

UMD International Student Services, (218) 726-8962

International Student Services

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Traveling Over Winter Break?

Whether you're going home for the break or staying here, PLEASE let the office know where you will be. We can help with travel documents, or give you more information on things to do in Duluth over the break.

Travel Outside the United States If you are traveling outside the US, you will need the following documents in order to re-enter:

- o Valid F-1 Entry Visa If your F-1 entry visa has expired; you must apply for a new visa at a US consulate abroad before you return. It is not possible to renew your visa from within the United States.
- o Valid I-20 document
- o Valid re-entry signature on page 3 of I-20
- o Proof of funding (for example: current bank statement, letter from sponsor, TA offer letter)
- o Evidence of full-time enrollment at the University (transcript or certification letter)
- o EAD card and/or other information (for F-1s on post-completion OPT only)
- o Valid Passport: If your passport is expired or close to expiring, you should renew it before you travel. Contact your home country's embassy in the US.
- o SPECIAL REGISTRANTS: If you have a FIN number on your I-94 card, please see Karin for additional information.

To obtain a new F-1 Entry Visa:

Contact the US Consulate in your Country and inquire about their visa application procedures. Due to new interview requirements and screening procedures, you may need to schedule an appointment and your visa may take longer to process than in the past. Visit the US State Department website for links to US Consulates around the world. If possible, schedule an appointment before you depart the US.

US EMBASSY WEB SITE: <http://usembassy.state.gov/>

Winter Activities

Winter break is approaching fast and we have some events and activities planned for those of you who are staying in Duluth. These activities may include: ice skating, bowling, snow shoeing, downhill skiing, attending a UMD hockey game, and having a pot-luck dinner. A detailed calendar will be available in the office, and will be sent out on the international student mailing alias. If you have any suggestions or ideas about the winter activities, please contact Melany at admissa@d.umn.edu.



REMINDER

University e-mail accounts (your d.umn.edu account) are the official means of communication.

PLEASE
check
this
account
daily.



Thanks to everyone who participated in the Taste of UMD!

The event was a great success!

Winter Clothing Available Give-Away!

We're giving away: sweaters, hats, mittens, boots, ice skates, and scarves (and a vacuum cleaner)! Please come by the International Club Office and have a look! There are some really nice things that will keep you comfortable in the cold!

Tips on Staying Warm

Wear protective clothing on your head, neck, hands, and feet. 40-50% of your body heat escapes through an uncovered head and neck.

Dress in layers. That way if you get too warm, you can peel one off.

Keep dry! Don't go out with wet hair.

HAVE THE PROPER FOOTWEAR! Snow boots are essential for a Minnesota winter.

Wednesday, January 7, 2009 Pot Luck with Health Services

Health Services is planning to host a pot luck lunch with international Students. The event will take place on Wednesday, January 7, from noon to 2pm at the Health Services building on campus.

A pot luck lunch involves guests and hosts bringing a dish for everyone to share (think International Taste of UMD, only much smaller). If you are able to cook a dish, please bring one along (Rides to the grocery store may be arranged upon request). If you're not able to cook, you are still encouraged to participate.

2008-2009 Tax Sessions

All international students must file U.S. income tax forms, whether or not they have been employed in the U.S. Students who were employed in 2008 will receive a wage and tax statement (W-2 form) in the mail. If you have not received your W-2 form by February 1st you will be able to access the information online.

International Student Services will be holding tax sessions beginning in February and continuing through early April. There will be a \$6 charge.

Curricular Practical Training / Optional Practical Training

Curricular Practical Training (CPT) is work authorization for employment that is an integral part of the student's curriculum and related to his/her major field of study. Curricular practical training requires enrollment in a course requiring the employment. Students with authorization for CPT can work full time during breaks and over the summer and part time during the school year.

Optional Practical Training (OPT) is employment authorization granted by the U.S. government. OPT enables a student to gain work experience in her or his field of study for 12 months after completion of studies. The ISS Adviser must process a recommendation for your OPT request. The application may be submitted up to 90 days prior to graduation.

Applications are available in the International Student Services Office, 237 KSC.

