



## COVID-19 Information Updates for UM International Students

Last Updated: 08/10/2020

This document provides a compilation of notifications from the Department of International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) to F-1 and J-1 University of Miami international students regarding the impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Please visit [www.miami.edu/coronavirus](http://www.miami.edu/coronavirus) for comprehensive information on the University of Miami's response to the Coronavirus.

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# SEVP Guidance for Fall 2020 Semester - FAQs for UM International Students (Last updated July 29, 2020)

## 1. What is the Fall guidance?

On July 24, 2020, the Student Exchange and Visitor Program (SEVP) published a [Broadcast Message](#) and [FAQs](#) stating that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) will continue the [March Guidance](#) for the Fall 2020 semester.

As stated in the March 2020 guidance, Active F-1 students will be permitted to temporarily count online classes towards a full course of study. The March 2020 guidance applies to continuing F nonimmigrant students who were in valid F-1 nonimmigrant status on March 9, 2020. This includes students previously enrolled in entirely online classes who are outside of the United States and seeking to re-enter the country this fall. Students actively enrolled at a U.S. school on March 9, 2020, who subsequently took courses online while outside of the country can re-enter the United States, even if they will engage solely in distance learning.

In accordance with March 2020 guidance, F-1 students in new or initial status after March 9, 2020, will not be able to enter the United States to enroll in a U.S. school as a nonimmigrant student for the fall term to pursue a full course of study that is 100 percent online. Also consistent with the SEVP Broadcast Message dated March 9, 2020, designated school officials should not issue a Form I-20, "Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status," for a student in new or initial status who is outside of the United States and plans to take classes at an SEVP-certified educational institution that is operating 100 percent online.

## 2. If I am already in the U.S. and I am registered for an in-person course, how will I be affected?

For the fall semester, you can choose to enroll in in-person, hybrid, or remote courses. You may stay in the U.S. and study remotely from anywhere in the U.S. and will continue to maintain your F-1 student status.

## 3. How many in-person classes do I need to enroll in if I will be in the U.S. in fall?

If you are a new student, have a UM Form I-20 and an F-1 visa and are currently outside of the U.S., you will be able to enter the U.S. in F-1 status only if you enroll in some in-person classes or a hybrid plan (a combination of online and in-person classes). New students are not allowed to enter the U.S. to pursue a full course of study that is 100 percent online in the fall.

If you are a continuing student, you are required to enroll full-time in courses that are required for your degree program. For the fall semester, you can choose to enroll in in-person, hybrid, or remote courses. You may stay in the U.S. and study remotely from anywhere in the U.S. and will continue to maintain your SEVIS record in active status.

#### **4. Can I only take courses that are in my approved program of study?**

Per Immigration regulation, you will need to be enrolled full-time in classes that are required for your degree program and to make progress towards completion of your program in order to maintain valid F-1 status

If you are a new student who plans to study remotely from outside the U.S. you may enroll in any online courses of your choice.

#### **5. Can I stay in the U.S. and take all my classes online?**

If you are a continuing student currently in the U.S., you can choose to enroll in in-person, hybrid, or remote courses. You may stay in the U.S. and study remotely from anywhere in the U.S. and continue to maintain your SEVIS record in active status.

#### **6. I'm a transfer or change of educational level student. Can I continue to remain in the United States if I am engaged in a fully online program of study?**

Yes, you may remain in the United States to engage in full course of study online if you have not otherwise violated the terms of your nonimmigrant status since March 9, 2020.

#### **7. I am currently outside the U.S. and would like to take all my classes online. Can I do this?**

Yes, you may register and take all your courses online from outside the U.S. if you prefer.

If you are a new student, you will be able to enter the U.S. in F-1 status only if you enroll for in-person classes or a hybrid plan (a combination of online and in-person classes). New students are not allowed to enter the U.S. to pursue a full course of study that is 100 percent online in the fall. An I-20 and F-1 status are not required to take online courses from outside the U.S.

New students who are unable to come to the US this fall and are enrolled in remote courses can request a Form I-20 with a deferred program start date for an arrival in Spring. Students can use their current or the updated I-20 to apply for the F-1 visa.

If you are a continuing UM student who maintained F status and you have an active SEVIS record, you can choose to enroll in in-person, hybrid, or remote courses. You may travel to the U.S. and study remotely from anywhere in the U.S. or abroad and will continue to maintain your SEVIS record in active status.

#### **8. If I study online from my country, will this affect my F-1 status or visa?**

If you are a new student currently abroad, an I-20 and F-1 status are not required to take online courses from outside the U.S. You will be issued an updated Form I-20 that reflects spring 2021 as your program start date. You can use your current or the updated I-20 to apply for the F-1 visa. Not physically attending UM this fall will not negatively affect their visa application if one was already submitted.

If you are a continuing UM student who maintained F status and you have an active SEVIS record, you can choose to enroll in in-person, hybrid, or remote courses. You may study remotely from abroad or anywhere in the U.S. and will continue to maintain your SEVIS record in active status. Your current F-1 visa will not be affected if you choose to study remotely.

**9. If I am unable to come to the U.S. and choose to enroll in online classes, will this impact my future application for a student visa?**

New students who are unable to come to the US this fall can request a Form I-20 with a deferred program start date for an arrival in Spring. Students can use their current or the updated I-20 to apply for the F-1 visa. Not physically attending UM this fall will not negatively affect their visa application if one was already submitted.

