

Travel and Re-entry to U.S. for J-1 Student

March 2004

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>.
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 Office of International Education and Programs (IEP).
 - 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. Refer to “Immigration Resources” for links to U.S. Consulates and Embassies Worldwide for visa renewal procedures *prior to leaving* the U.S. to prepare for the length of time needed for issuance of a new visa as well as to reduce the number of surprises. Check also to see if you must return to your home country for J-1 visa renewal.
4. **Obtaining a signed DS-2019:**
 - a. Bring the DS-2019 to the IEP office 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* but the visit must be for *no more than 30 days and only as a tourist*. The student will still require a DS-2019 signed within the last 6 months and a valid passport.
 - b. The visa will be “automatically validated” upon reentry if you:
 - Do not allow the airline official or immigration official to take your I-94 card when you leave the U.S.
 - Present your valid I-94 card to the immigration official upon reentry 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.