



## Travel Issues For F-1 and J-1 Students

### TRAVEL TO OTHER COUNTRIES (OTHER THAN YOUR HOME COUNTRY)

Other countries may require a visa and/or immunizations to enter their country. Before your departure, contact the nearest consulate or embassy of the country(ies) you plan to visit; contact information is either in the San Francisco phone directory or on the Web. Some consulates are located out of the area, so plan ahead.

### TRAVEL INSIDE THE U.S.

We STRONGLY recommend that students and scholars carry a valid passport, I-94, a properly endorsed I-20 or DS-2019 and proof of current registration.

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### DOCUMENTS NEEDED TO RE-ENTER THE U.S.

- **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 U.S. ENTRY VISA IN YOUR PASSPORT**

The 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 do not need a U.S. visa. Canadian landed immigrants, however, are required to obtain U.S. entry visas.

If you need to renew or apply for a U.S. entry visa, expect delays. Plan ahead, as this may take longer than in the past. Because most visa applicants are now required to appear for a personal interview, *you should expect processing delays*. In addition, "security checks" can delay visa issuance by *three* months or more. Check the U.S. Department of State's website at <http://usembassy.state.gov/> for the standard visa procedures at each U.S. consulate or embassy. NOTE: YOU CANNOT OBTAIN A U.S. ENTRY VISA INSIDE THE U.S.

- **VALID, ENDORSED I-20 OR DS-2019**

If you will renew/apply for a U.S. entry visa, see the important information above. 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 our office BEFORE they leave the country. We generally recommend that the signature be current within 10 months of your re-entry date. (Those on F-1 OPT must have the endorsement within the past six months.) If you will need to renew or apply for a U.S. entry visa, please read the information above. ("Endorsed" means that our office has signed either the third page of your I-20 AB or the travel validation section on your DS-2019.)

- **EVIDENCE OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT and COURSE REGISTRATION**

We strongly recommend that F/J non-immigrants carry proof of the financial support and resources reflected on their visa documents -- the Form I-20 or DS-2019. We also recommend traveling with proof of the current or next semester's registration (e.g., a printout of full-time class enrollment.)

**OVER**

## **FOR F-1 STUDENTS WHO ARE ON OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING**

F-1 students on OPT should also carry their Employment Authorization Document (EAD) and ideally, a letter from their employer. See our office BEFORE you plan to travel if you have not yet received your EAD card and /or have not yet secured employment. In addition, please remember that you need to have your I-20 endorsed by our office every six months while you are on OPT.

### **BE SURE TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH OUR OFFICE BEFORE YOU TRAVEL IF...**

In the following cases, consult with our office at least two weeks before departure:

- You will need to renew/apply for a new visa.
- You will be out of the U.S. for more than five months.
- You are planning to travel to Mexico or Canada to renew or change the U.S. entry visa.
- Your I-20 or DS-2019 has expired or will expire within 30 days of your expected return to the U.S.
- You are a citizen of Iran, Iraq, or Libya (Special procedures are required to re-enter the U.S.)
- You have ever applied for U.S. legal permanent resident status (green card).