

# Travel Information - Re-entry to the U.S.

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## F-1 Students and J-1 Students and Scholars Traveling Outside of the U.S.

Students and scholars traveling outside the U.S. who intend to return to resume their F-1 or J-1 status are required to carry the following documents\* with them when entering the U.S. **Do not place these documents in your checked luggage!**

- **Valid Passport:** Your passport must be valid at least six months into the future at all times, especially upon entry or re-entry to the U.S.
- **Valid Visa:** The F or J visa stamp in your passport should be valid on the date of your return to the U.S. (It does not, however, need to remain valid during your stay in the U.S.) If you have an old, expired passport with a valid U.S. entry visa, you do not need to get a new visa stamp in your new passport as long as you carry both passports when you enter the U.S. ***Canadian citizens are exempt from the visa requirement.***

If you need to renew or apply for a U.S. entry visa, expect delays if you are required to attend an in-person interview at the consulate, particularly during the holiday season. In addition, "security checks" can delay visa issuance for several weeks. Graduate students and scholars should notify their academic departments accordingly prior to their anticipated trip.

- **Valid I-20 or DS-2019:** Those who are re-entering the U.S. must make sure their Form I-20 or DS-2019 has been PROPERLY ENDORSED (signed within one year of your intended re-entry date) by the school official or agency that issued the document. (Those on F-1 OPT must have the endorsement within past six months). ***If Salve Regina University issued your immigration document, please bring it to the Office of International Programs for endorsement.***

**\*SPECIAL NOTE:** Students who do not meet these requirements may be denied re-entry into the U.S.

**OIP also recommends (not required) that students carry the following documentation:**

- **Evidence of Financial Support:** OIP recommends that F/J nonimmigrants carry proof of the financial support and resources reflected on their Form I-20 or DS-2019.
  - **Evidence of Current Semester's Enrollment (Student):** F-1 and J-1 students should carry a letter certifying active student status and enrollment. The letter can be obtained from the Salve Regina University Registrar
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## **Additional Information for F-1 and J-1 Students Pursuing Post-Completion Employment**

In ADDITION to the above documentations, the Office Of International Programs also recommends that students travel with the following:

- **F-1 students on post-completion OPT or STEM OPT\*\*** should carry the **Employment Authorization Document (EAD)** and an employment verification or offer letter from the current or prospective employer in addition to above mentioned items.
- **J-1 students on post-completion Academic Training\*\*** should carry extended DS-2019 with Academic Training notation and an employment verification or offer letter from the current or prospective employer.

**\*\*SPECIAL NOTE:** If you travel outside the U.S. after completion of studies, you must re-enter in the appropriate F-1 or J-1 status; otherwise your OPT, STEM OPT or Academic Training authorization will end. We encourage you to consult with an OIP advisor when contemplating travel outside the U.S. during OPT.

## **I-94 Record**

### **What is the I-94 Arrival/Departure Record?**

According to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP):

*The I-94 is the Arrival / Departure Record, in either paper or electronic format, issued by a Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Officer to foreign visitors entering the United States. After April 30, 2013, most Arrival/Departure records will be created electronically upon arrival. Instead of a paper form, the visitor will be provided with an annotated stamp in the foreign passport. If provided a paper form, the admitting CBP Officer generally attaches the I-94 to the visitor's passport and stamps the departure date on the form.*

### **When do I receive an I-94 record?**

You will receive an I-94 record every time you enter the United States as a non-citizen.

- **Entered via air/sea:** If you enter the U.S. via air or sea, you will receive an electronic I-94 record, which will include the immigration status into which you were admitted, an admission number and will state the length of time you are allowed to remain in the U.S. in the status listed on the form.
- **Entered via land border crossing:** If you enter the U.S. via a border crossing, you will receive a paper I-94 record in the form of a small white card stapled into your passport. The paper record includes the same information that appears in the electronic record.

### **How can I find my I-94 record? Should I keep a copy?**

If you entered the U.S. via air or sea, you will receive an electronic I-94 record. The record can be obtained at:

<http://www.cbp.gov/i94>

You should print out a copy of your electronic I-94 record each time you enter the U.S. and placed with your other immigration records. This record can only be obtained after entry to the U.S. **If you cannot find your electronic I-94 record or if the information on the record is incorrect, please contact the Office of International Programs as soon as possible for assistance.**

Those who enter the U.S. via a border crossing will receive a paper I-94 record (small white card). This card will be given up to the appropriate authority (i.e. airline official or CBP officer) upon departure.

### **What should it say on the admissions stamp in my passport and on the I-94 record?**

For those entering the U.S. in F or J status (including spouses and children on dependent visas) the admission stamp in the passport and the I-94 record (paper or electronic) should indicate:

Class of Admission: **F-1, F-2, J-1 or J-2**

Length of Stay (Admit Until Date): **D/S**

The image shows two versions of the I-94 form side-by-side. On the left is the 'I-94 Paper' version, which is a physical white card with handwritten and printed information. It includes fields for Departure Number (0000000000 00), Date (APR 2 012011), Class (F-1), Length of Stay (D/S), and a grid for Family Name, First (Given) Name, Middle Initial, and Birth Date. On the right is the 'I-94 Online' version, which is a digital screenshot of a computer screen showing the same information in a structured form. Both versions include the U.S. Customs and Border Protection logo at the top.

## **Applying for a Visa to Travel to Another Country**

### **Travel to Canada, Mexico and Adjacent Islands**

Due to our close proximity, travel to Canada, Mexico and the adjacent islands is common among international students and scholars. Prior to traveling to these destinations, students and scholars should check with the embassies or consulates of these countries/territories to determine if a specific visa is required.

### **Automatic Revalidation of an Expired Visa - Traveling to Canada, Mexico or Adjacent Islands (except for Cuba)**

If a student or scholar in lawful immigration status, plans to travel to Canada, Mexico or Adjacent Islands (except for Cuba), for less than 30 days, but has an expired US visa, he/she may be able to return to the U.S. by automatically revalidating the expired visa. ***Students and scholars should check with the Office of International Programs prior to departure to discuss eligibility and documentation for automatic revalidation.***

## Travel to other countries

Other countries may require a visa and/or immunizations to enter their country. Additional travel information provided by the Department of State and the Centers for Disease Control can be found at the below links. Before your departure, contact the nearest consulate or embassy of the country(ies) you plan to visit and the consulate of your home country in the country(ies) you intend to visit to determine any visa requirements and obtain information about other resources.

## Travel Within United States

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The Office of International Programs strongly recommends that students and scholars carry a valid passport, I-94 printout or card, a properly endorsed I-20 or DS-2019 (F-1 or J-1)/I-797 approval notice (H-1b or O-1) and proof of current student enrollment or continuation of scholar appointment when traveling away from the Providence/Boston area.

### F and J students on post-completion OPT or Academic Training should carry:

- **F-1 students on post-completion OPT** should carry the Employment Authorization Document (EAD) and an employment verification or offer letter from the current or prospective employer.
- **J-1 students on post-completion Academic Training** should carry extended DS-2019 with Academic Training notation and an employment verification or offer letter from the current or prospective employer.

## Travel to U.S. Territories in the Caribbean

International students and scholars can travel directly to and from U.S. territories (i.e. Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands) located in the Caribbean without the requirement of a valid U.S. visa. However, if at anytime during your trip to these U.S. territories, you enter another country, you will need to make sure you have all your valid immigration documents in order to re-enter the U.S. As such, we recommend that students carry their immigration documents with them even if they only plan to travel between the U.S. territory and the U.S. mainland.