Travel Instructions for Reentry to the US

Find more information on travel at bit.ly/traveldocuments.

A. Documents Required for Travel

- Passport valid at least 6 months into the future
- Most recent I-20 or DS-2019 including a valid travel signature less than one year old
- A copy of your SEVIS fee receipt
- Unexpired F-1 or J-1 visa (citizens of Canada and Bermuda are exempt from the visa requirement)
- Enrollment verification or transcript (this can be obtained from the NYU registrar’s office or the registrar’s office for your school)
- Proof of Funding that verifies the funding source shown on your I-20 or DS-2019. Examples include personal or family bank statements, affidavit of support, copy of scholarship, assistantship, or fellowship letter.
- For J-1 students, it is a good idea to carry proof of health insurance as well.

B. If Your F-1 or J-1 Visa Stamp Expired

You will need to apply for a new visa from a US Consulate/Embassy. It is not possible to get a new visa in the US. It is best to apply in your home country. If you intend to apply in a different country than your home country, we recommend you consult with an OGS advisor. Some students subject to added security or administrative processing could face additional delays, so plan ahead!

Documents you will need for a new visa:

- Unexpired Passport
- I-20 or DS-2019 with valid travel signature
- A copy of your SEVIS fee receipt
- Enrollment verification or NYU transcript
- Proof of financial support as reflected on the I-20 or DS-2019
- Any other documents required by the US Consulate/Embassy you are applying at. To learn more about applying for a new visa, visit www.ustraveldocs.com

C. Travel to Canada, Mexico, or Caribbean Countries

As an F-1 or J-1 student you may be able to reenter the US from Canada, Mexico, and Caribbean countries with an expired US visa stamp. **This is called visa revalidation.

Caribbean countries include: Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Martinique, St. Pierre & Miquelon, Trinidad & Tobago, the Leeward Islands (Aniguilla, Antigua, Guadeloupe, Montserrat, Nevis, St. Kitts, and the British Virgin Islands), the Windward Islands (Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent) and other British, French, or Dutch territories or possessions in, or bordering on the Caribbean Sea.

To qualify for visa revalidation, you must:

- Presently be in valid F-1 student or J-1 exchange visitor status
- Be carrying a valid I-20 or DS-2019
- Have a copy of your SEVIS fee receipt
- Have a printout of your unexpired I-94 record with you (do NOT surrender it when you depart the US)
- Have a valid passport
- Be in one of the above countries for fewer than 30 days
- Not apply for a new visa during this time period

**This does not apply to students who are citizens of Mexico, the Caribbean countries, Syria, Sudan, Iran, or Cuba. These students must apply for a new visa when traveling to their home country.**
D. F-1 Students Who Will Study or Research Abroad

To keep your F-1 status active while outside of the US:

☐ Register as a full-time student
☐ Keep a local US address in Albert
☐ Continue to check your NYU email while you are outside of the US
☐ Graduate students doing research MUST get a letter from their department. For details on the letter, go to bit.ly/researchAbroad.

If you are a J-1 student who will study or travel outside of the US for more than 5 months, consult with OGS advisor.

E. Reminder to Register Full-time

Before you travel, make sure you are registered full-time or approved to register part-time for the current semester. If traveling between semesters, register for the next semester before you go. Find more details on registering part-time at bit.ly/registerparttime.

F. Canadian Citizens and Landed Immigrants

Canadian citizens do not require a visa to enter the US. However, landed immigrants are required to have the visa to enter the US. Both must carry the remaining required documents for travel.

G. F-1 Students on Post-Completion OPT

When traveling on OPT (any time after the program completion data on the I-20):


Travel with:

☐ A valid passport
☐ A valid F-1 visa
☐ OPT I-20 with travel signature signed within the past 6 months
☐ A copy of your SEVIS fee receipt
☐ EAD
☐ Proof of employment such as a letter from your employer stating your job title, job description, begin and end-dates within OPT, and verifying that your employer expects you to return to resume employment

H. J-1 Students on Academic Training

When traveling on academic training have these required documents:

☐ A valid passport
☐ A valid J-1 visa
☐ DS-2019 with valid travel signature
☐ A copy of your SEVIS fee receipt
☐ OGS Academic Training Letter
☐ Letter of employment

** If you are on Post-Completion OPT or Academic Training and have an expired visa, we recommend you meet with an OGS advisor before departing the US to discuss the visa renewal process.