

F-1 INTERNATIONAL STUDENT TRAVEL GUIDE

International students with the intention of returning to the U.S. in F-1 status should travel outside the U.S. only if they carry the required documents. The following documents are needed to re-enter the U.S. after travel abroad for less than 5 months:

- Passport that is valid for at least 6 months into the future after your date of re-entry
- Valid F-1 (or F-2 for dependents) visa stamp in passport
 - Canadian students are not required to have an F-1 visa stamp.
- Current I-20 with a valid signature from the PDSO (Dr. Marsha Cornelius) or a DSO (Ms. Erin Longo, Ms. Megan Croft, or Ms. Stephanie Lawhorne).
 - Do you already have a valid travel signature? Look at the second page of your I-20; signatures are valid 1 year from the date they are signed (students on OPT are strongly recommended to have a signature dated within 6 months if they travel outside the U.S.).
 - If you need a new DSO signature, bring your most recent I-20, passport, and I-94 to your appointment.
- Proof of financial support that is less than one year old (bank statements, scholarship letter, etc.)
 - Bank statements should be in your name or be accompanied by an original letter of support from the person whose name is on the statement.
 - If you have support from the college or a sponsor, it is recommended that you have a document on the organization's letterhead that details your funding.
 - If you have already paid tuition for the upcoming semester, you may be able to obtain documentation from the Student Accounts office.
- Most recent I-94 Departure Card
 - Having this document will facilitate your re-entry if re-entering through a land port of entry (POE); if you are flying, your I-94 is processed electronically. Foreign visitors to the U.S. arriving via air or sea no longer need to complete paper Customs and Border Protection [Form I-94 Arrival/Departure Record](#). Those who need to prove their legal-visitor status—to employers, schools/universities or government agencies—can access their CBP arrival/departure record information online at <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/consent.html;jsessionid=sJh7XzzZ64R19sbx5DV69JdGvslpTQWp7v9NTp9gFMX93HpTzTX2!1768450103>.
 - Always check your I-94 before leaving the inspection area to verify that it was marked "F-1" and "D/S."
 - Canadian Students: Often, the I-94 will not be removed from your passport when you leave the U.S., and you will not receive a new one upon re-entry. That is okay, but if the I-94 card is removed, remember to get one with the proper designation of "F-1, D/S" when you re-enter the U.S.
 - Students should never enter the U.S. in tourist immigration status. If your I-94 is marked with anything other than "F-1, D/S" (F-1, duration of status), then contact a DSO right away.
- Proof of enrollment: certificate of enrollment (free) or transcript (\$5.00 fee)
 - You can order these from Registrar's Office, 3rd Floor Whipple. Please be sure to order at least 1 week prior to your planned departure. DO NOT wait until the last minute or you may not be able to obtain the paperwork until after your departure date.

Submitting your request for travel signature to the PDSO

- Can be done 2-4 weeks in advance of your trip
- If you are returning from your trip in the next semester (for example, if you are traveling over the semester break and will return in January), then **you must first pre-register for classes** before we can sign your I-20 for travel.
- You must otherwise be eligible for travel (includes maintaining status and eligibility to return to MSC).

Morrisville State College Contact Information:

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