Traveling to the U.S.

Updated November 5, 2021

There are many issues that will affect your decision and ability to travel to the U.S., and unfortunately with the ongoing global pandemic it is important to stay informed with up-to-date information. In addition to the information below you should also review the detailed information provided by NAFSA: Association of International Educators [1] regarding COVID-19 restrictions on U.S. visas and entry.

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 [2] before you make travel plans. If you had a difficult time entering or re-entering the U.S., please let us know. [3]

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

- F-1 Students [4]
- J-1 Students [5]
- J-1 Scholars [6]
- H-1B Workers [7]

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.) required 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.
**U.S. Immigration Inspection**

What to expect during U.S. immigration inspection, and documents to have with you.
I-94 Record

What is the I-94 record and why is it important?

Current Travel Guidance and Restrictions

Advice for traveling in COVID times, such as preparing for your travel, restrictions, and possible issues.

Source URL: https://oiss.yale.edu/travel/traveling-to-the-us

Links:
[1] https://www.nafsa.org/regulatory-information/covid-19-restrictions-us-visas-and-entry
[2] https://oiss.yale.edu/about/contact-oiss
[3] https://oiss.yale.edu/about/connect-with-oiss
[4] https://oiss.yale.edu/immigration/f-1-students/traveling
[5] https://oiss.yale.edu/immigration/j-1-students/traveling
[6] https://oiss.yale.edu/immigration/j-1-scholars/traveling