



A.6 Applying to Renew an F-1 Student Visa

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Students should contact the U.S. Embassy or Consulate they plan to visit for detailed requirements. Below are the basic documents needed to apply for the renewal of an F-1 visa.

- 1) **Active Form I-20** that has been signed for travel by the ISC immigration advisor within one year before the re-entry date.
- 2) **Proof of full-time enrollment** - Copy of current transcripts **and** registration for future terms (if enrolled for the upcoming semester).
- 3) **Proof of current financial support** (e.g. financial statements, affidavit of support from Sponsor).
- 4) **Valid passport** for a minimum of six months beyond the re-entry date to the U.S.
- 5) Copy of **I-94 card**.
- 6) **Travel letter** issued by CFK's International Student Office verifying student's status. Letter takes three business days to process and may be obtained by submitting a Travel Authorization Request Form (see the International Student Advisor form).
- 7) **Visa application** form, fees, and photographs (according to Embassy's required format).

Steps for Visa Renewal Before Leaving the US:

- Students must identify the visa application requirements for the Embassy or Consulate where they plan to apply for a visa renewal. Visit www.usembassy.gov
- Acquire all documents the Embassy or Consulate needs to issue a visa.
- Make a visa appointment.
- Reserve a flight that allows sufficient time to obtain a visa. Certain individuals may be subject to security clearances, which can result in delays of 20 additional business days or more. Students should be aware of the negative effect a delay may have on completing courses when traveling in the middle of a semester.
- Inform the International Student Adviser of visa renewal plans in a few weeks. The adviser will verify the student's records, endorse Form I-20 and issue a travel letter.
- Preparation and organization are important during a visa interview. Students must be mindful that the purpose of a student visa is to study. They must also show they have reasons and plans to return to their home country.

Applying for a Visa Renewal at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate as a Third Country National

- Not all Embassies accept third-country visa applicants and the decision to accept applications varies throughout the year. Students must contact the Embassy before making travel plans and ensure their application is accepted.
- Canada and Mexico are popular locations for visa renewals and have various locations. Students may visit <http://travel.state.gov/> for locations and information on how to make an appointment. Please note that citizens of countries designated as state sponsors of terrorism are ineligible to apply at an Embassy or Consulate at a U.S. border. The list of countries may be found at <http://travel.state.gov/> Students who have violated their immigration status may not be eligible to apply for a renewal at U.S. border sites.
- Students who have applied for a visa renewal in the contiguous territory (Canada, Mexico, and Caribbean Islands) and are awaiting a decision (visa has not been issued) may not re-enter the U.S. using the **automatic visa revalidation**. Certain individuals will be subject to a **security clearance** and should expect delays of 20 business days or longer. If the visa application is denied, students **cannot re-enter** the United States until they obtain a new visa from the U.S. Embassy or Consulate in their home country.