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/](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/](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](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.

info\travel\travel.doc: updated 03/23/16