



Travel Authorization for F-1 and J-1 Visa Holders

F-1 and J-1 students are allowed to travel during Summer and semester breaks (including spring break, fall break, and holidays). The Office of International Affairs will not approve travel for students during the semester unless it meets the criteria for emergency travel. Please note that there may be country specific travel restrictions in effect worldwide and in some places routine U.S. visa services have been suspended or delayed. Students who are switching programs or transferring to another school do not require travel authorizations and will enter the U.S. with their new I-20. If your visa is expired, delay travel until you have booked an appointment with enough time to renew your visa. Please note that airlines around the world frequently cancel flights. Before returning to campus, please make sure to review CDC travel guidance. **Please note that our staff cannot guarantee your re-entry to the U.S. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have all documents to enter the U.S. or any other country that you visit. Our office cannot provide advising on entry/exit for any country other than the U.S.** It is important that students and scholars understand the risks of international travel. If you do decide to travel and are unable to reenter the U.S., you may:

- be unable to keep your assistantship (Graduate students cannot hold assistantships while outside the U.S.)
- be unable to keep scholarships and/or on-campus employment
- be unable to complete your degree program
- lose a semester of eligibility for OPT and/or CPT
- owe rent even that you may be legally bound to pay
- be required to reapply for admission - Students who skip a major term (Spring or Fall), are required to apply for readmission

Travel Information & Required Documents

Please travel with the items listed below for re-entry to the U.S. in F-1/J-1 status:

- Passport valid for at least 6 months beyond your date of re-entry to the U.S.
- Valid F-1 or J-1 visa
- I-20 or DS-2019 endorsed for travel within the preceding year (However, we ask that you request a new signature each time you travel)
- Recommended:
 - Current financial documentation (bank statements, assistantship appointment letter)
 - UL Lafayette transcript. Students can request an official transcript from the [Registrar's Office](#).
 - Name and contact information of UL Lafayette's Designated School Official (DSO). Your DSOs are Megan Miller, Vinca Rampen-Duhon, and Dr. Rose Honegger. Phone: 337-482-6819. Email: oia@louisiana.edu

We urge you to review travel notices issued by the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#). Additionally, you should review [travel advisories issued by the U.S. Department of State](#). Please also refer to [your embassy's website](#) to verify entry requirements in your country of citizenship or the requirements of any and all countries you will travel to.

Please note that if you travel home and are unable to return to the U.S., you will either have to take a leave of absence by completing our [Withdrawal Form](#). Students who withdraw from the University, may be required to reapply. If you are a graduate assistant, you must contact your supervisor or the graduate school if you are unable to return to campus by the start of your assistantship appointment.

F2 Dependent I-20s - If your dependent(s) will be traveling, please complete the form below for each dependent who is traveling.



REQUEST FOR TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION

LAST NAME: _____ FIRST NAME(S): _____

Please select ALL that apply: Travel to: (list all countries) _____

Renew visa: (list US Embassy) _____ Renew passport _____ F2 Dependent Travel _____

ULID: C _____ SEVIS ID: N00 _____

Departure date: _____ Return date: _____

Country of Citizenship: _____ Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY): _____

DORM/LOCAL ADDRESS (NO P.O. BOX)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Table with 2 columns: Dorm/Local Address and Additional Information. Rows include Dorm Name/Street, Dorm Room #/Apartment #, City/State/Zip Code, and Cellphone Number.

GRADUATE STUDENTS: Do you have an assistantship for? (check all that apply) Summer Fall Spring

Please contact our office at oia@louisiana.edu whenever any of the above information changes.

Students with on-campus employment (assistantships, fellowships, etc.) cannot be paid while outside the U.S.

Students who request to travel during required work dates must contact the Graduate School to discuss the ramifications.

Please note that F-1 and J-1 visas cannot be renewed while physically present in the U.S. However, students are strongly encouraged to pay all visa related fees and schedule visa appointments in advance (while still in the U.S.) due to visa wait times (up to several months). Students with expired F-1 visas are discouraged from traveling except during the Summer or Winter break. Students must be registered full-time for Fall and/or Spring semesters to receive a travel authorization.

Routine visa processing may be suspended or restricted in some countries. It is important to thoroughly review all information on the specific Embassy or Consulate Visa Section website for local procedures and instructions, such as how to make an interview appointment.

Students who are returning home to renew their visas must review the Process to Renew your U.S. Visa in your Home Country. Students who are unable to renew their visa in their home country should carefully review the Process to Renew your Visa in a Country Other than your Home Country (recommended only for countries without U.S. embassies or countries that do not have good diplomatic relations with the U.S.).

My signature below indicates that I:

- 1) have reviewed the OIA's travel guidance AND
2) understand that the OIA cannot guarantee my return to the U.S. AND
3) that I understand and accept the risks if I am unable to reenter the U.S.

Date: _____ Signature _____