



## INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

### Traveling on the F-1 Visa

You may wish, during your course of study, to travel outside the U.S. If you are an F-status student, you **MUST** report your travel plans to the International Programs office prior to leaving the country. Your I-20 must be signed by either Danielle Davis or Dr. Jeanette Barbieri to authorize such travel.

**Students abroad for longer than five [5] months will need to be re-registered as initial status students and issued a new I-20. To avoid this, Hollins University requires that your I-20 must be signed within six [6] months of your planned re-entry into the U.S.**

**Once you are out of the country, any necessary documents can be mailed to you, provided that you pay the mailing costs.** These are typically around \$100 for priority shipping with tracking numbers.

You will also need to ensure that your visa will still be valid for re-entry. If not, you must apply for a new visa in your home country before you will be permitted to return to the U.S. Be sure to bring your passport and most recent I-94 with you when you report to International Programs for a travel authorization signature on your I-20; we will check your documents to make sure you have everything you need to re-enter the U.S.

In some cases, CBP officials may record some of your information incorrectly upon re-entry to the US. If this happens, you will not be able to access your I-94 online (<https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/>), and you will need to correct the information before your SEVIS record will correctly reflect your date and port of arrival. **Be sure to check for your I-94 every time you re-enter the US.** If there is an issue with the document, or you cannot access it, our office will assist you.

### Travel within in the U.S.

Students who are enrolled at Hollins University, but have not renewed their expired F-1 visas, may still travel within the U.S. Travel which takes place within the U.S. does not require a travel authorization signature, though you will still need to notify International Programs before you depart campus.

If you intend to drive while in the U.S., you can apply for a driver's license at the nearby Department of Motor Vehicles. To do so, you will need to supply:

- a valid passport
- I-20 (Certificate of Eligibility)
- I-94 (Arrival/Departure Record)
- Social Security card, if applicable
- Two proofs of Virginia residency
  - Typically, an official transcript and documentation of your housing assignment

Most students are required to take a written test of Virginia road rules and an in-car driving test. Canadian, French, German and Korean citizens are often exempt.

### **Study Abroad as an International Student**

All study abroad opportunities available at Hollins are open to international students. If you choose to spend a semester abroad on one of the many programs offered by Hollins, you will remain in good status for the duration of the program, and will not be subject to the five-month rule referenced above.

International students will still need to complete the F-1 Registration Form at the start of their semester abroad, but are not required to return it in person. The form will be sent to your Hollins email.

If you are interested in studying abroad, please schedule an appointment with International Programs to discuss the application process.

### **Final Departure from the U.S.**

Immigration regulations give F-status students **60 days** to leave the U.S. following the completion of your academic program and any approved practical training. **During this time (referred to as a “grace period”), you may travel the country, but MUST NOT accept employment or undertake an additional program of study without officially transferring or enrolling in another degree program.**