

Draft Broadcast Message

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Subject: New travel documentation requirements for citizens of the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Bermuda planning to travel to and from Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean and Bermuda.

The Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) will require all travelers to and from Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean and Bermuda to present a passport or other accepted document that establishes the bearer's identity and nationality to enter or re-enter the United States. The goal is to strengthen border security and facilitate entry into the United States for U.S. citizens and legitimate international travelers.

This notice is being sent to all school and program officials to inform you of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI). The information below was provided by the Department of State, and outlines the upcoming changes in passport requirements. As advisors to international students and exchange visitors, this information should prove helpful to you. Frequently asked questions about this initiative can be found http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cbpmc/cbpmc_2225.html.

In the proposed implementation plan, the initiative will be implemented in two phases. The proposed timeline will be as follows:

* **January 8, 2007** - Passports, Merchant Mariner Documents (MMDs) or NEXUS Air cards would be required for all air travel from within the Western Hemisphere for citizens of the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Bermuda. This is a change from the previously scheduled date of January 1, in order to accommodate holiday travel.

* **January 1, 2008** - It is anticipated that on January 1, 2008, U.S. citizens traveling between the U.S. and Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean, and Bermuda by land or sea (including ferries), may be required to present a valid U.S. passport or other documents as determined by the Department of Homeland Security. While recent legislative changes may permit a later deadline, both the Departments of State and Homeland Security are working to put all requirements in place by the original deadline. Advance notice will be provided to enable the public meet the land/sea border requirement.

U.S. Passport: U.S. citizens may present a valid U.S. passport when traveling via air between the U.S. and Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean, and Bermuda, and may also use a U.S. passport when traveling via sea and land borders (including ferry crossings).

The Passport Card (also referred to as the PASS Card): This limited-use passport in card format is currently under development and will be available for use for travel only via land or sea (including ferries) between the U.S. and Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Bermuda. Similar in size to a credit card, it will fit easily into a wallet.

International students should be reminded to plan for travel and:

1. Contact the international student services office in advance to obtain a Form I-20 endorsed for travel;
2. Copy their travel documents and maintain the copies in a secure environment;
3. Hand carry their travel documents whenever they travel; and
4. Check with the country of destination to determine if a visa is required.