Traveling Outside the US?

Make sure your travel documents are properly prepared and endorsed! Remember that a valid I-20 must have a completion date which is in the future, and it must also have a valid travel signature. For F-1 students who are continuing their studies, the travel signature is good for 1 year. For F-1s on OPT, the travel signature is good for 6 months. To re-enter the US, you will need:

- passport
- Valid visa (if your visa will be expired on the day that you will re-enter the US, you must first renew your visa)
- Your VALID I-20/DS-2019
- If you are on OPT and will be traveling outside the US, you should also bring your EAD card and proof of your employment (such as an offer letter) or proof of your efforts to find a job. If you have applied for OPT but have not yet received your EAD card, you should bring your Approval Notice and/or Receipt Notice.

When you re-enter the US, if you do not have your I-20/DS-2019, or if the signature is not valid, you can ask the officer to issue you a Form I-515. This will allow you to enter the US. Once you are in the US, you must make an appointment with us immediately so we can fix your I-515 status. F-1 students have a 60 day grace period and J-1 students have a 30 day grace period. During this time, you may stay in the US. However, if you leave the US during the grace period, you will NOT be able to re-enter.

Remember that the I-94 is now an electronic record. The OIS does not require you to submit your I-94 to us whenever you travel, but we do recommend that you retrieve your I-94 record online from www.cbp.gov/i94. Your “Admit Until” date should always say “D/S”. You will not be able to retrieve your I-94 if you are outside the US, because the I-94 is an entry document.

For more information about travel, please see the Travel page of our website.

Completion Date Info

Please look at section 5 of your I-20 (or section 3 of your DS-2019). What is the completion date? If that date is NOT the date that you plan to complete your studies, you must contact us immediately. If your completion date is at the end of this term, but you will need more time, OR if your completion date is for a future term, but you will complete your studies this term, you must let us know. If for any reason the completion date on your I-20 is not accurate, you must inform us so that we can help you maintain your F-1/J-1 status.

Remember that reality is always more important than what is written on your I-20/DS-2019! You should NEVER try to re-enter the US with an I-20/DS-2019 just because the date is still valid. If you have already completed your studies, the I-20 is no longer valid regardless of the date.

Please note that the graduation date and the completion date are not necessarily the same. The completion date on your I-20/DS-2019 should reflect the date that you intend to complete all degree requirements, not the date of your graduation ceremony.

Important OIS Update!

In July 2015, the OIS Lincoln Center Office will be moving to a new location: 45 Columbus Ave, 3rd floor.

Please be patient as we will be packing and moving during June and July.
OPT and CPT

OPT (Optional Practical Training): If you will complete your program this April, May, or August, and you want to work in the US after your completion, you must apply for OPT. You can apply for OPT starting 90 days before your completion date, and up to 60 days after. For example, if you complete your studies on May 20, 2015, you could apply for OPT between February 20 and July 20, 2015. We recommend that you apply early!

CPT (Curricular Practical Training):
If you are still taking courses for your degree, and you would like to work, then you could apply for CPT. If you already had CPT this spring term, and you plan to continue your employment during the summer, then you must make sure that the summer months are included in your CPT authorization. If they are not, you will need to apply for a new CPT for your summer employment/internship.

Follow Up: OIS email about SEVIS Fee

The SEVIS fee, or I-901 fee, is the fee students must pay when they first apply for their F-1 or J-1 visa. We were recently informed by the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) that they will start to notice the students who do not have a valid SEVIS fee payment indicated in their SEVIS record. Of course, you know that it is impossible to obtain your visa without paying this fee, which is why we want you to come to us if you receive any mail notice from SEVIS/SEVP.

We emailed you 1-2 weeks ago regarding the SEVIS fee because, if you receive any mailed notice from SEVP, we wanted you to know what it was about. We also want you to come see an OIS advisor if you do receive such a notice. If you do not receive anything from SEVP—that is fine, and you do not need to worry.

Health Insurance Info

Insurance coverage will be offered for the 2015-2016 academic year. Please check back for more information on requirements, coverage and premium costs. Information will be sent out to all students via Fordham email. Please check your emails.

Questions regarding insurance should be directed to the Insurance Compliance Administrator: Maritza Rivera –Garcia
Office # Rose Hill: 718-817-4164
Lincoln Center: 212-636-7160
Rose Hill: Health services O’Hare Hall Lower level
Lincoln Center: McMahon Hall Room 203
Email: Emarivera@fordham.edu

Impact Initiative

Get involved with the United Nations through Fordham University.
Attend weekly high level NGO briefings at the UN HQ in New York.
Read more about the work the Fordham youth reps at the UN are doing: https://fordhamimpactinitiative.wordpress.com/
Apply to be a Fordham Youth rep at the UN for Fall 2015. Deadline soon!
Email: keroberts@fordham.edu for application.

Keep your Addresses Up to Date!

We know that you may be leaving the US during the Summer, and that you may have a new place to live when you return to the US in the fall. Please make sure to keep your address up to date!

To verify/update your address, go to my.fordham.edu and follow these steps:

- login
- Select the Student Accounts tab under My Account
- Select the Personal Information tab on the top left
- Select Update Addresses and Phones

Permanent Address: Current address in HOME country (not US)
Non-University Local Address: Current US local address
Billing: Address where you want any bills mailed to
Mailing: Address where you want all correspondence/mail from the University mailed to

If you live off-campus, you MUST enter a Non-University Local Address, even if you enter a mailing or billing address.

If you are not able to update your address following these steps, please email your new address (local or foreign) to us at ois@fordham.edu