

TRAVEL REMINDERS

When you are traveling, it is important that you have all the following documents in order, even when taking a brief trip to Mexico or Canada or the islands adjacent to the United States.

1. **Valid Passport with valid visa stamp** in your passport (When you come back to the U.S. your passport must be valid for at least six months beyond the anticipated stay); see the section on traveling to Canada, Mexico and the islands adjacent to the U.S. at the bottom of this page for additional information
2. **I-94 card**
3. **SEVIS Form I-20/DS-2019 with a signature** from an advisor in ISSS that will not be older than 6 months by the time you come back to the U.S. You and each member of your family must have a SEVIS I-20 or DS-2019 to return to the U.S.
4. **Evidence of financial support** (your personal bank statement, scholarship letter, etc.)
5. **Proof of Enrollment** (semester-by-semester transcript print out from LeoOnline)

Your Visa Stamp & Applying for a New One

Remember that a valid visa is necessary to **ENTER** the U.S. (but, if your visa stamp expires, you are here legally as long as you have a valid passport and a(n) **I-20/DS-2019**). Therefore, if you have an expired visa stamp and want to travel abroad, you must apply for a new visa in your country. Bear in mind that you will have to go through an interview and should check the consulate's web site before leaving the U.S. to verify the procedure and necessary documentation. If you have already paid the SEVIS I-901 fee **or** the following link has more information about procedures at the consulate where you will make your application: <http://usembassy.state.gov/>. We suggest you have the following documentation:

- valid passport
- original financial documentation
- all previous and current I-20s/DS-2019s
- transcript from LeoOnline (or an official transcript from the Registrar)
- documentation from your Academic Advisor about what classes you have completed for your degree and what classes remain
- if you have changed to F or J status in the U.S., your I-797 (approval notice)
- issuance fee charged for visa
- Application forms—Form DS-156, DS-158 and DS-157 (required of some applicants); all can be downloaded at the following site: <http://foia.state.gov/forms/newscripsts/formlist.asp?type=V>.
- One passport-sized photograph (Some consulates may require two photographs)

Unfortunately, it is not guaranteed that the U.S. consulate will renew your visa or even that you will be able to enter the U.S. even after getting the visa, although the likelihood of those two scenarios is very small. You cannot renew your visa stamp in the United States. Please see the list below for other tips:

1. Be prepared to show ties to your home country.
2. Speak for yourself and be brief; it might help to have a sheet with a bulleted list to explain your situation.
3. Know the program you are studying and how it fits your career plans.
4. Explain what type of documents you are submitting.
5. Remember that the application process might be longer in some countries.
6. If your dependents remain behind, be prepared to explain how they will survive in your absence.

Automatic Visa Stamp Revalidation— going to Canada, Mexico and Islands Adjacent to the U.S.

If you plan to travel to Canada, Mexico and the islands adjacent to the U.S., please verify with those countries regarding any visa requirements. Information on contacting the embassies in Washington can be found at www.embassy.org. If you have an expired visa stamp, it is still possible to travel to these places for less than 30 days with an expired visa and re-enter the United States with no complications. Be sure that you do **not** give your I-94 to the inspector as you leave the country. This process is called Automatic Visa Revalidation. Now this process is no longer available to students from certain countries. If you are planning to make a trip to one of these places and have questions, please send an e-mail to <intlstu@odu.edu> or make an appointment to speak with your ISSS advisor.

Traveling While On Optional Practical Training

If you plan to return to the United States for F-1 Optional Practical Training (OPT), be aware that **you can only re-enter in order to RESUME or BEGIN employment** if you have been awarded your degree. Therefore, it is important that you have the following documents:

1. Your **Employment Authorization Document** (also known as the OPT Card)
2. Proof of employment (letter from your employer and any paystubs)
3. Documents 1-4 listed in the first section at the top of the other side of this sheet
4. If your spouse is traveling alone, she/he needs to have his/her I-20 and copies of your I-20 and EAD

If you have your EAD card, you can only re-enter the U.S. if you are resuming your current job or have an offer letter to start a new one. If you have not yet received your EAD, please see an advisor about travel while your application is pending.

NSEERS Special Registration Requirements

If you have gone through NSEERS Special Registration at an Immigration office in the U.S. or were registered when you entered the country*, you must **REGISTER UPON DEPARTURE** in a pre-designated airport before getting on your plane and leaving the country. The exit registration must be done at the **last airport** you are in before leaving the U.S. For example, if you are flying from Norfolk to New York to a destination overseas, you will go to the Immigration office in New York because it will be your last stop in the U.S. **If you do not register, you will NOT BE ALLOWED TO RE-ENTER AND MUST APPLY FOR A NEW VISA AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN YOUR HOME COUNTRY.** Be sure to allow yourself enough time to register by arriving a few hours prior to your flight. Verify, in advance, the operation hours of the NSEERS registration office at the airport. Please visit page nine of the PDF document, found at the link below, for directions to and hours for all of the NSEERS Departure Registration offices in the U.S.: <http://www.ice.gov/doclib/pi/specialregistration/WalkawayMaterial.pdf>.

**To verify if you are an NSEERS Registrant, look in your passport at the visa stamp, the page opposite the visa stamp or either side of your I-94 card; if you see a notation that says "NSEERS Registrant", "FIN#" or something similar to these, the information in this section applies to you. If you aren't sure, feel free to request an appointment with an ISSS advisor for help.*

Air Travel Updates

REMEMBER: 3-1-1 for carrying liquids in your carry-on luggage.

3 –1–1 for carry-ons = 3 ounce (88.7 mL) bottle or less; 1 quart-sized (946 mL), clear, plastic, zip-top bag; 1 bag per passenger placed in screening bin. One-quart (946 mL) bag per person limits the total liquid volume each traveler can bring. 3 oz. (88.7 mL) container size is a security measure.

Please visit the following website for more travel tips: www.tsa.gov/311/index.shtm

ENJOY YOUR TRIP!!!

