If you are currently in the U.S. on the J visa and plan to return after a temporary departure, J-1 Exchange Visitors and J-2 dependents must present specific documents to an immigration inspector at the port of entry. Failure to have the recommended documents could result in an inability to return to the U.S. on the F visa. An interruption in your program could result should you not re-enter the U.S. in an appropriate immigration status. Documents recommended by the Office of International Affairs (OIA) do not guarantee a visa or re-entry to U.S. Determination of eligibility for visa or re-entry to U.S. is a decision of U.S. embassy or consulate officials and/or U.S. immigration inspectors at a port of entry into the U.S. If you will require a new J-1 visa stamp to re-enter the U.S., prior to your departure, please contact the U.S. embassy or consulate at which you plan to obtain a visa in order to confirm its hours of operation and application procedures. For further information, please visit the U.S. Department of State website http://www.usembassy.gov/ where you will find a list of website of U.S. Embassies, Consulates, and Diplomatic Missions.

To obtain a travel endorsement on your DS-2019, please call the Office of International Affairs and make an appointment to see your International Visitor Advisor (IVA). At the time of your appointment, please present the following original documents:
1) Completed and signed Travel Instructions
2) Completed and signed Travel Request Form
3) Current, original DS-2019
4) Passport (valid 6 months into the future)
5) Visa stamp (unless exempt from visa requirements)
6) Form I-94

If you are a Regional Campus, documents 1), 2), and 3) must be mailed to your IVA in their original form. Copies of documents 4), 5), and 6) must also be included.

After presenting all of the documents listed to your International Visitor Advisor (IVA), your IVA will review and evaluate documents submitted, student records (if applicable), and all immigration history to determine eligibility for travel endorsement. If eligible, your IVA will endorse the DS-2019 for travel.

If you are at a Regional Campus, your IVA will mail the endorsed DS-2019 to your current residential address.

IMMEDIATELY UPON RETURN TO THE U.S., YOU MUST PROVIDE THE OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS WITH LEGIBLE COPIES OF DS-2019, PASSPORT, VISA STAMP, AND FORM I-94 (FRONT AND BACK) TO INSURE ALL DOCUMENTS ARE PROPERLY ENDORSED.

J-1 Exchange Visitors

Visitors with a valid J-1 visa stamp returning to the U.S. after departing must present the following documents to the immigration inspector at the port of entry:
1) Original DS-2019 endorsed by IVA prior to travel
   o Travel endorsement must be dated within the preceding 12 months. For Short-Term Scholars the travel endorsement must be dated within the preceding 6 months.
2) Passport (valid 6 months into the future)
3) Valid J-1 visa stamp (unless exempt from visa requirements)
4) Letter from your Department/program sponsor indicating the need for you to return to the U.S. in order to comply with the terms of your program, if applicable
5) Evidence of having maintained valid J student status since initial entry into U.S., if applicable (e.g. transcripts, letter from Academic Advisor)
6) Evidence of financial resources dated within the preceding 6 months (e.g. appointment letter with salary confirmation, original bank statement, scholarship letter, graduate research assistant/graduate assistant appointment letter)
7) Evidence of ties to Home Country (e.g. bank statement from your country, proof of owning property in home country, job offer in home country, etc.)
8) All previous immigration documents issued to you since initial entry into the U.S.

Note: If you are traveling and will require a new J-1 visa stamp to re-enter the U.S., you must present the documents listed above to the U.S. embassy or consulate when applying. Be sure to allow sufficient travel time to obtain the J-1 visa from the U.S. embassy or consulate.

J-2 Dependents

Dependents with a valid J-2 visa stamp returning to the U.S. after a temporary absence must present the following documents to the immigration inspector at the port of entry:

1) Original dependent Form DS-2019 endorsed by IVA prior to travel
   • Travel endorsement must be dated within the preceding 12 months. For Short-Term Scholars the travel endorsement must be dated within the preceding 6 months.
2) Passport (valid 6 months into the future)
3) Valid J-2 visa stamp (unless exempt from visa requirements)
4) Evidence that J-1 principle has maintained valid J status since initial entry into U.S. (e.g. letter from program sponsor, transcripts, letter from Academic Advisor)
5) Evidence of financial resources dated within the preceding 6 months (e.g. appointment letter with salary confirmation, original bank statement, scholarship letter, graduate research assistant/graduate assistant appointment letter)
6) Evidence of ties to Home Country (e.g. bank statement from your country, proof of owning property in home country, job offer in home country, etc.)
7) All previous immigration documents issued to you and J-1 spouse since initial entry into the U.S.

Note: If J-2 dependent will be traveling and will require a new J-2 visa stamp to re-enter the U.S., he or she must present the documents listed above to the U.S. embassy or consulate when applying. It is advisable to allow sufficient travel time to obtain the J-2 visa from the U.S. embassy or consulate.

Travel to Canada, Mexico, and Adjacent Islands

Automatic visa revalidation is a provision which allows exchange visitors who are traveling in territories contiguous to the mainland U.S. or, in some cases, in adjacent islands and whose visas have expired to re-enter the U.S. without obtaining a new visa. In order to benefit from this provision, the following rules are applicable:

1) Exchange visitor must be applying for readmission to the U.S. after an absence not exceeding 30 days in a contiguous territory or adjacent island other than Cuba.
2) Exchange visitor must have maintained nonimmigrant status while in the U.S. with the intention of resuming that status upon his/her return.
3) Exchange visitor must be applying for readmission within the authorized period of initial admission or extension of stay.
4) Exchange visitor must not be a national of a country that the Department of State has designated as being a sponsor of terrorism.
5) Exchange visitor must be in possession of a Form I-94 Arrival-Departure Record endorsed by USCIS to show an unexpired period of initial admission or extension of stay.
6) Exchange visitor must be in possession of a current Form DS-2019, and the Form DS-2019 must be properly endorsed by the exchange visitor’s IVA prior to travel.
7) Exchange visitor must not have applied for a new visa while abroad.
8) Exchange visitor should also be prepared to present all documents previously listed to an immigration inspector at the port of entry.

Prior to finalizing your travel plans, please contact the embassy or consulate in the country to which you plan to travel in order to check that country’s entry requirements.

I hereby acknowledge that I fully understand the above information, and that I received a copy of these instructions.

Name (Print)  Signature  Date