3. Automatic Revalidation of Visas

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Summer Travel Plans in North America

Are you heading *South of the Border* or north to view Niagara Falls from the Canadian side during the summer break? If your F or J visa has expired, you may be eligible for automatic visa revalidation per US Customs and Border Protection rules (https://www.cbp.gov/sites/default/files/documents/auto_reva_3.pdf). Below you can find details to determine if your situation qualifies for this benefit. F and J visa holders are eligible to travel to adjacent islands* (except Cuba) and back with expired visas. If you hold another non-immigrant visa status, such as H-1B, the automatic visa revalidation rule only applies to travel within contiguous territory. So no island hopping on an expired visa if you do not have F or J status. You will still require a valid travel signature on your I-20 or DS-2019 in order to re-enter the US back in status. Travel signatures are valid for one year or up until the end of the validity period of the document, whichever comes first.

As a reminder, you may not travel outside the United States AFTER your program completion date AND still return in your prior status. The 60-day (F status) and 30-day (J status) grace period is allotted for domestic travel and to make preparations to depart the US. If you depart the US during your grace period, your I-20 or DS-2019 is no longer valid for re-entry into the United States. If eligible, you may be able to re-enter the US on an alternative status such as the B tourist or the ESTA (Electronic System for Travel Authorization).

OIS also recommends that you review the *Important Travel Information* handout available on our website before you depart the US. There a number of helpful links and reminders outlined on this resource. Wherever the winds may take you, enjoy the summer break (if you get one) and we will see you in August!

*Adjacent Islands*
- The Bahamas
- Barbados
- Bermuda
- The Dominican Republic
- Haiti
- Jamaica
- Martinique
- Miquelon
- Saint Pierre
- Trinidad
- The Windward & Leeward Islands

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**AUTOMATIC REVALIDATION OF VISAS**

The validity of an expired nonimmigrant visa may be considered to be automatically extended to the date of application for readmission at ports of entry. This includes cases where U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has changed the nonimmigrant classifications of an alien to another nonimmigrant classification. The validity of an expired or unexpired nonimmigrant visa may be considered to be automatically extended to the date of readmission and the visa may be converted as necessary to that changed classification. [22.C.F.R. 41.112(d)]

Visitors (and accompanying spouses and / or children) whose visas have expired may be boarded provided they meet the following requirements:

**F and J nonimmigrants:**
- Readmission from contiguous territory or adjacent islands (except Cuba)
- Readmission after an absence not exceeding 30 days
- In possession of Form I-94 endorsed to show an unexpired period of initial admission or extension of stay or in possession of the Certificate of Eligibility Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) I-20AB or SEVIS DS-2029
- In possession of a valid passport, unless exempt
- Does not require authorization for admission under the INA 212(d)(3)
- Has not applied for a new visa while abroad
- Has maintained and intends to resume nonimmigrant status

**All other nonimmigrants:**
- Readmission from contiguous territory
- Readmission after an absence not exceeding 30 days
- In possession of Form I-94 endorsed to show an unexpired period of initial admission or extension of stay
- M-1 student must also present a properly endorsed SEVIS Form I-20MN
- In possession of a valid passport, unless exempt
- Does not require authorization for admission under the INA 212(d)(3)
- Has not applied for a new visa while abroad
- Has maintained and intends to resume nonimmigrant status

The provisions of the automatic revalidation of visas does not apply to citizens of countries identified as supporting terrorism in the State Department’s annual report to Congress. Countries that are ineligible are Iran, Syria, Sudan and Cuba.

*The information on this bulletin supersedes page 18 inside the revised May 2011 Carrier Information*
Buy American Hire American Executive Order

On April 18, 2017, President Trump signed Executive Order 13788 entitled, "Buy American and Hire American." According to an April 17, 2017 White House press briefing:

- Buy American refers to a set of procurement laws about how goods and manufactured products are obtained and how they're used in federal projects or federally funded projects.
- Hire American generally refers to the body of law and policy concerning how our immigration, visa and guest worker programs are operated to ensure proper protections for American workers.

Although this Executive Order (EO) appears to be far-reaching and could close the doors for some employment opportunities, please keep in mind that this EO will have no immediate impact on H-1Bs. Changes to the H-1B program require legislative action and rulemaking. Both of which are a lengthy process in the American government. Because the EO is vast and vague, some international students and employees may be anxious about the announcement. OIS will be following the developments and outcomes of this EO and will share relevant information.

