



# *Automatic Visa Revalidation Canada, Mexico, and Contiguous Islands*

**American University • Building a Global University • International Student and Scholar Services**

**Automatic visa revalidation** allows F-1 and J-1 students who are maintaining immigration status to travel for less than 30 days to **Canada, Mexico or adjacent islands\*** and reenter the U.S. on an expired visa. Students must travel **directly between** the U.S. and Canada, Mexico, or adjacent islands. This process revalidates the visa (making it valid for the single trip) but does not renew it.

Currently, automatic visa revalidation is not available to citizens of Iran, Syria, North Korea, and Cuba. **Students who applied for a new visa during their trip, will not be allowed re-entry into the U.S. through the visa revalidation process.** [22 CFR 41.112(d), 8 CFR 214.1(b)(1), 8 CFR 214.1(b)(2)]

Even though a national of a country may be eligible for reentry under the automatic visa revalidation provision, they may still require security or other clearances before permitting them to re-enter the U.S., which may require them to remain outside the U.S. for more than 30 days.

## **Re-entering the U.S. Under Automatic Visa Revalidation**

The officer at the port of entry may require the following documents to check a student's immigration status:

- ☐ Expired F-1 or J-1 visa
- ☐ Valid I-20 or DS-2019 signed for travel
- ☐ Most current I-94 entry record retrieved from (<https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94>). Your I-94 must show F-1 or J-1 under "class of admission" and D/S under "admit until date."
- ☐ Unexpired passport valid for at least 6 months from date of re-entry.
- ☐ Financial documents dated within the past three (3) months to cover at least one full academic year of your studies.
- ☐ Unofficial transcript verifying full-time enrollment each semester.
- ☐ SEVIS I-901 Payment Confirmation Form retrieved from (<https://fmjfee.com>)

If applicable:

- ☐ Proof of pre-registration for the next semester (available from the Registrar's Office)
- ☐ Copy of Reduced Course Load approval email
- ☐ Copy of Temporary Leave form
- ☐ Letter of Employment from employer if on post-completion Optional Practical Training (OPT) or post-completion Academic Training (AT)
- ☐ Original Employment Authorization Document (EAD card for OPT)

Additional information on automatic visa revalidation is available at:

Department of State's website: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/visa-expiration-date/auto-revalidate.html>

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)'s website: [https://help.cbp.gov/s/article/Article-1218?language=en\\_US](https://help.cbp.gov/s/article/Article-1218?language=en_US)

For more information on visa appointments and visa renewal, visit ISSS's website: <https://www.american.edu/ocl/iss/apply-for-a-visa.cfm>

*\*(adjacent islands include Saint Pierre, Miquelon, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Bermuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Jamaica, the Windward and Leeward Islands, Trinidad, Martinique, and other British, French, and Netherland's territories or possessions in or bordering on the Caribbean Sea, except Cuba).*

**Disclaimer:** The materials in this handout have been prepared for general informational purposes only. They do not constitute legal advice or serve as a substitute for legal counsel.