TRAVEL WITH AN EXPIRED VISA

DESCRIPTION

Under certain circumstances, an F-1 student may re-enter the U.S. with an expired visa provided that the F-1 student:

Applies for re-admission to the U.S. after a brief visit (not exceeding 30 days) to Canada, Mexico, adjacent islands, or the Caribbean - excluding Cuba. Adjacent islands include Saint Pierre and Miquelon, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Bermuda, the Bahamas, Jamaica, the Windward and Leeward Islands, Trinidad and Tobago, Martinique, and other British, French, and Netherlands territories or possessions in, or bordering, the Caribbean Sea.

Has maintained and intends to resume status as an F-1 student.

Presents (or is the accompanying spouse or child of an alien who presents) a valid Form I-94 and the current Form I-20 with an endorsement for travel on page 3.

Possessed a valid passport for at least six months (unless exempt from passport requirements).

Applies for re-entry to the U.S. by the program completion date listed on the Form I-20.

This process is technically referred to as “automatic revalidation of visa.” This means that the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will treat your expired visa as if it were extended to the date of your reentry. Automatic revalidation of your visa does not extend your visa for future use. Travel to all other countries will still require a new visa. Please see the handout entitled, “HOW TO APPLY FOR A VISA.”

STUDENTS WHO OBTAINED F-1 STATUS THROUGH A CHANGE OF STATUS IN THE U.S.

A person who entered the U.S. in a classification other than F-1 student and later changed his or her status to F-1 student; whose visa has been canceled or who does not have an F-1 visa stamped in his/her passport is not eligible to enter the U.S. with the process listed above. In this situation, the F-1 student is required to apply for an F-1 visa.

STUDENTS WITH NEW PASSPORTS NOT CONTAINING THE VISA

Individuals carrying passports issued from within the U.S. to replace an expired passport that contains their original nonimmigrant visa must have the expired passport in their possession. If your passport containing the original nonimmigrant visa has been lost or stolen, you must have a police report stating this fact and/or a copy of the original visa. If your passport was damaged you must be prepared to provide a copy of the original nonimmigrant visa.
STEPS TO FOLLOW

⇒ Check to see if you meet the above requirements.
⇒ Request a travel endorsement on your Form I-20
⇒ Be sure to return to the U.S. by the travel date on the back side (page 4) of your Form I-20.
⇒ Be sure your passport is valid for at least six (6) months at all times. If your current passport does not contain the visa you used to enter the U.S., take the old passport that does contain the visa.
⇒ Keep the I-94 card stapled in your passport and in your possession at all times.

Special Notes: Students are required to surrender their I-94 card at the time of departure. Retain the Form I-94 if you plan to use the “automatic revalidation” procedure listed above.

Please keep copies of all immigration and passport documents, including visa page, passport information page, Form I-94 and Forms I-20, in case your original documents are lost, damaged or stolen.

PLEASE RETAIN THIS FORM FOR YOUR RECORDS.