

Tips for Travel Abroad with Advance Parole

Money Matters

- Exchange \$150-200 USD into local currency at your bank or currency exchange service
- Do not exchange money at the airport, as they have the highest fees
- Bring a debit card and a credit card (be sure they have a chip)
- Notify your bank and credit card companies that you will be traveling and specify which countries you will be visiting
- Be sure you know your debit card's 4-digit PIN so you do not get locked out of your account
- Withdraw cash from ATMs only with a debit card and get enough cash for 1-3 weeks
- Familiarize yourself with your bank's and credit card company's foreign transaction fees, and try to get a bank account and credit card with low or no foreign transaction fees

Airline Travel

- Kayak and Google Flights allow you to check fares for many airlines
- Be aware of cancellation and change fees
- Check out low cost local airlines for travel to other countries

Health

- Verify that your medications are legal abroad
- Find out how much medication you can bring into the country, if legal
- Mailing medication abroad is illegal
- Bring valid prescriptions for legal medications, although you may have to consult a local physician to obtain a refill

Safety

- Beware of pickpockets, especially in crowded tourist areas
- Do not carry too much cash with you
- U.S. laws do not apply, so learn about the local laws – do not break them!
- Know the laws regarding alcohol consumption and cannabis, as they can vary even in neighboring countries

What to Bring

- Adapters and converters -- check on what type is used in the countries you will be visiting
- Cell phone that is unlocked so you can buy a local SIM card, or plan to buy a cheap local phone
- As you board the plane, you should have on your person (not in checked luggage): passport, i.d., visa (if applicable), arrival instructions (if you are in a study abroad program), local currency, debit and credit cards, legal prescriptions and medications, Employment Authorization Document, and Advance Parole Packet (I-131, I-797, I-512)
- Make two copies of your passport, visa (if applicable), CA driver license or i.d., Employment Authorization Document, Advance Parole Packet (I-131, I-797, I-512), credit and debit cards, and prescriptions; keep one with you and leave one with a responsible person in the U.S.

Re-entering the U.S. with Advance Parole

Before you go

- Leave a complete AP packet with a responsible person in the U.S.
- Good if you can get an immigration attorney as an emergency contact
- Make a list of all emergency contacts – hard copy, not on phone

Re-entry to U.S.

What to have in your carry-on bags

- Your passport
- Your AP (I-512) – 2 copies (one for CBP and one for you)
- Your entire AP packet
- Syllabi from your courses and/or other documents from the program
- Unofficial transcript
- EAD, CDL, and Bruin Card if possible

Process

- Have your Customs Declaration completed on the plane – list all purchases (keep receipts); no fresh produce
- DO NOT USE YOUR CELL PHONE UNTIL YOU CLEAR CUSTOMS!!! (When you are in the second-level inspection area, some CBP officers will allow cell phone use. Get permission before you use it.)
- Go to the Visitor line
- CBP may take your photo and fingerprints
- You will be directed to the second-level inspection area to wait until the CBP officer calls your name
- CBP may question you; then will take your AP and stamp your passport; ask them to prepare an I-94 record (now available online)
- Get luggage
- Present your Customs Declaration to the CBP officer, who may search luggage
- Pay duty if bring in more than \$100 of items purchased abroad (generally 3% of value) – pack items on top

Questions CBP likely to ask

- What is your age?
- How long are you staying? Be prepared to explain DACA and AP. “DACA means I have the approval of Homeland Security to be lawfully present in the U.S. for two years. My DACA approval is valid until _____. Having DACA gives me the right to apply for Advance Parole to study abroad.”
- Where do you live?
- What do you do? “UCLA student”
- Do you have an adjustment of status pending? CBP is accustomed to seeing AP for someone who needs to travel while their green card is pending. Explain DACA.
- What is your immigration status? DACA grantee.
- What is DACA?

- What was the purpose of your travel? Describe your educational program.
- How long were you gone?
- What did you do while abroad? Be honest. Tie to educational purpose.
- What countries did you visit? “We were encouraged to travel to enrich our educational experience.” Use the same explanation as you did in the I-131 statement. Go to a museum or other educational venues in each country you visit.