Travel and Re-Entry to the U.S. for an J-1 Student

If a J-1 student is planning to travel outside the U.S., they should refer to the following information to prepare themselves for their return.

1. **Contact the embassy or consulate of the country to which you intend to travel** (if other than your home country) to determine whether a health certificate or entry visa is required. Link to all Embassies in Washington D.C.: [http://www.embassy.org/embassies/index.html](http://www.embassy.org/embassies/index.html)

2. **Upon departure, give the I-94 card** to the airline or immigration official.

3. **Necessary documents to re-enter the U.S.**:
   a. DS-2019 endorsed for travel by authorized personnel in the Center for Global Education.
   b. Valid passport good for at least 6 months into the future.
   c. Valid J-1 Visa.
   d. If the J-1 Visa has expired, then the J-1 visa must be renewed before they will be allowed to return to the U.S. Speak with your international student advisor regarding this if necessary.

4. **Obtaining a signed I-20**.

   Bring the DS-2019 to the Center at least 5 working days before you plan to leave.

5. **Re-entry to the U.S. after visiting Canada, Mexico or islands adjacent to the U.S.**:
   a. While in valid J-1 status, students may travel to a “contiguous territory” and return to the U.S. even if their J-1 visa has expired by the visit must be for no more than 30 days and only as a tourist. The student will still require an DS-2019 signed within the last 6 months and a valid passport.
   b. The visa will be “automatically validated” upon re-entry if you:
      - Do not allow the airline official to take your I-94 card when you leave the U.S.
      - Present your valid I-94 card to the immigration official upon re-entry to the U.S.
   c. Exceptions to automatic revalidation include those who apply for a U.S. visa in Canada, Mexico, or adjacent islands. Citizens from Iraq, Iran, Syria, Libya, Sudan, North Korea, and Cuba are also not eligible for automatic revalidation.