling home to visit your family and friends indicates that you have compelling ties to return to your home country upon the completion of your studies in the U. S. You will need to have your passport, visa document (Form I-20), Essex student ID card with you when you travel, and be certain that **the last page of the Form I-20 has an authorizing signature no older than five months.**

The following checklist should help you prepare for your trip.

- **Make appointment with international student advisor at least two weeks prior to your expected date of departure and file a "Request Form for Form I-20 Travel Endorsement."** Bring your current passport (or a legible photocopy) and your Form I-20.
- **Carry a current passport.** Your passport must not have expired. If it has, you must renew it at your embassy. When was the last time you checked the expiration date in your passport? In order to travel, your passport **MUST** be valid at least six months into the future.
- **Carry a valid visa.** You must have a valid F-1 visa in your passport, and it must not have expired.
- **Carry a valid Form I-20 with re-entry signature.** Review your current Form I-20 to make sure that your program of study is still correct and that the date you are expected to complete your program has not expired.  
**If your program of study has changed, or your completion of study date has passed, you will need to make an appointment with from the International Student Advisor.**  
If your Form I-20 is valid you must obtain a re-entry signature from the International Student Advisor.
- **Carry financial documents.** Take photocopies of your financial documents showing that you have adequate funding for your studies.

In certain cases, if there is some problem with your documents, you may be issued a 30-day entry and issued a form I-515, usually with instructions to see your international student advisor. Examine your passport carefully as you leave the immigration booth. F-1 students should have a stamp indicating the date you entered the United States along with "D/S", which means "Duration of Status". If an expiration date is not marked as "D/S," and you are in F-1 status, come to the office of the International Student Advisor as soon as possible.

**If you entered the U.S. in a *non-immigrant* classification other than F-1 and changed your status to F-1 after entering the United States, travel is more complicated and your return to the United States may be questionable. Remember that your visa never changed so you do not have a valid F-1 visa. Please take the following actions:**

- You must obtain an F-1 visa at the U.S. embassy or consular office in your country of citizenship or permanent residence before you will be allowed to re-enter the U.S. ;
- You will need to get a new Form I-20 to apply for the visa ;
- To get a new Form I-20 **you must file an application for a Form I-20 and submit current evidence of your financial support** to the office at least two weeks prior to your departure date.
- **Carry financial documents.** If you are going to apply for a new visa from the U.S. embassy or consulate at home, you will need to have original financial documents, not photocopies.