

Travel Outside of the U.S.

You are allowed to travel outside of the United States for a temporary absence of less than 5 months (i.e. annual summer vacation) as long as you have been maintaining your F-1 status. Before you depart the U.S., the DSO must sign your I-20 for travel. Failure to obtain a travel signature on your I-20 will not guarantee your reentry to the U.S. or may cause significant delays in secondary inspection at the port of entry (POE). You must also be registered full-time for the upcoming semester before your I-20 will be signed for travel. Do not make plans to travel outside of the U.S. during the fall and spring semesters unless there is an official school break. Any emergency travel must be approved by the DSO before you leave.

To avoid issues with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), be sure to hand-carry these items at the POE upon your return to the U.S.:

Required:

- **Passport**
 - Valid at least 6 months into the future on the date you return
- **F-1 visa**
 - Valid on the date that you return
- **Most recent I-20 signed for travel**
 - You must have a recent travel signature from the DSO

Strongly Recommended:

- **Proof of financial support**
 - Must be a recent financial statement showing the financial costs noted on your I-20
- **I-901 SEVIS fee payment receipt**
 - www.fmjfee.com
- **Proof of enrollment for the upcoming semester**
- **Transcript of previous coursework**
- **All previous I-20s**

Automatic Visa Revalidation

You may travel to Canada, Mexico and the adjacent islands in the Caribbean (except Cuba) for less than 30 days on an expired F-1 visa. In addition to the documents listed above, carry a copy of your most recent I-94 with you (<https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/i94>). You must also meet the conditions of 22 CFR 41.112(d) and 8 CFR 214.1(b)(1). Meet with the DSO to confirm that you are eligible for this option.

If any of your information cannot be verified, then you may be placed in secondary inspection until CBP can research the necessary information. In addition, you may be issued an I-515A, "Notice to Student or Exchange Visitor" in which you have 30 days to submit the missing information to SEVP.