

Travelling abroad on a F-1 status

Dates of travel

Physical attendance at classes for your residential/hybrid courses is mandatory. If your travel plans will result in missing a class, please ensure you discuss this with your academic instructors in advance. If you are travelling during a vacation term, breaks between quarters or at a time you have no classes scheduled then you may not miss classes.

Missing classes may result in your being withdrawn or dropped from the course and/or the termination of your SEVIS record. If you are travelling at a time when classes are currently on-going be prepared to answer any questions which CBP may raise regarding why you are travelling when the quarter has commenced.

Please note that your SEVIS account may automatically terminate if you are absent for a period of over 5 months.

Documentation to carry with you

When returning to the U.S it is important to carry the following documentation:

- A Form I-20, endorsed for travel and signed by your DSO less than 12 months prior to travel (if you are on OPT, please note this period is 6 months);
- Evidence that you have been out of the United States for less than five months;
- A current passport valid for at least six months after the date of your reentry;
- A valid, current visa;

- Additional optional documents: Financial information showing proof of necessary funds to cover tuition and living expenses, evidence of current student status (tuition receipts and transcripts), name and contact information of DSO

For students going through the F-1 visa interview process:

Please note that there are always inherent risks regarding travelling. If your visa is expired, you will need to renew your visa before returning to the US. A visa is never 100% guaranteed.

If you will be renewing your F-1 visa, we encourage you to schedule your interview well in advance to better understand the timeline. You may use the following link for additional information.

[Visa Appointment Wait Times](#)

We also recommend reviewing NAFSA's 10 points for the F-1 visa interview to help you prepare for the interview.

[NAFSA 10 Points to Remember for the Student Visa Interview](#)

Destination of travel

If you are not travelling to your home country, you should check the visa entry requirements of the country you are planning to visit. You may require a visa to enter. You may also need a transit visa for countries where you are making a connecting flight.

- The Department of State's online publication Foreign Consular Offices in the United States contains a list of foreign consular offices, their addresses, and telephone numbers.
<https://www.usembassy.gov/>
- <http://www.embassy.org/> provides links to the websites of many foreign embassies in the United States.
- <https://travel.state.gov> provides detailed information about visa applications, links to the form DS-160 Visa Application, offers clarity about visa types and requirements.
- For travel to Canada and Mexico special conditions apply.

Pending USCIS application or Petition

Please note it is not advisable to travel if you have a pending application or petition with USCIS. Please inform DSO if you have a pending application or petition with USCIS and we will advise you further.

Form I-515A

If a U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Officer issues you a Form I-515A you must notify DSO immediately. The Form I-515A permits you temporary admission into the United States for 30 days. To maintain your F-1 status, you must work with your DSO to review the reason Form I-515A was issued and take immediate corrective action.