



OISSS, . &lt;oiss@brown.edu&gt;

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## Winter Break Reminder / Travel

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Fri, Dec 18, 2020 at 7:02 PM

Reply-To: oiss@brown.edu

To: oiss@brown.edu

Dear International Students and Scholars,

As the campus is about to close for winter break, we would like to resend some important reminders:

### ***Travel over Winter Break***

In alignment with [University guidance](#), OISSS cautions against travel for non-essential reasons. Students and scholars assume risk departing the U.S. with the evolving pandemic; there may be flight postponements or cancellations, consular closures and delays in visa processing and [additional travel restrictions](#) imposed by airlines and/or governments.

If you still decide to travel, please ensure that your [immigration documents](#) are current. Should you need a more updated travel signature on your I-20/DS-2019, please make your request here: [www.brown.edu/go/reprint](http://www.brown.edu/go/reprint). As OISSS continues to operate remotely, an adviser will mail your document out by standard post or paid shipping label. You can also request to receive your document by email.

### ***Proposed Rule Regarding Duration of Status (D/S)***

Information about the proposed rule regarding the changes to Duration of Status is still pending. We will keep you posted once new information becomes available.

### ***Hybrid course requirement for new and initial F-1 students***

The Student Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) has not released [guidance](#) for Spring 2021 operations. Pending any further updates, the requirement for new and initial F-1 students to be enrolled in a minimum of one hybrid course and to participate in the in-person component of that course will continue to apply for Spring 2021. This requirement also extends to students who entered the U.S. after March 9, 2020 in new or "initial" F-1 status.

Students who are currently outside the U.S. may download a [support letter](#) from the OISSS website with applicable information about Brown's hybrid model for Spring 2021.

Should you have any questions or wish to connect individually with an advisor, please [schedule a meeting](#) or email us at [oiss@brown.edu](mailto:oiss@brown.edu).

Best wishes for a happy and healthy winter break!

Your OISSS team

