

Traveling Internationally with an Expired Visa



Cultural Vistas does not recommend traveling outside of the U.S. with an expired visa. If this becomes necessary, however, you must apply for a new J-1 visa to renew it at a U.S. Consulate or Embassy outside of the U.S. in order to re-enter. You cannot use any other visa type to re-enter the U.S. while on your J-1 program.

How do I renew my J-1 visa?

- 1** [Complete the DS-160 Nonimmigrant Visa Application](#) for each family member
 - To complete a new DS-160 form, go to the application website, enter your previous visa application ID, and then hit "Create a New Application." Your personal information will then populate the form. Be careful to check that all previously submitted information is current and accurate. Use the SEVIS number and program number from your DS-2019 form.
- 2** Pay the nonimmigrant visa application fee (MRV fee) for each family member applying for a new visa
- 3** Make an interview appointment at the nearest U.S. Consulate or Embassy abroad
- 4** Bring the following documents to your interview:
 - Passport (valid for at least 6 months into the future)
 - DS-2019 form
 - Visa application (DS-160) confirmation page
 - Visa application fee (MRV fee) payment receipt
- 5** Present the new J-1 visa and your DS-2019 upon reentry to the U.S. when you return.

Keep the Following in Mind:

- [Wait times](#) vary by country, so book your appointment well in advance of your travels abroad
- Schedule an appointment during your trip abroad
- Allow up to 10 days after the interview to receive the visa
- Review the [U.S. Embassy or Consulate website](#) where you will apply for your visa for location-specific information
- Some visa applicants are not required to attend an interview. The application system will alert you if this is an option. HOWEVER, we strongly recommend that you still attend an interview to avoid delays in the process
- You cannot re-enter the U.S. during the 30-day grace period after your J-1 program ends
- There is no guarantee that your visa renewal will be approved

What is Automatic Visa Revalidation?

Your re-entry to the U.S. is always at the discretion of the CBP Officer reviewing your documentation. That said, if you are not able to renew your visa abroad and you meet the criteria found [here](#), then you can re-enter the U.S. under the Automatic Visa Revalidation provision. This applies only for a visit to Canada, Mexico or an [adjacent island](#) before your program ends, and if your trip is less than 30 days.

To get Automatic Visa Revalidation, you will need to present the following documents upon reentry to the US following your brief trip to Canada/Mexico/adjacent island:

- Original DS-2019 (with original program duration)
- Updated DS-2019 and DS7002 forms (with extended program duration)
- Passport with J-1 visa
- Any previously issued admission stamp or I94 record from CBP
- Latest I94 record taken from the CBP I94 website.

