

# Preparation for International Travel

## Information Sheet for Exchange Visitor Physicians and J-2 Dependents

### Minimally Required Documents

The following documents are minimally required for an individual in J status (J-1 or J-2) to reenter the United States following international travel:

- Passport, valid for at least six months beyond the program end date on the most recent Form DS-2019.
- Valid J-1 or J-2 visa. (Note: A visa is *not* required for Canadian citizens seeking to reenter the United States.)
- Original Form DS-2019 with travel signature in the *Travel Validation by Responsible Officer* box on the lower right side of Form DS-2019. **Only ECFMG personnel can provide the required travel validation signature.**



To request a travel-validated DS-2019, use the *Request for Duplicate Form DS-2019* at <https://www.ecfm.org/evsp/ds2019dup.pdf>

### To Renew an Expired Visa Through a U.S. Consulate

An expired visa must be renewed through a U.S. Consulate prior to reentry to the United States. Exchange visitor physicians and accompanying J-2 dependents are advised to check their passports prior to departure and plan accordingly. If visa renewal is required, please allow adequate time for Consulate review and processing. The following documents are minimally required for exchange visitor physicians and J-2 dependents seeking visa renewal:

- Passport, valid for at least six months beyond the program end date on the most recent Form DS-2019.
- Original Form DS-2019 with ECFMG travel signature in the *Travel Validation by Responsible Officer* box on the lower right side of Form DS-2019.
- Application fee (check with the individual U.S. Consulate for fee amounts and accepted payment methods).



Use the following links to access additional information related to U.S. visas and travel:

Applying for a U.S. Non-immigrant Visa: <https://ceac.state.gov/GenNIV/Default.aspx> and <http://www.ustraveldocs.com>

Websites of U.S. Embassies and Consulates: <https://www.usembassy.gov/>

### Travel to Canada, Mexico, and Adjacent Islands of the United States (Automatic Revalidation)

Under a provision of the U.S. immigration law termed “**automatic revalidation**,” exchange visitor physicians and J-2 dependents who travel to **Canada, Mexico, and adjacent islands of the United States** (except Cuba) for *less than 30 days* are not required to have a valid J visa in their passports to reenter the United States as long as they hold valid U.S. nonimmigrant (J) status.

To qualify for automatic revalidation, an individual in J status must present the following to a U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Officer upon reentry to the United States:

- Passport, valid for at least six months beyond the program end date on the most recent Form DS-2019.
- Original Form DS-2019 with ECFMG travel signature in the *Travel Validation by Responsible Officer* box on the lower right side of Form DS-2019.
- Copy of Form I-94 reflecting status as “J-1; D/S”.



Copies of Form I-94 can be accessed at

<https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov>

**NOTE:** A visa is not required for Canadian citizens to reenter the United States; Canadian citizens should follow automatic revalidation procedures.

**NOTE:** Citizens of Cuba, Iran, Sudan, and Syria are *not eligible* for automatic revalidation and require a valid J visa each time they reenter the United States.



For more information on automatic revalidation, see:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/visa-expiration-date/auto-revalidate.html>



Additional info on travel is available at:

<http://www.ecfm.org/evsp/travel-index.html>

**When traveling to a country that is not their country of citizenship or permanent residence, exchange visitor physicians and their J-2 dependents are advised to consult that country’s consulate in the United States prior to departure to determine if an entry visa is required.**