TRAVEL VALIDATION PROCESS FOR J-1 EXCHANGE VISITORS

Are you planning to travel outside of the U.S. during your J-1 program? Read on for more information on what you need to do and bring with you in order to travel!

What is a travel validation?


TRAVEL VALIDATION BY RESPONSIBLE OFFICER

(Maximum validation period is one year)*

*EXCEPT: Maximum validation period is up to six months for Short-term Scholars and four months for Camp Counselors and Summer Travel/Work.

(1) Exchange Visitor is in good standing at the present time

Date *(mm-dd-yyyy)*

Signature of Responsible Officer or Alternate Responsible Officer

(2) Exchange Visitor is in good standing at the present time

Date *(mm-dd-yyyy)*

Signature of Responsible Officer or Alternate Responsible Officer

Travel Validation refers to the signature field on the lower right-hand side of the DS2019 form. A signature in this field from a Cultural Vistas representative is required for any J-1 or J-2 participant to return to the U.S. after traveling outside of North America during the J-1 program.

When is a travel validation needed?

A travel validation is needed for any J-1 or J-2 participant traveling outside of North America during the J-1 program.

What if I am traveling within North America?

Participants traveling to Canada, Mexico, or adjacent islands who plan to depart and reenter the U.S. within North America do not need a travel validation and are free to travel if they have an “M” for multiple entries on their J-1 visa stamp.





What if I am traveling inside the U.S.?

Travel validations are not required for travel within the U.S. Cultural Vistas does not log or require participants to notify us of their travel plans if they are traveling within the U.S.

I've made my travel plans, but what's next? How can I receive a travel validation if I need one?

Great! For any travels outside of the U.S., either inside or outside of North America, submit a travel request here. We will review your submission and your travel details and follow up with you within 1-2 business days only if there are next steps required for your trip, such as a travel validation. Please note that travel validations require a $50 fee. *Travel validation requests submitted less than 48 hours before the planned travel date may be subject to an additional expedited fee of $50, for a total of $100*. After you fill out the form, we will issue you an invoice to pay this fee before we sign your DS-2019.

Some guidelines to remember:

- You may not spend more than 30 consecutive days outside of the U.S. for any trips that you take.
- Please also make sure to have your host company approve your travel plans as well. Each host company will have its own unique procedures for requesting paid time off or vacation time, so please ensure that you reach out to your supervisor or HR department to understand these procedures.
- We hope your travels go safely and smoothly! If you have questions while traveling, you can always reach us at participantsupport@culturalvistas.org.
- If you are in need of immediate assistance regarding your health, safety, or an emergency while traveling, you can also call our 24/7 emergency line (1-240-240-7511).