If you wish to stay informed on this topic, we encourage you to visit the NAFSA resource page available at [http://www.nafsa.org/Professional_Resources/Browse_by_Interest/International_Students_and_Scholars/Buy_American_Hire_American_Executive_Order/](http://www.nafsa.org/Professional_Resources/Browse_by_Interest/International_Students_and_Scholars/Buy_American_Hire_American_Executive_Order/) and the American Immigration Lawyers Association Advocacy and Media page available at [http://www.aila.org/advo-media/issues/immigration-2017-a-new-president-and-congress](http://www.aila.org/advo-media/issues/immigration-2017-a-new-president-and-congress)

In Other H-1B News...

On April 18, 2017, US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced completion of the selection process for the H-1B cap subject lottery. USCIS reported that they received 199,000 petitions for Fiscal Year 2018 (to begin October 1, 2017).

Per Congressional mandate, there are 65,000 H-1B visas available in the general pool and an additional 20,000 available for applicants who earned a US advanced degree (also referred to as the master's cap). USCIS conducted the selection for the master’s cap first. Cases filed in this category that were not selected were then included in the regular cap.

If a case was not selected, USCIS will return the petition and the filing fees directly to the petitioner. Cap-subject petitioners are reporting that receipt notices are being issued and have been received beginning in late April. It may take several weeks for all receipt notices to be distributed. Once all receipts are issued, USCIS will begin returning cases not selected.

Fraud Alert: 
DHS OIG Hotline Telephone Number Has Been Used in Scam 
To Obtain Personally Identifiable Information 

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Inspector General (OIG) is issuing this fraud alert to warn citizens of reports that the DHS OIG Hotline telephone number has been used recently as part of a telephone spoofing scam targeting individuals throughout the country.

The perpetrators of the scam represent themselves as employees with “U.S. Immigration” and can alter caller ID systems to make it appear that the call is coming from the DHS OIG Hotline telephone number (1-800-323-8603). The scammers demand to obtain or verify personally identifiable information from their victims through various tactics, including by telling individuals that they are the victims of identity theft. Many of the scammers reportedly have pronounced accents.

DHS OIG takes this matter very seriously. While we investigate the situation, we would like to remind the public that DHS OIG never uses its Hotline number to make outgoing calls — the phone line is only used to receive information from the public. Individuals should not answer calls purporting to be from 1-800-323-8603, and should never provide personal information during calls purporting to be from the DHS OIG Hotline. It continues to be perfectly safe to use the DHS OIG Hotline to report fraud, waste, abuse, or mismanagement within DHS components or programs.

Anyone who believes they may have been a victim of this telephone spoofing scam is urged to call our Hotline or file a complaint online via the DHS OIG website www.oig.dhs.gov. You may also contact the Federal Trade Commission to file a complaint and/or report identity theft.

Weekend Trip

Ohiopyle

- Camping, hiking, rafting location at Ohiopyle State Park
- 68 miles / 110km from Pittsburgh, approx. 1 hour 20 mins.
- Many streams and waterfalls
- Overnight camp ground

http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/findapark/ohiopyle/
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location/Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>4/29-5/7</td>
<td><strong>The Summer King</strong> - Pittsburgh Opera - Benedum Center</td>
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<td>5/2</td>
<td>“Travelin” - Backstage Bar at Theater Square - Pittsburgh Cultural Trust</td>
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<td>“Tiny Tots” - “Our Great Big Backyard” -</td>
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<td>Chris Botti with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra - Heinz Hall</td>
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<td>5/4-5/14</td>
<td><strong>Tarzan</strong> - Benedum Theater, Pittsburgh Musical Theater</td>
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<td>5/5</td>
<td>Kevin Howard - August Wilson Center</td>
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<td>5/5</td>
<td>“A Night at the Movies: The Music of John Williams” - Scottish Rite Cathedral - Pittsburgh Sym. Orchestra</td>
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<td>5/5, 5/6</td>
<td>Smoothfest Weekend, Gerald Albright, Johnathan Butler - August Wilson Center</td>
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<td>5/7</td>
<td>“Love that’s here to stay” - Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra - Heinz Hall</td>
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<td>5/7</td>
<td>Westmoreland Museum of American Art—FREE FIRST SUNDAY of the month</td>
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<td>5/6, 5/10</td>
<td><strong>Shen Yung</strong> - The Greater Philadelphia Falun Dafa - Benedum Center</td>
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<td>5/9</td>
<td>“Howard Alexander” - Backstage at Theater Square</td>
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<td>5/12-5/14</td>
<td><strong>Neil Sedaka</strong> - Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra - Heinz Hall</td>
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<td>5/16-5/18</td>
<td>Chris Rock - Benedum Center</td>
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<td>Children's Theater Festival (See next page)</td>
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<td>5/18</td>
<td>Sebastian Maniscalco - Heinz Hall</td>
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<td>5/19-5/21</td>
<td>“Romantic Brahms” - Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra - Heinz Hall</td>
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<td>5/23</td>
<td>Flo Wilson - Backstage Bar at Theater Square</td>
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<td>5/30</td>
<td>David Throckmorton - Backstage Bar at Theater Square</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/30-6/11</td>
<td><strong>An American in Paris</strong> - PNC Broadway Pittsburgh - Benedum Center</td>
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IT’S A HOCKEY NIGHT IN PITTSBURGH!

