

**TRAVEL CHECKLIST FOR TRAVELING OUTSIDE THE U.S.  
IU South Bend**

**If you are traveling outside of the United States:**

Check the U.S. visa in your passport to see if it has expired.

If the F-1 visa in your passport has NOT EXPIRED, you will need to keep with you the following documents to return to the U.S.:

- Valid passport (must be valid for at least six months past the date of intended arrival in the U.S.);
- Valid I-20;
- Travel signature on page two of the Form I-20 signed by a Designated School Official in the OISS within the last 12 months; and
- Valid F-1 visa in your passport

If it has expired, you will have to apply at a [US Embassy or Consulate](#) in your home country to have it renewed before returning to the United States. Canadian citizens do not need a visa. Be sure to check with the U.S. Consulate in your home country regarding the procedures and length of time needed for the visa process. Some consulates have Web site information at [usembassy.state.gov](http://usembassy.state.gov), although we recommend that you also call the Consulate to make sure that the information is current.

Remember: Due to security checks, visa renewals may take anywhere from one week to three months. This is why it is risky to apply for a visa renewal outside your own country. Please do not try to re-enter the U.S. without a valid F-1 visa.

If your F-1 visa in your passport IS EXPIRED, you will need to bring the following documents to the U.S. Consulate or Embassy as part of your F-1 visa application:

- Valid passport (must be valid for at least six months past the date of intended arrival in the U.S.);
- Valid Form I-20 (be prepared to show the Consulate all of your previous I-20s to confirm your valid initial and continuous stay in the U.S.);
- Travel signature on page two of the Form I-20 signed by a Designated School Official in the OISS within the last 12 months;
- Current proof of financial support; and
- Copies of transcripts/study lists for every semester that you have been enrolled including the current semester and enrollment verification (you may request this online through One.IU)

Although not required, it is also good to have the following documents with you when you arrive in the U.S.:

- Current proof of financial support; and
- Copies of transcripts/study lists for every semester that you have been enrolled at IU South Bend
- A Letter of Good Standing from the OISS

**Travel to Canada or Mexico:**

If you are planning to travel to Canada or Mexico with an expired visa, please be sure to speak with an OISS advisor first.

**Travel on OPT:**

Please speak to an OISS advisor before you travel if you are currently participating in Optional Practical Training.

**Upon re-entry to the United States, please give the OISS a copy of your new electronic I-94 and a copy of any new passport or F-1 visa information.**

Updated: 2/28/2018