OIS PRACTICAL TIPS: Travel

As the winter break nears, many international students will want to travel home to be with their friends and family. Here are some important steps to take before getting on that plane!

- **Make sure your passport is valid.**
- **Make sure your I-20 or DS-2019 has a valid travel signature.** If you are an F-1 student, your travel signature will be on the bottom of page 3 of your I-20. If you are currently enrolled as a student, the signature cannot be more than 12 months old. If you are on post-completion OPT, the signature cannot be more than 6 months old. If you are a J-1 student, your travel signature will be on page 1 of your DS-2019. If you are currently enrolled as a student, the signature must not be more than 12 months old. If you are on post-completion Academic Training, the signature must not be more than 6 months old.
- **Check your visa expiration date.** If your visa stamp has expired, you will have to apply for a new one before you return to the United States. Be sure to visit your consulate’s website for application requirements and to schedule a visa appointment.
- **Check to see if you need a visa for your destination.** If you are visiting a country that isn’t home, make sure to check with that country’s embassy or consulate in the United States to see if you require a visa.
- **Make sure you have all your travel documents.** You will need your passport, visa, I-94 card, I-20/DS-2019 form with valid travel signature, and documentation of your finances. As an extra precaution, students may also bring an enrollment verification letter or an official transcript as proof they are maintaining their status. F-1 students on OPT should also carry their EAD card and employment offer letter. J-1 students on post-completion AT should carry their employment offer letter.
- **Pack your travel documents in your carry-on.** You will want to keep your documents close to you and have easy access to them at all times.

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**TRAVEL SIGNATURE WEEK**

In order to help you get a travel signature as easily as possible, OIS is offering a Travel Signature Week. On these days, you don’t need an appointment or to come back later to get your travel documents signed. Simply come into OIS from 9am—12pm or 1pm — 4pm and your document will be signed then and there! Travel Signature Week will be:

**December 1 — 5**

***Don’t Forget to Bring Your I-20 or DS 2019 & Passport!***
Would you like to find a home away from home? Come to the libraries!

“The University of Pittsburgh libraries and collections provide an abundant amount of information and services to the University’s students, faculty, staff, administrators, and researchers. In fiscal year 2013, the University’s 23 libraries and collections have surpassed 6.8 million volumes. In addition, they contain more than 5.5 million pieces of microforms, and more than 186,000 current serials, including both print and electronic.” (PITT Fact Book 2014).

International resources are an important part of the library collections. The libraries at Pitt collect books, journals, movie DVDs and other formats in a variety of languages such as Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Russian, and Spanish. Below are links to collection introductions and resource/research guides.

**Overview of the Foreign Language Collections:**

**Alliance College Polish Collection.** The collection contains a number of noteworthy items and sub-collections, such as complete runs on microfilm of the weeklies "Tygodnik ilustrowany" (Warsaw, 1859-1939) and "Zycie" (Warsaw, 1887-1890) as well as the monthly "Zycie" (Cracow, 1897-1900).

http://www.library.pitt.edu/alliance-college-polish-collection

**East Asian Library Collections & Resources.** The East Asian Library has over 310,000 volumes of Chinese, 135,000 volumes of Japanese, 16,900 volumes of Korean books, plus over 50,000 bound volumes of Chinese, Japanese, and Korean periodicals and magazines. In addition, it holds about 12,700 reels of microfilms, over 2,100 CD-ROMs, about 1,300 Video/audio tapes, 1,700 DVDs, and over 20 major area studies online databases in East Asian languages.

http://www.library.pitt.edu/eal-collections-resources

**Eduardo Lozano Latin American Collection.** The materials in the collection have been collected systematically and comprehensively through individual purchases and periodic buying trips.

http://www.library.pitt.edu/eduardo-lozano-latin-american-collection
International Resource and Research Guides:

**African Studies and African Country Resources @ Pitt:** This guide provides selected high-quality resources on the global, political, economic, social and cultural aspects of the continent of Africa and its countries.

**Chinese Studies Resources and Services @ Pitt:** This guide introduces major Chinese print and electronic resources accessible to Pitt-affiliated users.
[http://pitt.libguides.com/chinesestudies](http://pitt.libguides.com/chinesestudies)

**Japanese Studies Databases:** This guide is designed to illustrate databases and other free online resources for graduate students and researchers in Japanese Studies.

**Korean Studies Resources and Services @ Pitt:** This guide introduces major print and electronic resources on Korean Studies at the University of Pittsburgh. Tips on effectively searching for Korean materials on PITTCat are also given.
[http://pitt.libguides.com/koreanstudies](http://pitt.libguides.com/koreanstudies)

**Latin American Resources @ Pitt:** This guide is designed to highlight important resources for the study of Latin America and the Caribbean as well as to identify major national and international resources.
[http://pitt.libguides.com/latinamericanstudies](http://pitt.libguides.com/latinamericanstudies)

**Middle East Studies and Research @ Pitt:** This guide is designed to provide selected high-quality resources for those interested in the Middle East and North Africa. It features individual country pages as well as sources searchable by topic or country.
[http://pitt.libguides.com/middleeast](http://pitt.libguides.com/middleeast)

**Russian and East European Studies Resources @ Pitt:** This guide provides information & annotated links to some of the best resources for doing research on Russia (or the former Soviet Union) and Eastern European Studies.
[http://pitt.libguides.com/REES](http://pitt.libguides.com/REES)
There is a new Italian restaurant in town! Recently Joe Mama’s closed and the restaurant space was purchased by Fuel & Fuddle and has now re-opened as Olio Trattoria (Located at 3716 Forbes Ave. on the corner). Of course, I had to check out the new place for this month’s Zappa-tite review (and it is my first Italian cuisine restaurant visited for Zappa-tite!). If you had been to Joe Mama’s, the interior has not changed at all, just different pictures on the walls. The menu though is much more Italian focused, including soup (zuppa), salad (insalate), appetizers (antipasti), pizza, pasta, and panini (sandwiches). I was impressed that the pasta and panini entrées came with a decent sized house salad and bread with olive oil & balsamic vinegar (pictured), making the meals very reasonable priced.

On the cold winter day that I ventured down Forbes Ave., I chose to start my meal with a cup of the Italian Sausage Tortellini soup. The soup was super hearty and had large chunks of tomato, carrots, and zucchini, grounded sausage and cheese filled tortellini pasta. I was impressed with how dense and delicious the soup was. For my entrée, I order a large Casa salad and added grilled chicken. The salad was a nice portion with fresh greens and I enjoyed the Kalamata olives and gorgonzola cheese. My fellow OIS diners order various pasta dishes, all looking amazing. I would definitely recommend Olio Trattoria for your next lunch (or dinner) date!

If you are planning to travel this upcoming holiday season, please be aware that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued travel warnings for countries that are currently undergoing an Ebola outbreak. Countries included in the warning include: Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone. For the most up-to-date list please visit: [wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/diseases/ebola](http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/diseases/ebola)

Pitt faculty, staff, and students are advised to utilize the University’s travel registry at [www.globalhealth.pitt.edu/documents/TravelRegistryGuidelines.pdf](http://www.globalhealth.pitt.edu/documents/TravelRegistryGuidelines.pdf) if you are travelling to country with a travel advisory. Those travelling to Sierra Leone, Guinea, Liberia or Nigeria are asked to contact Student Health Services at 412-383-1800 upon return.
‘Tis the season to enjoy the snow! We have had a taste of snow so far in Pittsburgh this fall, but soon that cold, white wonder will be all around us. For those of you for areas of the world without a lot of snow, here are some things you might want to try.

These are all things you can do within minutes of your own home.

**Build a Snowman!** Roll that snow into a ball and keep moving it around until you have three large enough to stack into a man. Add a hat, carrot nose, rock eyes, and some sticks for arms and you are ready to go!

**Ice Skating!** There are several places in Pittsburgh to strap on some skates and glide around the ice, or in some cases strap on some skates and cling to the wall of the rink for dear life. (It’s all personal preference.)

**Sled-riding!** When the snow is fresh, take some friends to a nearby hillside and ride down on a sled. You can buy them at any K-Mart or Target (and many other stores) for less than $10. Whether your sled makes it to the bottom with you still attached is all part of the fun!

**Stay in!** Stay warm by the fireplace or under a thick blanket and enjoy the snow from your window with a hot drink and great book. Sometimes the outdoors is best experienced from within.

Whatever you decide to do, stay warm and enjoy!
Experience what an original German Christkindlmarkt (Christmas Market) is like by visiting the 3rd Annual Peoples Gas Holiday Market in Downtown Pittsburgh. The Pittsburgh Holiday Market brings a cherished European tradition to Pittsburgh, mixing international flair with local charm. The market features vendors selling a mix of ethnic and local trinkets and gifts.

Some of the international vendors include Gifts from Afar (Russian and Ukrainian souvenirs, ornaments and gifts), Himala Home (handmade felt accessories and bags), Global Girl Gifts (jewelry, bags, and gifts from Southeast Asia), and Women of the Cloud Forest (products from fair trade artisans in Costa Rica and Nicaragua). There are also some booths with locally made products such as Vessel Glass Studio (hand-blown glass ornaments, vases, and gifts) and Linda Barnicott (limited edition art prints, notecards, and mugs).

Santa Claus also makes daily appearances at the market and children are welcome to have a photograph taken with him for a donation to the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank.

