Explanation of Immigration Documents

DS-2019 Form

The DS-2019 form is the paper document which represents the J-1 and J-2 Exchange Visitor status AND allows a scholar to legally remain inside the U.S. during the time specified on it. A scholar must always keep the DS-2019 form valid. Remaining in the U.S. and continuing to work on an expired DS-2019 form would constitute a violation of immigration status. Here is an example of what a DS-2019 form looks like:

![Sample DS-2019 form](image)

Passport

The passport is a universal form of identification that is issued by the person’s country of citizenship. It is needed for travel outside a person’s home country. Here is an example of what a U.S. Passport looks like:

![Sample U.S. Passport](image)
Electronic I-94

This electronic record is created when you enter the U.S., and again when you leave the U.S. Each time you enter and leave the U.S. a notation will be made in your online I-94 travel history. It’s how immigration tracks the arrival/departure of international visitors. You can print out copies of your I-94 as needed from here: https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/consent.html. Here is an example of what an electronic I-94 looks like:

U.S. Visa Stamp

The U.S. visa stamp in your passport is an "Entrance" stamp. A scholar needs to have the valid U.S. visa stamp in conjunction with a valid immigration document (in this case, the DS-2019 form). Once inside the U.S., the U.S. visa stamp does not affect your immigration status. It only becomes relevant when you travel OUTSIDE U.S. borders, because it would have to be valid for re-entry to the U.S. If it is expired and you travel, you would need to get it renewed before returning to the U.S. Here is an example of a U.S. Visa stamp: