

8. Travelling out of the US and Re-entering

Travel Signatures

If you intend to travel outside of the United States, before you leave make sure that you have a valid passport and a DS-2019 endorsed for travel. Only the Responsible Officer (RO) or the Alternate Responsible Officer (ARO) in SSC 440 has the authority to sign the DS-2019. Please plan ahead. Travel signatures are valid for one year or until the document's program end date, whichever is earlier. *J-2 dependents must also have their documents signed.*

Intended return to the US:

J-1 Exchange Visitors traveling outside the United States must have their DS-2019 Form signed by an RO or ARO at OIE, Student Service Center 440. You must return to the United States within 30 days otherwise it will be assumed that you have abandoned your current J-1 program. If this happens, and you are either a Research Scholar or Professor, then you must wait 24 months before being eligible to return to the United States under either J-1 category.

Any pre-determined absence of longer than 30 days requires a written explanation from your sponsoring department demonstrating that the research collaboration will continue during your absence from the U.S. The Office of International Education (Responsible Officer) must receive this information prior to your departure. **J-2 dependents may not remain in the US while the J-1 is absent for 30 or more days.**

Travel to Contiguous Territories

If you travel to countries such as Mexico, Canada or Adjacent Islands of the Dominican Republic, Saint Pierre, Miquelon, Haiti, Bermuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Leeward Islands, Jamaica, Trinidad, Martinique, and other British, French and Netherland territories or possessions in or bordering on the Caribbean Sea, **(except Cuba)**, in most case, you may not need a visa. However, check before you leave the United States.

PLEASE NOTE: You may be required to have a Canadian or Mexican visa to enter those countries. The visa you have for the U.S. does not grant you entry into any other country. If you are in doubt, contact the Canadian or Mexican consulates. Please allow enough time before your travel for visa processing.

Travelling to Canada:

Please check to see if nationals from your country are required to have a visa to enter Canada. Visit www.cis.gc.english/visit/visas.asp.

Travelling to Mexico:

Please check <http://mexico.visahq.com/> to find particulars for your country.

Safety:

Before you leave, make sure that you inform your faculty/staff sponsor of where you can be contacted during your absence. Be sure to carry these important contact numbers:

Office of International Education 530 898 5721 and 530 898 5415

University Police 530 898 5555

Travel Alerts:

It is always advisable to check the United States Department of State Travel Alert at http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html

This website states:

“Travel Warnings are issued when long-term, protracted conditions that make a country dangerous or unstable lead the State Department to recommend that Americans avoid or consider the risk of travel to that country. A Travel Warning is also issued when the U.S. Government's ability to assist American citizens is constrained due to the closure of an embassy or consulate or because of a drawdown of its staff.”

The U.S. State Department website provides an up to date list of countries currently meeting the above criteria.

Required Travel Documents:

Before you leave the U.S., make sure to have the following documents in order to establish that you are in J-1 (or J-2 for dependents) when you apply to re-enter the U.S. at a port of entry:

DS-2019: A valid travel signature on the DS-2019 is required for re-entry during the J program after travel abroad. Only authorized the Responsible Officer or Alternate Responsible Office at the Office of International Education can provide such signatures for students/scholars sponsored by CSU, Chico. To get your DS-2019 signed for travel, please call the Office of International Education at 530 898-5415 to make an appointment. Bring your

most recently issued DS-2019 and your passport. Student/scholars sponsored by other program sponsors such as IREX, Fulbright, Muskie or IIE, must contact those sponsors as soon as possible to obtain the required travel signature.

Your DS-2019 must be signed for travel before you leave the U.S.

Passport: You must have a passport valid for at least 6 months into the future unless your home country has a passport agreement with the US. Please check the current listing at:

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organizations/10470.pdf>

U.S. J-1 visa stamp: A valid visa stamp in your passport is also required for re-entry. Check the visa stamp in your passport and be sure that it is a J-1 and note when it expires. Also see if it is for a single (**S**) entry or for Multiple (**M**) entries. If the visa stamp has expired, you will need to go to a U.S. consulate or embassy, preferably in your home country, to apply for the new visa stamp. *You may not renew your visa within the U.S.* If you get a new passport and the valid visa stamp is in the old passport, you will need to show both passports at the Port of Entry. After initial entry to the U.S., if you have a single-entry or expired multiple-entry visa, you may re-enter the U.S. without obtaining a new visa under certain conditions and as long as you have a copy of your I-94 card.

Canadian: If you are a Canadian citizen, you will not be required to show a visa stamp. However, you will be required to show proof of payment for the I-901 SEVIS fee, and a valid DS-2019 signed for travel.

Documents for Domestic Travel: It is also suggested that you travel with at least **copies** of your passport and DS-2019.