Office of International Education
International Student, Scholar, and Immigration Services (ISSIS)
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Traveling in J1 Status

When traveling temporarily outside the U.S. during your program at the University of Georgia, you will need to have the necessary documents to both permit entry to another country as well as permit re-entry to the U.S. in J1 status. For travel to a country other than the home country, you should check with the consulate of the country you wish to visit for specific entry requirements.

You need the following documentation for re-entry to the United States:

- Valid passport with a least 6 months validity

- Valid "unexpired" J1 visa in your passport – check the number of entries allowed on your visa.

- SEVIS DS-2019 "unexpired" Recertified – Recertification signature (signature for travel) signifies to the immigration officer that you are maintaining your status. Signature must come from a Responsible Officer (RO) or Alternate Responsible Officer (ARO) in the Office of International Education.

- Letter from Department and Financial Documentation – An immigration officer at the port-of-entry may wish to verify your ability to fund your stay and you may wish to have a letter from your department stating that you are returning to the U.S. to continue your research objective.

Obtaining a New J1 Entry Visa

If your entry visa is no longer valid, you will need to apply for a new one. It is always best to do this in your home country. There are a number of factors that may contribute to delays in you obtaining your visa such as appointment at embassy and security checks. Be sure to allow yourself sufficient time – plan ahead!

J-2 Dependents Traveling Alone

Dependents in J-2 status must travel with their own DS-2019 forms. Dependents must carry documentation showing sufficient funds to cover expenses (as shown on the DS-2019). Dependents wishing to return to the U.S. in J-2 immigration status may not be permitted to return unless the J-1's DS-2019 is valid at the time of the dependent's return. Otherwise, documentary requirements are the same as those for holders of J-1 visas.

Travel to Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean

If you are traveling to Canada, Mexico or the Caribbean (except Cuba and Bermuda) for fewer than thirty days, you may return to the U.S. with an expired J-1 entry visa in your passport. To qualify for this privilege, you must:

1. Be in lawful J-1 status.
2. Have an unexpired I-94 card indicating your J-1 status in your passport when you enter the U.S. Do not surrender the I-94 card when you leave the U.S. If you do, you will not be eligible for visa revalidation.
3. Have a current, recertified DS-2019 in your possession.
4. Have a passport valid at least six months into the future on the day you return to the U.S.
5. Travel only to one of the destinations named above and for fewer than thirty days. For example, you cannot use automatic revalidation to enter Canada, depart to another country, return to Canada, and then return to the U.S. within 30 days.
6. Not apply for a U.S. visa while in Canada, Mexico, or the Caribbean. If you apply for a U.S. entry visa during your visit to one of these destinations, you must wait for it to be issued before you return. If your visa application is denied by the American consulate, you are not allowed to use automatic revalidation to return to the U.S. You will be required to travel to your country of citizenship to apply for a new visa.
7. Have a J-1 visa (expired or valid) in your passport or an approval notice for change of status to J-1 and the invalid visa of your previous non-immigrant status in your passport.
8. Be a citizen of a country other than Syria, Iran, Iraq, Sudan, North Korea, Cuba, or Libya. Nationals of these countries are not eligible for visa revalidation. If you are a national of one of the above countries, you must always have a valid visa in your passport to enter the United States.