

Travel Advisory Information

This advisory is provided to recommend documentation you should carry with you when traveling.

Traveling within the U.S.:

- Valid passport.
- Valid I-20 or DS-2019.

Returning to the U.S. after a trip abroad:

Required documents:

- Passport that is valid for a minimum of six months into the future at the date of your return to the U.S.
- Valid I-20 or DS-2019 with a travel signature from the Office of International Programs (OIP), that will be less than one year old at the time of reentry. If OIP did not issue your I-20/DS-2019, your sponsor must sign your form.
- Valid F-1 or J-1 visa stamp in your passport.
- Updated financial support documents (e.g., bank statements, bank letter, assistantship letter, sponsor letter/affidavit, etc.). This is especially important if you will apply for a new visa while outside the U.S. However, Immigration officers can ask for financial documents at the Port of Entry, too.
- UMaine transcript (this can be obtained from the Office of Student Records in Wingate Hall).
- If you have been authorized for F-1 Optional Practical Training you must also carry your Employment Authorization Document (EAD) and a letter of employment (dates should not exceed EAD validity). We strongly recommend seeking advice from OIP if you do not have a job and you plan to travel during your OPT period after completion of your academic program.

In addition:

- Continue to maintain your lawful student status in the U.S. Do not work without authorization. Maintain full-time registration. Do not allow your immigration documents to expire. Read page 3 of your I-20, page 2 of your DS-2019 for details. Also, check out our handout *Maintaining Your Lawful Status* on our website, www.umaine.edu/international/iss/students/immigration-visas
- Read all emails from the Office of International Programs, they contain important updates and reminders. Any changes in Immigration regulations and other important notices will be sent to your @maine.edu email.

Please Turn Over for More Information

Obtaining a New Visa

If the visa stamp in your passport won't be valid at the time of your return, you will need to obtain a new stamp from a U. S. consulate or embassy outside the United States. Please come to OIP if you have questions about this renewal process. It is important to remember that obtaining a new visa is not guaranteed, and you may experience delays at U. S. consulates or embassies. Please contact the U. S. consulate or embassy where you plan to obtain the visa ahead of time to confirm its hours of operation, application procedures, etc. Go to usembassy.state.gov/ for a list of U. S. consulates and embassies abroad.

Delays in U.S. Visa Issuance Abroad

Consular officers may need to get special clearances depending on your course of study and your nationality which would require additional processing time for your visa.

Obtaining Visas in Canada or Mexico

If your visa application is denied while in Canada or Mexico, you will be required to travel to your home country to re-apply for the visa.

Notice of Change of Address

Please be advised that, pursuant to the Immigration & Nationality Act (INA) Section 265, all international students, scholars, and their families are required to be registered with the U.S. government. You are required by law to report any changes in address after arrival in the United States by updating your "local" address in MaineStreet" within 10 days of the change of address. OIP is required to report this change of address in SEVIS (Student & Exchange Visitor Information System). Report your change of address online: www.umaine.edu/international

Automatic Revalidation

Automatic Revalidation is the rule that allows you to reenter the U.S. from Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean Islands (known as "contiguous territories") using an expired visa as long as your trip there was less than 30 days. Under a rule published in March 2002, citizens of "state sponsors of terrorism" will no longer be eligible for the automatic revalidation. Nationals of Iran, Sudan and Syria are not eligible for automatic revalidation.

Also under this rule, any non-immigrant who chooses to apply for a new visa while in the contiguous territories will no longer be eligible for the "automatic revalidation" benefit during the course of that trip, but would rather have to wait until the visa is granted in order to re-enter the United States. In addition, if the visa is denied, the individual will be prevented from reentering the U.S. under the automatic revalidation provision.

More information

You can read travel FAQs on <https://www.ice.gov/sevis/travel>

Concerns?

Feel free to contact OIP with any questions or concerns you have regarding travel or other immigration-related issues.