



## International Student and Scholar Office

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# TRAVEL OUT OF THE USA & REENTRY

## **OVERVIEW**

Within the USA, always keep your important documents with you. You should not need to use these documents except at airports, train stations, and other transportation hubs, where you will need to show them to establish your identity. Transportation hubs are places where you may be asked to present your original documents. Be prepared.

Leaving the USA should be quite simple. As you leave, surrender the I-94 card to the US government official or airline representative. (For those who must be concerned with **Special Registration**, please see a separate information sheet.) If you are planning to leave your program, please make an appointment with your International Student Advisor so that we can discuss options available to you.

## **REENTERING THE USA**

You must carry your I-94 status-related documents at all times. Allow 1-2 business days to obtain a travel signature on your Form I-20/DS-2019. Present your current documents at the port-of-entry after a temporary absence from the USA.

### **F-1 students must have the following:**

- Current passport (valid up to six months or more after reentry date)
- Valid F-1 visa stamp in the passport
- Current travel signature on page 3 of the Form I-20 (obtained from the International Center); signature valid for one year

### **J-1 students must have the following:**

- Current passport (valid up to six months or more after reentry date)
- Valid J-1 visa stamp in the passport
- Current travel signature on the page 1 of the DS-2019 (obtained from the International Center or from the program sponsor, if not UCSD); signature valid for one year

Although not actually required by regulation, we also recommend that ALL F-1 and J-1 students take the following items:

- Verification of enrollment in current quarter (copy of academic history in TritonLink)
- Proof of financial support less than six months old such as a bank statement or letter of financial support form department
- Copy of transcript or academic enrollment history from TritonLink
- Letter from academic department verifying program start date, good standing, expected program completion and brief description of the nature of your research (especially graduate students)

Students who have completed their program and have received employment authorization for Optional Practical Training or Academic Training purposes should also bring:

- Employment Authorization Document (EAD) card (F-1 students only)
- Academic Training Authorization Letter (J-1 students only)
- Job offer letter or proof of employment

**A-1, E-2, E-3, H-4, & O-3, R-2 dependents must have the following:**

- Current passport (valid up to six months or more after reentry date)
- Valid visa stamp in the passport
- Copy of I-797 approval notice (if applicable)

**ENTRY VISAS TO OTHER COUNTRIES**

To travel outside the USA to a country other than your home country, an entry visa may be required. Contact that country's embassy or consulate in the USA or visit their website for more information. For a list of embassies and consulates in the USA, go to [www.embassy.org](http://www.embassy.org)

**SHORT TRIPS TO MEXICO OR CANADA**

For short trips longer than 72 hours to Mexico or Canada, contact the Canadian or Mexican consulates to find out about their entry requirements and restrictions. Requirements and restrictions are determined by your country of citizenship and by how far you will travel from the US border.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Canadian Consulate in Los Angeles</b><br/>Tel: 213-346-2700<br/><a href="http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/can-am/los_angeles/menu-en.asp">www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/can-am/los_angeles/menu-en.asp</a></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mexican Consulate in San Diego</b><br/>Tel: 619-231-8414<br/><a href="http://www.sre.gob.mx/english">www.sre.gob.mx/english</a></li> </ul> |
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**REQUIRED CHECK-IN**

All international students are required to check-in after each new entry into the USA. Please bring copies of the following documents to the international Center:

- Passport biographical page
- Visa page
- I-94 card
- I-20 or DS-2019