

Important End of Semester Information & Travel Advisory

Extensions:

Please check the end date on your I-20/DS-2019. If applicable, make sure to apply for a timely extension prior to the expiration date of your current immigration document.

Optional Practical Training (OPT)/Academic Training (AT):

F-1 Students are advised to apply for post-completion OPT up to 90 days prior to the completion of their academic program. F-1 students who wish to apply for pre-completion OPT during summer should do so 90 days prior to their desired start date. The processing time for OPT applications can be up to three months from the time the application is received by the U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS).

J-1 students should seek authorization for AT through their respective program sponsors who issued their immigration document (e.g. Brown University, IIE, LASPAU, AMIDEAST).

Please note that OISSS tends to be particularly busy toward the end of the semester and you might encounter longer waiting times and limited advising availability during this time.

Travel within the United States

OISSS strongly recommends that students and scholars carry a valid passport, I-94, a properly endorsed I-20 or DS-2019 and proof of current registration or program. Non-registered students or visitors should obtain verification of their current good standing with their department.

Travel to Canada:

Before you go; Please check if you are required to obtain a visitor's visa to Canada.

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/index.asp>

Travel to other countries:

Other countries may require a visa and/or immunizations to enter their country. Before your departure, contact the nearest consulate or embassy of the country(ies) you plan to visit; contact information can be found at <http://www.state.gov/s/cpr/rls/dpl/32122.htm>

Additional travel information provided by the Department of State and the Centers for Disease Control can be found at http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1765.html and http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_1766.html

Documents Needed to Re-enter the U.S.

Valid passport: Your passport must be valid at least six months into the future at all times, especially upon entry or re-entry to the U.S.

Valid U.S. entry visa in passport: The F or J visa stamp in your passport should be valid on the date of your return to the U.S. (It does not, however, need to remain valid during your stay in the U.S.) If you have an old, expired passport with a valid U.S. entry visa, you do not need to get a new visa stamp in your new passport as long as you carry both passports when you enter the U.S.

If you need to renew or apply for a U.S. entry visa, expect delays particularly during the holiday season. Most visa applicants are now required to appear for a personal interview, resulting in possible processing delays. In addition, "security checks" can delay visa issuance for several weeks. Graduate students and scholars should notify their academic departments accordingly prior to their anticipated trip. For further information about the Visa Mantis clearance please see <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2005/42212.htm>

Check the U.S. Department of State's website http://travel.state.gov/visa/visa_1750.html for application procedures at each U.S. consulate or embassy.

Valid immigration documents

F-1/F-2, J-1/J-2 documents: If you plan to renew/apply for a U.S. entry visa, see the important information above. Those who are re-entering the U.S. must make sure their Form I-20 or DS-2019 has been **PROPERLY ENDORSED** (signed within one year of your intended re-entry date) by the school official or agency that issued the document. (Those on F-1 OPT must have the endorsement within past six months). If Brown University issued your immigration document, please bring it to OISSS for endorsement.

Evidence of Financial Support OISSS recommends that F/J non-immigrants carry proof of the financial support and resources reflected on their Form I-20 or DS-2019.

Additional Information for Students OISSS recommends traveling with proof of the current semester's registration. F-1 students on OPT should carry the Employment Authorization Document (EAD) and an employment verification or offer letter from the current or prospective employer.

In the following cases, consult with an OISSS adviser **at least two weeks** before departure if:

- You will need to renew/apply for a new visa. Be mindful of possible processing delays due to applicable security clearances in the sciences.
- You will be out of the U.S. for more than five months.
- You are planning to travel to Mexico or Canada to renew or change the U.S. entry visa.
- Your I-20 or DS-2019 has expired or will expire within 30 days of your expected return to the U.S.
- You are a citizen of Cuba, Iran, Sudan or Syria (Special procedures are required to re-enter the U.S.). For more information please go to <http://www.ice.gov/pi/specialregistration/>
- You have ever applied for U.S. legal permanent resident status (green card).

Helpful links can be found at http://brown.edu/Administration/OISSS/general_info/visas_links.html