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See the [U.S. Bureau of Consular Affairs website](#) [2] for more information about different U.S. visas.

- An unexpired passport
- A valid Form I-20 or DS-2019
- A full-time course load in each required term of study
- No more than 20 hours per week of on-campus work during an enrolled term
- F-1 OPT or CPT, or J-1 Academic Training authorization for any work off-campus
- Completing proper transfer, extension, or change of program

Visa, Immigration Status, and Entry Stamp

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It is your responsibility to understand how to maintain your immigration status. Your F-1 Form I-20 or J-2 Form DS-2019 should always be accurate and unexpired. There are further details about about [F-1 status](#) [3], or [J-1 status](#) [4] on the OISS web site.

What is an Entry Stamp?

Upon entering the U.S. a Customs and Border Protection (CBP) official will:



1. Review your immigration document, visa, and other documents
2. Authorize your status in the I-94 system
3. Put an ink entry stamp in the passport

The I-94 record includes the length of time you may remain inside the U.S. Students should always [print their I-94 record](#) [5] so that they have evidence of their immigration status.

For more details on what happens upon arrival, see our [Arriving in the U.S.: Immigration Inspection](#) [6] page.

What Does 'D/S' Mean?

F-1 and J-1 visa holders will see the notation 'D/S' on their entry stamp and their I-94. D/S stands for 'duration of status' and refers back to the expiration date on the immigration document. When your status is D/S you can stay in the U.S. as long as your immigration document (Form I-20 or DS-2019) is accurate and unexpired.

What If My Visa Expires While I Am in the U.S.?

A visa in your passport issued by from a U.S. consulate does not determine how long you can remain in the United States; it is only an entry document. Therefore, **you may stay in the U. S. beyond the expiration date of a visa** as long as you are maintaining your [F-1](#) [3] or [J-1](#) [7] status and the immigration document (I-20 or DS-2019) remains valid.

For most [international travel](#) [8] the immigration document, passport and visa must be valid and unexpired. If the visa is expired it will be necessary to apply for a new visa, through the same process as your initial visa application, at a U.S. embassy or consulate outside the U.S. You can learn more about international travel using the [F-1 visa](#) [9], or the [J-1 visa](#) [10] on the OISS web site.

Source URL: <https://oiss.yale.edu/travel-visas-for-students/visas/visa-immigration-status-and-entry-stamp>

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Links

[1] <https://oiss.yale.edu/immigration/visa-and-immigration-status/for-canadian-citizens> [2] <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/frequently-asked-questions/what-is-us-visa.html> [3] <https://oiss.yale.edu/immigration/f-1-students/maintaining-legal-status> [4] <https://oiss.yale.edu/immigration/j-1-students/understanding-j-1-status> [5] <http://oiss.yale.edu/travel/i-94-record> [6] <https://oiss.yale.edu/getting-started/new-students/travel-arrival/arriving-in-the-us-immigration-inspection> [7] <https://oiss.yale.edu/immigration/j-1-students/maintaining-legal-status> [8] <https://oiss.yale.edu/immigration/travel-guidance/traveling-outside-the-us> [9] <https://oiss.yale.edu/immigration/f-1-students/traveling-in-f-1-status> [10] <https://oiss.yale.edu/immigration/j-1-students/traveling>