**10. What will happen to my F-1 benefits if I remain outside the U.S. and take all my classes online?**

For new students, time spent studying remotely without F-1 status will not count towards your eligibility for [Curricular Practical Training \(CPT\)](#) and [Optional Practical Training \(OPT\)](#).

For continuing students, time spent studying remotely during Spring 2020 and Fall 2020 will count towards your eligibility for [Curricular Practical Training \(CPT\)](#) and [Optional Practical Training \(OPT\)](#). If fall 2020 is your final semester, you are abroad, and you wish to apply for OPT, you must enter the U.S. before your program end date.

**11. I am a new student and registered for a hybrid course that will only have some meetings in-person. Will that satisfy the SEVP requirement?**

The Code of Federal Regulations provides a definition of online courses for F-1 students. This definition describes an online class as one that, "...does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class." [8 CFR 214.2\(f\)\(6\)\(i\)\(G\)](#)

If your hybrid course requires physical attendance for classes, examinations, or other purposes integral to the completion of the class, it will satisfy the SEVP requirement. F-1 students in new or initial status after March 9, 2020, will not be able to enter the United States to enroll in a U.S. school as a nonimmigrant student for the fall term to pursue a full course of study that is 100 percent online.

**12. Will independent study/dissertation/thesis/research/practicum credits be considered online courses?**

The Code of Federal Regulations provides a definition of online courses for F-1 students. This definition describes an online class as one that, "...does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class." [8 CFR 214.2\(f\)\(6\)\(i\)\(G\)](#)

By this definition, required in-person meetings would preclude a course from being considered fully online. These courses should not be considered remote unless they are specifically designated as a remote offering in your class schedule in CaneLink.

Students should select the in-person mode of instruction for these courses if they plan to study on-campus. Students who plan to stay outside the U.S. for fall should select the online mode.

**13. Is one credit of dissertation credit enough for the “in person” requirements to be met?**

In-person 800 level courses/research credits are considered full-time and on-campus enrollment for international students, as they have been in the past. These credits typically involve an in-person component such as lab access or meetings with the advisor. Students should select the in-person mode of instruction for these courses if they plan to study on-campus. Students who plan to stay outside the U.S. for fall should select the online mode.

**14. I’m a new student. I heard I need a new I-20 with a certification. How can I request an I-20 to confirm I am not taking online courses?**

UM will not be able to issue an Initial Form I-20 for any student who is outside of the United States and plans to take classes fully online. If you were issued a Form I-20 already, you may only use it to apply for an F-1 visa and travel to the U.S. to attend in-person or hybrid classes in the fall.

**15. I am a continuing student. If I choose to study online in fall, do I need to get a new I-20 for fall or spring?**

As long as you are enrolled full-time and make normal progress in your course of study, you remain eligible to enter the U.S. in F-1 status before or during the fall semester, or to arrive for the spring semester, even if you will be taking classes fully online in the fall. An updated I-20 is not required.

**16. I have a J visa or a different non-immigrant visa. Does the SEVP guidance affect me?**

No – SEVP guidance specifically addresses policies for students in the U.S. on F or M visa status only who will be enrolling in coursework in Fall 2020.

**17. If UM goes completely online, would I be allowed to remain in the U.S.?**

Yes, as long as you are enrolled full-time, you will still be in valid F-1 status, and your SEVIS record will remain active.

**18. I left the U.S. in March. Am I subject to the 5-month rule when I enter the U.S. for the fall?**

The five-month rule of temporary absence provision will not apply for students who remain in SEVIS-active status. If you are maintaining valid F-1 status and your current visa is unexpired, it will still be valid for entry to the US. You will also be able to use your current Form I-20 (with a valid certification signature on page 2) and F-1 visa to enter the U.S. in F-1 status.

**19. I am an admitted international student for the fall semester. Will I be able to defer my admission if I cannot begin classes in August?**

Undergraduate Admission and the Graduate Programs work with all newly admitted international students. Questions about deferring admission and obtaining your Form I-20 and an F-1 visa can be directed to [Undergraduate Admission](#) for First-year and transfer students or the [Graduate Programs](#) for Master’s and PhD students.

**20. If I choose to defer admission from the Fall 2020 semester to Spring 2021, how will that affect my F-1 visa status?**

You will not have F-1 status if you are not in the U.S. To request that their admission be deferred to Spring 2021, undergraduate students should notify the [Undergraduate Admission](#) and graduate students should contact their [Graduate Programs](#) directly.

New students who are approved to defer admission to Spring 2021 will be issued a new I-20 with amended program dates after the fall semester is underway.

**21. What do I need to do if I choose to take a gap semester or leave of absence for fall?**

Continuing undergraduate students: If you decide you will not enroll at UM in fall, you can apply for Inactive status with the Registrar's office for one semester. Information about Inactive status can be found on the Cane's Central website [here](#). If you have questions about Inactive status, including deadlines to apply, please contact [canescentral@miami.edu](mailto:canescentral@miami.edu). If you apply for Inactive status, ISSS will close your SEVIS record. To return, you will need to apply for a new I-20, pay a new SEVIS fee, and apply for a new visa outside the U.S. Full instructions for students returning after Inactive status can be found here: [Instructions For Undergraduate Students To Obtain A University Of Miami Form I-20 After Readmission Or Inactive Status](#)

Continuing graduate students: If you decide you will not enroll at UM in fall, contact your academic department to notify them of your intent not to enroll for fall. They will be able to advise you of the deadline to be approved for a leave, and if this decision affects your UM funding, if you receive any. If approved, notify ISSS. We will need to close your SEVIS record. To return, notify your [Graduate Program](#), and they will apply for a new I-20. Once you have received your I-20, you will need to pay a new SEVIS fee, and apply for a new visa outside the U.S.

