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Automatic Visa Revalidation

22 C.F.R. §41.112(d); 8 C.F.R. § 214.1(b)(1)-(4)

Department of State (DOS) regulations permit F, M, J and Q-2 non-immigrants who travel for *less than 30 days to Canada, Mexico or adjacent islands* other than Cuba to re-enter the United States without having to obtain a new visa prior to re-entry*. The visas of such persons are considered to be "extended" to the date of re-entry, eliminating the need to obtain a new visa before that particular re-entry. This is called Automatic Visa Revalidation (AVR) or automatic extension of validity at ports of entry. The benefit also extends to those nonimmigrants who have changed their nonimmigrant status in the U.S. and whose visa is still in the category in which they entered the U.S. and who have not yet obtained visas for their current status.

To qualify, you must have:

- a valid I-94, unexpired, or which indicates "d/s" (duration of status).
- a current, recently endorsed for travel I-20, DS-2019 and I-797 approval notice
- your expired visa
- a valid passport
- never had a visa cancelled under INA §222(g) ("stayed beyond the period authorized")
- **not** applied for a new visa while in Canada, Mexico or the adjacent islands

Does AVR work for everyone?

No, there are certain exceptions to AVR. Citizens of Iraq, Iran, Syria, Libya, Sudan, North Korea and Cuba are not eligible for automatic revalidation and must have a valid visa in order to re-enter the U.S.

How does AVR work?

You must **keep** your I-94 when leaving the U.S. and present the I-94 upon re-entry. Also, take with you the travel documents listed above. ISSS also recommends taking a "verification of enrollment" at CU (available from Regent Hall) or, for scholars, a letter from your department verifying your CU affiliation. Your stay in Canada/Mexico/adjacent islands cannot be for more than 30 days.

IMPORTANT! What must I not do?

If you are intending to use AVR to re-enter, you must **not** apply for a new visa while in Canada, Mexico or the adjacent islands.

Note: If you travel to Canada, Mexico or the adjacent islands with an expired visa stamp in your passport and were to apply for a new visa at a U.S. consulate while there, you would be able to return to the United States **only** if you were granted a new visa. **If your visa application is denied, you would not be able to return to the United States.** You would have to travel to another U.S. embassy or consulate, probably one in your home country, to apply for a new visa.

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... "Saint Pierre, Miquelon, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Bermuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Jamaica, the Windward and Leeward Islands, Trinidad, Martinique, and other British, French and the Netherlands territories or possessions in or bordering on the Caribbean Sea." 22 C.F.R. §41.112(d)(2)(ii); 8 C.F.R. § 214.1(b)(1)-(4) **NOTE: H1-B visa holders may use AVR in Canada and Mexico only; they may not use AVR in the adjacent islands.**