UPDATE: If you need to leave the U.S. with an expired visa and will be renewing in your home country, please be aware that you may experience heightened scrutiny/vetting or delay in renewal. Please schedule your request for renewal appointment as EARLY as possible. Please note that this information is subject to change at any time.

TRAVELLING DURING OPT APPLICATION OR AFTER APPROVAL?

STATUS	TRAVEL?	TRAVEL RISK LEVEL	WHAT YOU NEED
Applied for OPT. Application is pending and you are still a student (end date on page one of I-20 has not yet been reached)	YES	Low, as long as you reenter the country at least a couple weeks before the end date on your I-20.	Travel Endorsed I-20 Valid passport Valid visa
Applied for OPT. Application is pending and you are no longer a student (end date on page one of I-20 has been reached)	NO. Do not leave unless it is an emergency.	HIGH—if you leave the US while an application is pending, USCIS may see that as abandonment and cancel your application.	Travel Endorsed I-20 Valid passport Valid visa I-797 Receipt Notice Letter of Support from ISAO
Application for OPT is approved and you have your EAD card, but you do not have a job offer	NO	HIGH—if you decide to travel, you should take proof that you are actively looking for a position (i.e. proof that you submitted resumes, upcoming interviews, etc). Even if you have this proof you may be denied reentry into the country	Travel Endorsed I-20 Valid passport Valid visa EAD card Proof that you are actively looking for a job
Application for OPT is approved, you have your EAD card and a job offer, but the position has not started	SOMEWHAT	Moderate to Low—if you decide to travel, make sure that you take a job offer letter on official letterhead which should include your expected start date.	Travel Endorsed I-20 Valid passport Valid visa EAD card Job offer letter
Application for OPT is approved, you have your EAD card, and you have begun work	YES	Very Low—if you decide to travel, request a letter from your employer indicating that they approve your travel and listing the date they expect you back	Travel Endorsed I-20 Valid passport Valid visa EAD card Letter from employer

Currently on OPT? Regulations of your visa still REQUIRE you to:

- Report any change in mailing/residential address
- Report any change to your name
- Report any change to your visa
- Report any change in your employment (different job? new location? quit your job? fired?)
- Confirm your name, address, employer, and employer's address every 6 months and 12 months
- You must report any updates within 10 calendar days of the change

www.umkc.edu/isao/current-students/employment/optional-practical-training.html