**22. What do I need to do if want to enroll part-time for fall?**

New international students outside the U.S. may study remotely part-time and don't need a Form I-20 or F-1 status to do so.

Continuing students outside of the U.S. may study remotely part-time and don't need F-1 status to do so. If you choose this option, your SEVIS record will be closed, and you may request an I-20 for a new SEVIS record and obtain a new F-1 visa to return to the U.S. to continue your studies in the Spring.

New and continuing international students in the U.S. are required to enroll full-time, unless they are eligible for an [exception to enroll full-time](#) and have obtained [authorization](#) from their academic advisor and ISSS to enroll part-time in fall. Otherwise, they will need to leave the U.S. before the start of the fall semester.

**23. Many students' on-campus employment opportunities are now being conducted remotely while campuses are closed or students are able to perform their work duties from home. Can F students engage in remote work for on-campus employment?**

If the current on-campus employment opportunity has transitioned to remote work or the employment can be done through remote means, students may continue to engage in on-campus employment

remotely. Schools should be able to explain how the students are providing services associated with the employment while not at the location of the employer.

**24. I'm a PhD student with an assistantship. I worked on-campus as a tutor in Spring, and now will teach for the same department. Can I work remotely in the fall?**

Yes, you can continue working on your assistantship remotely. A fall assignment for a student who was working on-campus for the same department in Spring would be considered continuing employment. The student's on-campus employment transitioned to remote in Spring, and can be done remotely in the fall. The student can continue the on-campus employment remotely, even though the assignment is a different one for fall.

**25. I'm a new student and have an assistantship. Can I start working remotely?**

Students may not start on-campus employment remotely if they are in the U.S. Per Immigration regulation, an international student may start on-campus employment, given they are in F-1 status (or in J-1 status with employment authorization from ISSS), are enrolled full-time, have an SSN and work on-campus, and not remotely.

New students who are outside of the U.S. are not in F-1 or J-1 status and should inquire with their on-campus employer if remote work from abroad is possible.



## Department of State (DoS) Guidance for J-1 Students for Fall 2020 (07/31/2020)

International students are core and valued members of the UM community. At International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS), we acknowledge the challenges our international students are currently facing. We are committed to providing guidance and support during these difficult times.

The U.S. Department of State (DoS) has issued guidance regarding fall 2020 enrollment for J-1 students. We are aware that this guidance may raise some questions. ISSS reviewed the guidance and provides below a summary as it applies to University of Miami J-1.

### **ARE YOU A NEW STUDENT WITH A SEVIS RECORD IN INITIAL STATUS?**

You may enter the U.S. in J-1 status and start your exchange visitor programs, given you enroll for in-person classes or hybrid classes (a combination of online and in-person classes). DoS has not set a limit on the number of online classes a new J-1 student who is in the U.S. may enroll in. New J-1 students in the U.S. may take some, but not all, of the credits online.

### **ARE YOU A NEW STUDENT WHO IS UNABLE TO ENTER THE U.S. IN J-1 STATUS AND WISH TO BEGIN YOUR STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI IN FALL 2020?**

You are allowed to take all of your fall 2020 credits online and study remotely from outside the U.S. Please request an updated Form DS-2019 with deferred program start date from your program sponsor.

### **ARE YOU A CONTINUING STUDENT IN J-1 STATUS IN THE U.S. OR INTENDING TO RETURN TO THE U.S. FOR THE FALL 2020 SEMESTER?**

You must enroll for in-person classes, online classes or a hybrid model. You are allowed to take *all* fall 2020 credits online to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. As a reminder, all exchange visitors in J-1 and J-2 status must have health insurance that meets the minimum coverage requirements stated in the J-1 regulations, even if they are currently outside of the U.S., and can be terminated for failure to maintain health insurance.

### **ARE YOU A CONTINUING J-1 STUDENT WHO HAS LEFT OR WILL LEAVE THE U.S. FOR THE FALL 2020 SEMESTER AND PLAN TO RETURN TO THE U.S. FOR THE SPRING 2021 SEMESTER?**

You have two options:

- If you continue to maintain the required health insurance coverage while you are outside the U.S., then your program sponsor can leave your SEVIS record in Active status. You will need a valid, unexpired Form DS-2019 and J-1 visa in the passport to reenter the U.S. in J-1 status.
- Alternatively, you can request that your program sponsor update your SEVIS record to Inactive status while you are outside the U.S. While the SEVIS record is in Inactive status, you are not subject to the health insurance requirement. Your program sponsor will be able to reactivate the SEVIS record within 120 days of deactivation and provide you with a Form DS-2019 to return for the spring 2021 semester. You will need a valid, unexpired Form DS-2019 and J-1 visa in the passport to reenter the U.S. in J-1 status.

### **ARE YOU A CONTINUING J-1 STUDENT WHO WILL *NOT* RETURN TO THE U.S. AND YOU WILL COMPLETE YOUR PROGRAM ONLINE FROM OUTSIDE THE U.S.?**

Please request that your program sponsor update your SEVIS record.

J-1 students participating in UM's exchange visitor program should contact [their ISSS Advisor](#), and J-1 students participating in another exchange visitor program should contact their respective program sponsor to request updates to their SEVIS record.

Be assured that ISSS will continue to carefully monitor developments that impact you and provide information and guidance as quickly as possible via email and our [COVID-19 Information Updates for UM International Students](#). University-wide information and updates can be found at [UM Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Response](#).

## Updates from the U.S. Department of State (Last updated 08/10/2020)

Dear International Student,

We're happy to share with you two important updates from the U.S. Department of State related to visa services and travel restrictions exemptions:

**As of July 14, U.S. Embassies and Consulates are beginning a phased resumption of routine visa services, including the processing of F-1 and J-1 visas.** Please check your local [U.S. Embassy or Consulate's website](#) for re-opening dates and up-to date information.

**As of July 16, 2020, students may qualify for National Interest Exceptions to the [presidential proclamations restricting travel from the Schengen Area, United Kingdom, and Ireland](#).** The [announcement](#) specifies that:

- If you are a student traveling from the Schengen Area, the UK, and Ireland with valid F-1 visa, you do not need to seek a national interest exception to travel.
- If you are a student traveling from Schengen area, the United Kingdom and Ireland in with a valid J-1 visa, you may contact the nearest embassy or consulate to initiate an exception request.

The following countries make up the Schengen Area: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland.

For a summary of the national interest exception for F-1 students and their F-2 dependents and a list of the 15 U.S. airports authorized to receive flights from those countries, see [July 24, 2020 CBP's Carrier Liaison Program Information Sheet](#).

If you are a student who has been physically present during the 14-day period preceding your entry to the U.S. from People's Republic of China, Islamic Republic of Iran, and Brazil, the National Interest Exceptions do *not* apply to you.

ISSS will continue to carefully monitor developments that impact you and provide information and guidance as quickly as possible via email and our [COVID-19 Information Updates for UM International Students](#). University-wide information and updates can be found at [UM Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Response](#).

Please email us at [iss@miami.edu](mailto:iss@miami.edu) if you have any questions regarding this email. We will respond to your email within 2 business days.

U.S. government has agreed to rescind the July 6 policy (07/14/2020)

Dear International Student,

We are thrilled to share with you that during a hearing in the lawsuit filed by Harvard and MIT and [joined by the University of Miami and over 170 educational institutions](#), the U.S. government agreed to rescind the July 6 policy that limited international student's participation to only on-campus academic programs at the risk of deportation. The government will return to the status quo as established by the [March 2020 guidance](#).

**Therefore, students in F-1 status will be allowed to engage in full-time online study during the Fall 2020 semester regardless of whether they are currently in or outside the U.S. In either case, their SEVIS record will remain active as long as they are taking a full-time load of online classes during the Fall 2020 semester.**

As previously communicated, to ensure continuity in teaching and learning, and to provide students with flexible teaching and learning options, fall courses will be provided in three modalities:

1. In-person and on-campus
2. Hybrid or blended, with a combination of in-person, on-campus instruction and virtual/remote sessions
3. Virtual/remote in synchronous (live) and/or asynchronous (recorded) formats

Please see today's communication regarding the details of our plans for the fall semester - [July 14 Letter to UM Community](#). We will post updates to our [ISSS COVID-19 information page](#) as they become available. University-wide information and updates can be found at [UM Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Response](#).

We are grateful that you have chosen to pursue your educational and professional goals at the University of Miami, and we look forward to interacting with you during the new academic year.

Sincerely,

ISSS

**International Student and Scholar Services**

[www.issmiami.edu](http://www.issmiami.edu) | [issmiami@umiami.edu](mailto:issmiami@umiami.edu)

## UM joins U.S. Institutions of Higher Learning in Support of Harvard and MIT Lawsuit against U.S. Federal Government (07/10/2020)

Dear International Student,

We're excited to share with you that the University of Miami joined more than 170 institutions of higher learning in support of the lawsuit filed by Harvard and MIT. The lawsuit opposes the July 6, 2020 Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) guidance related to online courses for the fall 2020 semester for F-1 students.

### **University of Miami joins lawsuit opposing deportation of international students**

*"International students add to the intellectual and cultural life of the University of Miami and we are doing everything in our power to ensure they continue to have the opportunity to do so," said President Julio Frenk.*

*In addition to signing the amicus brief in support of Harvard and MIT, the University—through International Student and Scholar Services and the Office of the Provost—continues to support its community of international students and is providing assistance to each of them as they seek to continue their education at the U.*

As we shared earlier this week, this fall, the University is offering classes in several formats, including in-person instruction, a hybrid of in-person and virtual/remote learning, and fully virtual/remote learning. The University remains hopeful that all international students in the U.S. will be able to continue their educational pursuits without fear of losing their immigration status.

We know that the new guidance has added to the uncertainty and concern you feel during this already very difficult time. ISSS is here to help and support you. As always, we will continue to carefully monitor developments that impact UM international students and provide you and your academic department with information and guidance as quickly as possible. Please refer to [COVID-19 Information Updates for UM International Students](#) for the latest updates.

Rest assured that our advocacy and support for you will continue throughout and beyond these challenging times.

Sincerely,

ISSS

**International Student and Scholar Services**

[www.issmiami.edu](http://www.issmiami.edu) | [issm@miami.edu](mailto:issm@miami.edu)

July 14, 2020 Update: The U.S government has agreed to rescind the July 6 SEVP guidance regarding international students and online courses for fall 2020.

## SEVP modifies temporary exemptions for F1 students taking online courses during fall 2020 (07/07/2020)

*International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) has prepared the following guidance for new as well as continuing undergraduate and graduate international students. After reading this guidance, please email [your ISSS Advisor](#) if you have any questions.*

The Student Exchange and Visitor Program (SEVP) announced modifications last night to temporary exemptions for F1 students taking online courses while remaining in the U.S. due to COVID-19 for fall 2020.

