

# Memorandum

To: York University Members Traveling to the U.S

From: York International Safety Abroad Department

Date: April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Subject: Guidance & Support - Travel to the U.S.

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We understand that traveling to the U.S. can bring up concerns, especially in this current geopolitical climate. While we do not anticipate any issues at the border, it's always best to be prepared.

The overall security risk level for travel to the United States remains low, with travelers advised to take similar precautions as they would in Canada. However, there are recent changes to U.S. entry requirements that may affect your travel plans.

As of March 21, 2025, the Government of Canada has updated its travel advice, advising Canadians and other foreign nationals staying in the U.S. for more than 30 days to register their trips with U.S. authorities. Failure to comply could result in penalties, fines, or misdemeanor charges. Please review attached link if this applies to your travel plans [US. Visa Connection](#)

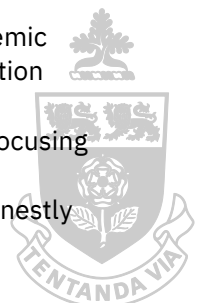
Additionally, the U.S. State Department has eliminated the gender X identifier on U.S. passports. If your passport includes this designation or if you have changed your gender, you should contact the U.S. Embassy in Canada before traveling for guidance.

Travelers are encouraged to visit the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) website [Home | USCIS](#) to determine registration requirements or consult the U.S. Embassy in Canada for travel-related inquiries.

Lastly, the Government of Canada has clarified that neither ESTA approval nor a U.S. visa guarantees entry; the final decision rests with U.S. border authorities.

Here are a few key recommendations for entry into the U.S.

- Ensure that all travel documents (passport, visa/ESTA if applicable, and any supporting documentation) are in order and readily accessible. *Please note that passport should be valid for at least 6 months.*
- Be prepared to clearly explain the purpose of your trip—attending an academic conference—and have any relevant invitation letters or conference registration details on hand.
- If asked about your trip/research, keep explanations factual and concise, focusing on the academic nature of your work.
- Remain calm and cooperative with border officers, answering questions honestly.



and directly.

- Its essential you comply with requests. U.S. border agents have the given authority to search travellers' electronic devices, including phones, laptops and cameras.
- It is important to register for **ROCA (Registration of Canadians Abroad)** [Registration of Canadians Abroad - travel.gc.ca](https://travel.gc.ca). This service allows the Canadian government to communicate important updates and safety information to Canadians traveling.

Should any issues arise at the border, here are some key contacts:

- **York International – Safety Abroad:** [safetyabroad@yorku.ca](mailto:safetyabroad@yorku.ca) (647)-338-7602
- **York University Emergency Line:** 416-736-5333 or 416-650-8000
- **Canadian Consulate in U.S.A:** [Travel advice and advisories for United States \(USA\)](#)

If you have any specific concerns or need further assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Thank you,

Sebouh Akrabian  
Manager, Safety Abroad