

TRAVEL DO'S and DON'T's

DISCLAIMER: ISP has prepared this guide to provide you with general guidance. Mt. SAC ISP staff will provide regulatory and practice information as it stands at the time of the consult. All advice provided by office staff or available in written publications does not constitute legal advice.

Some part of entry practices have changed under the current administration. While we don't anticipate that you will have any trouble entering the U.S., we recommend you follow these **Do's and Don'ts**.

- **DON'T** pack your I-20 or passport in your checked luggage. Make sure you have these items in your carry on or on your person. They are needed to enter the US successfully.
- **DO** cooperate with requests to search your cell phone or laptop, if asked by a Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officer.
- **DON'T** give out your password. Explain that you are uncomfortable sharing this personal information and offer to instead unlock your phone/laptop for the CBP official.
- **DO** familiarize yourself with the information shared by the American Immigration Lawyer's Association (AILA) regarding [Electronic Device Searches at US Ports of Entry](#).
- **DO** understand that CBP has a right to search through any social media apps installed on your devices. In the past, some people have been refused entry based on the contacts they have on social media or even their friends' posts.
- **DON'T** argue with a CBP official. Always remain polite, cooperative, and friendly.
- **DO** protect sensitive information (i.e. research papers or data on controversial issues) as these can be searched.
- **DO** Align your flights during business hours, whenever possible. That way CBP can contact us if they need to verify your student status.

DO: KNOW THE UNITED STATES "ZERO TOLERANCE" POLICY

The US has a "Zero Tolerance" policy when it comes to *crimes of moral turpitude* or drug use. Crimes of moral turpitude are things like shoplifting/theft, driving under the influence (DUI/DWI), forgery, tax evasion, embezzlement, arson, and domestic/child/animal abuse. **While marijuana use is legal in CA, it is not legal at the federal level.** This means marijuana use is not legal for international students, regardless of where they live in the U.S.

DO: UNDERSTAND THE EFFECTS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

Detainment or arrest (i.e. fingerprinting) will result in revocation of your F-1 student visa. Contact us immediately should you have any interactions with law enforcement to discuss your next steps. Keep in mind that minor infractions like speeding or jaywalking tickets do not affect your visa status, and you should not worry about your visa status if you have interactions with a law enforcement officer for these purposes.