We understand how anxious students are to understand these modifications. ISSS has reviewed the proposed modifications and has provided below a summary of the guidance as it applies to University of Miami F-1 students. Please note that these changes have not been published to the Federal Register, are not yet final, and to date, it is unclear how they can be put into practice. Once the final changes have been published, we will update our COVID-19 information page and will send a follow up message to all currently enrolled F-1 students.

### Students outside of the U.S.

New or continuing students may enter the U.S. in F-1 status if they enroll for in-person classes or a hybrid plan (a combination of online and in-person classes). Students enrolled in a hybrid program will be allowed to take more than one class or three credit hours online provided that they are taking the minimum number of online classes required to make normal progress in their degree program. As an international student, you will need to be enrolled full-time in classes that are required for your degree program. If any of these courses are not offered as in-person classes, you may take some, but not all, of the credits online, as determined by your academic department.

While students may enroll in online classes and study remotely from abroad, the U.S. Department of State will not issue visas to students enrolled in schools and/or programs that are fully online for the fall semester nor will U.S. Customs and Border Protection permit these students to enter the United States.

### Students in the U.S.

Continuing F-1 students who are already in the U.S. must enroll for in-person classes or a hybrid model. Students enrolled in a hybrid program will be allowed to take more than one class or three credit hours online provided that they are taking the minimum number of online classes required to make normal progress in their degree program. As an international student, you will need to be enrolled full-time in classes that are required for your degree program. If any of these courses are not offered as in person classes, you may take some, but not all, of the credits

online, as determined by your academic department. These students may remain in Active status in SEVIS.

Students are not permitted to take a full online course load and remain in the U.S. If a student is enrolled for in-person classes or a hybrid program and then switches to only online classes at UM for the fall semester, the student must leave the U.S. or take alternative steps to maintain their F-1 status such as transfer to a school with in-person instruction. Students must notify ISSS to update their SEVIS records.

Per SEVP guidance, ISSS will issue and e-mail an updated Form I-20 to international students enrolled for in-person classes or a hybrid model for the fall 2020 semester before August 4, 2020. This is to certify that UM is not operating entirely online, that the student is not taking an entirely online course load and is taking the minimum number of online classes required to make normal progress in their degree program for the fall 2020 semester.

## Travel to the U.S. Guidance for International Students, Fall 2020

(07/07/2020, Edited on 07/14/2020)

*International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) has prepared the following guidance for new as well as continuing undergraduate and graduate international students. After reading this guidance, please email [your ISSS Advisor](#) if you have any questions. ISSS will send periodic updates to students as this information is subject to change.*

### Important dates

If you are traveling to the U.S. from abroad, you should *plan to arrive in the U.S. 14 days prior to the earliest date that applies to you below* in order to allow enough time to quarantine (information regarding this requirement provided below):

- August 9-11: New student on-campus housing move in day
- August 11: Virtual International Student Orientation (ISO) for new undergraduate students
- Aug 12-16: 'Cane Kickoff for new undergraduate students
- August 13-16: Continuing student on-campus housing move in day
- August 14: Virtual ISO for new graduate students and Graduate School Orientation
- August 17: First day of classes for the fall semester

### Form I-20 or Form DS-2019

Make sure you have a Form I-20 (F-1 student visa) or DS-2019 (J-1 student visa). If you do not have this document, new students should contact the [Office of Undergraduate Admission](#) or your [graduate student program](#) to initiate the I-20/DS-2019 request process. Continuing students should contact [ISSS](#). ISSS issues the I-20/DS-2019 for new and continuing students and sends the document to the student.

### Travel restrictions to the U.S.

Students traveling to the U.S. from a country impacted by the [coronavirus travel restrictions to the U.S.](#) will need to comply with the [Presidential Proclamation](#) prior to entering the U.S. The proclamation suspends entry into the U.S. of all non-U.S. citizens who were physically present in the following countries during the 14-day period preceding their entry to the U.S.

- People's Republic of China (excluding Hong Kong and Macau)
- Islamic Republic of Iran
- European Schengen area (Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Monaco, San Marino, Vatican City)



- United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland)
- Republic of Ireland
- Brazil

If you plan to travel to another country before entering the U.S. in order to meet the 14-day requirement stated above, make sure to research and understand any travel restrictions before making travel plans. Many countries have restricted travel to/from other countries. Immediately prior to traveling, reconfirm that you will be able to enter and exit the country as the situation remains fluid in many countries, and new restrictions can be implemented with little or no advance notice. You will need to remain physically present outside of any country impacted by travel restrictions for 14 days before entering the U.S.

**Students that have obtained a student visa and able to leave their country to travel to the U.S.**

Students traveling to the U.S. from a country impacted by the [coronavirus travel restrictions](#) will need to comply with the [Presidential Proclamation](#) prior to entering the U.S. (Country list and requirements provided above.)

All members of the University community who travel internationally are required to quarantine for 14 days upon their arrival to the U.S. Please review the [Self-Quarantine and Isolation Instructions](#) provided by the UM Student Health Service.

- Students with on-campus housing assignments: Plan to arrive in the U.S. 14 days before your on-campus housing move in date in order to allow enough time to quarantine. The University will provide off-campus housing during the 14-day quarantine period for students living in on-campus housing. In the coming days, ISSS will contact students with an on-campus living assignment and provide additional information regarding this option.
- Students living off-campus: Plan to arrive in the U.S. 14 days before orientation for new students and 14 days before the first day of class for continuing students in order to allow enough time to quarantine.

