

International Student and Scholar Office
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J-1 STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS: TRAVEL ABROAD AND RE-ENTRY TO THE UNITED STATES

New visa stamp:

If the J-1 visa stamp in the passport has expired, a new visa must be obtained at a U.S. embassy or consulate (in any country) before re-entry. A signed DS-2019 and evidence of financial support must be presented at the embassy or consulate. The signature on the DS-2019 must be requested from the International Student and Scholar Office (ISSO) before departure.

Traveling to another country:

If the J-1 visa holder plans to enter a country other than his/her own, that country's embassy or consulate should be contacted to find out if an entry visa or health certificate is required.

Leaving the U.S.:

If you were given an I-94 at the border when you arrived 94 (small white card stapled in the passport), when you leave the U.S., this form must be given to the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol (or airline) official. The DS-2019 must remain in the J-1 visa holder's possession at all times.

Re-entry to the U.S.:

A J-1 visa holder temporarily leaving the U.S. must have the following documents for re-entry.

1. Valid passport (or travel document)
2. Valid J-1 visa in his/her passport
3. DS-2019 endorsed on the front "Travel Validation" for re-entry by the ISSO

Travel with expired U.S. visa stamp:

If you have maintained legal J-1 status, you may travel to a "contiguous territory" (Canada, Mexico, and the adjacent islands) and be allowed to return to the U.S. with an expired U.S. visa. (The visit may only be as a "tourist" and for no more than 30 days.) Your visa will be "automatically revalidated" upon re-entry, as long as you present your valid I-94 card or entry stamp in your passport showing your latest entry marked "J-1, D/S". If you have one, be sure that an airline official or immigration officer does not take your I-94 card when you leave the United States. As in all cases of travel, your DS-2019 must be signed in "Travel Validation" section by an ISSO advisor and you will need a valid passport. For more information, read the ISSO handout "Visas and Travel: Automatic Extension of an Expired Non-Immigrant Visa."

Be aware that the U.S. Department of State has eliminated this benefit for some foreigners. Students/scholars who apply for a U.S. visa in Canada, Mexico, or adjacent islands are no longer eligible for the "automatic revalidation" benefit.