

## Exchange Visitor: Travel Outside of U.S.

### Travel Documents

Exchange Visitor scholars in J-1 status should be prepared to present the following documents to Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials when seeking to re-enter the U.S. after a temporary absence abroad:

**Printed, Signed Form DS-2019 with Valid ISSS Travel Signature**

You must have a DS-2019 with a valid travel signature to reenter the U.S. after travel abroad. A travel signature on a DS-2019 is generally valid within 1 year of the signature date or until the end date on the DS-2019, *whichever occurs first*. For example, if you are a short-term scholar with a 5-month program, a travel signature is only valid until the end date of your DS-2019.

To request a travel signature from ISSS, submit the *DS-2019 Reprint Request* e-form available in the [MyISSS portal](#). ISSS will process your request in 2-5 business days and will email you your DS-2019. Please print the DS-2019 and sign it (original wet ink signature) in the Exchange Visitor Certification section and carry it with you when you travel.

**Valid Passport**

If possible, your passport should be valid 6 months beyond the program end date indicated on your DS-2019 ([exceptions](#)).

- Your passport must be valid at least 6 months beyond your date of return to the U.S.

Passports may be renewed at your country's embassy/consulate within the U.S.

**Valid U.S. Visa**

You must have a valid J-1 visa stamp when you apply for re-entry to the U.S. (Citizens of Canada do not require a visa.)

*Exception: **Automatic Visa Revalidation:*** F and Jvisa holders can usually revalidate an expired visa automatically when returning to the U.S after a visit of less than 30 days to Canada, Mexico, or [adjacent islands](#) except Cuba. If you intend to reenter the U.S. requesting automatic visa revalidation, travel with your printed most recent [I-94 arrival record](#). Automatic visa revalidation can be confusing. Please [reach out to ISSS](#) with any questions before you depart the U.S.

\*You must check the entry requirements of your country of destination. ISSS can only advise on U.S. entry and immigration rules.

**Current Financial Support Documents**

You must be able to show funds for expenses as noted on your DS-2019 (e.g., bank statement, CU Boulder offer letter indicating salary, funding/sponsorship letter, affidavit of support and bank statement)

**CU Boulder Departmental Invitation / Offer Letter / Exchange Visitor Program Summary**

### Temporary Absence of More Than 30 Days

If during your Exchange Visitor program, you will be outside the U.S. for more than 30 days, you must complete the following prior to your departure:

- The *Temporary Absence/Out of Country Request* (available in the J-1 Scholar Services section of the [MyISSS portal](#)). The e-form consists of multiple forms, be sure you complete all of them.

## Travel To Third Country Destinations

Depending on the country you are traveling to and/or through, you may require a transit visa (to travel through an intermediary country on your way to your final destination) or a tourist visa to enter your final destination. Please consult the appropriate country's embassy or consular office to determine if an additional visa is necessary.

## Renewing Your J-1 Exchange Visitor Visa

Please review the ISSS [Visa Renewal Information for Students and Scholars](#) handout.

## J-2 Dependent Travel

Dependents who are maintaining valid J-2 status may travel with or without the primary Exchange Visitor (J-1 visa holder) and may remain in the U.S. without the primary Exchange Visitor being in the U.S. as long as the J-1 Exchange Visitor maintains their status. The family member(s) on J-2 visa(s) may return to the U.S. after a temporary absence using the same SEVIS ID number. When seeking re-entry to the U.S., dependents in J-2 status must present: their signed, printed DS-2019 with a valid travel signature, valid passport, \*valid visa, and may be asked to provide proof of J-1's status (e.g., copies of primary's documents as noted above).

\* Exceptions: Canadians and individuals who qualify for [automatic visa revalidation](#)

## After Returning to the U.S., Review and Print Your I-94 Arrival Record

Review your most recent [I-94 arrival record](#) every time you re-enter the U.S. to confirm that your entry was recorded properly as Customs and Border Protection sometimes makes mistakes that must be corrected.

### Go to the [Customs and Border Protection \(CBP\) I-94 website](#)

- Enter the information as it appears on the visa you used to enter the U.S. or as on the biographic page of your passport.

If you are unable to access your I-94 using your visa information, try entering your name and date of birth in different configurations or [contact ISSS](#).

## Review your I-94 and make sure your arrival was recorded correctly.



### Most Recent I-94

Admission (I-94) Record Number : 86753099999

Most Recent Date of Entry: 2014 December 10

Class of Admission : J1

Admit Until Date : D/S

Details provided on the I-94 Information form:

Last/Surname : SIMPSON  
First (Given) Name : LISA  
Birth Date : 1979 AUG 11  
Passport Number : J9876543  
Country of Issuance : Australia

#### Class of Admission

(DS-2019: J-1 (Dependents: J-2))

#### Admit Until Date for F & J Status

D/S  
(Duration of Status)

If the information on your I-94 is incorrect, obtain an [I-94 correction](#) with Customs and Border Protection.

**Keep your I-94 printouts to document that you continually maintained your immigration status in the U.S.**

You do not need to submit a copy of your most recent I-94 to ISSS every time you travel outside of the U.S. but keep them for your records.

## Frequently Asked Travel Questions

*Q: Do I need to print my DS-2019 or can I use the electronic copy?*

- You must present your most recent, printed DS-2019 for your Exchange Visitor program at the port of entry to re-enter the U.S. You cannot show your electronic copy to the U.S. immigration officials

*Q: I am outside the U.S. and I forgot my DS-2019 or the travel signature is no longer valid! What do I do?*

- If you do not obtain your DS-2019 before returning to the U.S., the U.S. immigration official will provisionally admit you to the U.S. for 30 days with a [Form I-515A](#). You will have 30 days to mail in the I-515A with the requested documents. If you receive a Form I-515A, please contact ISSS immediately.

*Q: Can I re-enter the U.S. after I have completed my Exchange Visitor program using my J-1 visa?*

- Exchange Visitors in J-1 status must notify ISSS of their J-1 program end date by completing the *End of Program* e-form available in the [MyISSS portal](#). Following the J-1 program end date, Exchange Visitors and their dependents have a 30-day grace period to remain inside the U.S. and prepare for their departure. Exchange Visitors and their dependents cannot re-enter the U.S. in J-1 or J-2 status during their grace period.