



PONTIFICAL COLLEGE JOSEPHINUM

Office of the Registrar

TRAVEL

When re-entering the United States from abroad, be sure you have with you (not in your suitcase) these items:

1. Passport valid at least 6 months into the future. Click [here](#) for a list of exceptions.
2. Valid visa
3. Valid I-20 with signature from an Immigration Coordinator (less than one year old unless you are on OPT, then signatures are only valid for six months)
4. Financial documentation, less than a year old, that matches the funding stated on your I-20:
 - Government sponsorship letter
 - Diocesan sponsorship letter
 - Bank statement
5. Proof of full-time enrollment (ONE the following):
 - Advising report (ONLY if it shows FULL-TIME enrollment every semester except vacation terms – if it does not, use an enrollment letter instead). To download an advising report:
 - Enrollment letter (ONLY if you have been below full-time for a semester other than a vacation term).

If taking a short trip (30 days or less) to Canada, Mexico or some islands in the Caribbean, please click [here](#) for additional guidelines.

If you are traveling domestically within the U.S., it is recommended that you carry your passport and current Form I-20, but no travel signature is needed.

Electronic I-94 Process

Entry information is recorded electronically by Customs and Border Protection, but instead of being given an I-94 at the time of entry, students will later be able to print the I-94 form from the Customs and Border Protection website. When departing from the U.S., students should still plan to hand in their current paper I-94 card. Read more about these changes at the [Customs and Border Protection website](#).

Visa Applications

If you are traveling and need to apply for a new U.S. visa, it is important to thoroughly review all information on the specific [Embassy's Consular Section website](#) for local procedures and instructions, such as how to make an interview appointment. Consular websites will also explain any additional procedures for students, exchange visitors and those persons who need an earlier visa interview appointment. All applicants age 16 and over from Cuba, Iran, Libya, North Korea, Sudan and Syria should also review the information on [Special Visa Processing Procedures](#).

Due to security screening procedures, international students and scholars should expect delays when attempting to get a new U.S. visa. Visa processing time can range from a few days, to six to eight weeks or longer. In some cases the delays are indefinite. Click [here](#) for more information about visa processing times.

Please be advised that, effective September 1, 2004, certain students or scholars may be required to pay the [SEVIS fee](#) when applying for a new visa.

Automatic Revalidation in Canada, Mexico or "Adjacent Islands"

Under certain circumstances, a nonimmigrant alien may re-enter the U.S. with an expired visa provided that he or she:

- Applies for re-admission to the U.S. after an absence not exceeding 30 days in Canada or Mexico. F-1's and their dependents may also seek readmission to the U.S. after an absence not exceeding 30 days in adjacent islands in the Caribbean, except Cuba. Click [here](#) for a list of adjacent islands.
- Has maintained and intends to resume status as an F-1 student.
- Presents (or is the accompanying spouse or child of an alien who presents) a valid Form 1-94 and the current 1-20 endorsed for travel.
- Possesses a valid passport (unless exempt from passport requirements).
- Applies for re-entry to the U.S. by the program completion date listed on the 1-20.
- Students from Cuba, Iran, Syria and Sudan are not allowed to participate in this program.

This process is technically called "automatic extension of validity of visa". This means that the United States Customs & Immigration Service (USCIS) extends the expired visa to the day of application for a single entry. Automatic extension of your visa does not extend your visa for future use. Travel to all other countries will still require a new visa.

If you are denied a visa from a U.S. consulate in Canada, Mexico or "Adjacent Islands", you will not be allowed to re-enter the U.S. on an expired visa.

Steps to follow for Automatic Revalidation

- Check to see if you meet the above requirements.
- Be sure you have a travel authorization signature on I-20 that is current.
- Be sure your passport is valid. If your current passport does not contain the visa you used to enter the U.S., bring the old passport that does contain the visa.
- Keep the I-94 card in your possession, unless traveling by plane. Do not surrender it at the time of your departure from the U.S. This is an essential document for reentering the United States.

If you encounter any problems in reentering the U.S., ask to speak to an Immigration Coordinator.

Students who do not have an F-1 visa and changed status in the U.S.

A person who entered the U.S. in a classification other than F-1 student and later changed his or her status to F-1 student may also reenter the U.S. with this process. In this situation, the visa is automatically changed to meet the status identified on the I-94 card. The F-1 student need only meet the conditions whether the original visa is expired or unexpired. [22 CFR 41.112(d)(ii)]. A student whose visa has been cancelled is not eligible.

Students with new passports not containing the visa

Individuals carrying passports issued from within the U.S. to replace the passport that contains their original nonimmigrant visa must have the old passport in their possession. Citizens of countries that keep the old passport upon issuance of a new one, therefore, are at a disadvantage when traveling to contiguous territories (i.e., Mexico, Canada, and certain adjacent islands in the Caribbean). These individuals would have to apply for a new F-1 visa before re-entering the U.S.

Additional Information

- [10 tips to remember when applying for a nonimmigrant visa](#)
- [Travel.State.Gov](#)
- For more information on Entry and Exit Procedures for F-1 students, please click [here](#).
- [Customs and Border Protection Arrival Procedures](#)
- [General Port of Entry information](#)
- [Automatic Revalidation](#)
- [Online I-94](#)