

## How to prepare for travel outside of the U.S.

Before you leave the U.S. to travel abroad, the RO must sign your DS-2019. Failure to get a travel signature on your DS-2019 will not guarantee you re-entrance into the U.S. or may cause significant delays in secondary inspection at the airport. If the RO needs to FedEx a signed DS-2019 to you after you leave the country, expect to pay \$50-\$150 in shipping costs. Exchange students must also be registered full-time for the upcoming semester before your DS-2019 will be signed for travel.

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

Required:

- Valid passport (valid 6 months into the future)
- Valid J-1 visa
- DS-2019 signed for travel
- Proof of financial support for tuition expenses and living costs

Recommended:

- Proof of enrollment for the upcoming semester (enrollment verification)
- Proof of I-901 SEVIS fee
- Transcript of previous coursework
- RO name and contact information

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.