

Dear International Students,

Navigating the U.S. immigration system can be challenging, especially given ongoing policy updates and evolving regulations. We would like to draw your attention to recent changes that impact all alien residents and offer guidance related to travel and re-entry. **PLEASE READ THIS CAREFULLY TO THE END.**

ON REGISTRATION

In accordance with the [Alien Registration Requirement](#), all immigrants aged 14 or older who were not registered and fingerprinted (if required) when applying for a U.S. visa and who remain in the United States for 30 days or longer, must apply for registration and fingerprinting. Enforcement by USCIS went into effect on April 11, 2025. The registration process for most nonimmigrants occurs automatically through standard immigration procedures and is typically initiated through a visa application at a U.S. consular office. The required registration is completed when a noncitizen is admitted to the U.S. and is issued a [Form I-94](#).

Importantly, **there is a legal requirement to carry proof of registration on your person at all times.**

The most common forms of evidence are a copy of an I-94, employment authorization document (if applicable), or permanent resident card.

In addition to carrying documentation of registration, another requirement is that noncitizens living in the U.S. for 30 days or more must report address changes to USCIS within 10 days. Please refer to the USCIS page [How to Change Your Address](#), where you can find detailed information and instructions. Those in J-1 or F-1 status can satisfy the requirement by notifying OISSS. J-1 scholars should send an email with address updates to oisss@bard.edu. F-1 and J-1 students should submit a contact information update request via the [OISSS portal](#). OISSS will update SEVIS accordingly within 21 days to ensure compliance.

ON TRAVEL

With the end of the spring semester in sight, we advise our international community to approach travel outside U.S. borders with caution. Although an official travel ban has not been announced, individuals from impacted countries should consider the potential risks.

All travelers should be aware of the heightened scrutiny at ports of entry, which underscores the importance of digital hygiene. In addition to careful consideration of your social media presence, we advise you to review the Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) factsheet available on the [OISSS website](#). CBP has broad authority to search electronic devices. The factsheet links to articles that may be helpful as you prepare for travel. You should ensure that a trusted person, family member or friend, in the U.S. has copies of all of your relevant documents, someone whom you can contact in the case of an emergency. In the event that an international student or scholar is detained or denied re-entry to the U.S., you should contact that person who should in turn contact Bard: we will assist by advising on resources for immigration assistance. The contact should be Carmen Smith, Director of Visa and Immigration Services, at cnsmith@bard.edu or in an emergency, connect with a personal contact who can notify campus security at (845) 758-7460.

We will continue to monitor regulatory changes and will keep you informed. Should you need additional information regarding travel or other visa and immigration related matters, we encourage you to visit the [OISSS website](#). Please reach out to oisss@bard.edu with questions or concerns.

With kind regards,

Jonathan Becker

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