

Visa Office
EAST-WEST CENTER
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TRAVEL ABROAD AND RE-ENTRY TO THE U.S. for J-1 Exchange Visitors and J-2 Dependents



The following are procedures and regulations for traveling outside of the U.S. if you are in J-1 or J-2 status. Please review the instructions very carefully for travel and re-entry.

❖ BEFORE DEPARTURE

1. Ask your Scholarship Coordinator/Program Officer (students), Visa Officer (PCATs) or Program Officer (research scholars) to provide you with a program support letter stating the following:
 - a. that you are in good standing,
 - b. the country you are traveling to/your reason for traveling,
 - c. the approximate dates you will be departing from and returning to the U.S., and
 - d. the support you are receiving if you are funded by the East-West Center
 2. Bring the memo with your current Form DS-2019 to the Visa Office for a signature at least one week before departure. *The DS-2019 will be valid for re-entry if the end date in item #3 has not elapsed before your planned re-entry and the Visa Officer has travel validated the Form DS-2019 for your re-entry.* This DS-2019 can also be used by the J exchange visitor for visa renewal and re-entry during the validity period in item #3 of the Form DS-2019.
1. If you are traveling to a country* other than your home country, **confirm with your travel agent as to whether or not a visa and/or immunization are needed to enter that country.** The yellow pages of the Honolulu telephone directory has a list of “Consulates and Other Foreign Government Representatives,” but since many are honorary consulates they may refer you to a visa-issuing consulate in San Francisco or Los Angeles. The EWC Visa Office or your travel agent will also be able to provide you with addresses and phone numbers.

* Special instructions for re-entry from Canada, Mexico, or the Caribbean are available from www.eastwestcenter.org/j1visitor.

❖ TO RE-ENTER THE U.S. FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

Re-entry to the U.S. requires **a valid passport, a valid visa, and a valid Form DS-2019:**

1. Your **passport** is usually required to be valid for at least six months beyond the expiration date of your Form DS-2019;
2. A valid and original **Form DS-2019** should be properly travel validated by the EWC Visa Officer before your departure from the U.S.

3. **J-1 or J-2 visa** (stamp placed in your passport by an American Embassy or Consulate abroad) must be valid on the date of return to the U.S. Please double-check that your J-1 or J-2 entry visa does not expire on or before the date of return to the U.S. and is good for multiple entries. If not, you **must** obtain a valid visa from a U.S. Consulate or Embassy abroad in order to enter the U.S. To revalidate your visa, please check the following website for instructions, forms, and wait times: <http://www.usembassy.gov/>

[Note: Some consulates will not require an interview for re-entry visas under certain circumstances noted on the website.]

Make an appointment and submit your **passport, Form DS-2019, SEVIS fee payment confirmation**, and other required documents to the nearest American Embassy or Consulate with:

- a. **Evidence of financial support** for the total duration of stay (for self and family, if applicable), such as a letter from your scholarship coordinator/program officer stating your award dates and financial support provided by the EWC, a bank statement, employer's letter stating dates of hire and salary, or affidavit certifying other sources of support;
- b. **Nonimmigrant visa application Form DS-160** available via the U.S. Embassy/Consulate website or <https://ceac.state.gov/genniv/> Please note that the DS-160 must be completed electronically. Guidelines for photograph requirements for to be uploaded to Form DS-160 available at http://travel.state.gov/visa/visaphotoreq/visaphotoreq_5334.html
- c. **Applicable visa application/issuance fee(s)**. The application fee is currently **US\$160**.
- d. **Students: Evidence of enrollment in academic program**, i.e. transcript or enrollment confirmation

When you apply for visa revalidation, you must be able to convince the American consul that you have a residence abroad to which you intend to return. Application for a J-1 or J-2 visa may require a personal interview, and can only be issued by an American consulate abroad. The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services cannot issue or revalidate J visas.

If you are denied a visa or have difficulty, please contact the EWC program representative in the country (if applicable) or Valerie Wong, EWC Visa Officer (see above address), with the following information: date you submitted your visa application to the American consulate, name of the consular officer, details of the problem/reason for denial, telephone and/or e-mail address where you can be reached.



❖ **ARRIVAL AT THE U.S. PORT OF ENTRY**

You must present the Form DS-2019 with your valid passport and visa to the Immigration Official upon arrival at the Port of Entry. Remember, **a valid passport, valid J-1 or J-2 entry visa, and a valid/travel validated Form DS-2019 are required for entry to the U.S.**

The DS-2019 will be returned to you by the Immigration Official. The entry stamp in your passport should indicate an expiration date or D/S (Duration of Status) permitting you to stay in the U.S. for the duration of your exchange visitor program (the period in item #3 on your Form DS-2019) plus 30 days.

After getting resettled in Honolulu, please remember to stop by at the Visa Office with any new documentation, i.e. new visa and/or new passport.