



Travel Handout: Scholar

Travel Documents

J-1 scholars with valid status should be prepared to present the following documents to Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials when seeking to re-enter the U.S. after a temporary absence:

DS-2019 with Valid Travel Signature:

A travel signature is generally valid for re-entry to the U.S. within 1 year of the signature date or until the end date on the DS-2019, whichever occurs first. For example, if you are a short-term scholar with a 5 month program, a travel signature is only valid until the end date of your DS-2019.

Valid Passport: Must be valid 6 months beyond your date of re-entry to the U.S. ([exceptions](#))

Passports may be renewed at your country's embassy/consulate within the U.S.

Valid U.S. Visa: Student visa must be valid at time of re-entry (Citizens of Canada do not require a visa.)

Exception: [Automatic Visa Revalidation](#) [8 CFR 214.1(b)(3)]: F and J non-immigrants can usually revalidate an expired visa automatically when returning to the U.S after a visit of less than 30 days to Canada, Mexico, or [adjacent islands](#) except Cuba. If you intend to use automatic visa revalidation, travel with your [printed I-94](#).

Current Financial Support Documents:

Must be able to show funds for expenses as noted on your DS-2019 (e.g., bank statement, CU Boulder offer letter indicating salary, funding/sponsorship letter, affidavit of support and bank statement)

CU Boulder Departmental Invitation / Offer Letter / J-1 Program Summary:

I-901 SEVIS Fee Receipt: To [print a payment confirmation](#), click on "Check Status" on the [I-901 Fee webpage](#).

Temporary Absence of More Than 30 Days During J Program

If during your J program you will be outside the U.S. for more than 30 days, you must submit the following to ISSS prior to your departure:

- [J-1 Scholar Temporary Absence Form](#)

You must attest to the fact that health, medical, repatriation, and evacuation insurance for you (and your dependents) will be valid for the duration of your J-1 program, even while you are outside of the U.S.

- **If you are not currently on CU payroll or will not remain on CU payroll during the absence:** A letter from your host faculty that includes: a justification for keeping the J-1 program active while you are outside the U.S; an explanation of the benefit conferred to CU while you are absent; a statement that the collaboration with CU Boulder will continue and that the J-1 program goals and the objectives will still be pursued while you are outside the U.S.

Travel To Third Country Destinations

Depending on the country you are traveling to and/or through, you may require a transit visa (to travel through an intermediary country on your way to your final destination) or a tourist visa to enter your final destination. Please consult the appropriate embassy or foreign consular office to determine if an additional visa is necessary.

Renewing Your Exchange Visitor Visa

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

J-2 Dependent Travel

Dependents who are maintaining valid status may travel with or without the J-1 primary and may remain in the U.S. without the J-1 primary as long as the primary maintains status and will return after a temporary absence of less than five months using the same SEVIS ID number. When seeking re-entry to the U.S., dependents must present: their DS-2019 with a valid travel signature, valid passport, *valid visa, and may be asked to provide proof of J-1's status (e.g., copies of primary's documents as noted above).

*Exceptions: Canadians; individuals who qualify for automatic visa revalidation



Reviewing and Printing Your I-94 Arrival Record

Review your [I-94 arrival record](#) every time you re-enter the U.S. to confirm that your entry was recorded properly as Customs and Border Protection sometimes makes mistakes that require correction.

Access the [Customs and Border Protection \(CBP\) I-94 website](#)

- Enter information as it appears on the visa you utilized to enter the U.S. or passport (Canadian citizens)
 - When entering your first (given) name, do not include middle names, nicknames, or titles.
- If you are unable to access your I-94 using your visa information:
 - Try entering your name as it appears on your passport biographic page
 - Try entering your name as it appears in the passport Machine Readable Zone
 - Try entering your name as it appears on your airline ticket/ itinerary
 - Try entering your date of birth a day before and after your actual birth date
 - Try entering your date of birth a year before and after your actual birth year

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

U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Securing America's Borders

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

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

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

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

If you are unable to retrieve your I-94 or the information on your I-94 is incorrect or incomplete:

Obtain an [I-94 correction](#) with Customs and Border Protection (see p. 2)

Keep your I-94 printouts to document your maintenance of status. You do not have to turn I-94s in when exiting the U.S. Exception: To prove eligibility for automatic visa revalidation, travel with your I-94.

Additional Travel Resources: [Visa Renewal](#)

[I-94 Correction Handout](#) (see p.2)

Frequently Asked Travel Questions

Q: Do I need my original DS-2019 or can I use a copy?

- You must present your most recent, DS-2019 for your J program at the port of entry in order to re-enter the U.S.

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?

- 1) Contact ISSS to request a new DS-2019 signed for travel be mailed to you abroad; 2) Submit the [Mailing or Third-Party Pick-up Authorization Form](#); 3) Set-up an eShip Global account for the mailing.
- If you do not obtain the document, you may be provisionally admitted to the U.S. for 30 days with a [Form I-515A](#). You will have 30 days to mail in the I-515A with the requested documents. If you receive an I-515A, please consult ISSS immediately.

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

- J-1 scholars cannot re-enter the U.S. during their grace period using their J-1 visa.