Traveling in the U.S.

If you are traveling within the U.S., especially outside of the immediate Ann Arbor area, you should carry your original immigration/status documents (e.g. passport, I-94 print-out[1] and H-1B approval notice) with you. Even though you most likely will not be asked for them, it is important to note that, by law[2], you are required to carry your “registration form” with you. As a non-immigrant, your registration form is your I-94. Please be sure to store copies of all your immigration documents, should you lose your original documents and need to replace them.

Before You Travel Internationally

While you hold H-1B status, you are free to travel internationally. Before you travel, please review the University of Michigan Travel Information & Registration website[3], which includes current travel conditions and helpful links, as well as a registration for faculty, staff and students traveling for University-related activities. The Department of State also issues travel alerts and warnings[4].

Entering the U.S. for the First Time

Individuals coming to the U.S. in H-1B, TN and E-3 status may enter the country as early as ten days prior to the approved start date as indicated on their H-1B Approval Notice/LCA (E-3) or TN documents. Individuals attempting to enter the U.S. before this 10-day period run the risk of being refused admission at the border.

Please be sure to review CBP’s international visitor information[5] to review important information regarding the admission process and about bringing food[6], medication[7], pets[8] and money and other monetary instruments[9] into the U.S. Also, note that CBP reserves the right to inspect your electronic devices[10], such as your cell phone, tablet or laptop. If your electronic device is selected for such an inspection, you should receive a CBP fact sheet[11] with additional details.

Re-entering the U.S.

To re-enter the US after a stay abroad, you should always bring the following documents:

- Valid passport
- Valid visa stamp, if applicable, in the appropriate category (H-1B, E-3, TN, etc.)[12]
• H-1B Approval Notice, if applicable
• Copy of your immigration status application:
  ○ H-1B petition
  ○ TN letter
  ○ E-3 LCA and/or petition
• Three last paystubs
• Employment Confirmation Letter from your department [13]

Upon your return to the U.S.

Please send a copy of your new I-94 record [14] to the International Center for verification!

Travel while an H-1B Petition is Pending [15]
Travel while a Green Card Petition is Pending [16]

Source URL: https://internationalcenter.umich.edu/fsis/travel

Links
[2] http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?c=ecfr&amp;sid=2a2fb8818c14e10c49101309dcf65c7a&amp;rgn=div8&amp;view=text&amp;node=8:1.0.1.2.48.0.1.1&amp;idno=8
[12] https://internationalcenter.umich.edu/fsis/applying-visa