

## Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Admissions Procedures

Nearly 70,000 foreign travelers arrive in the U.S. every day. Everyone arriving at a port of entry is subject to inspection by [Customs and Border Protection](#). These inspections are routine; however, it is important to understand the process and to be prepared.

### Before Arrival

Prior to travel, be sure to have all the required documents for entry (or re-entry). Please refer to the [OISSS website](#) for a list of required documents.

You will also need to complete a [CBP Declaration Form](#) (Form CF 6059) prior to or during your travel. Declaration forms are typically handed out on the flight just before arrival. If you are arriving by land or sea, the immigration officer will provide Form CF 6059.

Airlines provide CBP with passenger information prior to departure. This information is screened by CPB in advance of your arrival. Please note that arrival at an airport does not mean that you are on U.S. soil. You must be formally admitted at the port of entry by CBP. A visa stamp in your passport represents an invitation to travel to the U.S., however, CBP has discretion to decide who may ultimately enter the U.S.

### Clearing Customs

**BIOMETRICS** - CBP has integrated facial biometric technology into entry procedures. A camera will capture your image and match it with historical photos of travelers associated with a specific manifest. Once matched, you will proceed to inspection with a CBP Officer.

**INSPECTION** - At the port of entry, a CBP officer will conduct a brief interview. Answer questions honestly. Avoid refusing to answer a question. If you are a visa holder, failure to answer all questions truthfully may result in your entry being denied.

If you are an F-1 or J-1 student, the inspector will first attempt to verify your status by using [SEVIS](#). In the event that the CBP officer needs to verify information with your school or program, you should call OISSS at 845-758-7200. Outside of regular business hours, you can call Bard Security at 845-758-7777 and ask that they notify the Director of Visa and Immigration Services. Under certain circumstances, the CBP officer may issue a [Form I-515A "Notice to Student or Exchange Visitor,"](#) which authorizes temporary admission into the United States for 30 days while you obtain and submit the necessary documentation to SEVP. Work with your school without delay to submit the proper documentation required by the [Form I-515A](#).

Green card holders or lawful permanent residents are obligated to answer customs related questions, as well as questions establishing your identity and permanent residency. Green card holders may not be denied entry based on a refusal to answer additional questions, including

those related to the purpose of your travel; however, failure to do so may result in delay or further inspection.

**QUESTIONS** – The purpose of CBP questions are typically to verify the following:

1. **Identity:** CBP officers are required to confirm a traveler's ID matches the visa information. They will confirm name, date of birth, nationality and confirm fingerprints.
2. **Purpose and Intent:** CBP will verify the purpose of travel. You need to answer accurately so that CBP can confirm your intention for entry is in alignment with your visa.
3. **Supporting Documents:** CBP officers may review all supporting documents related to your visa for legitimacy. They may request further documentation depending on your visa type. Scholars may be asked for a list of published and pending publications.
4. **Determine Fraud and National Security Threats:** CBP officers may want to ascertain if there is any fraud related to your visa.

Please refer to [this article](#) for information regarding your rights at U.S. ports of entry. Keep in mind that the questioning can be random where one person out of many is being questioned.

**SECONDARY INSPECTION** - If a CBP officer requires additional information, you may be led to a separate interview area for a more in-depth interview called secondary inspection.

Remember to remain calm and cooperate fully. Referral to Secondary Screening does not mean that you are in trouble or will necessarily be denied entry. Do not sign any documents you do not understand clearly, as you may relinquish your visa or permanent resident status by signing certain forms. If you are detained by an agent, you may ask them to provide the basis for reasonable suspicion.

**[SEARCH AUTHORITY](#)** - CBP Officers have authority to search persons, baggage, and merchandise arriving at Customs territory. Unless exempt through diplomatic status, all individuals entering the U.S., including U.S. citizens, are subject to search by CBP officers.

**[ELECTRONIC DEVICES](#)** - CBP may conduct a border search of your electronic device, which includes copying and retaining data. All travelers should note that refusal to provide a password may cause delay, additional questioning, and the confiscation of electronic devices for further inspection. Visa holders may be denied entry for refusing to provide a password. See [this article](#) for preparation tips. Ensure your online presence reflects compliance with U.S. laws and visa regulations. Evaluate your social media presence to ensure it presents a professional and appropriate representation of yourself to U.S. Customs.

CBP standards require officers to treat you with dignity and respect in all interactions, so note the name of any discourteous officers and report it to the service providers listed above. If you have any health conditions that require access to medications, please make sure to tell CBP officers. CBP must also provide you with access to food and water when necessary and allow bathroom access accompanied by a CBP escort.

**Basic Search:** Officers conduct a straightforward search and manually look at the content stored on your device.

**Advanced Search:** Officers connect a more in-depth search of your device with special equipment to copy or analyze its contents.

Your device will be returned to you unless CBP identifies a reason to temporarily detain the device or it is subject to seizure. If detained or seized, you will receive a completed custody receipt detailing the item or items being detained or seized along with a CBP point of contact. CBP will request your contact information to facilitate the return of your property. If temporarily detained, CBP will contact you when the examination is complete. You will be able to pick up your devices where they were detained or, if impractical, an arrangement will be made to return your devices to you.

## Denied Entry

In the rare case that a CBP officer determines you are inadmissible, the most important thing to do is to remain calm. Do not argue with a CBP officer, as it may undermine your case. Request the CBP officer to provide a reason for his or her decision to deny you entry. The CBP officer may permit you to withdraw your application for admission, which avoids a determination of inadmissibility on your record. Note any instructions the CBP officer provides regarding what you must do to obtain entry into the U.S. In certain circumstances, it may be advisable for you to return home and consult with a U.S. immigration attorney to ensure that you can re-enter the U.S. on a future date.

Green card holders cannot be refused entry to the U.S. unless there was an extended period outside the U.S. (beyond 180 days) or participation in illegal activity. CBP may evaluate the length of time spent abroad, ongoing ties to the U.S., and the purpose of travel. Maintain documentation of continued U.S. residency and the temporary nature of your travel.

## CBP Redress Mechanism

The Department of Homeland Security's Travel Redress Inquiry Program (DHS TRIP) is a single point of contact for individuals who have inquiries or seek resolution regarding difficulties they experienced during their travel screening at transportation hubs--like airports and train stations--or crossing U.S. borders, including:

- Denied or delayed airline boarding
- Denied or delayed entry into and exit from the United States at a port of entry or border checkpoint
- Continuously referred to additional (secondary) screening
- Situations where travelers believe they have faced screening problems at ports of entry

- Situations where travelers believe they have been unfairly or incorrectly delayed, denied boarding or identified for additional screening at our nation's transportation hubs

People who have been repeatedly identified for additional screening can file an inquiry to have erroneous information corrected in DHS systems. You may submit a request for redress through the Department of Homeland Security's [Traveler Redress Inquiry Program](#). (DHS TRIP). To speed the processing of your request, you should provide as much information as possible about where and when you have experienced inspections by CBP.