



## Exchange Visitor: Travel Outside of U.S.

### Travel Documents

J-1 exchange visitor scholars should be prepared to present the following documents to Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials when seeking to re-enter the U.S. after international travel:

☐ **Printed, Signed Form DS-2019 with Valid ISSS Travel Signature**

- You must carry a printed DS-2019 with a valid travel signature.
- A travel signature on a DS-2019 is generally valid within 1 year of the signature date or until the DS-2019 program end date on the DS-2019, *whichever occurs first*.
  - Example, if you are a short-term scholar with a 5-month program, a travel signature is only valid until your DS-2019 end date.
- To request a travel signature, submit the *DS-2019 Reprint Request* e-form available in the [MyISSS portal](#) in the “J-1 Scholar Services” section.
- ISSS will process your request in 2-5 business days and email you your DS-2019 with an electronic signature.
- Print and sign the DS-2019 (original wet ink signature) in the Exchange Visitor Certification section and carry it with you when you travel.

☐ **Valid Passport**

- Your passport should be valid 6 months beyond the program end date indicated on your DS-2019
  - Some [exceptions](#) may apply based on your country of citizenship
- You can renew your passport at your country’s embassy or consulate within the U.S.

☐ **Valid U.S. Visa**

- You must have a valid J-1 visa stamp to re-enter the U.S.
  - Exceptions:
    - Canadian citizens do not typically require a visa.
    - [Automatic Visa Revalidation](#)  
You may be eligible for Automatic Visa Revalidation if:
      - Your J-1 visa has expired.
      - You are traveling to Canada, Mexico, or [adjacent islands](#) for 30 days or less.
      - You have a valid [most recent I-94](#).
    - Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has discretion to grant re-entry under this rule. Review guidelines on the [Department of State Automatic Revalidation webpage](#) and the [Automatic Revalidation for Certain Temporary Visitors on the CBP webpage](#).

☐ **Current Financial Support Documents**

- Bring proof of funding as listed on your DS-2019 such as:
  - CU Boulder offer letter indicating salary
  - A bank statement for personal funds
  - Funding/sponsorship letter

☐ **CU Boulder Departmental Invitation / Offer Letter / Exchange Visitor Program Summary**

☐ **For J-1 Student Interns Only: DS-7002 Training/Internship Placement Plan**

### Temporary Absence of 30 days or More

If you will be outside the U.S. for 30 days or more:

- Submit the *Temporary Absence/Out of Country Request* available in the “J-1 Scholar Services” section of the [MyISSS portal](#).
- Be sure to complete all sections of the multi-part e-form.

## Travel To Third Country Destinations

If you are traveling through or to a third country (not your home country or the U.S.):

- You may need a **transit visa** or **tourist visa**.
- Check with the embassy or consulate of the country you will visit to determine requirements.

## Renewing Your J-1 Exchange Visitor Visa

Review the ISSS [Visa Renewal Information for Students and Scholars](#) handout.

## J-2 Dependent Travel

J-2 dependents:

- May travel with or without the J-1 scholar.
- May stay in the U.S. without the J-1 present *if* the J-1 maintains valid status.
- May re-enter the U.S. using the same SEVIS ID number.

J-2 dependents must carry:

- A printed, signed DS-2019 with valid travel signature
- A valid passport
- A valid J-2 visa (*or qualify for [automatic visa revalidation](#)*)
- Possibly, supporting documents showing the J-1's current status (e.g., copies of J-1's documents as noted above).

## Secondary Inspection

If the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officer at the Port of Entry (POE) is unable to quickly verify a person's eligibility for admission to the United States, they may refer the traveler to [secondary inspection](#). This is a routine process and not necessarily a cause for concern.

Common reasons for secondary inspection:

- Missing or incomplete travel documents
- Possible grounds for inadmissibility, such as:
  - Previous violations of U.S. immigration status
  - Concern that your intended activities in the U.S. do not align with the intent of your immigration status
  - Suspected fraud or misrepresentation
  - Evidence of previous or ongoing unauthorized employment in the U.S.

Secondary inspection may indicate that the CBP officer may need more time to conduct a detailed review or interview to determine your eligibility for entry. Secondary Inspection can take a few minutes to an hour or more.

## Tips to Avoid Issues When Entering the United States

- Ensure that you have all required travel documents and that they are valid at the time of entry.
- Answer all questions from the CBP officer truthfully. Refusing to answer or providing false information can delay your entry or result in denial of admission to the U.S.
- Try to arrive at the U.S. POE during business hours.
- Be mindful of time between connecting flights.

## After Returning to the U.S., Review and Print Your I-94 Arrival Record

After each entry to the U.S., review your I-94 arrival record:

International Student & Scholar Services | Center for Community, S355 | Boulder, Colorado 80309-0123

Phone 303.492.8057 | Fax 303.492.5185 | [ISSS@colorado.edu](mailto:ISSS@colorado.edu)

1. Go to the [CBP I-94 website](#)
2. Enter your information as it appears on your visa or passport.
3. Verify the I-94 details are correct.

*If you cannot access your I-94, try different name configurations or contact ISSS.*

### Review your I-94 and make sure your arrival was recorded correctly.

If there is an error, request a correction from CBP: [Printing a Copy of Your I-94 & Obtaining an I-94 Correction](#)



#### Most Recent I-94

Admission (I-94) Record Number : 86753099999

Most Recent Date of Entry: 2014 December 10

Class of Admission : J1

Admit Until Date : D/S

Details provided on the I-94 Information form:

Last/Surname : SIMPSON  
 First (Given) Name : LISA  
 Birth Date : 1979 AUG 11  
 Passport Number : J9876543  
 Country of Issuance : Australia

**Class of Admission**  
 (DS-2019: J-1 (Dependents: J-2))

**Admit Until Date for F & J Status**  
 D/S  
 (Duration of Status)

Keep all I-94 printouts for your personal immigration records.

- You do not need to send your I-94 to ISSS after every trip.

## Frequently Asked Travel Questions

*Q: Do I need to print my DS-2019 or can I use the electronic copy?*

- You must carry a printed DS-2019 with your original signature. Electronic copies are not accepted at U.S. ports of entry.

*Q: I am outside the U.S. and I forgot my DS-2019 or the travel signature is no longer valid! What do I do?*

- You may be admitted under [Form I-515A](#), which gives you 30 days to provide missing documents. Contact ISSS immediately if you receive one.

*Q: Can I re-enter the U.S. after I have completed my Exchange Visitor program using my J-1 visa?*

- No, you cannot re-enter the U.S. in J-1 or J-2 status during the 30-day grace period following your J-1 program end date.