

RENEWING YOUR F-1 OR J-1 VISA



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If you are currently studying in the U.S. in F-1 or J-1 status and your visa is about to expire, please remember that you may remain legally in the United States with an expired visa because your I-94 card is marked *D/S*, which stands for *Duration of Status*. This means that you are eligible to remain in the U.S. until you either reach the end date on your I-20 DS-2019, or until the end of your academic program, whichever comes first. Your visa is simply an entry permit to get into the U.S. However, if you are planning a trip outside of the United States and your visa is expired or about to expire, you will need to renew your F-1 or J-1 visa outside of the U.S. to be able to re-enter and resume your studies. It is not possible to renew your visa from within the U.S.

Steps for Renewing a Visa

Schedule a visa appointment/interview

Checklist for Visa Appointment

- _____ A completed visa application form (available at the [Embassy's website](#))
- _____ Proof of payment of visa application fees
- _____ Current I-20 or DS-2019 with a valid travel signature
- _____ All previously issued I-20s or DS-2019s
- _____ A passport valid for at least 6 months or more into the future
- _____ Updated financial support documentation
- _____ If you are a TA/RA/GA, you should include your “funding letter” from your academic department
- _____ Proof of home country ties, including but not limited to: proof of property ownership, bank accounts, significant family in your home country, a job offer in your home country upon completion of your U.S. studies (you may or may not be asked about this, but it is always good to be prepared).

The following two items are additional documents necessary for Chinese Nationals ONLY

- _____ Official transcript (request this at the Registrar’s Office in Daniels Hall)
- _____ A letter verifying your full-time status from Office of International Students and Scholars. You can download the request for “Certificate of Attendance” at the International House web site.

<http://www.wpi.edu/Images/CMS/InternationalHouse/attendRequest.pdf>