

Travel Advisory

Everything you need to know about traveling abroad



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AND SCHOLAR SERVICES - THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

What do I need to travel abroad?

- Contact your country's Consulate to determine what travel precautions they suggest.
- Contact the U.S. Department of State website to view travel advisories: <http://travel.state.gov>
- Make sure your documents are valid and you have a recent travel signature on your I-20 or DS-2019.
- Speak to an International Student Advisor at ISSS if you have any concerns about travel or if you are not maintaining your F or J status.

What documents do I need to take with me when I travel?

- Passport, Visa, I-94 Card
- I-20 or DS-2019 signed for travel by an International Student Advisor within the last year

In addition, we recommend that you carry:

- Official UT Transcript (obtained at the Registrar's Office - Main Building 1)
- Letter of Good Standing, also called 'Letter of Enrollment' (obtained at the Registrar's Office)
- SEVIS Fee Receipt (if the start date of your initial F-1 program is on or after Sept. 1, 2004)
- Proof of financial support (a personal bank statement, Research Assistant/Teaching Assistant verification letter that includes salary and tuition payment details, or sponsor's letter and bank statement)
- Documentation of approval to take a reduced courseload, if applicable

Important notice for Special Registration students leaving the U.S.

Students who went through Special Registration at the port of entry or local Department of Homeland Security (DHS) office need to register with DHS when leaving the U.S. It is very important that you find DHS representatives at the airport or port of entry from which you are leaving and register with an immigration officer.

- Please see detailed instructions on how to find an immigration officer at ports of entry at the DHS web site <http://www.ice.gov/pi/specialregistration/>
- **If you do not register with DHS when leaving the U.S., you will not be able to re-enter the U.S. in the future.**

Please see back for additional information regarding visas.

Do I need to renew my visa if I travel abroad?

If your non-immigrant visa stamp has expired, you will have to apply for a new visa to re-enter the U.S. unless you will be using Automatic Visa Revalidation.

- Please speak with an International Student Advisor at ISSS before you leave the U.S. to apply for a visa renewal.

What if I travel to Mexico, Canada or the Caribbean?

If you plan to travel to a country that is contiguous* to the U.S. (but not Cuba!) and you intend to stay there less than 30 days and will **not** apply for a new U.S. visa, you may re-enter the U.S. on an expired visa stamp (this regulation is known as Automatic Visa Revalidation).

* Saint Pierre, Miquelon, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Bermuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Jamaica, The Windward and Leeward Islands, Trinidad, Martinique, or other British, French or Netherlands territories or possessions in, or bordering, the Caribbean Sea.

How does Automatic Visa Revalidation* work?

When traveling to a contiguous country, keep your I-94 card with you upon exiting the U.S. Tell the immigration official at the port of exit (border) that you intend to stay outside the U.S. for less than 30 days and that your U.S. visa is expired. Make sure to have your I-20 or DS-2019 signed by an Immigration Advisor at ISSS before you travel and present that document along with your valid passport, I-94, and expired visa to re-enter the U.S.

Automatic Visa Revalidation is *not* guaranteed.

*Please note that citizens of Iran, Syria, Libya, Sudan, North Korea, and Cuba will not be allowed to re-enter the U.S. with an expired U.S. visa stamp, even if the trip is to a contiguous country.

Can I renew my U.S. visa while in Mexico or Canada?

If you are planning to apply for a U.S. visa in Mexico or Canada, please talk to an International Student Advisor at ISSS before you make arrangements. In general, ISSS does **not** recommend that third-country nationals apply for a U.S. visa in Mexico or Canada because of lengthy delays due to background/security checks and complications in case of visa denial. If your visa application is denied, you would need to depart directly to your home country to apply for a new visa to re-enter the U.S. You may **not** use Automatic Visa Revalidation if you applied for a visa while abroad!

- The U.S. Consulate in Ciudad Juarez provides detailed information about visas for third-country nationals: <http://ciudadjuarez.usconsulate.gov/www/nivf.html>

Do I need a visa to enter Mexico or Canada?

If you are traveling to Mexico, Canada, or any country that is not your country of citizenship, you may need a visa to enter that country. The following contacts may be helpful to determine if you need a visa to enter another country:

- Canada: (213) 346-2711 or <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/index.html>
- Mexico: (512) 478-2866
- Foreign consular offices in the United States: <http://www.state.gov/s/cpr/rls/fco>

For more information, please refer to the ‘Visa... Visa... Visa...’ handout that can be obtained from our office or online:

- http://www.utexas.edu/international/iss/immigration/student_visas.html