



## F-1 TRAVEL AND RE-ENTRY OVERVIEW

1. **Do I need I-20 Authorization Signature to Travel?**  
Yes, you must bring your current I-20 Form to the Office of the Registrar for a new authorization signature if you plan to leave the U.S. during the winter semester break or over the summer. You must bring it into the office at least five working days before you plan to leave. If you lose your I-20, please notify the office immediately that you will need a duplicate.
2. **What documents should I hand carry with me whenever I travel?**
  - a. Your passport;
  - b. Your SEVIS I-20 Form with travel signature endorsement on page 2;
  - c. Your I-901 fee receipt;
  - d. Have record of previous I-94s Arrival/Departure records; retrieve copies of your I-94 on the [U.S. Customs and Border Protection](#) web site;
  - e. Evidence of financial resources;
  - f. Evidence of student or exchange visitor status, such as tuition receipts, transcripts or letter of acceptance;
  - g. Paper receipt for the SEVIS fee; and
  - h. The name and contact information of your Designated School Official.
3. **What are the basic requirements to reenter the United States after traveling abroad?**
  - a. A current SEVIS I-20 Form endorsed for travel by your DSO;
  - b. You have been out of the U.S. for less than five months;
  - c. A current passport valid for at least six months after the date of your reentry;
  - d. A valid, current visa; and
  - e. Financial information showing proof of necessary funds to cover tuition and living expenses.
4. **What do I do if I have an expired passport or one that will expire in less than six months?**
  - a. *You must renew your passport before reentering the U.S.* In most cases, to enter the U.S., you must have a passport that is valid for at least six months after the date you enter or reenter.
  - b. *Some countries* (Indonesia is not one of them) have an agreement with the U.S. that allows you to enter on a current passport up to the actual date of expiration.
  - c. *It is important that you keep your passport current at all times.* You will not be able to reenter the U.S. without a valid passport.
5. **What if my F-1 student visa expired?**
  - a. You can stay in the U.S. on an expired F-1 Visa as long as you maintain your student status. However, if you are returning home or traveling, you must have a valid visa to return to the U.S.
  - b. Make an appointment with the DSO to obtain documentation of your intention to return to the U.S.
  - c. Apply for a visa in your home country.
6. **What if I've applied for Post-Completion Optional Practical Training?**
  - a. Travel with valid documents: Employment Document (EAD card), employment offer letter, I-20 Form with current travel signature, passport (at least six months into future), and F-1 visa.
  - b. Travel signature for OPT is valid for only six months.
  - c. Travel outside the U.S. prior to receiving your EAD card and/or employment offer letter is strongly not recommended. You may not be permitted to re-enter the U.S.

Refer to the [International Place of The Claremont Colleges](#) web site for more helpful information about travel, Visa and Passport renewal, etc. Also, there is a wealth of travel information on the [Department of Homeland Security web page](#).