

# TRAVEL WORKSHEET FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS & SCHOLARS

As of May 12, 2025

## Is international travel necessary?

- ☐ What is the specific purpose or goal of your trip?
  - ☐ Is there an alternative way to accomplish what you need or want to do?
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## Have you notified or consulted with others?

- ☐ Have you discussed your travel plans with family members?
  - ☐ Is your supervisor at work aware of your plans, and have they approved?
  - ☐ If you are a student, have you spoken with your instructors?
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## Have you carefully assessed your personal risk factors for admissibility to the U.S.?

If you have any concerns about your admissibility, please [consult with an immigration attorney](#) to review your risks and options.

- ☐ Do you have a criminal history?
  - ☐ Have you ever been arrested?
  - ☐ Does your current or previous social media activity present any risks?
  - ☐ Are you a member/have you ever been a member of any organization that could be viewed negatively by the U.S. government?
  - ☐ Have you participated in any protests while in the U.S.?
  - ☐ Are there any other grounds that would make you inadmissible? *For details on admission, visit the [U.S. Customs and Border Protection Admissions website](#).*
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## Are there any travel restrictions in place that would prevent you from entering the U.S.?

- ☐ Have you confirmed the most current entry policies specific to your nationality and visa type/immigration status? *You can find updates on [travel restrictions on the CU Denver ISSS Updates website](#).*
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## Are your immigration documents valid and do you have what you need to re-enter the U.S.?

Be advised that even if all your documents are in order, there is no guarantee that you will be admitted to the U.S. by Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

- ☐ **Passport** valid for at least 6 months beyond the period of your intended stay in the U.S. or valid for your intended period of stay if you are from a country on the list of exempt countries. *Here is a [list of exempt countries](#).*
- ☐ **U.S. Visa Stamp\*** in the correct category and valid for the date of your intended entry. Allow enough time so that a delay in your travel plans (natural disaster, illness, flight cancellation, etc.) won't require you to apply for a new U.S. visa.
- ☐ **Official, original documentation of your immigration status**
  - F-1 students and F-2 dependents need an I-20 signed for travel.
  - J-1 exchange visitors and J-2 dependents need a DS-2019.

- Individuals in a non-immigrant status that requires USCIS approval (H-1Bs, O-1s, E-3s) need an I-797 Approval Notice.
- Permanent Residents need a Permanent Resident Card.
- **Additional documents**
  - **International students:** Current or upcoming semester course schedule and evidence of financial support or sponsorships.
  - **International employees:** Employment authorization document (EAD), if you have one. Employment verification letter from your current employer. Three most recent pay stubs (or as many as you have), offer letter, or letter of invitation.

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**\*If you need a new U.S. visa to reenter the U.S.**

- Have you scheduled a visa appointment? Visit [Travel.State.Gov](https://travel.state.gov) to [estimate visa appointment wait times](#) and to [get started in obtaining a visa](#).
- Are you ready for your visa interview? *F-1 and J-1 students can find additional information here on [how to prepare](#).*
- Are you prepared to wait outside the U.S. for an extended period if you are selected for administrative processing? [Learn more about administrative processing](#) at [Travel.State.Gov](https://travel.state.gov).

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**Additional considerations before you go**

- Consider flying directly into Denver International Airport (DEN) when making your travel plans. DEN Customs Border Control (CBP) is typically not as busy as other airports. If an issue arises, Denver CBP may also be more willing to reach out to ISSS or to your employer.
- Make paper copies of all your critical immigration documents in case they are lost or stolen.
- Take extra of any doctor-prescribed medication with you.
- Prepare your home in the U.S. for an extended time away should you be delayed or unable to return.
- If you have children who will remain in the U.S. while you are outside the country, make a plan for them should you be delayed or unable to return.
- Consider assigning Power of Attorney to a trusted person in the U.S. so they can act on your behalf to manage financial and real estate matters and other personal affairs in the U.S. if you are unable to return.
- Before you leave, make sure that a trusted person in the U.S. knows that you are travelling. Share your itinerary and flight information with them so they can follow up with authorities if you do not return when expected.

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**Going through customs**

- Present only your MOST RECENT immigration document.  
*Example: I-20, DS-2019, or I-797 Approval Notice.*
- Review your I-94 immediately after the CBP Officer completes your inspection, and make sure that it is correct before you leave the arrivals area. Find [your new I-94 information](#) on the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol website.