

Travel Checklist

If your F-1 or J-1 visa stamp in your passport is valid bring:

- 🌐 Your I-20 or DS-2019 form signed within the last semester *
- 🌐 Your valid visa stamp in your passport
- 🌐 Passport Valid for another 6 months into the future
- 🌐 Proof of funding for the upcoming year
- 🌐 Unofficial transcripts and proof of registration for the next semester
- 🌐 Although you show your current I-20/DS-2019 to the INS Official, carry all previously issued I-20s/DS-2019 forms with you when you travel

If your visa stamp in your passport is not valid and you are traveling overseas (Not to Canada, Mexico or the Caribbean Islands - except Cuba):

- 🌐 Look at the U.S. Embassy or Consulate's website in your home country to find out the latest procedures for getting a visa at home. You can get a list of these websites at: http://www.travel.state.gov/visa/tempvisitors_wait.php
- 🌐 Talk to an international student advisor in OIPS if you are not going to your home country or you have concerns about getting your visa
- 🌐 Make sure your I-20/DS-2019 has been signed within the last semester* and your passport is valid
- 🌐 Bring an updated funding letter for the upcoming year (Bank statement or scholarship/assistantship award letter)
- 🌐 Bring your transcripts; including proof of registration for the next semester if traveling over the winter or summer break
- 🌐 Bring all previously issued I-20 or DS-2019 forms
- 🌐 Be prepared to address your plans to return to your home country upon completion of your program or questions about why you chose to study in the U.S.

While Traveling on Optional Practical Training (OPT for F-1 Students) You Need:

- 🌐 Your I-20 signed for travel every six months while on OPT
- 🌐 A valid F-1 visa - Please talk to an advisor in OIPS if your visa stamp in your passport is not valid and you want to travel while on OPT
- 🌐 Your Employment Authorization Card
- 🌐 Passport valid at least six months into the future
- 🌐 A job offer letter or proof that you have been looking for a job (this becomes more important the further you are into your OPT).



Travel of F-2 and J-2 Dependents:

- 🌐 F-2 or J-2 dependents traveling separate of their F-1 or J-1 spouse, need their own I-20 or DS-2019 form. The spouses' I-20 or DS-2019 should also be signed for travel every semester that the spouse travels.
- 🌐 Make sure your F-2 or J-2 visa is valid

Special Notes:

- 🌐 Students who changed their visa status from a visa category other than F-1 to F-1 before their last trip outside of the U.S. - You have F-1 status, not an F-1 visa - If you are traveling now, you will need to get a new F-1 visa stamp overseas
- 🌐 While in F-1 or J-1 status, you may travel to Canada, Mexico or the Caribbean Islands, except Cuba for less than 30 days - even though your U.S. visa is expired - and still return to the U.S. You may still need a visa to get into the country you plan to visit, however. Also, you need at least an expired U.S. visa in your passport, and you should check with an advisor in OIPS if you have a single entry visa or you have "Cancelled" written on your visa. To qualify for automatic visa revalidation, your I-94 card should be marked "F-1/DS" or "J-1/DS" and your passport should be valid six months into the future. Students from Iran, Iraq, Syria, Lybia, and Sudan are not eligible for Automatic Visa Revalidation. Finally Automatic Visa revalidation does not apply if you apply for a US visa while in Canada.
- 🌐 Citizens of Canada do not need a visa to enter the U.S., but do need a valid travel signature

* To get your I-20 or DS-2019 form signed, you may either drop it off in OIPS and pick it up in two working days, or you may come during walk-in hours between 2:00 - 4:00 Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.