

F-1 Travel Checklist

For F-1 international students planning to travel outside the U.S.

When leaving the United States (U.S.) to travel, all F-1 students should check their travel documents prior to departure.

How to determine if your documents are in order for re-entry into the U.S.:

- Valid Passport:** Passport should be valid for at least six months in the future.
- Current I-20 endorsed for travel:** Only a DSO is authorized by the Department of Homeland Security to sign the I-20. Travel signatures are good for one year, or until the end of the program, whichever date is earlier. If the last signature is older than one year, a student should request a new travel endorsement.
- Transcripts & schedule:** Copy of your transcript and current/upcoming course schedule.
- Evidence of financial support:** Current financial documents issued within the last 6 months that certify available funds of \$19,650 USD.
- Visa if you are traveling somewhere other than your home country:** You should check with the embassy of the country you intend to visit to see if you need a visitor's visa to enter.

Students on OPT traveling after completion of studies should consult with the Center for International Education and Programs before making travel plans. For re-entry into the U.S., you will also need the following:

- Employment Authorization Document (EAD) card**
- Letter from Employer:** Letter from employer confirming that you are employed or have been offered employment. If you leave the U.S. prior to receiving a job offer, your OPT authorization ends.

If you require a new entry visa while on OPT, be aware that there is no guarantee that you are eligible for one. You are required to establish non-immigrant intent every time you apply for a non-immigrant visa. This may be harder to establish when you are working rather than studying. If you have an expired F-1 entry visa, speak with an advisor in the Center for International Education and Programs before planning a trip abroad.

Please Note:

If a student has applied for optional practical training based on completion of studies, they must wait until they have received the EAD card before departing the U.S.

This information is subject to change without notice. For individual questions, please contact the Center for International Education and Programs for an appointment.