Traveling outside the US for Spring Break?
If you are currently studying in a program at Fordham under the F1 or J1 status and planning on traveling outside of the U.S. during Spring break, please be sure to travel with a properly endorsed I-20/DS-2019 and a valid F1/J1 visa. The I-20 travel signature (on p.2 of the I-20) is valid for one year from the date it was signed. If you need to update your travel signature, you can come to the OIS office during our office hours.

If you are currently under OPT or STEM OPT and plan on traveling outside of the U.S., please be sure to travel with a properly endorsed I-20, a valid F1 visa, and your EAD card. The I-20 travel signature (on p.2 of the I-20) is valid for 6 months from the date it is signed. If your OPT or STEM OPT application is currently pending, please travel with the Receipt Notice.

If you forget to bring your I-20 or lost your I-20 and you are overseas, when you return to the US at the airport, you can request for a Form I-515 to be issued to you. You do NOT need to get a new I-20 from the OIS in order to return to the U.S. If you are issued a Form I-515, please come see an OIS advisor as soon as you can upon return so that we can help you respond to the I-515.

As you know, the I-94 is now an electronic record. The OIS does not require you to submit your I-94 to us when you return to the US, but we do recommend that you obtain your I-94 record online from www.cbp.gov/i94 each time you re-enter the US. Remember that you will NOT be able to retrieve your I-94 if you are outside the US, because the I-94 is an ENTRY document.

More information about travel can be found in the Travel section of our website.

Reminder: Never let anyone keep your original I-20. If someone like a CBP officer, DMV official, Social Security official, etc, requests to see your I-20, make sure you get it back before you leave. They DO NOT have the right to take your original I-20 from you.
LAST SEMESTER OF STUDY AND OPT REMINDERS

If this is your last semester of study, now is a good time to start thinking about if you would like to apply for OPT. If you plan to file for Optional Practical Training (OPT), you can begin to apply 90 days before your program end date listed on your I-20, and up to 60 days after your program ends (this means that the application must be received by USCIS by the 60th day). We recommend that you apply early! You have to make an appointment with the OIS in order to file for OPT. Please make an appointment through www.fordham.edu/ois. When you come to the appointment, be sure to bring Certificate of Eligibility form signed by your academic advisor (grad students) or Class Dean (undergrads), ALL your I-20s, passport, and I-94 record. We recommend that you apply early! You have to make an appointment with the OIS in order to file for OPT. Please make an appointment through www.fordham.edu/ois. When you come to the appointment, be sure to bring Certificate of Eligibility form signed by your academic advisor (grad students) or Class Dean (undergrads), ALL your I-20s, passport, and I-94 record.

ALL F-1 AND J-1 STUDENTS MUST SUBMIT TAX FORMS

If you were IN the US during the year 2017 (even for a day), you are required to file taxes, regardless of whether you have income or not. The OIS provides a service called Sprintax that can help you with your tax filing.

All students in F-1 or J-1 status, including those on OPT, were emailed from ois@fordham.edu in early February with your Access Code to access and utilize Sprintax. If you have not received an email, please email ois@fordham.edu to ask us to send the information to you.

If you HAD income: File Form 8843, along with Federal AND State/Federal tax forms. The deadline is April 17, 2018.

If you did NOT have income: File Form 8843 only. The deadline is June 15, 2018. ALL F-1 AND J-1 STUDENTS MUST COMPLETE THIS FORM!

We at the OIS are NOT tax experts and will not be able to answer your questions, which is why we provide Sprintax services to you.

Please note that Sprintax is only designed to assist students who are considered “non-residents for tax purposes”. The OIS cannot help you determine whether you are a resident or non-resident for tax purposes. Sprintax begins by asking you a series of questions that help determine whether you are resident or non-resident. If Sprintax determines that you are a resident for tax purposes, they will not allow you to continue. In this case, you can use any standard tax software/service.

STEM REMINDERS

If you have been on approved STEM for one year, you have to complete with your employer the evaluation form (top part of page 5 of the I983) and submit it directly to an OIS advisor. You have to also do the final evaluation (bottom part of page 5 of the I983) at the closing of STEM at the 24 months point.

If you have a change of employer while on approved STEM please remember to submit the following within 10 days of the change directly to an OIS advisor:
- Past employer should complete last page 5 of the I-983 -the FINAL evaluation part. Employer should list dates of employment and complete the Evaluation portion.-
- New employer must complete a I-983. Original form must be submitted to OIS advisor

- New employer must submit a new offer letter of employment with E-verify # listed in letter (or on the STEM application)

- You should complete a new OIS STEM application form (page one and 2)
Apply to be the next Fordham NGO youth rep at the UN for Fall 2018!! Applications open now! Details here: https://fordhamimpactinitiative.wordpress.com/call-for-new-youth-reps/

TWILIGHT CRUISE AROUND MANHATTAN: SIGN UP NOW!

