

Travel Outside the United States

General Information

Contact the embassy or consulate of the country to which you are traveling to determine if you need a visa to enter that country. Each country has different laws governing entry of foreign citizens. It may be necessary for you to obtain a visa from the consulate or embassy prior to departing the United States. Foreign consular offices are located in cities throughout the United States. Foreign embassies are located in Washington, D.C. **Please note: if you changed your nonimmigrant status (F-1 to J-1 or H-1B) while in the U.S. please be sure to show your new documents when crossing the border. Please also check your I-94 online at <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/#/home> to make sure you were admitted in the proper status.**

Please note that there are special regulations for travel to Canada, Mexico and any countries which are adjacent or contiguous to the United States. Please read this document for complete information:

http://portals.ccf.org/Portals/71/documents/International%20Trainees/AutoRevalidation_11.11.21.pdf

If you plan on applying for a new visa in a country which is not your country of last legal permanent residence or country of citizenship, please visit this website for complete information: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas.html>

Things to do at least one month before leaving the U.S. (temporarily)

- Check your passport: is it valid? Is the visa valid?
- Check your documents:
 - H-1B: approval notice
 - J-1: Form DS-2019 with 2 signatures (one in the lower right corner endorsed for travel)
 - If you are a J-1 research scholar your DS-2019 can be validated for travel by Mary Curry, Diler Bolgi or Janice Bianco.
 - If you are a J-1 alien physician, only an ECFMG representative can endorse your DS-2019 for travel. Here is a link to the request for a duplicate DS-2019 for travel purposes: <http://www.ecfm.org/evsp/DS-2019dup.pdf>



Travel endorsement signatures are valid for the following period of time:
Alien physician, research scholar category – one year
Short-term scholar category – six months.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES ARE YOU TO LEAVE THE U.S. WITHOUT YOUR DOCUMENTS: If you do not have your H-1B approval notice or Form DS-2019 when you try to re-enter the U.S., the U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer may deny you entry into the U.S. If your visa has expired, you will need to renew it at a U.S. Consulate in the country to which you are traveling. You will need the same documents required when you first obtained your visa.

Things to do after returning from a trip outside the U.S.:

Remember to print your new Form I-94

Your admission to the U.S. is stored electronically so you will not receive any documents from the Customs officer. However, you must go to the website and printout your Form I-94 (Admission/Departure Record) and check it for errors. There have been issues with Customs entering incorrect information in the system. The web address is: <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/>.

Check the expiration date on the I-94:

J-1: your I-94 should state "D/S" or "Duration of Stay"

H-1B: your I-94 expiry date should match the end date on your H-1B approval notice.

Please notify IPS immediately if the information on the new I-94 printout is different than as stated above. This could affect your ability to work.

Information for Dependents Traveling Without the H-1B or J-1 Visa Holder

H-4 Dependents

If traveling without the H-1B holder, dependents should bring a copy of the H-1B holder's visa, Form I-94 and copies of your paychecks for the last 2 months. If they are traveling alone and need to renew their visas, they must also bring a **copy** of the original Form I-797 and a copy of the petition.

J-2 Exchange Visitors

J-2 exchange visitor dependents also need travel endorsement signatures on their Forms DS-2019.

Parents traveling alone with dependent children may need a letter from their spouse granting permission to take the children out of the United States.