

Disclaimer: This document is not intended to provide legal advice. It is a list of guidelines compiled from various online resources.

### Phone numbers:

Harvard Emergency Immigration and Visa Helpline: 857-302-3772

Harvard Immigration and Refugee Law Clinic: 1-617-384-8165

Harvard Travel Assist 1-617-998-0000

ACLU Massachusetts 1-617-903-8943

Greater Boston Legal Services Immigration Unit: 1-617-371-1234

### Documents to Bring

- Whether you are flying domestically or internationally, non-citizens must carry a valid passport, their Green Card, visa papers, as well as any other relevant documents, such as an I-94 or I-20. The more paperwork you have proving your eligibility to live and work in the country, the better.
- We also recommend to bring a printout of your flight itinerary, and your emergency contact information and your legal resource card issued by the HGSU-UAW.
- Supporting Documentation showing Harvard Connection:
  - Resume or Curriculum Vitae
  - Letter from Resident House Dean/Department Chair/School Dean attesting to your status at Harvard (this could be your acceptance letter)
  - Transcripts
  - Letter from adviser in case your international travel includes countries that are affected by the ban (see template provided on website)
  - Contact information of a Harvard individual (better if administration) who can further attest to your status

### What to bring as carry -on and check -in luggage<sup>1</sup>

- Check on the airline website for luggage and carry -on restrictions.
- Bring as much as you need, but be prepared that airport officials may ask you questions if they think you are carrying excessive or very little baggage.
- If you are traveling with \$10,000 or more, you must always declare it to a customs officer. It is better to travel with less money.

### Before you Leave

#### Cybersecurity and Social Media<sup>2</sup>

- Wipe your phone and computer and restore them to factory settings before you travel.
- Alternatively, encrypt your [computer](#) and your [smartphone](#), and use [strong passwords](#).
- Ship your devices to yourself before getting on the plane.
- If you don't want to risk bringing your primary devices, you may want to consider buying cheap(er) devices to use when you travel internationally.
- Change all your social media passwords to randomly generated strings, and bring them with you on a piece of paper. If you decide you need to, turn over the paper when asked for your passwords. Then, as soon as you've crossed the border, change the passwords again.

### How to respond to:

---

<sup>1</sup> Source [http://www.cunyclear.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/Travel-Pamphlet\\_11082012.pdf](http://www.cunyclear.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/Travel-Pamphlet_11082012.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Source: <https://privacysos.org/blog/social-media-privacy-at-the-border/>

### **Questioning<sup>3</sup>**

Airport officials are permitted to ask you questions about your identity, immigration status, and basic details of your trip. *You should answer these questions truthfully, but do not volunteer any additional information.*

Airport officials may try to ask you questions about your religious or political views, and whether you know particular individuals. *These questions are inappropriate and beyond the scope of their authority. You can refuse to answer these questions by saying, "I'm not comfortable answering questions about my religious or political beliefs, or about who I know."* If officials insist that you answer such questions, ask to speak with your attorney.

### **Searches<sup>4</sup>**

Airport officials are permitted to search your belongings and your person. You can take steps to make the search less intrusive. When officials are searching your belongings or your person, do not volunteer any information. Take careful note of the official conducting the search, and if any items are taken out of your field of vision. Ask for an agent's full name, agency, badge number, and identification and write down that information.

#### *Searches of your belongings<sup>5</sup>*

Ask that airport officials search your bags in front of you. If an agent confiscates any property, ask for a receipt and note the agent's name. If an agent copies or scans your electronic items, ask for a receipt and note the agent's name as well as the date, place and time.

#### *Searches of your person<sup>6</sup>*

All passengers are required to undergo a routine search during security. If the airport has full body scanners, you can choose between the scan or a pat - down by an agent of the same gender. You have the right to ask for that pat - down to be conducted in a private area. If you consent to the scan, you have a right to ask for an officer of the same gender to view your scan image. If you wish to be searched in a private area, you can ask that you be allowed to bring a family member or friend. If asked to remove religious clothing, such as a hijab, you can ask the agent to use a wand over that area. If they insist that you remove your hijab, you have the right to remove it only in a private area and in front of an agent of the same gender. You may be selected for an additional search. Agents may not conduct a strip search as a routine part of airport security.

#### *Searches of your tech devices and social media<sup>7</sup>*

If a border agent asks you to provide an account password or encryption passphrase or to decrypt data stored on your device, you don't have to comply. Only a judge can force you to reveal information to the government, and only to the extent that you do not have a valid Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination. However, if you refuse to provide information or assistance upon request, the border agent may seize your device for further inspection or consider you uncooperative, which the agent may take into consideration when deciding whether to allow you to enter the United States.

---

<sup>3</sup> Source [http://www.cunyclear.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/Travel-Pamphlet\\_11082012.pdf](http://www.cunyclear.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/Travel-Pamphlet_11082012.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Source: [http://www.cunyclear.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/Travel-Pamphlet\\_11082012.pdf](http://www.cunyclear.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/Travel-Pamphlet_11082012.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> Source: [http://www.cunyclear.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/Travel-Pamphlet\\_11082012.pdf](http://www.cunyclear.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/Travel-Pamphlet_11082012.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> Source: <https://www.elsevier.com/connect/what-are-your-rights-at-airport-screenings-and-checkpoints>

<sup>7</sup> Source: <https://www.eff.org/wp/defending-privacy-us-border-guide-travelers-carrying-digital-devices>