



## Returning to Holy Cross for the Spring Term

**Please check NOW** to be sure that you have your I-20, passport, and visa (not required for Canadians). Be sure you have signed and dated your I-20 – and, if you are under 18, that your parent/guardian has done the same. **If you have lost your I-20 contact me immediately!**

**Keep your I-20, passport, and visa with you at all times. Do NOT pack them in any luggage that you will check. You MUST have these documents with you when you go through US Customs.**

**\*\* If you are detained at the airport in “secondary inspection” for any reason, remain calm and do not panic. You will not be allowed to use your phone, so do not try to call or text. Politely ask the Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) officer to please phone Holy Cross Public Safety at 508-793-2224. Public Safety will contact me so I can address any concerns about your status. \*\***

1. **As you are clearing Customs, check your passport and be sure that the official stamps it "F-1 and D/S"** - which means you are an F-1 student eligible to remain in the US for the "duration of studies". If they accidentally stamp you with any other visa (e.g., B-1) politely ask that they correct it. This is particularly important for Canadian students.
2. Just a reminder that officials can also require you to show them your phone, including text messages and pictures. **If you have any information in your phone that could get you into trouble if law enforcement sees it, I strongly urge you to delete that material before you go to the airport!** (As an example, if you have photos of yourself or your friends smoking marijuana, you should delete those photos.)
3. **Possessing or using marijuana or other controlled substances or the equipment to use them ("paraphernalia") is a violation of U.S. federal law.** As a visa student, you must obey all federal laws or you risk having your visa canceled, being deported, and/or being banned from the U.S.
4. **If you plan to arrive prior to Sunday, January 21, you should already have secured permission from Ryan Grant or your ID will not be activated for entry into your residence hall.** If you have not secured permission, email Ryan right away ([rgrant@holycross.edu](mailto:rgrant@holycross.edu)), identify yourself as an international student, and copy me. The charge for housing and meals prior to January 21 is US\$55.00/day.

***Safe travels! See you soon!***