



Cornell University International Students and Scholars Office

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Documents Needed for F-1 / J-1 Travel

We want to ensure that in leaving and re-entering the U.S. you have all the documents for re-entry. Please contact the ISSO with any questions prior to leaving the country.

General Information About Travel:

F-1 and J-1 students and visiting scholars who leave the United States: you must have the following documents with you to be eligible to re-enter the U.S. in F or J status:

- Valid passport
- Valid (unexpired) U.S. visa stamp in your passport (except for Canadian Citizens). If you need a new visa stamp, plan to speak to someone at the ISSO prior to traveling.
- Valid I-20 form for F-1 status, signed for travel on page 3 by an ISSO advisor within the last year (six months for Canadian students and students on Post-Completion Optional Practical Training-see note below).
- Valid DS-2019 form for J-1 status with current travel signature on the lower right hand side
- Evidence of financial funding (bring a copy of whatever funding is mentioned on your I-20: TA/RA funding letter or bank statements for personal funds)
- proof of enrollment (certificate of enrollment or transcript). You can obtain a certificate of enrollment from the registrar's office or, if you have an SSN, you can download the certificate from the registrar's web site: <http://certification.cornell.edu/>
- **Note:** If you are on F-1 post-completion practical training (OPT), please read the section below)

Traveling While on F-1 Post-Completion OPT

The following are the documents you will need to ensure entry to the U.S. while on post-completion OPT:

- valid passport
- current unexpired F-1 visa stamp (except for Canadians)
- I-20 signed within the last 6 months
- EAD (OPT card) OR the receipt notice for your OPT application
- job offer letter or letter confirming current employment

Dependent Travel (F2 and J2)

F-2 or J-2 spouses and minor children who are not accompanied by the F-1 or J-1 student and visiting scholars must have:

- Valid passport
- Valid U.S. visa stamp (except for Canadian Citizens)
- Valid separate Form I-20 or DS-2019
- Evidence of financial funding
- If the dependents have never been given an I-20 or DS-2019, then you need to see an adviser at the ISSO.