

# Travel Outside the United States

## General Information

Contact the embassy or consulate of the country to which you are traveling to determine if you need a visa to enter that country. Each country has different laws governing entry of foreign citizens. It may be necessary for you to obtain a visa from the consulate or embassy prior to departing the United States. Foreign consular offices are located in cities throughout the United States. Foreign embassies are located in Washington, D.C.

Please note that there are special regulations for travel to Canada, Mexico and any countries which are adjacent or contiguous to the United States. Please visit this website for information: <https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/general/automatic-revalidation.html> You may need a visa to enter Canada or Mexico, please check with the governments of those countries for information.

If you plan on applying for a new visa in a country which is not your country of last legal permanent residence or country of citizenship, please visit this website for complete information: <http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/general/nonimmigrants-present-visiting-canada-mexico.html>

## Things to do at least one month before leaving the U.S. (temporarily)

- Check your passport: is it valid? Is the visa valid?
- Check your documents:
  - H-1B: approval notice
  - J-1: Form DS2019 with 2 signatures (one in the lower right corner endorsed for travel)
    - If you are a J-1 research scholar your DS2019 can be validated for travel by Mary Curry or Janice Bianco in the GME Office.
    - If you are a J-1 alien physician, only an ECFMG representative can endorse your DS2019 for travel. Here is a link to the request for a duplicate DS2019 for travel purposes:  
<http://www.ecfmq.org/evsp/ds2019dup.pdf>



Travel endorsement signatures are valid for the following period of time:

- Alien Physician and Research Scholar – one year.
- Short-Term Scholar – 6 months

## **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES ARE YOU TO LEAVE THE U.S. WITHOUT YOUR**

**DOCUMENTS:** If you do not have your H-1B approval notice or Form DS2019 when you try to re-enter the U.S., the U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer may deny you entry into the U.S. If your visa has expired, you will need to renew it at a U.S. Consulate in the country to which you are traveling. You will need the same documents required when you first obtained your visa.