



INSTRUCTIONS FOR F-1 AND J-1 STUDENTS TRAVELING WITHOUT A VALID FORM I-20 OR FORM DS-2019

Purpose

This handout is designed for students in F-1 and J-1 status. It will provide you with information on what to do if you do not have a valid Form I-20 or Form DS-2019 upon reentering the U.S.

There are two options available for students who do not have a valid Form I-20 or Form DS-2019 for reentering the U.S. In order to use either of these options, you must have a valid passport and a valid F-1 or J-1 visa (visa not required for Canadian citizens).

Option 1 – Request that ISSS mail valid Form I-20 or Form DS-2019 to you abroad.

If the length of your stay abroad allows, you should request to have a Form I-20 or Form DS-2019 issued, endorsed for travel, and sent to you abroad by ISSS.* Please submit the completed [Notification to Mail Documents](#) to issm@miami.edu.

*Note: J-1 students on a J-1 program other than the University of Miami's J-1 program must obtain their Form DS-2019 from their J-1 program sponsor, and only their J-1 program sponsor can endorse their DS-2019 for travel.

ISSS will notify you of the estimated charges for delivery which will include a \$1.50 processing fee. You must pay the indicated amount via ISSS's payment portal: www.miami.edu/ISSSshipexpress.

Option 2 – Request Form I-515 from U.S. Customs and Border Protection (USCBP) Inspector at U.S. Port-of-Entry.

If you do not have a properly endorsed Form I-20 or Form DS-2019 upon arrival at a U.S. port-of-entry, then you can request Form I-515 from the USCBP Inspector at the U.S. port-of-entry for temporary reentry into the U.S. However, please note that option 2 should be your last resort, and that is not equally preferable to option 1. You should make every effort to have a properly endorsed Form I-20 or DS-2019 in hand when you seek reentry to the U.S.

An F-1 or J-1 student admitted to the U.S. with a Form I-515, *Notice to Student or Exchange Visitor*, is lawfully admitted to the United States for a period of 30 days. You are required to report to our office immediately upon arrival so that ISSS may send the following to the address indicated on the Form I-515 within the 30 day period:

- The original Form I-515 issued at the port of entry;
- An **original** SEVIS Form I-20 or Form DS-2019, signed by you and your ISSS Advisor;* and
- Form I-94 Arrival/ Departure Record (<https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/>)

*Note: J-1 students on a J-1 program other than the University of Miami's J-1 program must obtain their Form DS-2019 from their J-1 program sponsor, and only their J-1 program sponsor can endorse their DS-2019 for the purpose of Form I-515.

If the Form I-515 is sent to the correct address and includes the proper documentation, a Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) official will review the material and, if you are otherwise admissible, will return the SEVIS Form I-20 or Form DS-2019, the Form I-94, and a short letter of confirmation to ISSS, and ISSS will notify you to pick up your documents.

Your Form I-94 will have been amended by the SEVP official to reflect an entry that is valid for "D/S," or the duration your program as reflected on the SEVIS Form I-20 or Form DS-2019.

Failure to submit complete or original paperwork, as specified above, will result in a delayed response and will cause you to fall out of status. **As noted above, all documentation will be sent back to the school rather than to you directly.**

It is your responsibility to make sure that you carry in hand all documentation required to seek reentry to the U.S. Please note that failure to have all proper documentation upon re-entry to the U.S. will result in a delay at the U.S. port-of-entry, and may be reason for the officer to send you to Secondary Inspections.

For further information, visit the International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) website at www.issmiami.edu and/or contact your ISSS Advisor at issmiami@umiami.edu

Although your International Student and Scholar Advisor is here to assist you, it is your responsibility to maintain your immigration status. It is imperative that you familiarize yourself with the regulations that govern your status. Failure to comply with these regulations will result in the loss of your student status and may subject you to deportation.