



APRIL 29, 2025: UPDATE FROM INTERNATIONAL SERVICES

As we approach summer break, the International Services team offers a few reminders for those considering travel outside of the United States.

Immigration Documents

International Services strongly advises all students to identify your most recent immigration documents and take steps to safeguard these documents in the following manner:

- Upload the most recent copy of your passport, I-94, and F/J visa stamp to International Services [iStart Portal](#) under the Biographical Information tab.
- Keep a digital copy of these documents, including your I-20/DS-2019, on your computer and cell phone.
- Keep the following original documents in your possession to document your lawful status:
 - Your valid and unexpired passport with F-1 or J-1 visa stamp.
 - Remember, your passport should be valid for at least six months into the future.
 - If needed, you can [renew your passport](#) while in the U.S.
 - A printed and signed copy of your most recent I-20 (F-1) or DS-2019 (J-1).
 - A printed copy of your most recent [I-94 arrival record](#).
 - The I-94 must state “Class of Admission” as F-1 or J-1 and “Admit Until Date” as D/S (duration of status.)

International Travel

We continue to monitor potential changes in current immigration rules and recommend that students from [potentially impacted countries](#) reconsider non-essential international travel until further clarity is present.

Additionally, students planning to travel with an expired F-1/J-1 visa should be prepared for expanded visa application screenings, which may result in increased delays and potential denials. It is essential that you consider the risk of international travel and how it could impact your studies if you were to be delayed or prevented from returning to the U.S.

If you do plan to travel outside the U.S., International Services strongly advises reviewing the guidance below before your departure.

1. **Address Updates** – You must update your local U.S. and foreign address within 10 days of moving.
 - Federal regulations require students to update their local and foreign address within 10 days of an address change. An incorrect local or foreign address in SEVIS could be grounds for termination.
 - This information must be updated via the [iStart Portal](#), Biographical Information, and Biographical Contact Information Update. Completing this form will allow International Services to update your local and foreign address information with SEVIS.
2. Review the new [USCIS Alien Registration](#) requirements to confirm if further action is needed for compliance.
3. You must notify International Services of your international travel and **request a travel signature** by submitting the Travel Information e-form in the [iStart Portal](#).
 - Travel signatures for enrolled F-1 and J-1 students are valid for 12 months.
 - Travel signatures for those on OPT are valid for 6 months.
 - International Services issues electronic I-20s and DS-2019s with digital signatures; however, you must **print and sign** the I-20 and DS-2019 to request re-entry to the U.S.
4. Review the [Travel and Visas](#) section of our website to confirm what documents you need for international travel.
 - F-1/J-1 visas cannot be renewed within the U.S. and must be applied for outside the U.S.
 - If you depart the U.S. with an expired visa, you must renew the visa to request re-entry to the U.S.
 - Some U.S. Embassies struggle with appointment availability, and it may be difficult to schedule a visa appointment.
 - The U.S. Department of State publishes information on [visa appointment wait times](#) on their website.
 - Review specific [U.S. Embassy websites](#) for local procedures and instructions to prepare to apply for a visa renewal.
5. Due to the possibility of delays with renewing visas, we recommend that you:
 - Contact your academic adviser to discuss the impact of a potential travel delay on your academic progress and, if applicable, your assistantship.
 - If you work on campus, contact [International Employment](#) in the Office of Human Resources for information on how a potential travel delay could impact your employment eligibility.

Remember to look for updates on the International Services [website](#), the U.S. Department of State [website](#), and if applicable to the appropriate resources of the country issuing your passport.

We truly appreciate the meaningful impact our international students have on campus life and recognize the unique perspectives and contributions each of you brings to the Clemson community. Please contact [International Services](#) to arrange a meeting if you have additional questions and concerns.