Returning to ISU Process: Frequently Asked Questions
For Students in J-1 Status

Overview
Who must complete the "Returning to ISU" request in Cystart?
The reentry process must be completed after a student has been absent from ISU for at least one full semester (other than summer). Typically, students who are absent from ISU have spent time in their home country or another U.S. institution prior to returning to ISU.

When must I complete the "Returning to ISU" process?
Students are encouraged to complete the "Returning to ISU" process at least three to four months before the start of classes. This ensures approval from the university, academic department, and ISSO for reentry occurs in time for the start of classes.

Step One: Returning to the University
Undergraduate Student Process
How do I start the process to return to ISU?
Students must first apply to be readmitted to the university. To apply for readmission, students must complete the International Student Reentry Form.

- Students who were enrolled for even one day of their most recent previous semester at ISU do not need to complete the university's International Student Reentry form and therefore do not need to be readmitted to the university.

What must I do if I was academically dismissed?
Academically dismissed students must be academically reinstated prior to returning to ISU. Dismissed students must complete the Reinstatement after Academic Dismissal Form. Academically dismissed students are advised to meet with their academic adviser to discuss the reinstatement process.

Graduate Student Process
How do I start the process to return to ISU?

- Graduate students must first request to have their graduate record reactivated
  - Graduate Students who have been away from ISU for fewer than four consecutive semesters can do this by calling the Office of the Registrar at 515-294-2331.
  - Graduate students who have been away from ISU for four consecutive semesters must submit Request to be Reinstated to Academic Status.

What must I do if I was academically dismissed?
Dismissed students should discuss returning to the university with their academic department.

Step Two: Requesting a new DS-2019
How do I apply for my new immigration document?
Students must complete the Returning to ISU e-form in Cystart. This is an electronic process completed through Cystart. The link for Cystart can be found on the ISSO homepage. Log in to Cystart using ISU NetID and password. Once in Cystart, select J-1 Student Services and complete the "Returning to ISU" e-form.
What must I submit for this request?
  - Proof of financial support for the next two semesters
    - Documents more than three months old will not be accepted
    - Please refer to the Estimated Expenses information found on the ISSO website

When will ISSO process my Returning to ISU request?
The ISSO will only process the Returning to ISU request after the Registrar's Office and student's academic department have approved their request to return to the university and, if dismissed, reinstatement to ISU. Failure to submit either form in advance could result in significant delays in the reentry form being processed.

Step Three: New Visa (if applicable)
For students who are outside of the U.S.:
Students who are outside of the U.S. will be issued a new DS-2019 with a new SEVIS number. Students will be required to pay the I-901 SEVIS fee again and get a new visa, if previous visa is expired.

For students who are transferring from a U.S. institution:
Students transferring from another U.S. institution should work with their international office at their current institution as well as an International Student Advisor at Iowa State by contacting ISSO at isso@iastate.edu. A transfer is when one educational institution sends a student's immigration record to a different educational institution. For J-1 students, a transfer typically happens when a student changes schools or program sponsor.

Disclaimer: This Frequently Asked Questions is intended for general information and guidance. Please consult with an International Student and Scholar Advisor in the International Students and Scholars Office regarding your individual request.