Travel Workshop

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How to Get Around:

- Domestic & International Flights:
  - https://www.travelocity.com/
  - https://www.expedia.com/
  - http://www.kayak.com/hotels
  - http://www.orbitz.com/
- Bus:
  - https://www.megabus.com/
  - https://www.greyhound.com/
- Train:
  - http://www.amtrak.com/home
Travel Smart, Travel Safe

- Always carry a photo ID
- You do not need to carry your original status documents when traveling in the U.S.
  - OIA recommends carrying copies of your status documents
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash on you
- Withdraw money from secure ATMs during daylight hours
- Know your way, if lost, ask for directions in an open business
- Be discrete with electronic devices
- Stay on well lit, well traveled streets
International Travels - J-1 Scholars

Before traveling out of the U.S., please make sure you have:

- Current, unexpired DS-2019 Form with travel signature
- Valid J-1 Visa stamp
- Valid passport

Upon your return, please complete and submit OIA’s Travel Re-Entry Form
Valid DS-2019

Unexpired Travel Signature from OIA
Valid Passport & Visa

Valid Passport

Valid Visa

Sufficient Entries

12/12/2016
H-1B Employees

Before traveling, please make sure you have:

- Original, unexpired Form I-797 Approval Notice
- Valid H-1B Visa stamp
- Valid passport
- Entire H-1B packet you received from OIA
- Travel letter from OIA (request at least one week before traveling)
- Employment confirmation letter from your department

Upon your return, please complete and submit OIA’s Travel Re-Entry Form
• H-1B eligibility dates
H-1B Visa

- Number of Entries: 12/12/2016
- Visa Expiration Date: 01/06/2013
- Valid Passport

H-1B Visa

- Number of Entries: 12/12/2016
- Visa Expiration Date: 01/06/2013
- Valid Passport
Visa Renewal

- Visa stickers are available only outside the U.S.
- Visa Interview
- Fees
J-1 Scholars

- Current, unexpired DS-2019 Form
- Valid passport
- Travel Signature (valid for 12 months)
- Letter Verifying your Employment from your Department
- Proof of funding if not fully funded by UChicago
H-1B Employees

- **Original**, unexpired Form I-797 Approval Notice
- Valid passport
- Entire H-1B packet you received from OIA
- Employment confirmation letter from your department
- Travel Letter from OIA
- Any other documents listed on your specific U.S. Embassy/Consulate’s website
Whenever you apply for a visa sticker, there is a chance you will be subject to a background check at consular post. It can take 4-6 weeks and present a significant delay. Sometimes based on nationality, sometimes based on field of work/research such as science or technology “Technology Alert List.” OIA cannot prevent or speed up background checks.

**BUT....**
A Letter From Your Department Can Help!

- In cases of research-based background checks, OIA recommends carrying a letter to present at the visa interview.
- The letter will have:
  - A brief description of the research being conducted written for someone who has no experience in the field.
  - A brief description of your role in the research.
  - A statement that the research is not sensitive or subject to export control.
Automatic Visa Revalidation

- **Expired visa** → **Travel to Canada and Mexico**
  - J-1 Scholars can also travel to the adjacent Caribbean Islands
  - Less than 30 days
  - Not traveling to a third country

- **Not available to citizens of Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Sudan and Syria**

- **Documents required for Automatic Visa Revalidation:**
  - Valid passport
  - Valid DS-2019 Form with a Travel Signature for J-1 Scholars
  - Original, unexpired Form I-797 Approval Notice for H-1B Employees
  - I-94 card - Don’t let it go!
  - Electronic I-94 record - you do not need to do anything.
QUESTIONS???