

Traveling in O-1 Status

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Below are some basic guidelines for travel. However, it is recommended that you [check with your adviser](#) [1] before you travel.

Passports

All international scholars and family members planning to depart temporarily from the U.S. and return to the Yale area must have a valid passport in order to exit the U.S. The passport must also be valid for a minimum of six months into the future at the time of re-entry to the U.S. Some countries have an agreement with the U.S. that [automatically extends passport validity for 6 months](#) [2], for U.S. entry purposes only.

Visa Stamps

Except for Canadian citizens, all international scholars will also need to have a valid O-1 visa stamp in their passport issued by a U.S. embassy or consulate. Visa stamps cannot be obtained or renewed within the U.S.

Visa Documents:

The visa document for the O-1 is called the Notice of Action Form I-797.

I-94 Record

Every nonimmigrant entering the U.S. on a sponsored visa will have what's called an I-94 record created by the authorities upon entry. It is the responsibility of international students, scholars and family members to [look up their I-94 record](#) [3] after entering the U.S. to ensure there are no errors.

Third Country Visits:

When planning to visit a country outside the U.S. which is not your country of citizenship or legal permanent residency, be sure to research whether or not you will [need a visa to enter that country](#) [4].

Canada, Mexico and contiguous islands:

If you are traveling to Canada, Mexico or the contiguous islands for less than 30 days, you may be eligible for a [visa renewal exemption](#) [5].

Travel Checklist:

- Valid I-797 Approval Notice for Yale University
 - Copy of all supporting documents issued to you in the OISS approval package (Form I-797 approval notice, I-129, and the Labor Condition application)
 - Copy of most recent payroll from Yale
 - If this will be your first O-1 visa application, it is recommended that you bring a copy of the entire application
 - If this is not your first O-1 visa stamp, just bring a copy of the Yale support letter
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Travel During Change of Immigration Status

Scholars are advised not to travel outside the U.S. during a pending change of status petition (e.g., those who are

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changing from an F-1/J-1/Other to O-1.) Please contact your OISS adviser for further details.

Travel During Extension or Change of Employers

If you have any plans to travel outside the U.S. during the O-1 extension process, you should speak to your OISS adviser as soon as possible. If you plan to return to the U.S. before the expiration of your current approved O-1 status and with a valid O-1 visa stamp, there may not be any difficulty. However, in many cases the action of departing from the U.S. during the extension process can make the new O-1 extension inactive, or void.

If you plan to leave the U.S. and your current O-1 status has expired, you cannot return to the U.S. until the extension application is approved, and the approval notice is sent to you. Finally, you would have to apply for a new O-1 visa stamp with a consulate or embassy before you can return to the U.S.

After you have received the new, extended O-1 approval notice, you may travel outside the U.S. once again. However, while outside the U.S. you will have to obtain a new O-1 visa stamp at a U.S. embassy or consulate. It is not possible to obtain visa stamps inside the U.S.

Source URL: <https://oiss.yale.edu/immigration/o-1-extraordinary-ability/traveling-in-o-1-status>

Links

[1] <https://oiss.yale.edu/about/connect-with-oiss> [2] <http://www.ustraveldocs.com/ci/9-FAM-41.104-Exhibit-I.pdf> [3] <https://oiss.yale.edu/travel/i-94-record> [4] <https://www.usembassy.gov> [5] <https://oiss.yale.edu/travel-visas/for-students/traveling-outside-the-us/canada-mexico-and-adjacent-islands>