Students currently in the U.S. will not need to quarantine.

- Students with on-campus housing assignments: Plan to arrive on campus by your housing move in date.
- Students living off-campus: Plan to arrive on campus by orientation for new students and by the first day of class for continuing students.

### **Students that have obtained a student visa and unable to leave their country to travel to the U.S.**

International students unable to travel to the U.S. in time for the fall semester due to closed borders and/or suspended flights should consider enrolling in online classes at UM for the fall semester or deferring their enrollment at UM to a later date. (Information regarding these options provided below.)

### **Students who are abroad and do not have a valid student visa**

At this time, U.S. has not resumed routine visa processing, including the [student visa](#), and obtaining emergency appointments is difficult. In addition, for students traveling to the U.S. from a country impacted by the [coronavirus travel restrictions to the U.S.](#), emergency appointments can only be scheduled once travel restrictions have been lifted. International students unable to obtain a visa and travel to the U.S. in time for the fall semester should consider enrolling in online classes at UM for the fall semester or deferring their enrollment at UM to a later date. (Information regarding these options provided below.)

### **Online classes**

The University will offer new and continuing students the choice of enrolling for either online classes or in person classes. Online classes will be both synchronous (i.e., accessible online during time of on campus instruction) and asynchronous (i.e., accessible at any time) to accommodate students who live in time zones outside of the U.S. These online courses will be taught by UM faculty and will have the same UM credit equivalence as on campus instruction. Additional details regarding the online learning experience for the fall 2020 semester, including how to register for this option, will be communicated to all students soon.

### **Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) guidance related to online courses for fall 2020 semester (F-1 Students)**

F-1 students with a SEVIS record in active status are allowed to temporarily count online classes toward a full course of study, even if they have left the United States. New or continuing students who plan to travel to the U.S. will be able to begin or continue their education at UM provided they enroll for in-person classes or a hybrid plan (a combination of online and in-person classes). Further SEVP guidance is forthcoming. **(This section edited on July 14, 2020)**

### **Deferring enrollment**

International students that are unable to travel to the U.S. in time for the fall semester and do not wish to register in online classes should defer their enrollment at UM to a later date. If you are in the U.S. and choose to defer your enrollment, you may not remain in the U.S. in student visa status. You will either need to leave the U.S. or complete a change of status to another nonimmigrant status such as tourist status.

## New Students

- New Undergraduate students should notify the [Office of Undergraduate Admission](#).
- New Graduate students should notify their [graduate student program](#).
- [ISSS](#) will issue a new Form I-20 or DS-2019 with a deferred start date, which will be sent to your UM email address (I-20) or mailing address (DS-2019).

## Continuing Students

- Continuing undergraduate students should apply for [Inactive Status](#) for Fall 2020, if eligible.
- Continuing graduate students should notify their [graduate student program](#) and [ISSS](#).
- ISSS will update the SEVIS records of all students who do not enroll for Fall 2020.

## U.S. Suspends Entry of Aliens who present a Risk to U.S. Labor Market following Coronavirus Outbreak (06/23/2020 & 6/25/2020)

On June 22, 2020, President Trump signed a [proclamation](#) that will suspend the entry to the U.S. of certain nonimmigrants to the U.S. The proclamation is part of the Trump Administration's response to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The ban takes effect at 12:01 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) on June 24, 2020, and will be in place through December 31, 2020.

**This proclamation does not affect international students in F-1 or J-1 status or their dependents in F-2 and J-2 status. It also does not affect Optional Practical Training (OPT) and OPT STEM, which are benefits for students in F-1 status completing an academic degree in the United States.**

Please see detailed information about who is exempt, and who is subject to the ban below:

### [Who is exempt from the ban?](#)

The following categories of foreign nationals are exempt from the entry ban:

- Foreign nationals present in the U.S. at 12:01 a.m. EDT on June 24, 2020, including those in the U.S. awaiting a change of status under the FY2021 H-1B cap gap;
- Foreign nationals holding a valid visa, advance parole or other travel document on June 24, even if they are outside the U.S. when the ban takes effect;
- U.S. lawful permanent residents;
- The spouse or child of a U.S. citizen;
- J-1 exchange visitor program participants *other than* interns, trainees, teachers, camp counselors, au pairs and summer work travel participants; and
- Foreign nationals entering the U.S. to provide temporary labor or services essential to the U.S. food supply chain.

### [Who is subject to the ban?](#)

The proclamation restricts the entry of the following categories of nonimmigrants, if they are outside the U.S. as of 12:01 a.m. EDT on June 24 and do not hold a valid visa, advance parole or other U.S. travel document:

- H-1B and H-2B nonimmigrants;
- L-1A executives and managers;
- L-1B specialized knowledge workers;
- J-1 interns, trainees, teachers, camp counselors, au pairs and summer work travel participants; and

- Their dependent spouses and children.

The impact on Canadian nationals seeking admission in these categories is not yet clear. The proclamation provides for certain discretionary waivers of the restrictions.

Please note that international students traveling from a country impacted by the May 24, 2020 [Proclamation on Suspension of Entry as Immigrants and Nonimmigrants of Certain Additional Persons Who Pose a Risk of Transmitting Novel Coronavirus](#), must continue to comply with the May 24 Presidential Proclamation. It suspends entry into the U.S. of all non-U.S. citizens who were physically present within the following countries during the 14-day period preceding their entry to the U.S.

