

Travel Do's and Don'ts

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.

- **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** remember that CBP has a right to search through any social media apps installed on your devices. In the past administration, 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.
- **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** know the GCC ISO phone number in case of emergency: 1-818-240-1000 x 6645. We recommend aligning flights during business hours, whenever possible. For after hours emergencies of encounters with immigration officials, please contact 1-818-660-6122
- **DO** familiarize yourself with the information shared by the American Immigration Lawyer's Association (AILA) regarding [Electronic Device Searches at US Ports of Entry](#)



The US has a "Zero Tolerance" policy when it comes to the use of drugs or other crimes of "moral turpitude" (shoplifting, DUI, etc). While marijuana is legal in CA, it is not legal federally and you are prohibited from its use.

Detainment or arrest will result in revocation of your F-1 student visa. Contact us immediately should you have any interactions with law enforcement.