Pittsburgh’s hockey team, the Pittsburgh Penguins, once again find themselves in the playoff season, battling for the coveted ‘Stanley Cup’ trophy of the National Hockey League (NHL). Last year the Penguins won the Stanley Cup and Pittsburghers are hoping for a repeat of last year’s victory. The Penguins previously won the Stanley Cup back-to-back in 1991 and 1992. Currently the Penguins are leading in a seven game series with the Washington Capitals. There are two more rounds to get through before the Pens can once again hope to raise the Stanley Cup. For a Pittsburgh experience, head downtown during one of the Pen’s home games to check out the game on a big screen outside of the PPG Paints Arena!

LETS GO PENS!
Outdoor Activities

Pittsburgh Zoo and PGG Aquarium

The complex is one of only six combined zoo/aquariums in the U.S., and have over 4000 animals.
http://www.pittsburghzoo.org/

Kayaking

You can rent a kayak and get a great view of Downtown Pittsburgh, the bridges, Point State Park, and the South Hills.
http://www.ventureoutdoors.org/kayak-pittsburgh-north-shore/

Bike rental / Bike trails

You can go with your own bike, rent a bike, or even take a guided bike tour around downtown Pittsburgh. Bike trails follow the shores of the three rivers.
http://bikepittsburgh.com/

Parks

There are many parks to explore in Pittsburgh. Some favorites are: Schenley, Frick Park (pictured), and Grandview Park.

https://www.pittsburghparks.org/
Memorial Day, 5/29

Memorial day is a federal holiday in the United States that honors men and women who have died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. Memorial Day comes on the last Monday of May. This year, Memorial Day will be May 29th. Veterans Day is a different holiday in November, which celebrates the service of anyone who has served in the United States Armed Forces.

On Memorial Day, federal buildings, quickly raise the American flag up the flagpole and then slowly lowered to the halfway point. Also, National Cemeteries place a flag on a every veteran grave. Many Americans attend Memorial Day Parades and/or have barbeque parties. There is also a National Memorial Day Concert at the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington D.C.
Squirrel Hill is a largely residential neighborhood located just east of Oakland. The neighborhood is known for beautiful residences, local businesses along Forbes and Murray Streets, and the cultural influence of a large Jewish population. It is the most populous residential neighborhood in Pittsburgh.

The name, “Squirrel Hill,” comes from the large amount of gray squirrels that Native Americans observed in the area. Squirrel Hill remained rural until the late 1800s. Later, more people moved to the neighborhood and opened local businesses when the city developed a trolley system along Fifth Avenue, and increased even more when automobiles became popular in the 1920s. The large immigration of Eastern European Jews during the 1930s made the neighborhood a center of Jewish culture for the city and Western Pennsylvania.

There are many great spots for food and drink. Some favorites are: **Waffallonia, Everyday Noodles, Aladdin’s, NU Modern Jewish Bistro, Squirrel Hill Café, Independent Brewing Company.**
Experience America is a series of events and activities offered to visiting scholars, their families, and graduate students with dependents to help them better understand the American culture. The program is designed to introduce participants to campus and the local community.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

More info to come via email

May 9th—Lunch and Learn: Health

Please refer to the email from April 21st for instructions on how to register to attend.

June—Pittsburgh Pirates Game at PNC Park

July—Riverhounds (soccer) game
City of Pittsburgh Summer Activities

Dollar Bank Cinema In The Park

Grab a blanket or lawn chair and head out for an unforgettable evening of free cinema under the stars!

