

## 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>) 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 [iss@du.edu](mailto:iss@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>. 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:

[http://www.cbp.gov/linkhandler/cgov/newsroom/fact\\_sheets/travel/i94\\_factsheet.ctt/i94\\_factsheet.pdf](http://www.cbp.gov/linkhandler/cgov/newsroom/fact_sheets/travel/i94_factsheet.ctt/i94_factsheet.pdf)

**Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Travel FAQ is available online at:**

[http://www.ice.gov/sevis/travel/faq\\_f2.htm](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](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 ([iss@du.edu](mailto:iss@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.