



If you plan to travel during the time that you are authorized for Optional Practical Training, after completion of your program of study at UCI, please make sure that you have **ALL** of the following documents in order so that you may re-enter the United States.

❖ **Your SEVIS I-20**

The page 3 of the I-20 must contain the Optional Practical Training recommendation and a current signature from one of the Designated School Officials in the International Center.

❖ **Your Passport**

This should be valid for at least six months beyond the end date of your Practical Training authorization. (If your passport has expired, or will expire in the near future you should contact your embassy or consulate general in the U.S., and submit your passport extension.)

❖ **Job/Job Offer**

Recent operating instruction states, a student with an OPT post-completion EAD must have a job or job offer in order to be readmitted to the U.S. after a temporary absence abroad.

❖ **A valid F-1 Visa Stamp**

You can only obtain a visa for the U.S. outside the United States (most preferably in your home country). If your visa stamp has expired, **DO NOT** make any travel plans without first discussing this with a counselor in the International Center.

❖ **Employment Authorization Document (EAD) Card**

Remember, the immigration inspector at the point of entry to the United States will not allow you back in to begin or resume practical training unless you can show your EAD card (proof of employment authorization). You may leave the U.S. without this card, but you will **NOT** be allowed to re-enter the U.S. without the EAD card, so plan accordingly!

Please Note: Under the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Response Act of 1996 (IIRAIRA) if your visa documents are not in order for re-entry to the United States, you run the risk of being denied entry without a deportation hearing, or you may even become inadmissible to the United States in any nonimmigrant category for **FIVE YEARS**. This is a very serious and unforgiving legislation.

Thus, now more than ever, it is of crucial importance that international students and scholars make every effort possible to maintain valid non-immigrant status while in the U.S. It is becoming increasingly more difficult to obtain visas for study and for employment in the United States, and the non-immigrant visa officers are more interested in assessing your previous history in the US in order to determine your eligibility for a visa renewal. If you are unsure of the likelihood of obtaining a new visa, please set up an appointment to discuss this with the International Center prior to securing your travel plans.

Caution! If your visa is denied overseas, there is very little that can be done to assist you in this matter. Please take this into account when planning your trip.