

TRAVEL OUTSIDE THE U.S.

If you are planning to travel outside the U.S. and have questions or concerns, contact an international scholar advisor in International Scholar and Faculty Services. Please remember to do the following **before** you travel:

Determine if you will need to get a visa for countries other than your own.

Contact the nearest consulate or embassy of each country that you wish to visit. This process may take several months, so inquire early. A list of foreign consular offices in the U.S. can be found at <http://www.state.gov/s/cpr/rls/fco>.

Verify that you have current travel authorization from an international scholar advisor.

J-1 scholars: submit your most recently issued DS-2019 (J-1's) to International Scholar and Faculty Services at least five (5) working days before departure. *You must have a valid travel signature to re-enter the U.S.* Travel signatures are valid for up to one year or until the program end date listed on the DS-2019. *H-1B employees:* review the H-1B Travel Checklist on the ISFS website (<http://oregonstate.edu/international/sites/default/files/atosu/h-travel.pdf>) and e-mail an International Scholar Advisor with the specific documents that you need.

Check your passport validity.

Make sure that your passport will be valid at least six months beyond the date you plan to re-enter the U.S. If you need to renew your passport, you should plan to renew it either well before you leave the U.S. or before you re-enter. Also check to see that you have your I-94 arrival/departure card (stapled inside your passport). You will be required to surrender your I-94 when you leave the U.S. and will be issued a new one upon your re-entry.

Check your U.S. visa validity.

In order to re-enter the U.S., you must have a valid visa in your passport. If you are traveling to Canada or Mexico for less than 30 days, see section on "automatic extension of validity of visa" for exceptions to this requirement. If your visa has expired or will expire while you are outside the U.S., you will need to apply for a new visa at a U.S. consulate or embassy before returning to the U.S. You will also need to apply for a visa if you have used all the entries available on your visa or if the visa in your passport does not match the status you currently hold (e.g. you have been approved for a change of status after entering the U.S.).

NSEERS/Special Registration

Effective April 28, 2011, "nonimmigrant nationals and citizens of these countries are no longer required to comply with the requirements of 8 CFR 264.1(f), including the requirement that they exit through designated ports of entry. Accordingly, nationals and citizens from these countries are no longer subject to the NSEERS registration requirement. Accordingly, DHS will no longer register aliens under NSEERS effective on April 28, 2011. This notice does not relieve any alien of any other requirement under the law." Read [Notice 76 FR 23830 online in its entirety](http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2011/pdf/2011-10305.pdf) at <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2011/pdf/2011-10305.pdf>.

Please note: While Notice 76 FR 23830 removes the requirement for international students, scholars and faculty from these countries to comply with the NSEERS requirements, it is not yet clear that all the operating processes and procedures to implement these change are in place. For this reason, it is recommended that scholars currently marked as Special Registrants check with airports upon exit to see if there are any requirements that must be met.

VISA RENEWAL / APPLYING FOR A NEW VISA

If you must renew or apply for a new visa, you should check with the U.S. consulate or embassy where you will apply to determine that particular post's policies and procedures (<http://usembassy.state.gov/>). When applying for a visa, expect close scrutiny, delays, possible background and security checks, and procedural changes. You should start the visa process at the earliest possible time upon your arrival back in your home country. For information on waiting times for visa appointments at embassies and consulates worldwide, visit the following link: http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/wait/wait_4638.html.

The U.S. State Department has also prepared information sheets about J-1 visas on its web site which may be useful to you. They may be obtained at http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1270.html.

VISA RENEWAL / APPLYING FOR A NEW VISA (Continued)

To apply for a new visa, you will need to submit, **at minimum**, the following documentation to a U.S. consulate or embassy (preferably in your home country):

- DS-160 online application form (http://travel.state.gov/visa/forms/forms_4230.html)
- valid passport
- valid I-20, DS-2019, or I-797 Approval Notice
- copies of financial documentation (including a letter from your department if you are employed by OSU)
- proof of I-901 SEVIS fee payment* (J-1s only)

*J-1 scholars are initially required to pay the Student Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) fee. Usually, if you have paid the SEVIS fee and have the same SEVIS ID#, you do not need to pay it again. If you are not sure if you need to pay it, please visit their website at <http://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901/faq3.htm>. If you do not have your receipt for your I-901 SEVIS fee payment, or want to see if you have paid it with your current SEVIS ID, you can check online and print out the receipt at <https://www.fmiffee.com/i901fee/dhs/loadSearchPage.do> For assistance, please contact I-901 Customer Service by e-mail at fmiffee.SEVIS@dhs.gov or by phone at 212-620-3418.

All scholars should be prepared to present a packet of information to the Consulate **if asked** for additional information, including:

- Letter from sponsoring professor ([example](#))
- Copy of most recent CV
- Copies of a few of latest publications, if available

Applying for a visa in Canada or Mexico:

In most cases, International Scholar and Faculty Services advise scholars to *not* apply for a U.S. visa in Canada or Mexico. If you choose to do so and your visa is DENIED, you will not be eligible to re-enter the U.S. and you will not be eligible for “automatic extension of validity of visa”.

If you decide to apply for a nonimmigrant visa to the U.S. in Canada or Mexico, you will need to first contact the appropriate U.S. consular office. To obtain information about applying for a U.S. visa in Canada or Mexico, please refer to the website at http://usvisa-info.com/en-CA/selfservice/ss_country_welcome.

AUTOMATIC EXTENSION OF VALIDITY OF VISA

If you will travel to Canada, Mexico or the adjacent Caribbean Islands (other than Cuba) for 30 days or less, you may be eligible for automatic extension of validity of visa. In other words, you may re-enter the U.S. with an expired U.S. visa stamp in your passport. This benefit also applies to individuals who have changed non-immigrant status in the U.S. and whose visa is still in the category in which they entered the U.S. (the visa is considered “converted” as well as “extended”). If you choose to apply for a U.S. visa in Canada or Mexico and are denied, you will not be eligible for automatic extension of validity of visa. *Nationals of Iran, Cuba, Sudan, and Syria are not eligible for automatic extension of validity of visa.* Please email an international scholar advisor before using automatic extension of validity of visa.

To be eligible for the automatic extension of validity of visa provision, you will need to have maintained and intend to resume your nonimmigrant status, and you must have the following documents:

- original I-94 card that you received upon your most recent entry to the U.S.
- valid DS-2019 with a travel signature from an international scholar advisor (J-1 scholars only)
- valid passport

TRAVEL TO CANADA

Based on your country of citizenship, you may or may not be required to have a visa for a short-term visit to Canada. You may check this list of countries that require Canadian visas at <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/visas.asp>. Effective January 29, 2013, the Visa and Immigration Section at the Canadian Consulate in Seattle (United States) is closed and services transferred to the Canadian Consulate in Los Angeles or in New York. For more information about how to apply for a visa to enter Canada, please visit their website at http://www.canadainternational.gc.ca/los_angeles/visas/index.aspx?lang=eng&view=d