- People's Republic of China (excluding Hong Kong and Macau)
- Islamic Republic of Iran
- European Schengen area (Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Monaco, San Marino, Vatican City)
- United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland)
- Republic of Ireland
- Brazil

Also, please note that due to COVID-19, routine U.S. consular visa services, including visa interviews and visa application processing, have been suspended by the U.S. government until further notice.

International Student and Scholar Services is closely monitoring presidential proclamations and will provide updates as they become available.

## U.S. Imposes Travel Restrictions related to Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19): China, Iran, Schengen Area, United Kingdom, Ireland and Brazil (05/27/2020)

Please be aware that on May 24, 2020, the White House issued a presidential proclamation, amended on May 25, 2020, imposing travel restrictions on individuals traveling from [Brazil](#) to the United States due to the current Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic:

- The presidential proclamation temporarily bars the entry of foreign nationals who were physically present in Brazil during the 14-day preceding their attempted entry to the U.S. This includes foreign nationals of any nationality who hold a valid F-1/J-1 or F-2/J-2 visa to the U.S. (as well as Canadian citizens who are exempt from the F-1/J-1 or F-2/J-2 visa requirement).
- The travel restrictions went into effect on Tuesday, May 26, 2020, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time. Please note that the travel restrictions do not apply to persons aboard a flight scheduled to arrive in the U.S. that departed prior to 11:59 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on May 26, 2020.
- The proclamation states that “it shall remain in effect until terminated by the President.”

Additionally, please be reminded that the White House issued four previous presidential proclamations imposing travel restrictions on individuals traveling from the [People’s Republic of China \(PROC\)](#), the [Islamic Republic of Iran](#), the [Schengen Area in Europe](#), the [United Kingdom](#) and the [Republic of Ireland](#) to the U.S. due to the current Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic:

- The January 31, 2020 presidential proclamation temporarily bars the entry of foreign nationals who were present in mainland China during the 14-day period preceding their attempted entry to the U.S. This includes foreign nationals of any nationality who hold a valid F-1/J-1 or F-2/J-2 visa to the U.S. (as well as Canadian citizens who are exempt from the F-1/J-1 or F-2/J-2 visa requirement). The travel restrictions went into effect on Sunday, February 2, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST). At this time, it is not known how long these travel restrictions will be in effect.
- The February 29, 2020 presidential proclamation temporarily bars the entry of foreign nationals who were physically present Iran during the 14-day period preceding their attempted entry to the U.S. This includes foreign nationals of any nationality who hold a valid F-1/J-1 or F-2/J-2 visa to the U.S. (as well as Canadian citizens who are exempt from the F-1/J-1 or F-2/J-2 visa requirement). The travel restrictions went into effect on Monday, March 2, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. EST. At this time, it is not known how long these travel restrictions will be in effect.
- The March 11, 2020 presidential proclamation temporarily bars the entry of foreign nationals who were physically present in the Schengen Area during the 14-day period preceding their attempted entry to the U.S. This includes foreign nationals of any

nationality who hold a valid F-1/J-1 or F-2/J-2 visa to the U.S. (as well as Canadian citizens who are exempt from the F-1/J-1 or F-2/J-2 visa requirement). The Schengen Area includes the following countries: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland. The travel restrictions went into effect on Friday, March 13, 2020, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time. At this time, it is not known how long these travel restrictions will be in effect.

- The March 14, 2020 presidential proclamation temporarily bars the entry of foreign nationals who were physically present in the United Kingdom, including England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and the Republic of Ireland during the 14-day period preceding their attempted entry to the U.S. This includes foreign nationals of any nationality who hold a valid F-1/J-1 or F-2/J-2 visa to the U.S. (as well as Canadian citizens who are exempt from the F-1/J-1 or F-2/J-2 visa requirement). The travel restrictions went into effect on Monday, March 16, 2020, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time. At this time, it is not known how long these travel restrictions will be in effect.

International Student and Scholar Services is closely following the U.S. travel restrictions related to the Novel Coronavirus pandemic and will provide further updates as they become available.

## Important Information regarding Embassy Contacts During COVID-19 (05/22/2020)

Please be advised that the U.S. Department of State (DoS) is posting country-specific repatriation information on its website. This includes a frequently updated list of foreign embassies and consulates, including possible repatriation flights. This information may be helpful if your exchange visitor program is scheduled to end soon and you experience difficulties returning to your home country due to lack of commercially available flights or travel restrictions. Please keep us apprised of your travel plans and proactively reach out to your respective embassy or nearest consulate prior to planning and embarking on international travel.

To access the information online:

- Click on link to [Exchange Visitor Program Information on Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- Then click on *Embassy Contacts*:
  - *You will see links to documents in PDF format related to this topic (see screenshot of current document links posted below). Click on the link(s) to see the information included in the respective document and follow the instructions.*

### **EMBASSY CONTACTS (Updated twice on 5/12/2020)**

- [Repatriation Assistance \(PDF\)](#)
  - [Notice for Stranded Bangladesh Nationals \(PDF\)](#)
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## Important Information for International Students and Scholars regarding Receipt of Erroneous Stimulus Payments by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (05/15/2020)

International Student and Scholar Services provided the information below regarding receipt of erroneous stimulus (economic impact) payments from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

Please be advised that the IRS updated its online Economic Impact Payment Information Center on May 11, 2020 with detailed instructions on how to return an erroneous Economic Impact Payment (EIP). To access the information:

1. Click on <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/economic-impact-payment-information-center#more>
2. Then, click on Q41: What should I do to return an Economic Impact Payment (EIP)? (updated May 11, 2020)
3. Follow the IRS' detailed instructions for returning the EIP to the IRS.

