

SUNY Cortland
International Student Information Sheet
“WHAT TO DO BEFORE YOU TRAVEL”

1. **Planning** is the key. Think several weeks in advance about what you will need for your trip and assemble it. That way, you will not be stressed out at the last minute.
2. **Documents** - Make sure to **take your original passport (with US visa and I-94 card), and I-20** with you on your trip. If you are stopped by any government official (police, border patrols, immigration officers, etc.), you will be required to show them your original documents. Make several **copies** of all of your **important documents**. Those include all of the I-20s you've been issued (from every school you've attended) and the pages in your passport showing your picture, birth date, passport number, expiration date, visa, insurance card and I-94 card. Keep one set of copies in your carry-on luggage, one set in your checked baggage and leave a set at home preferably with someone who can send them to you if needed.
3. **I-20s** - Check page 3 of your I-20. Do you have a valid travel signature from your DSO? Signatures are valid for one year. If your page 3 does not have a signature, go to the Office of International Programs to **have Page 3 of your I-20 signed**. Students without this signature will not be permitted reentry into the United States after a temporary absence.
4. **Passports** - 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. Passports may be renewed at your country's embassy or consulate in the United States. If you have access to the World Wide Web, you can obtain up-to-date information on passport renewal. Point your web browser to <http://www.embassy.org/embassies/>
5. **US Visa** - Check your U.S. visa stamp inside your passport. Has your visa stamp expired? If it is still valid, is it for multiple entry, or has the entry been used up? Finally, is the category for which the visa was issued the status you currently hold (for example, if your visa is F-2, are you currently in F-2 status or did that status change after you entered the United States)? If you are in F-1 or J-1 status and traveling to Canada, Mexico, or islands adjacent to North America, you do not need a valid U.S. visa as long as you have been maintaining your status, have a valid passport and I-20 or DS-2019 and are entering those countries for tourist purposes and your stay will be thirty days or less (you **DO** need a valid U.S. visa if you are a citizen of Iraq, Iran, Syria, Libya, Sudan, North Korea, or Cuba). However, travel to all other countries will require that you have a valid U.S. visa before you may re-enter the United States. This is especially true if you changed your non-immigrant status while in the United States (for example, changed from F-2 to F-1).
6. **Foreign Visitor's Visa** - If you are visiting a country other than your own, you may need a visitor's visa to enter. The Office of International Programs has copies of Canadian Tourist Visa applications available for your use, as well as a list of countries which are exempt from Canadian Tourist Visa requirements. Similar

information is available for Mexican Tourist Visas. If you have access to the World Wide Web, you can also find out about entry requirements for other countries by pointing your web browser to <http://www.embassy.org/embassies/>. Make sure to find out what the requirements, cost and timeframe are to apply for a visa. Keep in mind that it often takes 2-3 weeks to process a visa application.

7. **I-94 Arrival/Departure Card** - You will need to surrender your I-94 card upon your departure from the United States. You will be issued a new I-94 card upon your re-entry to the United States. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has announced that it will now issue new admission numbers each time a non-immigrant enters the United States. However, your SEVIS number (printed at the top right of your SEVIS I-20 or DS-2019) will not change. SPECIAL NOTE: F-1 and J-1 students with expired U.S. visas who are traveling to Canada, Mexico or adjacent islands for up to 30 days AND who will be resuming their studies upon their return should NEVER surrender their I-94 card. Canadian or Mexican nationals returning to their home country should surrender their I-94 card as they enter their country, and obtain a new I-94 card the next time they enter the United States. Canadian nationals should be sure to carry with them their financial documentation that verifies the information on their I-20 when getting ready to return to the United States.
8. **Student ID** – Bring your SUNY CORTLAND ID with you as supporting documentation.
9. **Transcript** - Get a copy of your unofficial **transcript** from Banner Web Access for supporting documentation.
10. **Enrollment verification form** – Get this from the Office of the Registrar
11. **Insurance** – Bring your insurance card with you in case of emergency.
12. In case of emergency call the Office of International Programs Emergency cell phone at 607 543-0774.
13. HAVE A **SAFE TRIP** AND A **GREAT TIME!!!!!!**