

## TRAVEL BY CURRENT STUDENTS ON F-1 VISAS

### DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO REENTER THE U.S. AFTER TRAVEL ABROAD

If you will be departing the U.S. with intent to return, you will need all of the following documents:

- ✓ Valid (un-expired) F-1 visa unless you hold a Canadian passport (A very limited exception exist for travel of less than 30 days to Canada, Mexico, or adjacent islands. See the [Automatic Revalidation of Visas Fact Sheet](#) from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection for more information.);
- ✓ Valid I-20 form with travel signature from your international advisor on the third page signed within the year prior to your expected date of reentry (If you are a former student currently in the U.S. on Optional Practical Training, the travel signature on the third page must be signed within the six months prior to your reentry date.);
- ✓ Current passport valid for at least six months after the program end date indicated on your I-20 form (If you are from one of the countries listed [here](#) you only need a passport that is current through the program end date on your I-20 form. If your passport is not valid for six months beyond your reentry and you are not from one of the countries that is listed [here](#), you will need to renew your passport before reentering the U.S.);
- ✓ Valid financial documents that match the financial information listed on the I-20 form\*; and
- ✓ Enrollment Verification Letter\* (To request Enrollment Verification Letter, log into the Inside UTHSCSA Portal, click “Verify Student Enrollment”, and a letter will automatically generate. If you have technical issues, please contact the Registrar’s Office.)
- ✓ Granted post completion optional practical training (OPT) by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Employment Authorization Document (EAD) card (if applicable)

\*Per U.S. Department of Homeland Security guidance, all students should carry these documents with them, even if not renewing a visa, to ensure a safe and easy return to the U.S.

### DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO APPLY FOR A F-1 VISA AT THE U.S. CONSULATE

If your visa will be expired, you are required to renew your visa while abroad. To apply for a visa, please visit [www.usembassy.gov](http://www.usembassy.gov) and find the appropriate U.S. embassy/consulate’s website. (It is highly recommended that you apply for your F-1 visa in your home country.) On the website, go to the section for “visas” and find the “student visa” or “non-immigrant visa” section. Detailed instructions about the application process and visa renewals for non-immigrant visas, including required documents, will be listed there.

OIS wants to highlight some of the required documents for visa applications:

- ✓ Valid I-20 form with travel signature from your international advisor on the third page signed within the year prior to your expected date of reentry (If you are a former student currently in the U.S. on Optional Practical Training, the travel signature on the third page must be signed within the six months prior to your reentry date.)
- ✓ Valid financial documents that match the financial information listed on I-20 form
- ✓ Valid passport (See above for details on how long the passport must be valid.)
- ✓ Official academic transcripts and Enrollment Verification letter from the Registrar’s Office. (To request Enrollment Verification Letter, log into the Inside UTHSCSA Portal, click “Verify Student Enrollment”, and a letter will automatically generate. To request official academic transcripts, please follow [these instructions](#) from the Registrar’s Office. If you have technical issues, please contact the Registrar’s Office.)

✓ *Doctoral candidates only:*

- Research/study plan outline: [sample form](#) for reference
- Research advisor's biography, CV, or webpage printout

**This is not a comprehensive list of required documents. The requirements vary depending on country. Please visit the appropriate U.S. consulate/embassy website for a comprehensive list of required documents.** Letters from OIS are no longer required per updated U.S. Department of State. Therefore, OIS will no longer issue letters for visa applications or travel and advises all students to follow the instructions provided above and on the U.S. embassy/consulate's website.

**Upon your return to the U.S., please submit or email to the OIS copies of new visa(s) and I-94 Arrival Record(s) printed out from the [CBP website](#) for you and your dependents.**

For any additional questions, please contact OIS at (210) 567-6241 or via e-mail at [international@uthscsa.edu](mailto:international@uthscsa.edu). *Safe Travels!*