F-1/J-1 Travel Outside the U.S.

ABSENT LESS THAN 5 MONTHS
If you are maintaining valid, non-immigrant status and have been absent from the U.S. less than 5 months*, you should carry the following travel documents with you when you seek re-entry to the U.S.:

**Passport:** Must be valid 6 months beyond your date of re-entry
- Passports may be renewed at your country’s embassy or the consulate in the U.S.

**Valid Travel Signature:** In general, a travel signature is valid for re-entry within one year of the signature date or until the end of your program, whichever occurs first. If you are authorized for F-1 Optional Practical Training, the travel signature is valid for six months.

  Be sure to check for a valid travel signature prior to departing the U.S. ISSS recommends requesting a new travel signature every nine months regardless of travel plans.
  - I-20: Bottom of page three of your I-20
  - DS-2019: Bottom right-hand corner of page one. Should be signed by an advisor from the program sponsor that issued the document.

**F-1 or J-1 Entry Visa:** Must be valid at the time of re-entry to the U.S.

**EXCEPTION—Automatic Visa Revalidation [8 CFR 214.1(b)(3)]:** You can usually revalidate an expired visa automatically when returning to the U.S. after a visit of less than thirty days to Canada, Mexico, or one of the adjacent islands (except Cuba) provided that you have a valid I-20 or DS-2019, valid passport, and a valid unexpired Form I-94.

However, if you meet any one of following criteria, you will not be eligible for automatic visa revalidation.
- You applied for a new visa and DoS has not yet issued it to you
- You applied for a new visa and DoS denied the application
- You have a terminated SEVIS record indicating that you are out of status
- You have been out the United States for more than thirty days
- You are a national of Cuba, Iran, Sudan, or Syria.

If you are not eligible for automatic visa revalidation, you must obtain a valid student visa in order to reenter the U.S. to resume your studies. This may require you to return home to obtain a visa. Additional information is online at: [http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/info/info_1299.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/info/info_1299.html) and [http://www.cbp.gov/linkhandler/cgov/travel/inspections_carriers_facilities/clp/bulletins/auto_reva.ctt/auto_reva.pdf](http://www.cbp.gov/linkhandler/cgov/travel/inspections_carriers_facilities/clp/bulletins/auto_reva.ctt/auto_reva.pdf).

**Current Financial Support Documents:** Must show funds for one year of expenses as noted on your I-20 / DS-2019 (e.g., bank statement, financial guarantee letter, scholarship letter)

**Official Transcript:** Must show full-time enrollment every term of the academic year (and less than full-time approval forms for any term you were authorized to be less than full-time).
  - Students can also request a free Enrollment Verification Letter online that will indicate enrollment status ([http://www.du.edu/registrar/records/verification.html](http://www.du.edu/registrar/records/verification.html)) to supplement the official transcript.

*If you plan to remain outside the U.S. during a Fall, Winter, or Spring quarter, you must speak with an ISSS advisor immediately and submit your boarding pass information to [issss@du.edu](mailto:issss@du.edu).

I-94 AUTOMATION AT AIR AND SEA PORTS
Paper I-94s are no longer being distributed upon arrival at U.S. air and sea ports. Instead, CBP is scanning a traveler's passport and generating an electronic arrival record. An admission stamp is entered in the passport indicating the arrival date, non-immigrant status (F-1 or J-1), and admitted until date (D/S). **Please ensure that you receive this stamp and an electronic I-94 and that the information is recorded correctly.** The electronic I-94 can be reviewed and printed from: [https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/request.html](https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/request.html). A paper Form I-94 will still be issued at U.S. land border ports of entry.

Travelers exiting the U.S. will follow the same procedures they do currently.
- Travelers issued a paper Form I-94, should surrender it to the commercial carrier or CBP upon departure in order for the departure to be recorded.
- If travelers did not receive a paper Form I-94 and the record was created electronically, CBP will record their departure using manifest information obtained from the air or sea carrier.
Additional information about I-94 automation is available online at:

Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s Travel FAQ is available online at:
http://www.ice.gov/sevis/travel/faq_f2.htm

Travel to Third Country Destinations
Depending on the country you are traveling to and/or through, you may require a transit visa (to travel through an intermediary country on your way to your final destination) or a tourist visa to enter your final destination; please consult with the appropriate embassy or foreign consular office to determine if an additional visa is necessary. Please access the following websites for additional information:

- http://www.state.gov/s/cpr/rls/fco/c58132.htm
- http://www.embassy.org/embassies/

Transfer of SEVIS Record/ Attending a New School
If after traveling outside the U.S. for less than 5 months during your DU degree program, you plan to return to the U.S. to attend a different school, you should (1) Complete the DU-ISSS Transfer Out Form and (2) have your new school mail you an I-20 or DS-2019 for your new degree program before you reenter the U.S. so that you enter the U.S. with immigration documents from the school you will attend.

Renewal of Student Visa
Renewing your student visa may take several months. Please contact the U.S. embassy or consulate where you intend to apply to obtain visa processing times and requirements for visa renewal. A list of U.S. embassies and consulates is available at http://www.usembassy.gov/. Waiting times are online at: http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/wait/wait_4638.html

In general, in addition to the application and fee, you will need the following documents to renew your visa:

- Passport valid for the next 6 months,
- I-20 signed by an advisor at ISSS or DS-2019 signed by your program sponsor.
- Documents proving ties to your home country (e.g. ownership of property, investments, inheritance, or a job to return to after completion of study)
- Documents proving financial support for the next 12 months
- Transcripts showing full-time enrollment each term of the academic year (and less than full-time approval forms, if any) and Enrollment Verification Letter (http://www.du.edu/registrar/records/verification.html)

If your F-1 or J-1 entry visa is valid but punctured, crossed out, damaged or mutilated in any way, you may be required to obtain a renewal of your visa.

**ABSENT MORE THAN 5 MONTHS**
If you have been absent from the U.S. for more than 5 months, please contact ISSS to discuss your specific situation (issss@du.edu / 303-871-4912). You will likely require the following documentation to re-enter the U.S.:

- Passport valid for the next 6 months
- New Form I-20 or Form DS-2019 marked "Initial Attendance" or "Begin New Program"***
- Valid F-1 or J-1 entry visa
- Documents proving financial support for the next 12 months,
- Transcripts showing full-time enrollment each term of the academic year (and less than full-time approval forms, if any) and Enrollment Verification Letter (http://www.du.edu/registrar/records/verification.html)

**Re-entering with this document means that counting of your months of eligibility for off-campus work benefits will start over.

Special Note for Graduate Students Who Have Completed All Required Course Work and Have a Thesis/Dissertation Remaining:
You are generally required to enroll in "Continuous Enrollment." This does not mean, however, that you are continuing your F-1 or J-1 status if you leave the U.S. for more than 5 months. Please consult ISSS to discuss your situation BEFORE you leave if you plan to remain outside the U.S. for an extended period of time.

**PLEASE NOTE:** IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO SUBMIT COPIES OF ALL NEW AND RENEWED IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTS TO ISSS.