

# Traveling Tips for International Students

## **When traveling outside the U.S., what do I need to reenter the U.S.?**

- 1) Valid passport
  - 2) Valid visa (see automatic visa revalidation below)
  - 3) I-94 card
  - 4) Valid I-20 or DS-2019 with a recent (recommended within the last 6 months) travel signature
  - 5) Official transcript or certificate of enrollment from Registrar's Office, 118 Anderson Hall
  - 6) Proof of finances to support your stay
- In addition, if you are on post-completion OPT, you must carry a valid EAD and proof of employment.

## **When traveling inside the U.S., what should I carry?**

It is recommended that you carry all your immigration documents with you.

## **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 (see below). Speak with an international student advisor at ISSS before you leave the U.S. to apply for a visa renewal.

## **What is automatic visa revalidation?** { found at 22CFR Section 42.112(d) }

Students & their dependents in F or J status may re-enter the United States with an expired visa after traveling solely to Mexico, Canada, or an adjacent island in the Caribbean (except Cuba) if the travel is for 30 days or less. Adjacent islands include Saint Pierre, Miquelon, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Bermuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Jamaica, the Windward and Leeward Islands, Trinidad, Martinique, and other British, French, and Netherlands territories or possessions in or bordering on the Caribbean Sea.

## **Eligible individuals must:**

- 1) have not been absent from the U.S. for more than 30 days and was solely in a contiguous territory or adjacent island;
- 2) have maintained and intends to resume his/her current status;
- 3) be in possession of a valid passport, unless exempt from passport requirements. (Individuals carrying new passports issued from within the U.S. to replace an old passport that contains the original nonimmigrant visa may qualify for automatic visa extension **only if** they have the old passport in their possession.);
- 4) present a current, valid I-94, (do not surrender the I-94 upon your departure);
- 5) present a valid I-20 (if in F status) or valid DS-2019 (if in J status) which shows an unexpired period of authorized stay and has been endorsed by an international student advisor for travel.

An individual who entered the U.S. in a classification other than F or J, but whose status was subsequently changed to F or J may be eligible for "automatic extension and conversion of visa" as long as the above criteria are met.

Individuals in many other non-immigrant classifications can also travel to Mexico and Canada for 30 days or less with an expired visa. Please consult an international student advisor for details.

## **Individuals NOT eligible:**

- The automatic extension rule does NOT apply to nationals of countries the U.S. has identified as sponsors of terrorism which include: Cuba, Iran, Sudan and Syria.
- Those who apply for a new visa while abroad in Mexico, Canada or an adjacent island are not eligible to re-enter the U.S. under Automatic Extension of Visa.
- Individuals who are out of status in the U.S. or whose visa has been canceled are not eligible for this benefit.
- Anyone subject to Special Registration, as these individuals must officially check-out of the U.S. at the time of their departure and turn in their I-94 card.
- If you are a citizen of Mexico or an island in the Caribbean except Cuba, and are re-entering the U.S. from your country of citizenship, we do not advise you to use automatic extension.
- Automatic revalidation does not apply to the Visa Waiver Program. Readmission to the U.S. after departure to contiguous territory or adjacent islands for Visa Waiver Program applicants is covered under 8 CFR 217. 3(b).

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

If you are planning to apply for a U.S. visa in Mexico or Canada, please talk to an advisor at ISSS first. 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.

More detailed instructions regarding the visa process can be found on the appropriate website:

To Book an Appointment in Mexico: <http://www.usembassy-mexico.gov/eng/edirectory.html>

To Book an Appointment in Canada: <http://www.consular.canada.usembassy.gov/canada.asp>

### **Do I need a visa to enter another country?**

If you are traveling to or through 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:

Consulate General of Canada  
600 Renaissance Center, Suite 1100  
Detroit, MI 48243-1798  
Phone: (313) 567-2085  
Fax: (313) 567-2125  
<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/index.asp>

Mexico:

Mexican Consulate in Kansas City  
1600 Baltimore, Suite 100  
Kansas City, MO 64108  
Phone: (816)556-0800  
Fax: (816)556-0900  
<http://portal.sre.gob.mx/usa>, “Consular Services” for general information. Note: Consulate in Kansas City does not have a website.

For other foreign consular offices in the United States: <http://www.state.gov/s/cpr/rls/fco/index.cfm?id=4194>

### **If I am subject to Special Registration, is there anything I need to know when I leave the U.S.?**

Students who went through Special Registration at the port of entry or local Department of Homeland Security (DHS, formerly INS) office need to register with DHS when leaving the U.S. You must comply with check-out procedures at designated ports of departure. For additional information refer to:

<http://www.ice.gov/pi/specialregistration/index.htm?searchstring=walkaway%20AND>

### **Is there anything else regarding traveling that I should know?**

**Travel Signatures:** Please bring your I-20 or DS-2019 to ISSS. Processing time for travel signatures is 24 hours, so be sure to plan ahead. If you are a J-1 student and K-State is not your program sponsor (listed in #2 of DS-2019), you will need to mail your DS-2019 to your sponsor (e.g. IIE, Fulbright, LASPAU) to get a travel signature.

**Certificates of Enrollment:** You may request these from the Registrar’s Office. Be sure to request verification of full-time enrollment for every semester you’ve been enrolled. It is also possible to request proof of full-time pre-registration for next semester, if you have pre-registered.

**Other reminders:**

- If you have been outside the U.S. for more than five months and have not been enrolled at K-State during this time, you may need a new visa to re-enter the U.S. Please consult with an advisor at the ISSS.
- Expect long lines and slow processes because documents will be reviewed closely at Embassies, Consulates, airports and U.S. ports of entry. Do not be alarmed if you are pulled aside at the port of entry for further questioning.
- Contact your own consulate to determine if there are any travel precautions.
- Contact the U.S. Department of State website to view travel advisories: <http://travel.state.gov>.
- If you have any questions, feel free to contact International Student and Scholar Services.

**International Student & Scholar Services**  
**104 International Student Center, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506**  
**Phone: 785.532.6448 Fax: 785.532.6607 Email: [iss@ksu.edu](mailto:iss@ksu.edu) Web: [www.ksu.edu/iss](http://www.ksu.edu/iss)**