

TRAVEL CHECK-LISTS For International Students & Employees

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR RE-ENTRY TO THE UNITED STATES

It is strongly recommended that you always carry your original documents when traveling internationally and within the US.

F-1 STUDENTS who are currently enrolled

- Most recent valid I-20 form with a travel signature that is less than one year old
- Valid passport
- Valid F-1 visa (except Canadian citizens)
- Optional documents: evidence of financial resources, official University of Chicago transcript, name and contact information of your OIA adviser.

Note: Always use the most recently issued I-20 form. Students who were issued a transfer I-20 must obtain a new I-20 issued for “continued attendance” in order to re-enter the U.S. to resume their program.

F-2 DEPENDENTS of currently enrolled students

- Most recent valid I-20 form with a travel signature that is less than one year old
- Valid passport
- Valid F-2 visa (except Canadian citizens)

F-1 STUDENTS on Post-Completion Optional Practical Training (OPT)

- Most recent valid I-20 form (showing OPT recommendation on p. 3) with a travel signature that is less than 6 months old
- Valid passport
- Valid F-1 visa (except Canadian citizens)
- Valid EAD card
- Letter from employer verifying employment start date or resumption date, if you are entering the U.S. at an airport other than O'Hare in Chicago
- Optional documents: evidence of financial resources, official University of Chicago transcript, name and contact information of your OIA adviser.

Note: Students re-entering the U.S. after program end date but before OPT start date must have their EAD with them. Additional recommended documents: proof of employment search (e.g. letters of application, replies from employers, etc.), or proof of employment with employment start date.

F-2 DEPENDENTS of students on OPT

- Most recent valid I-20 form with a travel signature that is less than 6 months old
- Valid passport
- Valid F-2 visa (except Canadian citizens)
- Additional recommended documents: copy of F-1 student's I-20 form showing OPT recommendation, and copy of F-1 student's EAD

J-1 EXCHANGE VISITORS and their J-2 Dependents

- Most recent valid DS-2019 form with travel signature that is less than one year old
- Valid passport
- Valid J-1 or J-2 visa (except Canadian citizens)

J-1 EXCHANGE VISITOR STUDENTS on Post-Completion Academic Training (AT)

- Most recent valid DS-2019 form with travel signature that is less than one year old
- Valid passport
- Valid J-1 visa (except Canadian citizens)
- Job offer letter

J-2 DEPENDENTS of students on AT

- Most recent valid DS-2019 form with travel signature that is less than one year old
- Valid passport
- Valid J-2 visa (except Canadian citizens)
- Additional recommended documents: copy of J-1 student's DS-2019 showing AT and job offer letter

H-1B TEMPORARY WORKERS

- Valid passport
- Valid H-1 visa
- I-797 Approval notice
- Copy of H-1 petition
- Verification of employment letter from employing department
- Travel letter from OIA

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR VISA RENEWAL

F & J STUDENTS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS

- All of the travel documents listed above in your category for re-entry except valid visa
- Verification of enrollment letter from OIA
- Official University of Chicago transcript
- Proof of finances
- Letter from PI or faculty advisor for those in advanced areas of science or technology in case of background check
http://internationalaffairs.uchicago.edu/pdf/letter_for_background_checks.pdf
- Any other documents listed on your specific U.S. embassy/consulate's website:
<http://usembassy.state.gov/>

Note: It is not possible to renew a visa inside the U.S. Current visa wait times can be viewed at: http://travel.state.gov/temp/wait/tempvisitors_wait.php. Look specifically at the wait times for “student/exchange visitor visas”.

J-1 NON-STUDENTS and their J-2 DEPENDENTS

- All of the travel documents listed in the J-1 category above for re-entry except valid visa
- Verification of employment letter from your department
- Proof of finances
- Letter from PI or faculty advisor for those in advanced areas of science or technology in case of background check
http://internationalaffairs.uchicago.edu/pdf/letter_for_background_checks.pdf
- Any other documents listed on your specific U.S. embassy/consulate's website:
<http://usembassy.state.gov/>

Note: It is not possible to renew a visa inside the U.S. Current visa wait times can be viewed at: http://travel.state.gov/temp/wait/tempvisitors_wait.php. Look specifically at the wait times for “student/exchange visitor visas”.

H-1B TEMPORARY WORKERS

- All of the documents listed in the H-1B category above for re-entry except valid visa
- Letter from PI or faculty advisor for those in advanced areas of science or technology in case of background checks
http://internationalaffairs.uchicago.edu/pdf/letter_for_background_checks.pdf

Note: It is not possible to renew a visa inside the U.S. Current visa wait times can be viewed at: http://travel.state.gov/temp/wait/tempvisitors_wait.php. Look specifically at the wait times for “Other non-immigrant visas”.

AUTOMATIC REVALIDATION OF VISAS

F and J non-immigrants whose visas have expired and who plan to travel to Canada, Mexico or the adjacent Caribbean islands for 30 days or less may re-enter the U.S. as though their visa were still valid. This applies also to F and J non-immigrants who changed their status in the U.S. and whose visa is in the category in which they entered the U.S. Documents required for re-entry to the U.S. include:

- Valid I-20, DS-2019 or I-797 form; I-20 or DS-2019 must have valid travel signature as described above
- Valid passport
- Expired visa (either in current passport or previous passport)
- I-94 Departure record (you must ensure that this is not taken at departure)
- Approval notice of change of status, if applicable

Automatic revalidation **does not** apply to students who are nationals of Iran, Syria, Sudan, or Cuba or who applied for an F or J visa during their visit and were denied. It also does not apply to those who are returning from another country via Canada, Mexico or the Caribbean islands.

REMINDERS FOR ALL

- Valid documents, including a valid visa, do not guarantee admission to the U.S. Admission is always granted at the discretion of the port of entry officer.
- Authorization to work in the U.S. does not exempt you from visa requirements.
- The I-94 Departure Record is removed each time you leave the U.S. and a new one is issued each time you re-enter. Canadian citizens are usually issued just one I-94 that is valid for multiple entries and departures.
- A travel signature on your I-20 or DS-2019 form is not required in order to leave the U.S. (although it may be required to obtain entry to Canada or Mexico as proof of return in the case of third country national).
- If you will be visiting a third country, ensure that you have the proper entry documents for that country. To locate a consulate in Chicago or elsewhere in the U.S., go to: <http://www.state.gov/s/cpr/rls/fco/>
- Under no circumstances should you re-enter the U.S. on a B-1/B-2 visa or under the visa a waiver program while you are enrolled or working here. Enrollment in a course of study and employment are prohibited and you would be in violation of status.
- The re-entry requirements outlined above refer to those who will be outside the U.S. for a temporary absence (a short break of 5 months or less). They do not apply to students who are returning from an official leave of absence.

https://internationalaffairs.uchicago.edu/pdf/Travel_handout.pdf