Information on

AUTOMATIC REVALIDATION

Travel to Canada, Mexico, and Islands in the Caribbean
(Except Cuba) With an Expired Visa

Under certain circumstances, F-1/J-1 students and scholars may reenter the U.S. with an expired visa provided that the F-1/J-1 student/scholar:

- Applies for readmission to the U.S. after an absence not exceeding 30 days in Canada, Mexico, or adjacent islands in Caribbean, except Cuba.
- Has maintained and intends to resume status as an F-1/J-1 student/scholar.
- Presents (or is the accompanying spouse or child of an alien who presents) a valid I-94 and the current I-20/DS-2019 endorsed to travel.
- Possesses a valid passport (unless exempt from passport requirements).
- Applies for re-entry to the U.S by the program completion date listed on the I-20/DS-2019.
- Has not applied for a new visa stamp while outside the U.S.
- Is not a citizen of a country on the Department of State’s list of State Sponsors of Terrorism.

This process is technically called “automatic revalidation of visa”. The reference in the Code of Federal Regulations is found on the reverse side (Section 41.112(d) of 22 CFR). This regulation means that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) treats your expired visa as if it were extended to the date of re-entry into the U.S. Automatic revalidation of your visa does not extend your visa for future use. Travel to all other countries will still require a new visa.

Students/Scholars Who Do Not Have an F-1/J-1 Visa and Changed Their Status in the U.S.: A person who entered the U.S in a classification other than F-1 or J-1 but whose status was later changed inside the U.S. to F-1/J-1 students/scholar, may also reenter the U.S. if he or she meets the conditions listed above. A student whose visa has been cancelled is not eligible.

New passports not containing the visa stamp:
Individuals who carry passports issued from within the U.S. to replace the passport that contains their original nonimmigrant visa must have an old passport in their possession. Citizens of countries that keep the old passport upon issuance of a new one are, therefore, at a disadvantage when traveling to contiguous territories (i.e., Mexico, Canada, and adjacent islands in the Caribbean, except Cuba).

Steps to follow:
- Check to see if the above requirements are met.
- Request a travel endorsement on the form I-20/DS-2019 from the Office of International Students & Scholars.
- Be sure the passport is valid. If the current passport does not contain the visa used to enter the U.S., bring the old passport that does contain the visa.
- Keep the I-94 card. Do not surrender it at the time of the departure from the U.S. This is an essential document for reentering the United States.

Note: On the reverse side is a photocopy of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) that addresses reentry into the U.S. with an expired visa. Other related information may be found in 22 CFR 41.125(f).

Approved for re-entry under Automatic Revalidation

Adria L. Baker , Director
Office of Int’l Students & Scholars

Date

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§411.112 Validation of visa.
(a) Significance of period of validity of visa. The period of validity of a nonimmigrant visa is the period during which the alien may use it in making application for admission. The period of visa validity has no relation to the period of time the immigration authorities at a port of entry may authorize the alien to stay in the United States.

§411.113 Validity of U.S. diplomatic and official visas.
(d) Category of visa issued to an alien or asylee who is a fiancé of a U.S. citizen.
(e) Foreign students.
(f) Visas for special purposes.
(g) Visa issuance.
(h) Visa extensions.
(i) Visa issuance and entry.
(j) Visa issuance and entry.
(k) Visa issuance and entry.
(l) Visa issuance and entry.
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(w) Visa issuance and entry.
(x) Visa issuance and entry.
(y) Visa issuance and entry.
(z) Visa issuance and entry.

§411.113 Procedure for issuing visas.
(a) Issuance of a visa.
(b) Issuance of a visa.
(c) Issuance of a visa.
(d) Issuance of a visa.
(e) Issuance of a visa.
(f) Issuance of a visa.
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