

International Student & Scholar Office (ISSO)

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Automatic Extension of an Expired Non-Immigrant Visa For F and J Status

Graduate students, Air, Visa Waiver Program travelers, and other British, French, and Mediterranean citizens are eligible for automatic extension of their visas.

Can I travel even though my visa is expired?

Yes, you may re-enter the U.S. after a trip abroad. -enter the U.S. after a trip abroad. However, only F-1 or J-1 student/scholar with an expired visa may re-enter the country as though the visa were still valid [regulation is at 22CFR 41.112 (d)]. This is referred to as "automatic revalidation."

Is everyone eligible?

Not everyone is eligible for automatic revalidation. You must:

1. Be a citizen of a country eligible for automatic revalidation.
2. Be a student or scholar in F-1 or J-1 status.

What are the conditions for automatic revalidation?

The F-1/J-1 student/scholar must have a valid passport and must have applied for a U.S. visa and does the following:

Applies for re-admission (that is, return to the U.S. via a land, air, or sea Port of Entry) to the U.S. after an absence of not more than 30 days in a contiguous territory, and

1. Has a valid passport.
2. Has maintained legal F-1/J-1 status and plans to continue doing so;
3. Presents a valid I-94 card which is not past its expiration date of return to the U.S. (an I-94 card is valid for 30 days after the date of return to the U.S.);
4. Has an I-20 or DS-2019 that is not past its expiration date (I-20 or DS-2019).

What if I have been in the U.S. on a different type of visa than F-1 or J-1 and I want to change my status to F-1/J-1?

A person who entered the U.S. in a classification other than F-1 or J-1, but whose status was later changed by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to F-1 or J-1, may also travel to contiguous territories. The regulations that apply to this provision are at 22 CFR 41.112 (d). You must be sure to carry with you the Form I-20 or I-797 (when was sent to you) along with your passport issued by USCIS on Form I-Status approval 1/97 (when was sent to you) along with your passport.

What if I have expired my passport while in the U.S.?

Citizens of countries that keep the old passport upon issuance of a new one are therefore at a disadvantage when traveling to contiguous territories. Citizens of countries that keep the old passport upon issuance of a new one are therefore at a disadvantage when traveling to contiguous territories.

What if I am traveling with my F-2/J-2 dependent whose visa is expired?

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