

Traveling to the U.S.

Whether you are traveling to the U.S. for the first time or re-entering, please review the information below carefully. At a minimum, you will need a valid passport, valid visa (except Canadian citizens) and a valid immigration document. Click the box below for details about your specific immigration status. If you have questions or concerns, [check with your OISS adviser](#) [1] before you make travel plans. If you had a difficult time entering or re-entering the U.S., [please let us know](#). [2]

You can find detailed information below regarding what documents you need to carry with you, what you need to be aware of when entering the U.S., and what the I-94 record is and why it is important.

Information Specific to Visa Category

[J-1 Scholars](#)

J-1 Travel Document Checklist

- Valid DS-2019 (not expired in Section #3) with OISS signature in the *Travel Validation* section at bottom. The OISS signature should not be older than 12 months and is valid for multiple entries to the U.S. If you need a new signature, please [submit a request in OISS Connect](#) [3].
- J-2 dependents must have their own valid DS-2019 forms
- Valid J-1 or J-2 visa from a U.S. embassy (except for Canadian citizens who are not required to have a visa)
- Valid passport (for at least 6 months in the future)
- Appointment or offer letter from Yale
 - If Yale University is not your J-1 program sponsor, please contact them directly (e.g. Fulbright)

Please refer to the [Arriving in the U.S.: Immigration Inspection](#) [4] page for a full list of all documents.

[H-1B Scholars](#)

See [Traveling in H-1B Status](#) [5] for more details on traveling for H-1B Scholars.

H-1B Travel Document 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 paystubs from Yale for the most recent three months
- If you were subject to the J-1/J-2 two-year home-residency requirement prior to obtaining H-1B, bring a copy of your Form I-612 Waiver Approval issued by USCIS.

Please refer to the [Arriving in the U.S.: Immigration Inspection](#) [4] page for a full list of all documents.

International travel with H-1B status can be complicated. See [Traveling in H-1B Status](#) [5] for more details. Besides the guidelines on that page, it is recommended that you [check with your adviser](#) [1] before you travel if you have any questions about your situation.

Transit Visas When Changing Planes

If your travel plans require a change of planes in a third country, you must check to see if you need a transit visa. Some countries (including the U.S.) require an entry or transit visa, even if you are only changing planes and resuming your travels during a short time frame. Before purchasing your ticket, make certain you are aware of any travel requirements or restrictions.

Hub Page View:



[Arriving in the U.S.: Immigration Inspection](#)

[What to expect during U.S. immigration inspection, and documents to have with you.](#)

[4]



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I-94 Record

[What is the I-94 record and why it is important?](#)

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Current Travel Guidance

[Advice for traveling, such as preparing for your travel, restrictions, and possible issues.](#)

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[7]

Source URL: <https://oiss.yale.edu/travel-visas/for-scholars/traveling-to-the-us>

Links

[1] <https://oiss.yale.edu/about/contact-oiss> [2] <https://oiss.yale.edu/about/connect-with-oiss> [3] <https://oiss.yale.edu/immigration/i-1-scholars/oiss-connect-requests/travel-signature> [4] <https://oiss.yale.edu/travel-visas/for-scholars/traveling-to-the-us/arriving-in-the-us-immigration-inspection> [5] <https://oiss.yale.edu/immigration/h-1b-temporary-worker/maintaining-legal-status/traveling-in-h-1b-status> [6] <https://oiss.yale.edu/travel/for-scholars/traveling-to-the-us/i-94-record> [7] <https://oiss.yale.edu/travel-visas/for-scholars/traveling-to-the-us/current-travel-guidance>