

## **WHAT A STUDENT OR EXCHANGE VISITOR CAN EXPECT UPON ARRIVAL AT A U.S. PORT OF ENTRY**

The Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP), an office of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Customs and Border Protection and the Department of State, wishes to assist you in your entry into the United States.

Approximately 28 million nonimmigrants enter or leave the United States annually to conduct business, study, visit family, or tour the country. Legitimate visitors are most welcome and the U.S. government is committed to facilitating their travel. However, a critical need for tighter security requires that we enforce entry and exit procedures.

Careful planning and preparation by students and exchange visitors can ensure that the delay based on these procedures is minimal.

As a Rotary Youth Exchange Student here are some things you should do:

- You cannot enter the United States more than 30 days before the program start date indicated on your DS-2019. You may leave the U.S., and re-enter at anytime provided you have proper documentation from the program you will attend upon your return.
- Before leaving your country, confirm that your passport and visa are still valid for entry into the United States. The passport should be valid for at least six months beyond the date of your expected stay.
- Also, check to see that your visa accurately reflects your correct visa classification.
- When you receive your nonimmigrant visa at a U.S. embassy or consulate, the consular officer will seal your immigration documents in an envelope and attach it to your passport. You should not open this envelope! The Customs and Border Protection Officer at the U.S. port of entry will open the envelope.
- When you travel, you should carry some specific documents on your person. Do not check them in your baggage! If your baggage is lost or delayed, you will not be able to show the documents to the Customs and Border Protection Officer and, as a result, may not be able to enter the United States. Here are the documents you should carry on your person:
  - Passport (including attached envelope of immigration documents) with visa
  - SEVIS Form DS-2019
  - Evidence of financial resources
- In addition, SEVP recommends that you also carry the following:
  - Evidence of Student/Exchange Visitor status (Rotary Guarantee Form, transcripts)
  - Name and contact information for your host club and the Responsible Officer (Youth Exchange Chairman) of your program
  - Writing instrument (pen)

On the aircraft, the flight attendants on board will distribute CF-6059 Customs Declaration form, before you land at your initial point of entry in the United States. Complete this form while you are on the aircraft and submit it to the appropriate Customs Officer upon your arrival. If you do not understand the form, ask the flight attendant for assistance.

Upon arrival at the port of entry, proceed to the terminal area for arriving passengers for inspection at one of the Department of Homeland Security stations. As you approach the inspection station, have your: passport, SEVIS Form DS-2019, and CF-6059 Customs Declaration Form available for presentation to the Customs and Border Protection Officer. The officials will verify your information in the US Government database through which your DS-2019 was issued.

If you are entering through a land or designated sea port, the Customs and Border Protection Officer will provide the necessary CF-6059 Customs Declaration Form at the port of entry. If you do not understand the form, ask the Customs and Border Protection Officer for assistance.

Like all entering visitors, you will be asked to state the reason you wish to enter the United States. You will also be asked to provide information about your final destination. It is important that you tell the Customs and Border Protection Officer that you will be a **Rotary Youth Exchange Student** or exchange visitor. Be prepared to include the name and address of the school or Rotary Club where you will enroll/participate.

Once your inspection is complete, the inspecting officer will:

- Stamp your SEVIS Form for duration of status (“D/S”) for J visa holders
- Validate your arrival in the US State Department database

## **SECONDARY INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS:**

If your information cannot be automatically verified by the inspector or you do not have all of the required documentation, you may be directed to an interview area known as “secondary inspection.” Secondary inspection allows Inspectors to conduct additional research in order to verify information. Verifications are done apart from the primary inspection lines so that an individual case will not cause delays for other arriving passengers.

In the case your admission/participation needs to be verified, we strongly advise that you have readily available the name and phone number of the Rotary District chairperson, the Youth Exchange Officer at your host club, or your host family. In the event you arrive during non-business hours (evenings, weekends, holidays), you should have a phone number where these individuals can be reached during non-business hours.

Failure to provide proper documentation and to comply with entry/exit procedures is cause to refuse the student or exchange visitor admission into the United States. In limited circumstances, if a student or exchange visitor is mostly, but not fully in compliance, he/she may be issued a Form I-515A “Notice to Student or Exchange Visitor”. This form authorizes temporary admission into the United States and requires the student or exchange visitor to take immediate action to submit proper documentation. Noncompliance with the directions contained on these forms may result in denied re-entry.

## **US-VISIT:**

On January 5, 2004, US-VISIT, a comprehensive entry-exit registration system was implemented at all international airports throughout the United States, pre-clearance inspection facilities and designated seaports servicing cruise ships.

All nonimmigrant visitors holding visas (including students and exchange visitors) will participate in the program that involves obtaining a scan of two index fingerprints and a digital photograph. Race, national origin, and religion are not factors in the US-VISIT program, as it applies to nonimmigrant visa holders.

For more information visit [www.dhs.gov/us-visit](http://www.dhs.gov/us-visit)

## **NATIONAL SECURITY ENTRY-EXIT REGISTRATION SYSTEM:**

Some individuals will require additional scrutiny and will have to provide additional information under the National Security Entry-Exit Registration System, or NSEERS. In the future, NSEERS will be integrated under US-VISIT. Anyone could be subject to additional scrutiny and should follow the directions of the Customs and Border Protection Officer if additional information regarding itinerary, length of stay, or other security questions is required. A packet of information will be available at the port of entry explaining the registration procedure.

For more information, search for NSEERS at <http://www.ice.gov/graphics/index.htm>

For greater detail on procedures for traveling and arriving in the United States, visit: <http://educationusa.state.gov/predeparture/travel/customs.htm>

## **FOLLOWING ADMISSION INTO THE UNITED STATES:**

Students should report to their school as soon as practical and register for courses or validate their intended participation.

You should report to your host club chairperson and the Responsible Officer within (but no later than) 30 days after the “Program Begin Date” listed on their Form DS-2019, for validation of intended program participation.