Every year, One To World hosts an incredible Twilight Cruise around Manhattan. This year’s cruise will take place:

Date: Friday, April 27
Time: 6:15pm
Cost: $30/ticket
You can pay with cash (must be exact!) or by check (made out to Fordham University). To pay and sign up: come to the OIS during our standard opening hours, and bring your payment with you. You can sign up for more than one person, but in that case you must have the payment for all individuals you are signing up. The sign up/payment deadline is Thursday, April 5 at 4:00pm. The event includes live DJs, snacks & drinks, and spectacular views! Students who have gone on the cruise in previous years have greatly enjoyed it. The cruise is open to students from all schools in NYC, so it’s a great way to make new friends from nearby schools. The cruise is also open to your non-international friends.

WORKSHOP: GAINING SUPPORT & BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF U.S. ACADEMIC CULTURE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS FROM A CHINESE BACKGROUND

Have you ever felt frustrated about managing classroom expectations in the U.S.? Have you ever felt depressed, lonely, or anxious about how you can make friends in the U.S.? Have you ever wondered about other international students’ experiences, and how they cope with their transition to U.S. colleges?
In this seminar, Dr. Tang T. Heng will share insights from her research that followed Chinese 1st- and 2nd-year students in U.S. colleges over one year. Insights include common challenges Chinese international students face in their first and second year of college, coping strategies students typically use, as well as advice international students offer to incoming and recent international students.
This seminar encourages international students to understand that they are not alone in their experiences and that they can take control of and improve their academic and social circumstances and experience in the U.S.
This workshop is planned for Wednesday, April 18, from 12:00—1:00pm in LL 902 (open to all campuses). However, the date may have to be changed to Tuesday—we will email the new details if that is the case.

CAMPUS-TO-CAREER: PUBLIC SPEAKING & PRESENTING WORKSHOP

From school presentations, to interviews and lectures, public speaking is an important aspect of your academic and professional life. This four-hour workshop will be led by two professional consultants, Brendan Houdek and Steve Kaliski from New York Speech Coaching, both public speaking coaches with a background in both theater and professional development who have experience instructing businesses and individuals.
You will learn how to effectively prepare for a presentation, from structuring content to overcoming anxiety, as well as tips on engaging the audience. This workshop will combine the science of persuasion with the art of performance to help you become a charismatic and confident speaker! Don’t miss this chance to receive personalized feedback from a public speaking coach!
Date: Saturday, March 3rd
Time: 1:45pm—6:00pm
Location: Manhattan—meeting instructions will be emailed to you after registration
Cost: $25 (includes lunch and light refreshments)
Contact: Alison Cho, Coordinator of Enrichment Programs: alison@one-to-world.org or 212-431-1195 ext. 26
Using and Making the Most of the OIS Website

Many students ask questions that are answered in the information on the OIS website. We are concerned that many of our international students are not using the OIS website, even though it is an excellent tool with many resources and a ton of information. Not using the OIS website is a detriment to you, because you may not have info that could help you, or you may end up emailing OIS and then waiting for a reply. Therefore, below is a quick guide to how the OIS website works and where to find much of the information we think you would benefit from:

Our landing page is: www.fordham.edu/ois

From here, you can make an appointment by scrolling down and clicking the “Make an Appointment” link on the left side of the page.

Other important sections of our website are:

- Resources and Links (found in the left-hand navigation box on the OIS landing page)
  - request letters (F1 visa renewal, visa for visit to another country, bank, landlord, etc)
  - Find forms (Change of Address, CPT application, OPT application, SSN application, etc)
  - List of immigration attorneys in NYC that OIS has vetted
  - Resources for living in NYC, American Culture, and the American academic system
  - Government and Immigration Resources and New York City Services

- Immigration Information and Updates (found in the left-hand navigation box on the OIS landing page)
  - updates about immigration matters (such as the current Executive Order, for instance)
  - Link to the OIS Newsletters

- International Students (found in the left-hand navigation box on the OIS landing page)
  - Maintaining your status on OPT, OPT employment reporting form
  - STEM Extension info, instructions, application form, STEM employment reporting form
  - Cap Gap info

Current Students → F1 or J1

- Course Registration Info, Program end date info
- Employment (CPT info, instructions, and application form, OPT info, instructions, and application form, Social Security Number info)
- Travel (needed docs, reminders, I-515 info)
- Info about health, driver’s licenses, updating your address, tax, etc.

Post-Graduation

- Maintaining your status on OPT, OPT employment reporting form
- STEM Extension info, instructions, application form, STEM employment reporting form
- Cap Gap info