



TRAVEL TO CANADA, MEXICO, AND ADJACENT ISLANDS

If you are an F-1 or J-1 student/scholar, traveling to contiguous territory (Canada or Mexico) or the adjacent islands (see below), you do NOT (in many cases) need to obtain a new visa stamp to re-enter the U.S.

To qualify for this privilege, you must:

1. Presently be in valid F-1 or J-1 student / scholar status.
2. Have a valid I-20 or DS-2019 in your possession, which has been signed for travel.
3. Have an unexpired I-94 card with you (do NOT surrender it when you leave the U.S.)
4. Have an unexpired passport
5. Be in one of the contiguous territories or adjacent islands for less than thirty (30) days.

The adjacent islands are:

the Bahamas
Barbados
Bermuda
the Dominican Republic
Haiti, Jamaica
Martinique
St. Pierre & Miquelon
Trinidad & Tobago
the Leeward Islands (Anguilla, Antigua, Guadeloupe, Montserrat, Nevis, St. Kitts, and the British Virgin Islands)
the Windward Islands (Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent)
and other British, French, or Dutch territories or possessions in, or bordering on, the Caribbean Sea

Note:

1. Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands are U.S. territory and no visa is required.
2. The special exemptions do NOT apply to students who are citizens of the countries named above. In those cases, students must obtain an F-1 or J-1 visa to re-enter the United States, except for Canadians.
3. If you do wish to apply for a U.S. visa while in one of these countries, please discuss this with an ISO advisor, especially if you are from a country for which the U.S. requires additional security clearance. If you are denied a visa, you will not be allowed to return to the U.S. but will have to go to your home country to re-apply.
4. You may need a visa for the country you want to travel to. Please contact their consulate for visa requirements.
5. In addition to the above documents you should travel with a University transcript showing full-time enrollment if you are a student and proof of funding for your studies and a travel letter from ISO or your department verifying your status as at the University.
6. Students from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Sudan, Syria, North Korea, or Cuba must have a valid U.S. visa to re-enter
7. Landed immigrants residing in Canada from one of the Commonwealth countries must have a valid U.S. visa

Canadian Visa

The ISO has Canadian visa application forms and instructions. Student from many countries are required to obtain a Canadian visa prior to gaining entry to Canada. (A list is available on the web. Go to ISO website then follow the links to the Canadian Consulate.) All students may apply by mail, however personal interviews may be required. Visa fees fluctuate. Single entry visas are about \$50.00 U.S. and multiple entry visas are about \$100.00 U.S. Citizens of certain countries are subject to a waiting period (including Iran, Iraq, Sudan, Palestine, Lebanon, Libya and Syria.)

Address: Canadian Consulate General, Immigration Section
Marine Midland Center, Suite 3000
Buffalo, New York 14203-2864
Telephone: (716) 858-9501 FAX: (716) 852-2477

Directions: Take Interstate I-90 (New York State Thruway) West to Buffalo. Take Exit 53 to downtown Buffalo. Take the Elm Street exit. Stay in the middle lane and turn left on to Swan Street, then turn left on to Washington Street. The Canadian Consulate is located in the Marine Midland Center. Underground parking is available.

Border Crossing Procedure

When crossing the border into Canada, you are not required to stop at the U.S. border station. You are, however, required to stop at the Canadian border station. You will be asked a series of questions related to your immigration status and your visit to Canada. You will also be asked to produce immigration documents at this time. Please be prepared to provide proof of your ability to support yourself while in Canada.

Upon reentering the U.S., you will be asked by immigration officials to produce immigration documents (I-20/DS-2019 etc.) verifying your status and showing evidence of financial support while you are a student in the U.S. The documents should be returned to you.