Other Downtown Pittsburgh Holiday Activities:

* Free Holly Trolley rides on Saturdays and Sundays or Horse Drawn Carriage Rides on Saturdays
* Free Holidays Kidsplay Saturdays and Sundays in the Cultural District
* PPG Place Wintergarden exhibits featuring Spirits of Giving Around the World with Santas and other gift-giving myths from around the world displayed with their stories and the gingerbread house and train display.
* Ice Skating at PPG Place
* Holiday Lunchtime Concerts at Market Square

* Highmark First Night Pittsburgh

To learn more about these Pittsburgh holiday traditions, and other holiday events happening downtown, visit www.downtownpittsburgh.com/holidays.
GET INVOLVED PITTSBURGH: Phipps Conservatory

ABOUT PHIPPS

Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, a great steel and glass Victorian greenhouse, has been inviting visitors to explore the beauty and mysteries of plants since 1893. Set amidst one of Pittsburgh’s largest greenspaces, Schenley Park, Phipps Conservatory stands as a cultural and architectural centerpiece of the city’s Oakland neighborhood.

In recent decades, Phipps has evolved into one of the region’s most vibrant, thriving cultural attractions, bringing fresh perspectives and artists into our historic glasshouse environment. Phipps has also become a strong advocate for advanced green-building practices, sustainable gardening and a new environmental awareness.

CURRENT EXHIBITS

Phipps is currently decorated for the Christmas holiday season. There are poinsettias in almost every room, a room filled with a model train set, and a beautiful exhibit of winter garden lights outside. At this time of year Phipps is open until 11pm, so you can also visit Phipps for Candlelit Evenings and see the flowers and plants in the warm glow of candles and strings of light. In addition, their largest exhibit is the Tropical Forest of India which includes many plants native to India and information about how the plants are grown and for what purposes they are used.

CLASSES AND EVENTS

Phipps also offers a number of classes for both children and adults about gardening, healthy eating habits, how to grow specific plants such as orchids, etc. They also have a variety of family events each month where the entire family can come to participate in different activities.

Finally, Phipps has exclusive “members only” events that are only available to those who pay for a Phipps membership. These events might be art exhibits, special speakers, shopping events, or more.

VISITING PHIPPS CONSERVATORY

Pitt students may visit Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens for free with a valid Oakland Campus student ID. Faculty and staff must pay for the price of admission, but if you enjoy your experience, you can return to the admission counter and apply the price of your admission to your annual membership fee. Visit the Phipps Conservatory website or call 412-622-6914 for more details on hours and dates.
PITT ARTS: Celebrate the Holidays!

Pitt students, staff, and faculty and their friends and family get to enjoy this holiday season’s arts and culture events this year, and save money doing it thanks to the Cheap Seats offerings through PITT ARTS.

Holiday classics that can be bought cheap include:

★ Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre’s *The Nutcracker*: Seating options for students start at $15 and for faculty and staff, they begin at $20. The run of the ballet is December 5—28 this year. Discounted tickets can be purchased only through the PITT ARTS website for tickets, click on the promo code for PBT.

★ The Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera (CLO) has a few nice holiday events to attend:

- **Murder for Two** (Now through January 18): Two is the perfect blend of music, mayhem and murder! In this witty and winking musical homage to old-fashioned murder mysteries, two performers play thirteen roles—not to mention the piano! A snazzy double-act that spins out a comic mystery animated by funny, deftly-turned songs. You won’t want to miss this killer musical comedy!

- **A Musical Christmas Carol** (December 5—21): Join Scrooge, Bob Cratchit, Tiny Tim and a host of colorful characters for a remarkable CLO holiday presentation of *A Musical Christmas Carol*. With dazzling special effects, holiday charm and ticket prices even Scrooge would approve of, this Charles Dickens classic is a wonderful way to celebrate all the tradition of the season.

- Tickets for these events start at $15 for the whole Pitt community but must be purchased online only through the PITT ARTS website for tickets, click on the promo code for the Pittsburgh CLO.

★ Great Expectations (December 3—20) is being presented by the PICT Classic Theatre: A woman hell-bent on revenge on all men snares Pip, a kindhearted boy, in her wicked web, with the beautiful Estella as bait. Pip is stuck fast in Miss Havisham’s web of love and deceit—will he become a gentleman and win the love of Estella? Dickens’ classic novel has been adapted for stage with the best parts of Pip’s adventure.

- Tickets are $18 for students and $36 for faculty and staff. You must purchase your tickets in the Pitt Arts office (9th Floor William Pitt Union) by 12pm on the Tuesday before your desired performance date.

★ Highmark First Night is the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust’s way to ring in the New Year in Downtown Pittsburgh. Highmark First Night Pittsburgh features more than 100 events and activities, including art installations, performances, hands-on activities, a parade and more, at indoor and outdoor locations throughout the Cultural District. The event ends with the grand finale midnight show. Click here to buy your tickets!

