Travel & Re-entry
F-1 Status

Students who hold F-1 status are permitted to leave and enter the U.S. given they carry the necessary documents with them during their travel.

Please review the information below and understand what documents you need to have in your possession before traveling.

Travel within the United States:

If you are traveling in the United States, make sure you carry the following documents with you.

- Valid passport
- Valid I-94 card
- I-20 (original)

Traveling outside of the United States:

For those who intend on traveling to countries outside of U.S. please carry the following documents with you.

- Valid passport (at least 6 months into the future).
- Valid F-1 visa stamp.
  - Canadian citizens do not require visa but they will need to carry their I-20 and passport.
- Valid I-20 with travel signature (page 3 of your I-20). The travel signature is valid for 12 months. Those on OPT will need a signature every 6 months.

NOTE: Make copies of all your important documents. Keep your original documents with you at all times.

Traveling to third country (not your home country):

If you are traveling outside of the United States to a country other than your home country, call the embassy of that country to learn if you need a visa to enter that country. If so, ask what the requirements, cost and timeframe are to apply for a visa. Keep in mind that it often takes 2-3 weeks to process a visa application.
Travel to Mexico, Canada, or Caribbean:

Auto Revalidation: F-1 students may travel to Canada, Mexico, or the Caribbean with an expired visa. The travel may be for business or pleasure and for a maximum stay of 30 days. You must have your I20 endorsed prior to your travel.

In order to qualify for auto revalidation you must meet the following criteria:

- Maintained F-1 status
- Unexpired I-94 card (DO NOT surrender the I-94 card when you leave the U.S. You will not be eligible if you do)
- Valid I-20
- Valid passport
- Travel to only one of the countries listed above.
- Be a citizen of a country other than Syria, Iran, Sudan, North Korea, Cuba, or Libya. Citizens of these listed countries must have a valid visa to enter the U.S.

NOTE: Auto Revalidation requires you to retain your I-94 card for exit and entry to the U.S. [http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/info/info_1299.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/info/info_1299.html)

What should I do if my Visa is about to expire or has expired?

If your visa has expired, you must apply and renew your visa before making your way back to the U.S. We recommend applying for the visa in your home country. If you are unable to apply in your home country, you may contact the visiting country* and find out if they will review your application. Please be mindful of processing time and possible delays.

You will need the following documents with you:

- Passport
- I-20
- Financial Documents
- Proof of full-time enrollment (letter from academics office)

* If you need to get your F-1 visa renewed or if you need to apply for an F-1 visa, you should contact the US Embassy/Consulate in the country where you are traveling BEFORE you travel to learn how long the process may take.

Students on OPT:

Please review the document titled “Travel while on OPT” if you are currently on OPT and have plans of traveling. We recommend you plan ahead and get updated signatures before you travel.

More questions? Send us an email us at international@kgi.edu.