

TRAVEL OUTSIDE THE U.S.

If you are planning to travel outside the U.S. and have questions or concerns, contact an international student advisor in the Office of International Services (OIS). Please remember to do the following **before** you travel:

Determine if you will need to get a visa for countries other than your own

Contact the nearest consulate or embassy of each country that you wish to visit. This process may take several months, so inquire early. A list of foreign consular offices in the U.S. can be found at <http://www.embassy.org/embassies/>.

Obtain travel authorization from an international student advisor

Request a travel signature by logging into <https://ipconnect.oregonstate.edu/> at least seven (7) working days before departure. Once your request is approved, bring in your most recent I-20 (F-1's) or DS-2019 (J-1's) to OIS. If you have been maintaining your immigration status and owe less than \$2,200 to OSU, you will receive a travel signature. *You must have a valid travel signature to re-enter the U.S.* Travel signatures are valid for up to one year (6 months for F-1 students on OPT) or until the program end date listed on the I-20 or DS-2019, whichever is sooner.

Check your passport validity

Make sure that your passport will be valid at least six months beyond the date you plan to re-enter the U.S. If you need to renew your passport, you should plan to renew it either before you leave the U.S. (check with your home country Embassy in the U.S at <http://www.embassy.org/embassies/>) or before you re-enter.

Check your U.S. visa validity

In order to re-enter the U.S., you must have a valid student visa in your passport. If you are traveling to Canada or Mexico for less than 30 days, see section on "automatic extension of validity of visa" for exceptions to this requirement. If your visa has expired or will expire while you are outside the U.S., you will need to apply for a new visa at a U.S. consulate or embassy before returning to the U.S. You will also need to apply for a visa if you have used all the entries available on your visa or if the visa in your passport does not match the status you currently hold (e.g. you have been approved for a change of status after entering the U.S.).

Check your I-94 arrival/departure information

If you have a paper I-94 arrival/departure card (stapled inside your passport), you will be required to surrender your I-94 when you leave the U.S. (unless you are traveling to Canada or Mexico for less than 30 days). You can get your current or new arrival/departure information online at <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov>.

Legal situations and concerns

If you have been arrested for driving while drunk (DUI), you need to see an international student advisor **before** you make travel plans or leave the US. The U.S. Department of State (DoS) has started revoking (or cancelling) visas for international students who have been arrested for driving while drunk (DUI), even if the visa stamp still looks valid. While it is not new that a visa can be revoked for this reason, it is new that the DoS is cancelling visas for all DUI arrests and sending the notification via email to these students. We strongly recommend that students in this situation consider consulting with an immigration attorney, as well.

VISA RENEWAL / APPLYING FOR A NEW VISA

If you must renew or apply for a new visa, you should check with the U.S. consulate or embassy where you will apply to determine that particular post's policies and procedures at <http://www.usembassy.gov/>. When applying for a visa, expect close scrutiny, delays, possible background and security checks, and procedural changes. You should start the visa process at the earliest possible time upon your arrival back in your home country. For information on waiting times for student visa appointments at embassies and consulates worldwide, visit the following link: <https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/general/wait-times.html>.

To apply for a new visa, visit the Department of State website at <https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en.html>. You will need to submit, **at minimum**, the following documentation to a U.S. consulate or embassy (preferably in your home country):

- DS-160 online application form <https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/forms/ds-160--online-nonimmigrant-visa-application.html>
- valid passport
- valid Forms I-20 or DS-2019
- copies of financial documentation (including a letter from your department if you are employed by OSU)
- an official copy of your transcript

- a copy of your current registration and pre-registration for the next term, if available
- proof of I-901 SEVIS fee payment (F-1s and J-1s only)
- employment authorization document (F-1 students on Optional Practical Training (OPT) only)

If your dependents are traveling without the you (the primary student), they will need to bring photocopies of your documents listed above.

VISA RENEWAL / APPLYING FOR A NEW VISA (Continued)

SEVIS Fee Payment

F-1 students and J-1 students are initially required to pay the Student Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) fee. If you have paid the SEVIS fee and have the same SEVIS ID number, you do not need to pay it again. If you are not sure if you need to pay it, please visit their website at <https://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901/faq>. If you do not have your receipt for your I-901 SEVIS fee payment, or want to see if you have paid it with your current SEVIS ID, you can check online and print out the payment confirmation receipt at <https://fmiffee.com/i901fee/desktop/students/formSelection.htm>. For assistance, please contact I-901 SEVIS Fee Customer Service by e-mail at fmiffee.sevis@ice.dhs.gov or by phone at 703-603-3400.

Applying for a visa in Canada or Mexico

In most cases, we do not recommend students to apply for a U.S. visa in Canada or Mexico. If you choose to do so and your visa is DENIED, you will not be eligible to re-enter the U.S. and you will **not** be eligible for “automatic extension of validity of visa”.

If you decide to apply for a nonimmigrant visa to the U.S. in Canada or Mexico, you will need to first make an appointment for an interview with the appropriate U.S. consular office. In some cases, these consulates will not do visa for people from a third country. To schedule an appointment and to obtain information about applying for a U.S. visa in Canada, please refer to the website at <https://ais.usvisa-info.com/en-ca/niv>. For U.S. visas in Mexico, visit <https://mx.usembassy.gov/visas/>

AUTOMATIC EXTENSION OF VALIDITY OF VISA

If you travel to Canada, Mexico or the adjacent Caribbean Islands* (except Cuba) **for 30 days or less**, you may be eligible for automatic extension of validity of visa (also called “Automatic Revalidation.”) This means you may re-enter the U.S. with an expired U.S. visa stamp in your passport. This benefit also applies to individuals who have changed non-immigrant status in the U.S. and whose visa is still in the category in which they entered the U.S. (such as an F-2 dependent who changed to F-1 inside the U.S.). If you choose to apply for a new U.S. visa in Canada or Mexico and are denied, you will **not** be eligible for automatic extension of validity of visa. *Nationals of Iran, Sudan, and Syria are not eligible for automatic extension of validity of visa.* For more information, visit <https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/general/automatic-revalidation.html>. *For a list of the adjacent islands, visit <https://www.ice.gov/sevis/travel#>.

To be eligible for the automatic extension of validity of visa provision, you will need to have maintained and intend to resume your nonimmigrant status, and you must have the following documents:

- original I-94 card that you received upon your most recent entry to the U.S. **or** printed copy from <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov>.
- valid I-20 or DS-2019 with a travel signature from an international student advisor (F-1 students and J-1 students)
- valid passport

TRAVEL TO CANADA

Based on your country of citizenship, you may or may not be required to have a visa for a short-term visit to Canada. As of March 15, 2016, all travelers from Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA)-required countries (<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/visas-all.asp>) will need to get one before entering Canada. For more information about who needs a visa and how to apply for an eTA or visa to enter Canada, please visit their website at <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/apply-who.asp>.

TRAVEL TO MEXICO

Mexican Tourist forms (FMM) or visas may be required of all persons visiting Mexico. The Tourist Form (FMM) can be obtained at any airline that flies into Mexico or port of entry into Mexican territory. For countries and regions that require a visa please visit the website at http://www.inm.gob.mx/index.php/page/Paises_Visa. For countries and regions that do not require a visa to enter Mexico, please visit http://www.inm.gob.mx/index.php/page/Paises_No_Visa. Some countries can use the Electronic Authorization (SAE) http://www.inm.gob.mx/index.php/page/Solicitud_de_Autorizacion_Electronica.