Return to your favorite movie location at Arsenal Park in Lawrenceville, Brookline Memorial Park, Flagstaff Hill in Schenley Park, Grandview Park in Mt. Washington, Highland Park, Riverview Park, or West End/Elliott Overlook or visit a new movie location in 2016: Mellon Square in Downtown Pittsburgh one Monday each month.

June 11 – August 30, 2017

http://pittsburghpa.gov/citiparks/cinema-in-park

Outdoor Pools List

Season opens mid-June and ends on Labor Day in September.

Weekday Hours: 1:00 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.
Weekend/Holiday Hours: 1:00 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.

http://pittsburghpa.gov/citiparks/swimming-pools-outdoor
New Charter Flight China to PIT

Frequent fliers between China and Pittsburgh may be happy to learn of a recently negotiated nonstop charter service. The agreement was announced in early April and details are still being finalized. The flights are the outcome of discussions between the Allegheny County Airport Authority (ACAA), County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, VisitPittsburgh tourism group, Idea Foundry and Caissa Touristic, a Chinese tourism company.

According to a March 31st ACAA News Release, Pittsburgh will be the first market in North America to receive nonstop charter service on a program through Caissa.

“This is huge step forward for the future, particularly for nonstop air service to China. The charter-to-scheduled service model has been successfully adopted in other parts of the world,” said Christina Cassotis, Pittsburgh International Airport CEO. “We are the first U.S. market to tap into China’s fast-growing tourism market with this type of business model, and it shows Pittsburgh to be an industry leader.”

Once finalized, this international direct flight will join the existing seasonal flights between PIT and Iceland (on WOW air), PIT and Germany (on Condor Airlines) and PIT and Paris (on Delta).
IMPORTANT CHANGES TO THE
STUDENT PAYMENT CENTER

The Student Payment Center at the University has introduced a new PittPAY system. All students who are enrolled at Pitt will be effected by this change. Students should log into the new system and make sure that their Authorized Users and refund preferences are entered. This information has not been saved from the old system.

For questions about this new system, please contact the Student Payment Center by e-mail at payments@pitt.edu or by telephone at 412-624-7520.

The NEW PittPAY is Here!

➢ Enroll in eRefunds
   Even if you were enrolled in direct deposit in the old PittPAY before! If you don’t, you’ll start getting student refunds by paper check to your home address.

➢ Update Authorized Users
   We can’t discuss your student account with anyone except your Authorized Users.

➢ View Payment Plans
   Enroll early for the most installments.

Log in & learn more: payments.pitt.edu

Student Payment Center
G-7 Thackeray Hall
139 University Place
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

Hours of Operation
Mon-Thu: 8:30am - 4:45pm
Fri: 9:30am - 4:45pm
Contact Us
**IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES**

- May 3 Spring Term grades must be approved by instructors by 11:59 p.m.
- May 7 Summer Term: Residence halls open
- May 8 Summer Term enrollment period ends and classes begin
- May 15 Summer 12-WEEK, 6-WEEK-1, 4-WEEK-1 sessions enrollment period ends and classes begin
- May 17 Summer 4-WEEK-1 and 6-WEEK-1 sessions add/drop period ends
- May 19 Summer Term add/drop period ends
- May 22 Summer 12-WEEK session add/drop period ends
- May 27 Official date for degrees awarded in the School of Law and School of Dental Medicine
- May 29 Memorial Day (University closed)
- May 31 Summer 4-WEEK-1 session deadline for students to submit Monitored Withdrawal forms to Dean’s Office
- June 2 Summer 6-WEEK-1 session deadline for students to submit Monitored Withdrawal forms to Dean’s Office
- June 10 Summer 4-WEEK-1 session ends: Final examinations scheduled during last class meeting
- June 12 Summer 4-WEEK-2 session enrollment period ends and classes begin
- June 14 Summer 4-WEEK-1 session grades must be approved by instructors by 11:59 p.m.
- June 14 Summer 4-WEEK-2 session add/drop period ends
- June 24 Summer 6-WEEK-1 session ends: Final examinations scheduled during last class meeting
- June 24 Official date for awarding of degrees
- June 26 Summer 6-WEEK-2 session enrollment period ends and classes begin
- June 28 Summer 6-WEEK-1 session grades must be approved by instruc-