

## DUKE VISA SERVICES

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### Am I ready to Travel? - Checklist

(Revised 22 Jan 2010. Reviewed 22 Jan 2010)

This checklist will help you evaluate your travel documents and determine whether you have what you need to leave the U.S., travel home or to another country, and return to the United States in the nonimmigrant status.

#### A. READ THE 'TRAVEL ABROAD AND REENTRY' INFORMATION SHEET

- I have read [Travel Abroad and Reentry](#) to learn what documents I need to travel and what kinds of travel restrictions might apply.

I plan to leave on

and return on

#### B. PASSPORT - CHECK VALIDITY DATE

My passport expires on

1. I understand that my passport must be valid for six (6) months beyond the date on which I return to the U.S. There are agreements between some countries and the U.S. to consider passports valid for 6 months beyond the expiration date printed in the passport. For a complete list of these countries click [here](#)

I am from one of those countries

I am not from one of those countries

2. My passport will expire before I return or it will not be valid for six months into the future. I must get a new or renewed passport before I travel **or** I must plan extra time to get a new **or** renewed passport while I am at home.

#### C. VISA STAMP IN THE PASSPORT - CHECK VALIDITY DATE

**NOTE:** Canadian citizens are not required to have visa stamps. See [Travel Abroad and Reentry](#) for details.

1. I have a visa stamp in my passport that is valid for the nonimmigrant classification I hold. (Examples: F-1 needs F-1 visa stamp. J-1 needs J-1 visa stamp. H-1B needs H-1B visa stamp).

The visa stamp in my passport expires on

2. The visa stamp is valid for 'multiple entries' **OR** the visa stamp is valid for a limited number of entries and will still have an unused valid entry on the date that I plan to return to the U.S.

3. The visa stamp in the proper classification will still be valid and will still have valid entries on the date that I plan to return to the U.S. I do not need a new visa stamp to return.

4. The visa stamp will expire before I return **or** the number of entries will have been used up **or** I do not have a visa stamp for the proper classification. I will need a new visa stamp to return to the U.S. If I am in F or J status I will need a new I-20 **or** DS-2019 to get a new visa stamp. See [New I-20 or DS-2019 Request](#). I will be getting a new I-20 or DS-2019, so I do not need to get updated signatures on the I-20 or DS-2019 per items D1 and D2 below.

**IMPORTANT:** If you have ever fallen out of status or violated status while in the U.S., then your visa stamp may be declared invalid or you may have to get all future visa stamps only in your home country.

**D. NONIMMIGRANT DOCUMENTS (I-20, DS-2019, I-979, etc.) - CHECK TO SEE THAT YOU HAVE THE RIGHT DOCUMENTS WITH PROPER SIGNATURES**

1. I hold and I-20 or DS-2019. Per C1, C2 and C3 above I do not need a visa stamp. The latest advisor's signature will be less than one (1) year old on the date I plan to return. I do not need a new signature on the I-20 or DS-2019 **or** I have graduate and hold OPT status and I have a new I-20 that reflects the OPT and the advisor's signature will be less than six (6) months old on the date I plan to return. I do not need a new signature on the I-20 or DS-2019

2. I hold and I-20 or DS-2019. Per C1, C2 and C3 above I do not need a new visa stamp. The latest advisor's signature will be more than one (1) year old on the date I plan to return **or** I have graduated and hold OPT status. I hold a new I-20 that reflects my OPT. The advisor's signature on the I-20 will be more than 6 months old on the date I plan to return. I need an updated advisor's signature to travel. I can get the signature at the Visa Services office on a usual business day (Monday through Friday) and during usual business hours (8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m.) to get an updated signature. I must take with me my original passport, visa stamp, I-94 card and current I-20 or DS-2019).

3. Per C1, C2 and C3 above I do not need a new visa stamp. I hold and I-797 approval notice that expires on

That notice will still be valid on the date I plan to return. I have the document I need to travel.

That notice will expire before I plan to return. I need a new document to return to the U.S. To get a new document my department must request an extension of my H-1B or O-1 status. I need to schedule and appoint with my International Advisor to talk about my travel plans.

EXCEPTIONS: I hold a TN, E-3, H-1B1 (Chile/Singapore Free Trade), or R status. I have the option to do a completely new application at the embassy or port of entry. I need to schedule an appointment with the Visa Services office to talk with an International Advisor about my travel plans.

**E. TRAVELING TO 'THIRD' COUNTRY (Third country means not your home country and not the U.S.)**

1. I will be traveling to a country in which I do not have citizenship or lawful residence.

2. I have contacted the [embassy or consulate](#) of that country to determine what documents I will need to enter that country. I have obtained the proper documents for entry.

**F. FINAL REVIEW**

1. My passport is valid now and will be valid six (6) months into the future on the date that I plan to return.

2. My visa stamp is for the proper immigration classification, and will be valid and have at least one more valid 'entry' on the date that I plan to return **or** I will need a new visa stamp and I have documents (I-20, DS-2019 or I-797 and evidence of funding if needed) that I need to apply for the new visa stamp.

3. My nonimmigrant documents (I-20, DS-2019, I-797, etc.) will be valid and in order on the date that I plan to return.

4. I am traveling to a country that is not my home country and I have appropriate visas or other documents to enter that country.

**F. STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?**

If you have questions, we will be glad to help you in the Visa Services Office or via email at [VISAHELP@mc.duke.edu](mailto:VISAHELP@mc.duke.edu). Appointments are not necessary for simple travel questions. If you need to discuss several topics or explore various options we recommend that you make an appointment with your International Advisor.