

Under certain circumstances, US Department of State regulations (22 CFR 41.112(d): Automatic Extension of Validity at Ports of Entry) permit individuals who do not hold a valid visa (stamp) for their current nonimmigrant status to reenter the United States after visits of **30 days or less** to "contiguous territories," that is Canada and Mexico, without having to obtain a new visa from a US embassy or consulate prior to reentry. *For those in J (and F) status, revalidation also applies to the "adjacent islands," except Cuba.*

Automatic Visa Revalidation applies in two ways:

1. If you have a visa (stamp) in your passport that matches your current status, but has expired, that visa may be considered to be automatically revalidated on the date of your return to the US.
2. If you have changed status while in the US, and you have a visa (stamp) that matches your status from your last entry to the US (either expired or unexpired), that visa may be considered to be automatically revalidated for your current status on the date of your return to the US.

For reentry under the Automatic Visa Revalidation provision, carry:

- Valid passport (for at least 6 months from date of return to the US)
- US visa from last entry to US in passport (expired or for previous nonimmigrant status)
- Valid Form I-94. ***It is important that you not surrender Form I-94 at departure from the US.***
- All immigration documents you have been issued to reflect your current nonimmigrant status, including any I-797 Approval Notices verifying change or extension of status.
- Evidence of employment/appointment at Salk, as described under *Reentry to the US*— above for your nonimmigrant status.

The Automatic Visa Revalidation benefit is **not** extended to individuals who:

- are from countries designated by the US Department of State as [state sponsors of terrorism](#).
- have ever *overstayed* (e.g., stayed beyond their period of authorized stay/I-94 card expiration date).
- apply for a new visa at a US embassy or consulate while in a contiguous territory.

If you choose to apply for a new visa in a contiguous territory or if you cannot use the automatic revalidation of visa benefit you must receive the new visa before being granted permission to reenter the US. If denied a visa, you will most likely have to return directly to your home country in order to obtain one. We encourage you to carefully weigh the risks of security clearance delays and the possibility of not being able to return to the US before making arrangements to apply for a new visa in a contiguous territory.

See also: http://travel.state.gov/visa/laws/telegrams/telegrams_1441.html