PITT ARTS has been a program of the University of Pittsburgh since 1997. For more information, please visit the PITT ARTS website.
CDPA EVENTS: December

INFORMATION SESSIONS

December 2

- **8am** — Information Session with Teach for America (O’Hara Student Center)
- **5pm** — Information Session with Young Entrepreneurs Across America (WPU 224)
- **9pm** — Information Session on the Shadow in your City program for students to attend a site visit in D.C, NYC, or Philadelphia. Attending an information session is mandatory to attend the site visit. (WPU 224)

December 3

- **Noon** — Information Session on the Shadow in your City program for students to attend a site visit in D.C, NYC, or Philadelphia. Attending an information session is mandatory to attend the site visit. (WPU 224)

SHADOW IN YOUR CITY*

December 15

- **2-5pm** — Shadow in your City with Hearst Corporation in NYC.

December 16

- **9am-Noon** — Shadow in your City with Macy’s NYC
- **10-11:30am** — Shadow in your City with the Smithsonian Institution, D.C.
- **11am-2pm** — Shadow in your City with Vanguard in Philadelphia

December 17

- **9am-Noon** — Shadow in your City with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in D.C.
- **10-11:30am** — Shadow in your City with 12+ in Philadelphia
- **4-5pm** — Shadow in your City with the U.S. Department of Commerce in D.C.

*Students must provide their own transportation.*

For more information on the Shadow in your City events and information sessions, please visit your Pitt Portal, go to FutureLinks, and view the content about the events.
EXPERIENCE AMERICA: Holiday Party

HOLIDAY PARTY

Friday, December 5, 2014
4:00 - 6:00 pm

Join OIS holiday cookies and warm beverages!
Celebrate the winter holidays with OIS as well as the opening of the Nationality Rooms’ Holiday Tours!
Activities to include creating a holiday decoration and party games. Win prizes!

Register at:
https://oisholidayparty.eventbrite.com

EXPERIENCE AMERICA
OIS Family Favorite Holiday Traditions

At the Experience America Holiday Party, one of the posters you will see is about the variety of family holiday traditions we hold in OIS. Here are a few examples to get you excited about the Holidays and the Holiday Party!

Claire Mokry (Immigration Specialist, Employment Team): “After we got married, Brad (my husband) and I began a new tradition for Christmas. We decided that every year we would make a trip to Fleming’s Christmas tree farm in Indiana, PA and cut down a fresh Christmas tree – it’s a great way to get into the holiday spirit!”

Alice Zdrale (Immigration Specialist, Student Team): “In the Zdrale household, we celebrate Christmas twice! We first celebrate December 24th with a Czech traditional Christmas dinner (pea soup, carp or any kind of fish, breaded schnitzel, and potato salad) followed by Orthodox Christmas on January 7th when we exchange gifts. I love celebrating Christmas and New Year’s Eve twice, plus I get to do my Christmas shopping in January without crowds!”

Kati Von Lehman (Compliance Coordinator): “Every year since my daughter was born in 2008, we make holiday cards with funny pictures to send to our family and friends. On the back of the card, I make a TOP TEN list for the past year celebrating our highlights. It is the one time of year where my family lets me be as crazy as I want (even letting me drive us hours away to find snow!) to get the perfect card. If you stop by my office during December, you can see all of the cards we have made over the years!”

Sara Jones (Senior Immigration Specialist, Student Team): “An Egan family tradition is to watch the burning Yule Log on TV throughout Christmas Day.”

Please share your favorite family holiday traditions with OIS at the Holiday Party or on our Facebook page! We can’t wait to hear how your family celebrates different holidays throughout the year!
DECEMBER 2014 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1-5 — Travel Signature Week at OIS, 9 AM—12 PM AND 1 PM—4 PM. Bring your I-20 or DS-2019 and passport with you!

1 — (PITTSBURGH) RED/World AIDS Day Candlelight Vigil, 6 PM. More about World AIDS Day here.

4 — Global Pittsburgh First Thursday, 5:30 PM—8 PM, Roland’s Seafood Grill & Bar, Strip District

5 — Join us for the Experience America: Holiday Party, 4—6 PM! Register here.

5 — Last day of fall classes

7 — Nationality Rooms Open House, Free! 12 PM—4 PM, more details via UCIS Events

8 — Student Walk-In Hours Cancelled in OIS

10 — Limited OIS availability due to staff retreat

15 — January 4 — Winter Recess, no classes

16 — Student Walk-In Hours Cancelled in OIS due to Divisional Meeting

23—Pitt Mens’ Basketball vs. Holy Cross, 7 PM, Peterson Events Center

24 – Jan 4 — Pitt Offices, including OIS, closed for Winter Recess

HAPPY NEW YEAR

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