

Preparation for International Travel

The following documents are minimally required for an individual in J status (J-1 or J-2) to reenter the United States following international travel:

- Passport, valid for at least six months beyond the program end date on the most recent Form DS-2019.
- Valid J-1 or J-2 visa.
 - Note: A visa is *not* required for Canadian citizens seeking to reenter the United States.
- Original Form DS-2019 with travel signature in the “*Travel Validation by Responsible Officer*” box on lower right side of Form DS-2019. **Only ECFMG personnel can provide the required travel validation signature.**

Visa Renewal through a U.S. Consulate

An expired visa must be renewed through a U.S. Consulate prior to reentry to the United States. J-1 physicians and accompanying J-2 dependents are advised to check their passports prior to departure and plan accordingly. If visa renewal is required, please allow adequate time for Consulate review and processing. The following documents are minimally required for J-1 physicians and J-2 dependents seeking visa renewal:

- Passport, valid for at least six months beyond the program end date on the most recent Form DS-2019.
- Original Form DS-2019 with ECFMG travel signature in the *Travel Validation by Responsible Officer* box on lower right side of Form DS-2019.
 - ECFMG travel-endorsed Forms DS-2019 are valid for multiple trips up to one year after the date of signature or the program end date listed on the form, whichever comes first.
- Application fee (check with the individual U.S. Consulate for the current fee amounts and acceptable payment methods).

Use the following links to access additional information related to U.S. visas and travel:

- **Applying for a U.S. Non-immigrant Visa:** <https://ceac.state.gov/genniv> and <http://www.ustraveldocs.com>
- **Websites of U.S. Embassies and Consulates:** <http://www.usembassy.gov>

Travel to Canada, Mexico, and Adjacent Islands of the United States

Under a provision of the U.S. immigration law termed “automatic revalidation,” J-1 physicians and J-2 dependents who travel to **Canada, Mexico, and adjacent islands of the United States** (except Cuba) for *less than 30 days* are not required to have a valid J visa in their passports to reenter the United States as long as they hold valid U.S. nonimmigrant (J) status.

To qualify for automatic revalidation, an individual in J status must present the following to a U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Officer upon reentry to the United States:

- Passport, valid for at least six months beyond the program end date on the most recent Form DS-2019.
- Original Form DS-2019 with ECFMG travel signature in the “*Travel Validation by Responsible Officer*” box on lower right side of Form DS-2019.
- Copy of Form I-94 reflecting status as “J-1; D/S”; copies of Form I-94 can be accessed at <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov>.

NOTES:

- A visa is not required for Canadian citizens seeking to reenter the United States; Canadian citizens should follow the procedures for automatic revalidation.
- Currently, citizens of Cuba, Iran, Sudan, and Syria are *not eligible* for automatic visa revalidation and require a valid J visa each time they reenter the United States.

See <https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/general/automatic-revalidation.html> for details on automatic revalidation.

When traveling to a country that is not their country of citizenship or permanent residence, J-1 exchange visitors and their J-2 dependents are advised to consult that country’s consulate in the United States prior to departure to determine if an entry visa is required.

Additional information on J-1 / J-2 travel available at: <http://www.ecfm.org/evsp/travel-index.html>