



## General Travel Information

If you are traveling with any scientific equipment(beyond a laptop), anything worth more than \$2500 or rough diamonds in any amount(unlikely I know, but the government is very worried about it) please let me know as a customs form may need to filled out prior to leaving the US.

Beyond that we ask that you observe some precautions when traveling with your electronic devices:

- You have the option of checking out a clean laptop from DoIT.
- If that is not an option, please ensure that all your devices are password protected. We recommend that you change your password both **prior to leaving** and **upon returning** to the US, using something that is unique among all your passwords.
- Use a Virtual Private Network (VPN). This is a free service the UW provides that adds a layer of protection to all your interactions while online. It is available at <https://it.wisc.edu/services/wiscvpn/>
- Try to keep your electronic devices on your person as much as possible. The government has video of laptops being accessed in hotel rooms by local intelligence agencies.
- Please do no access any sensitive information (bank records, health records etc.) while abroad, and remember that all of you data, both personal and professional could be a target for theft.

This website has some good information. <https://it.wisc.edu/guides/the-academic-professionals-guide-to-safe-computing-when-traveling-abroad/>

Additionally, please be aware that there has been an uptick in electronic devices searches by Customs and Border Protection while re-entering the US. They have the right to ask for your password to electronic devices and can seize your devices if you refuse. The amount of people being subject to these searches is still just a small fraction of those that enter the US. This website explains what customs is and is not allowed to do. <https://it.wisc.edu/news/know-bringing-tech-devices-us-customs/>

*Please contact the Export Control Office with any questions you may have.*

[exportcontrol@grad.wisc.edu](mailto:exportcontrol@grad.wisc.edu)

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