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 International Student Advising and Services (ISAS). 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.state.gov/s/cpr/rls/fco](http://www.state.gov/s/cpr/rls/fco).

**Obtain travel authorization from an international student advisor**
Submit your most recently issued I-20 (F-1's) or DS-2019 (J-1's) to ISAS at least five (5) working days before departure. If you have been maintaining your visa 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.

**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.) or before you re-enter. Also check to see that you have your I-94 arrival/departure card (stapled inside your passport). In most cases, you will be required to surrender your I-94 when you leave the U.S. and will be issued a new one upon your re-entry.

**Check your U.S. visa validity**
In order to re-enter the U.S., you must have a valid 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.).

**NSEERS or Special Registration**
The NSEERS program was eliminated on April 28, 2011. Non-immigrants who were enrolled in the NSEERS program upon arrival to the U.S. no longer need to comply with any of the NSEERS reporting requirements upon departure from the U.S.

**VISA RENEWAL / APPLYING FOR A NEW VISAA**

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 ([http://usembassy.state.gov/](http://usembassy.state.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: [http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/wait/wait_4638.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/wait/wait_4638.html).

The U.S. State Department has also prepared information sheets about F-1 and J-1 visas on its web site which may be useful to you. They may be obtained at [http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1270.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1270.html).

To apply for a new visa, 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](http://travel.state.gov/visa/forms/forms_4230.html)
- valid passport
- valid 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 only)

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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#, you do not need to pay it again. If you are not sure if you need to pay it, please visit their website at http://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901/faq3.htm. 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 receipt at https://www.fmjfee.com/i901fee/dhs/loadSearchPage.do For assistance, please contact I-901 Customer Service by e-mail at fmjfee.SEVIS@dhs.gov or by phone at 212-620-3418.

Applying for a visa in Canada or Mexico
In most cases, ISAS advises students to not 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. To schedule an appointment and to obtain information about applying for a U.S. visa in Canada, please refer to the website at http://canada.usvisa-info.com. For U.S. visas in Mexico, visit http://mexico.usvisa-info.com/en-MX/selfservice/ss_country_welcome.

AUTOMATIC EXTENSION OF VALIDITY OF VISA
If you travel to Canada, Mexico or the adjacent Caribbean Islands (other than 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. (the visa is considered “converted” as well as “extended”). If you choose to apply for a 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, Cuba, Sudan, and Syria are not eligible for automatic extension of validity of visa.

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.
- 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. You may also check this list of countries that require Canadian visas at http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/visas.asp. Effective January 29, 2013, the Visa and Immigration Section at the Canadian Consulate in Seattle (United States) is closed and services transferred to the Canadian Consulate in New York or in Los Angeles. For more information about how to apply for a visa to enter Canada, please visit their website at http://www.canadainternational.gc.ca/los_angeles/visas/index.aspx?lang=eng&view=d

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/en.html. 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/en.html.