

Basic Definitions:

Passport: Your passport, issued by your country of citizenship, should always be kept valid at least six months into the future. To renew your passport, contact your home government.

Certificate of Eligibility (I-20 or DS-2019): This certificate is an immigration document that correlates with the particular immigration status you hold. An I-20 is used for F-1 students and F-2 dependents. A DS-2019 is used for J-1 exchange visitors and J-2 dependents. Even after you have left the United States, you should retain these documents as they serve as an official record of your immigration history. They are also useful for tax purposes.

Visa

DOS: Department of State, is in charge of the J-