Traveling In J-1 Status

Below are some basic guidelines you should know about. However, it is recommended that you check with your adviser [1] before you travel if you have any questions about your situation.

**Passports**
All international students, 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 students and scholars will also need to have a valid J-1 visa stamp in their passport issued by a U.S. embassy or consulate. Visa stamps cannot be obtained or renewed inside the U.S.

**Visa Document**
The J-1 visa document is called Form DS-2019.

**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 DS-2019 (not expired in Section #3) with OISS signature in the Travel Validation section at bottom
- Valid J-1 visa stamp
- Valid passport

Source URL: https://oiss.yale.edu/immigration/other-visa-options/j-1-student-intern/traveling-in-j-1-status

Links:
[1] https://oiss.yale.edu/about/contact-oiss