



Dear UCLA International Students and Scholars,

As we approach Spring Break and the summer months, you may be planning international travel. To support a smooth return to the U.S. and to avoid complications at the port of entry, please review the following guidance regarding your documentation, visa application, and possible travel restrictions.

Immigration policies are subject to change at any time, and such changes may affect your travel plans. We highly encourage you to stay informed, make thoughtful decisions, review [travel information](#) before traveling abroad.

Required Travel Documents

If re-entering the U.S. from abroad with **F-1 status**, these are the required travel documents:

- Valid passport (must be valid for at least six months beyond your date of re-entry)
- Valid F-1 Student Visa (except Canadian citizens)
- Valid UCLA I-20 with a [valid travel signature](#) from the Dashew Center
- Original EAD card (only for students on OPT/STEM OPT Extension)
- Employment offer/verification letter (only for students on OPT/STEM OPT Extension)

If re-entering the U.S. from abroad with **J-1 status**, these are the required travel documents:

- Valid passport (must be valid for at least six months beyond your date of re-entry)
- Valid J-1 visa (except Canadian citizens)
- Valid UCLA DS-2019 with [a valid travel signature](#) from the Dashew Center

Visa Renewals

If your F-1/J-1 visa has expired and you plan to renew it while abroad, please be aware of visa processing wait times. Visa delays could impact your timely return to UCLA.

Current Travel Restrictions

Effective January 1, 2026, new federal restrictions are in place for certain foreign nationals. For more information, see the [Proclamation fact sheet](#) for the updated list of affected countries. Please refer to the [last message](#) from the Dashew Center for more information.

Should you have any questions or need further assistance we remain focused on supporting and keeping all members of our international community well informed. You may [contact us](#) by email or seek individual support by [scheduling an appointment](#) with our visa counselors.

If you have any questions beyond Dashew Center's purview or need legal guidance, we recommend consulting an [immigration attorney](#). You can also visit the [Immigration Updates](#) page on our website for latest information.

Sincerely,

UCLA Dashew Center

A Department of Student Affairs