Holiday Tips for Traveling Students

1. **Sign the Form I-20. Please come to our office one month prior to your travel.** A nonimmigrant student should travel with a valid, signed Form I-20, “Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status.”

2. **Apply for passport or visa renewal in the student’s home country, if necessary.**
   A nonimmigrant student who has either an expired passport or one that will expire within six months should apply for renewals while at home. A student who holds an expired visa must apply for renewal prior to re-entering the U.S. Students should check the website of the U.S. Embassy or Consulate in their home country to make an appointment once they know their travel dates. A student traveling on expired or soon-to-expire documents may have trouble when seeking re-entry into the United States. A student traveling to a third country to check the visa requirements for that country before travel.

3. **A student who is traveling during OPT** should travel with a valid EAD ("Employment Authorization Document"), and a letter from the employer verifying employment. This will assist U.S. Customs and Border Protection in verifying the student’s information upon re-entry.

4. **Travel with all required documents.**
   The required documents include:
   - signed Form I-20;
   - a valid passport (good for more than six months, unless otherwise exempt);
   - a valid nonimmigrant visa, if required; and financial information showing proof of necessary funds to cover tuition and living expenses. Failure to have all required documents may jeopardize a student’s ability to re-enter the United States. These documents should not be placed in checked luggage.

5. call to contact a DSO in the event of an emergency