CU International Student & Scholar Services
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

Obtaining a Visa for Re-Entry to the U.S.

A general overview of the visa application process is noted below. The process can vary so be sure to also consult the following:

- Embassy/Consulate where you will apply for the visa
- U.S. Department of State Website (F Visa / J Visa / H & O Visa)

General Overview: Visa Application Process

☐ **Complete the DS-160 Online Nonimmigrant Visa Application.**
- Print the confirmation page for you, and/or if applicable, your family.

☐ **Schedule a visa interview at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate for you, and if applicable, your dependent(s).**

- Check the visa appointment waiting time prior to making travel plans

☐ **Pay the non-refundable visa application fee for you, and if applicable, your dependent(s).**

- Depending on the **U.S. Embassy/Consulate** at which you will apply for the visa, you may have to pay this fee prior to the visa interview or after it.

☐ **Gather the required documentation for the visa appointment for you, and if applicable, your dependent(s)** (F Visa / J Visa / H & O Visa)**.**

- If your dependents are applying for a visa, they should bring their original documents and copies of your documents.

F & J Students	J Scholars	H Scholars
1. Form DS-160 confirmation printout	1. Form DS-160 confirmation printout	1. Form DS-160 confirmation printout
2. Visa application fee payment/receipt	2. Visa application fee payment/ receipt	2. Visa application fee payment/receipt
3. Passport (valid 6 months into future)	3. Passport (valid 6 months into future)	3. Passport (valid 6 months into future)
4. Current I-20 or DS-2019	4. Current DS-2019	4. Original H approval notice
5. SEVIS I-901 fee receipt	5. SEVIS I-901 fee receipt	5. Copy of the H petition (I-129) and Labor Condition Agreement (LCA) given to you with H approval notice
6. Current financial support documents	6. Current financial support documents	6. Employment Verification Letter from CU Boulder Human Resources
7. *Recommended*: Unofficial transcript printed from MyCUInfo	7. CU Boulder Program Summary / Invitation Letter	7. *Recommended*: Your CV and a letter from your department explaining nature of your work and research at CU Boulder.
8. *Recommended*: Enrollment Verification	8. *J-1 Intern*: Form DS-7002	8. *If Applicable*: Original 212(e) Waiver Approval (I-612)
9. *Recommended for Graduate Students in STEM fields*: Your CV and a letter from your professor explaining the nature of your studies and research. Also, your research advisor's CV.	9. *Recommended*: Your CV and a letter from your department explaining nature of your research and collaboration with CU Boulder.	
	10. *If Applicable*: Original 212(e) Waiver Approval (I-612)	

☐ **Prepare for the visa interview**
For F-1 and J-1 Students and Scholars:

- Be prepared to discuss and document your 1) purpose for traveling to the U.S.; 2) intent to depart the U.S. after your program; and 3) ability to pay all expenses associated with your travel and program.

- Review NAFSA's [10 Points to Remember When Applying for a Nonimmigrant Visa](#)

☐ **If your visa is approved, and it is applicable, pay the [visa issuance reciprocity fee](#) for your country and visa type.**

General Overview: Security Checks

All visa applicants will undergo security checks before they are issued a visa from the U.S. Department of State. There are two main types of security checks:

1. **Name Check**
   U.S. Department of State will run your name through several databases, including the National Criminal Information Center (NCIC) database. If your name comes up, your application will be delayed while they verify that you are not the same person as the one in the database. If you have a fairly common name, like John Smith, there is an increased likelihood of a match to your name. Just because your name matches that of others in the database, it does not make you a criminal; it just means that someone with the same or a similar name may be.

2. **Technology Alert List (TAL) and Security Advisory Opinion (SAO)**
   The U.S. government is concerned with technology transfer and security issues and it maintains a Technology Alert List that shows the fields of research and study that could cause a concern. If the consular officer reviewing your visa request finds your field of study or research on that list, they will request a Security Advisory Opinion (SAO) from the Department of State. Your new visa cannot be issued until your SAO has been cleared. Once an SAO has been put into effect, there is no way to speed up the visa application.

Administrative Processing / Visa Processing Delays

Some visa applicants encounter administrative processing delays. Administrative processing is typically resolved in 60 days but can exceed this depending on the situation. It is advisable to keep this in mind when planning a trip to renew a visa and to make preparations in the event that you encounter a visa processing delay. Before making inquiries about status of administrative processing, applicants must wait at least 60 days from the date of interview or submission of supplemental documents, whichever is later.

- Additional information about [Administrative Processing](#) is on the Department of State website.

Please Note: ISSS is not able to help expedite visa application processing. If your visa application is delayed due to a security check or for some other administrative reason, ISSS is unable to intervene.