



Automatic Visa Revalidation for Reentry to the U.S.

It is possible for those on F or J visas to re-enter the United States with an expired visa stamp ONLY after a visit to Mexico, Canada, or adjacent islands, for a trip that is not more than 30 days.

Which countries are included in this rule? Dominican Republic, Haiti, Bermuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad, Saint Pierre & Miquelon, the Windward Islands (Dominica, Martinique, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines, Grenada), the Leeward Islands (British Virgin Islands, Anguilla, Saint Martin, Saint Kitts, Nevis, Barbuda, Antigua), and other British, French, and Netherlands territory or possessions in or bordering on the Caribbean Sea.

May I use automatic visa revalidation to re-enter the United States from my home country? No. If you are from one of these countries and travel home with an expired visa, you must apply for a new visa while in your home country.

Requirements

Who is eligible to use automatic visa revalidation? You may use this option only if:

- You have the following documents with you when you re-enter the U.S.:
 - Your most recent I-94 marked D/S for "duration of status."
 - The expired visa stamp, OR a USCIS approval notice (Form I-797) if you possess an I-94 card from a change of status.
 - A valid I-20 or DS-2019 which has been endorsed for travel by the International Student Services office.
 - A valid passport.
- You have only been to the countries or territories listed above for a total of no more than 30 days.
- You have maintained your F or J status, and intend to resume the same status when you return to the U.S. (If you are traveling for reinstatement, you may not use this option.)
- You have not applied for a new visa while abroad.



If you apply for a visa while abroad:

Automatic Visa Revalidation is not available to citizens of any country who apply for a U.S. visa while abroad. If you intend to apply for a U.S. visa while in one of the countries listed above, you should decide carefully, as you will not be able to return to the U.S. until your visa is approved. If your visa is denied, you must return to your home country and reapply at a U.S. consulate there.

Ineligible Nationalities

Automatic visa revalidation is not available to nationals of **Cuba, Iran, Syria, and Sudan**. If you are a citizen of one of these countries and your F-1 or J-1 visa is no longer valid, you will need to follow the procedures for renewing your F-1 visa or renewing your J-1 visa. Iraq and Libya were recently removed from the list; however, citizens from those countries may still encounter difficulties or be refused entry, and we do not encourage you to use this option.