

Please keep this page for reference; do not submit to ISSO!

Visa

(Source: <https://www.ice.gov/sevis/travel#countries>)

What if my visa is expired?

F-1 students are admitted to the U.S.A for "D/S" (Duration of Stay). This means that you can remain for the duration of your academic program regardless of whether or not your Visa Stamp is expired and **IF** you have been maintaining your status. HOWEVER, if you are returning home or traveling to a country where [automatic revalidation](#) does not apply, you must have a valid visa to return to the United States.

Ensure that you have all the documentation you need for your visa application and allow sufficient time for processing a new visa. The documentation you may need for a new visa includes, but is not limited to the following:

- A Form I-20, endorsed for travel and signed by your DSO (see your DSO before you travel)
- Original evidence showing proof of necessary funds to cover tuition and living expenses
- Evidence showing your intention to return to your home country upon program completion, including evidence of compelling social and economic ties to your home country
- If you have applied for or had optional practical training (OPT) approved, bring a copy of your Form I-20 endorsed for OPT and your Employment Authorization Document (EAD), if you have one

The Department of State recommends that you apply for a visa in your home country. For more information about visa applications visit the Department of State (DoS) website at <http://travel.state.gov/>.

You can apply in a third country for a visa, but you will not be able to return to the United States until DoS issues your visa. In some cases, this could take several weeks if DoS requires a background check. If DoS denies your visa, you will not be able to return to the United States. Be sure to check the DoS website for specific information pertaining to each embassy or consulate.

If you have an expired visa **and** a terminated record, we strongly advise that you do not travel outside the United States until your SEVIS record shows that you are in Active Status. If you do travel, you may not be able to renew your visa or return to the United States.

Can I travel to Canada, Mexico, or one of the islands adjacent to the U.S.? Can I return if my visa is expired?

Yes, in most cases. You can usually revalidate an expired visa automatically when returning from a visit of less than thirty (30) days to Canada, Mexico, or one of the islands adjacent to the United States provided that you have a valid Form I-20 and a valid unexpired Form I-94. This process is known as automatic visa revalidation.

The **adjacent islands** are:

- Saint Pierre
- Miquelon
- The Dominican Republic
- Haiti
- Bermuda
- The Bahamas
- Barbados
- Jamaica
- The Windward and Leeward Islands
- Trinidad
- Martinique
- Other British, French, and Netherlands territory or possessions in or bordering on the Caribbean Sea

Can I travel to Cuba?

Yes, provided that you have a valid visa to return and are otherwise admissible. Please note that Cuba may require you to apply for a visa in order to enter that country.

Do I need a valid visa to visit Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, or Northern Marina Islands? No, unless your travel plans include entry to any other country on the way to these U.S. territories. You will need a valid Form I-20 and a valid unexpired Form I-94. Be sure that you do not have a terminated SEVIS record indicating that you are out of status.