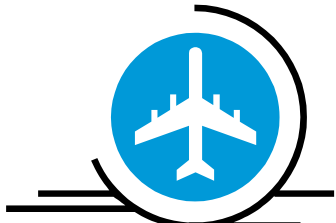




Office of the General Counsel
 Director of Immigration
 Lewisburg Pennsylvania 17837
 Phone: 570-577-1149
 570-577-1439

My visa stamp in my passport is about to expire. Do I need a new one?

<p>Visa.... Visa.... Visa....</p> <p>Everything you need to know about your visa</p>	
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If you are not planning to travel outside the U.S., you do not need a new visa.

The visa that is stamped in your passport is for entry purposes only. Once you are in the U.S., your I-20 or IAP-66/DS-2019 and I-94 card become the active documents that permit you to remain in the U.S. You are allowed to stay for D/S which means, "Duration of Status", in other words, the period of time that you are a student in good standing. The date noted on your I-20 or IAP-66/DS-2019 as the expected completion date of your studies is the expiration date of your status. This can be extended at the General Counsel's Office if necessary.

I am planning to travel. I want to go to Mexico, Canada or the Caribbean...

If you plan to travel to a country that is contiguous* to the U.S. (but not Cuba!) and you intend to stay less than 30 days and not apply for a new re-entry visa, then you may reenter on an expired entry visa. However, citizens from Iraq, Iran, Syria, Libya, Sudan, North Korea, and Cuba will not be allowed to re-enter the US at any time with an expired US visa stamp, even if the trip is only to contiguous territory.

When traveling to a contiguous country, keep your I-94 card with you upon exiting the U.S.. Tell the immigration official at the port of exit (border) that you intend to stay outside the U.S. for less than 30 days. Make sure to have your I-20 or IAP-66/DS-2019 signed by Linda Bennett, Immigration Specialist before you travel and present that document along with your valid passport, I-94, and expired (or current) visa to reenter the United States.

* Saint Pierre, Miquelon, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Bermuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Jamaica, The Windward and Leeward Islands, Trinidad, Martinique, or other British, French or Netherlands territories or possessions in, or bordering, the Caribbean Sea.

I'm going to....(a country that's not contiguous to the U.S) what do I do?

If you are planning to go someplace other than the locations mentioned above, then you will need a valid entry visa to reenter the U.S. You have two options in which to renew your visa:

Applying for a visa in your home country

You can apply for a visa at the US Consulate or Embassy in your home country when you go home for a visit. It is important to realize that some consulates may require an appointment (even in your own country). Additionally, consulates and embassies are more frequently conducting background checks on individuals, resulting in significant delays in visa processing times. Backgrounds checks can be triggered by arrests in the United States, certain courses that you may have taken that appear on your transcript, or by being from a country that requires a background check before issuance of a visa.

If your visa will be expired at the time you wish to reenter the U.S., after reading through the above information, if you still feel it is necessary to travel abroad, check with the consulate or embassy where you will be applying to find out processing times. To find out about processing times and procedures consult the website of the consulate you plan to apply to. (Department of State website: http://www.travel.state.gov/visa/questions_embassy.html), or request the address and phone number of Linda Bennett from the General Counsel's Office on the 2nd floor of Marts Hall.

Applying for a visa in a third country

You may be eligible to apply for a visa in a third country which includes the border posts of Mexico or Canada. To enter a third country, you may need an entry visa and should inquire with their consulate either by phone or through their website.

The following contacts below may be helpful to determine if you need a visa to enter another country:

Canada: (213) 346-2711 or <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/index.html>

Mexico: (512) 478-2866 or <http://www.onr.com/consulmx>

Website for foreign consular offices in the United States: <http://www.state.gov/s/cpr/rls/fco>

Determining eligibility to apply for a new visa in a third country

Beginning April 1, 2002, F and J students and scholars from all countries who go to Canada, Mexico or any other third country post to apply for a new visa, will not be allowed to re-enter the US on an expired visa stamp if the new visa is not approved at the US Consulate. If the application for the visa is denied, the student or scholar would in most cases need to depart directly to their home country to apply for a new visa to re-enter the U.S in their home country.

Additionally, students that are subject to a background check upon application of a visa renewal in a third country will have to remain in that country until the background check is completed and the visa is approved before being allowed to re-enter the U.S. Backgrounds checks can take up to three months and possibly even longer.

Visa application process in Mexico or Canada

Effective November 1, 2002, the US Consulate in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico only processes F-1 visas for continuing students in full-time degree programs who can demonstrate that their F-1 visa was issued in their home country.

After May 1, 1996, any third country national present in the U.S. must make an appointment for an interview in order to apply for a non-immigrant visa (i.e. F-1, J-1, etc.) at a U.S. consular border post in Canada or Mexico. An appointment must be made in one of the following ways:



Call 1-900-443-3131 (if in Canada, call 1-900-451-2778). A "per-minute" fee will be charged for this call on your telephone bill. Not all phones can access this number, so you may want to check with the telephone operator if you are having trouble connecting.



Call 1-888-840-0032. A per-minute fee will be charged, payable only by credit card



Web Address: <http://www.nvars.com>

A flat fee will be charged (\$20 Canadian) payable by credit card.

An operator or email prompt will help you choose a date and post convenient for you. These appointments may be scheduled up to one month in advance. After the appointment is scheduled, you will receive an application form and information about the appropriate post. Many of the posts will require a fee in advance of the processing, so you may be required to go to a nearby banks for a transaction, It will be best if you have cash to facilitate this.

What will I need to apply for a new visa?

- * **Current SEVIS I-20 or DS-2019**, complete with Immigration Advisor's signature and signed for travel within the last year
- * **Letter of Good Standing**, also called an enrollment letter, available from the Registrar's Office.
- * Copy of your **Bucknell Transcript**, available from the Registrar's Office.
- * **Proof of financial support**. You should be able to verify the amount shown as the total on your I-20 or IAP-66/DS-2019 with a personal bank statement, Research Assistant/Teaching Assistantship verification letter, or sponsor's letter and sponsor's bank statement.
- * **Proof of ties to your home country**. This is a nonspecific item, but since you are applying for a non-immigrant (F or J) visa, you will need to show that you intend to remain a permanent resident of your home country and return there after completion of your studies. You might take a job offer letter from home, letters from family and friends, evidence of ownership of property or residence in your home country, or copies of bank statements from a bank in your home country as proof that you stronger ties to your home country than to the United States.

* **One passport-size photograph.** This is a standard passport "facing front" photograph. It may be wise to take two photographs with you.

* **Application & Issuance Fee charged for visa.** There is a standard \$100 visa application fee plus, depending on the country you are from, there may also be an issuance fee. Check the website below to determine if you will be charged an issuance fee (also called a Visa Reciprocity fee).

For more information on applying for a U.S. visa, visit the General Counsel's website:

[http://www. http://www.bucknell.edu/GeneralCounsel/](http://www.bucknell.edu/GeneralCounsel/)

Department of State websites:

<http://travel.state.gov/visa;foreignstuden.html>

<http://travel.state.gov/nonimmigrantvisas.html>