



Travel Authorization for F-1 and J-1 Visa Holders

The Division of Global Engagement is strongly discouraging F-1 students and J-1 students and scholars from traveling outside of the U.S. during the University's semester breaks to rapidly changing immigration regulations and safety concerns regarding the [COVID-19 pandemic](#). There are several [country specific travel restrictions](#) in effect worldwide and in many places routine U.S. visa services have been suspended or delayed due to COVID-19. Additionally, many airlines around the world are canceling flights to help combat the transmission of COVID-19. Please note that DGE staff cannot **guarantee** your return to the U.S. **Before returning to campus, students are required to follow Student Health Services' International Arrival Guidance [here](#).**

It is important that student and scholars understand the risks of international travel. If you do decide to travel and are unable to reenter the U.S., you can:

- be unable to keep your assistantship (Graduate students cannot hold assistantships while they are outside the U.S.)
- be unable to keep scholarships and/or on-campus employment
- be unable to complete your degree program (not all classes are offered remotely)
- lose a semester of eligibility for OPT and/or CPT
- owe rent even that you may be legally bound to pay
- be required to reapply for admission - Students who skip a major term (Spring or Fall), are required to apply for readmission

Travel Information & Required Documents

Please travel with the items listed below for re-entry to the U.S. in F-1/J-1 status:

- Passport valid for at least 6 months beyond your date of re-entry to the U.S.
- Valid F-1 or J-1 visa
- I-20 or DS-2019 endorsed for travel within the preceding year
- Recommended:
 - Current financial documentation (bank statements, assistantship appointment letter)
 - UL Lafayette transcript. Students can request an official transcript from the [Registrar's Office](#).
 - Name and contact information of UL Lafayette's Designated School Official (DSO). Your DSOs are Megan Miller and Dr. Rose Honegger. Phone: 337-482-6819. Email: uia@louisiana.edu

Restrictions on travel are rapidly evolving. We urge you to review travel notices issued by the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#). Additionally, you should review [travel advisories issued by the U.S. Department of State](#). Please also refer to [your embassy's website](#) to verify entry requirements in your country of citizenship.

Please note that if you travel home and are unable to return to the U.S., you will either have to change your course load to ALL remote (RE) or online (OL) courses or take a leave of absence by completing our [Withdrawal Form](#). Students who withdraw from the University, may be required to reapply.

If you are a graduate assistant, you must contact your supervisor or the graduate school if you are unable to return to campus by the start of your assistantship appointment.

Beginning January 26, 2021 everyone traveling into the U.S. is required to present [documentation](#) of a negative COVID-19 test result before boarding their flight. Additionally, there are now [vaccine requirements](#) for entry into the country. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [FAQ page](#) includes information about testing requirements for travelers who have a layover before entering the U.S.



REQUEST FOR TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION

LAST NAME: FIRST NAME(S):

Please select ALL that apply:

Travel home Travel to other country Renew visa in home country Renew visa in other country

ULID: C SEVIS ID:

GENDER: Male Female Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY):

Departure Date: Return Date: Assistantship: Y N

DORM/LOCAL ADDRESS (NO P.O. BOX)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Table with 2 columns: Dorm/Local Address and Additional Information. Rows include Dorm Name/Street, Dorm Room #/Apartment #, City/State/Zip Code, Major, Classification, and Cellphone Number.

Personal Email (not @louisiana.edu):

Please contact our office at oia@louisiana.edu whenever any of the above information changes

Please note that F-1 and J-1 visas cannot be renewed while physically present in the U.S. However, students are strongly encouraged to pay all visa related fees and schedule visa appointments in advance (while still in the U.S.) due to visa wait times (up to several months). Students with expired F-1 visas are strongly discouraged from traveling during the pandemic.

Due to COVID-19, routine visa processing has been suspended or restricted in almost all countries. Some U.S. Embassies and Consulates have started to resume routine visa services depending on the in-country situation. It is important to thoroughly review all information on the specific Embassy or Consulate Visa Section website for local procedures and instructions, such as how to make an interview appointment.

Students who are returning home to renew their visas must review the Process to Renew your U.S. Visa in your Home Country. Students who are unable to renew their visa in their home country should carefully review the Process to Renew your Visa in a Country Other than your Home Country (recommended only for countries without U.S. embassies or countries that do not have good diplomatic relations with the U.S.).

My signature below indicates that I:

- 1) have reviewed the OIA's travel guidance AND
2) understand that the OIA cannot guarantee my return to the U.S. AND
3) that I understand and accept the risks if I am unable to reenter the U.S.

Date: Signature