

NIHisbNEWS Alert for February 7, 2007

Online Change of Address

Recently USCIS announced the option of filing Form AR-11, Alien's Change of Address Card, online. Besides being quick and convenient, there are other advantages to filing online. USCIS provides instant confirmation that they have received the updated address information. In addition, individuals with pending applications at USCIS can use the online system to notify the processing Service Center or District Office by providing the receipt number for their pending case. All non-U.S. citizens must file Form AR-11 within 10 days of moving, as required by law. The on-line service can be found here <http://www.uscis.gov/AR-11>

Special note to NIH sponsored foreign scientists: All NIH-sponsored foreign scientists must continue to notify DIS of any address change. Scientists in J-1 Exchange Visitor status are required by law to notify DIS within 10 days of changing their residential address by mailing or faxing the DIS Change of Address Notice to DIS. The form can be found here <http://dis.ors.od.nih.gov/forms/changeofaddressform.doc> DIS is responsible for updating the residential address in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS). NIH-sponsored J-1 Exchange Visitors fulfill the change of address notification by notifying DIS and are not required to file Form AR-11. Failure to notify DIS of a change of address is an immigration violation.

If you are subject to Special Registration, see Form AR-11 Special Registration.

Passport Requirements for travel within North America

Effective January 23, 2007, citizens of the U.S., Canada, Mexico and Bermuda must present a valid, unexpired passport to enter the U.S. when traveling by air from any part of the Western Hemisphere. Such individuals were previously exempt from needing a passport, but this benefit ended January 22, 2007. Canadians are now required to present a passport if they travel to the U.S. by plane.

Note that this rule does not include travel by sea or land/border crossing. HOWEVER, passport requirements for sea and border crossings will most likely be implemented by January 2008.

International travel guidance for NIH-sponsored foreign scientists can be found at <http://dis.ors.od.nih.gov/advisories/trvladvisories.html>

USCIS Proposed Fee changes

USCIS recently published a proposed rule calling for a substantial increase in filing fees for many immigration forms. The increase will not be effective until a final rule is published. Changes are not likely to occur until six months after the close of the public comment period, which is April 2, 2007.

If you have any questions on this notice, please contact DIS at isb@mail.nih.gov.



U.S. Department of Health
and Human Services

National Institutes of Health

Office of Research Services

9000 Rockville Pike
Building 31, Room B2B07
Bethesda, Maryland 20892-2028

ph (301) 496 6166
fx (301) 496 0847
www.nih.gov/od/ors/dirs/isb/isb.htm