Under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) last week started to dispense stimulus payments to U.S. residents for tax purposes who filed a 2018 and/or 2019 federal income tax return. **According to the U.S. Department of State, some international students and scholars in the U.S. who are actually nonresident aliens for federal tax purposes received a stimulus payment under the CARES Act because they erroneously filed a 2018 or 2019 Form 1040 as resident aliens for tax purposes.**

If you erroneously filed a 2018 or 2019 federal income tax (Form 1040) with the IRS as a *resident alien for tax purposes* and therefore erroneously receive(d) the stimulus payment from the IRS in 2020, Arctic International LLC, owner of **GLACIER Tax Prep (GTP)**, advises that there are two issues that require action:

### **Return of Stimulus Payment:**

- With respect to the erroneous receipt of the stimulus payment, **most importantly, the nonresident alien should NOT spend the erroneously received stimulus payment.** To return the payment, we suggest that the individual follow the same guidelines provided by the IRS in case an incorrect federal tax refund is received, which are based on how the erroneous refund was received:
  - Paper check that has not yet been cashed/deposited;
  - Paper check that has already be cashed/deposited; or
  - Direct deposit made to the nonresident alien's U.S. bank account.

For detailed information on how to return the incorrectly received stimulus payment to the IRS for each of the situations above, please go to <https://www.irs.gov/taxtopics/tc161>.

#### **Amendment of Incorrectly Filed 2018 and/or 2019 Federal Income Tax Return:**

- The nonresident alien must immediately file an amended tax return. Information about how to amend the incorrectly filed 2018 and/or 2019 Form 1040 may be found in **GTP** by selecting “FAQ” from the menu. Please refer to the attached April 10, 2020 email reminder we sent to you for information on how to access GTP.

**It is important to note that if the nonresident alien does not immediately return the erroneously received stimulus payment, they may be subject to interest accrued until the payment is returned.** Also, until such time as the incorrectly filed federal income tax return is amended to submit the correct federal income tax return, the nonresident alien is subject to a filing penalty and/or loss of any otherwise applicable deductions or allowances, including income tax treaty exemptions. Failures to file a correct federal income tax return and/or filing a fraudulent federal income tax return are violations of U.S. tax law and may potentially impact current or future immigration status.

The [IRS](#) provides detailed online information regarding the Economic Impact Payments as well as a number of interactive tax tools that can assist interested individuals in determining eligibility to file taxes and the correct form to use:

- <https://www.irs.gov/individuals/international-taxpayers/introduction-to-residency-under-us-tax-law>
- <https://www.irs.gov/individuals/international-taxpayers/determining-alien-tax-status>
- <https://www.irs.gov/individuals/international-taxpayers/the-green-card-test-and-the-substantial-presence-test>
- <https://www.irs.gov/individuals/international-taxpayers/aliens-which-form-to-file>
- <https://www.irs.gov/individuals/international-taxpayers/dual-status-aliens>
- <https://www.irs.gov/individuals/international-taxpayers/references-for-foreign-students-and-scholars>

## ISSS to issue electronically signed Form I-20s (04/02/2020)

Due to COVID-19, the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) has authorized schools to email a digitally signed Form I-20 using electronic signature software to the student's email address listed in SEVIS.

**In light of this, effective immediately and until further notice, when you apply for a travel signature or updated I-20 with a new major, a program extension or a benefit, such as Curricular Practical Training (CPT) or Optional Practical Training (OPT), ISSS will e-mail you a digitally signed I-20. E-mailed and/or digitally signed I-20s will be valid when printed.**

Should you need an original Form I-20 in the future, ISSS will provide one to you once we are able to resume in-person services.

## Full-time online study and F-1 Student Status (Spring 2020 semester)

(03/18/2020)

The University of Miami sent out a communication on March 17, 2020 that all courses will be instructed online for the remainder of the Spring semester, which ends on May 6, 2020. We understand you may have concerns regarding how this may affect your F-1 student status. **Please note that students in F-1 status who are currently enrolled in a program of study may engage in full-time online study during the Spring 2020 semester whether they are currently in the U.S. or currently outside the U.S. In either case, your SEVIS record will remain active as long as you are taking a full-time load of online classes during the Spring 2020 semester.**

Students who continue to make normal progress in their course of study remain eligible for reentry to the United States. However, because of the changing array of travel restrictions, nonimmigrant students should refer to their local U.S. embassy's website through the [U.S. Department of State](#) for any updates about visa issuance. Also, the [Department of Homeland Security \(DHS\)](#) and [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) websites both provide information about current travel restrictions to the United States.

## ISSS's in-person services temporarily suspended & New way to connect with your ISSS Advisor (03/16/2020 & 04/08/2020)

Effective immediately, ISSS's in-person services are temporarily suspended until further notice:

- Advising will be available exclusively via [iss@miami.edu](mailto:iss@miami.edu).
- **For all leaving the United States, you do not need a travel signature on your I-20/DS-2019 before exiting the country.** Before you return to the US, please e-mail [iss@miami.edu](mailto:iss@miami.edu) and request an updated travel signature. ISSS will mail to you a new Form I-20 or DS-2019.
- If you would like to apply for OPT, please submit copies of your application documents at [www.miami.edu/optapplication](http://www.miami.edu/optapplication). Upon receipt and processing, ISSS will mail to you an updated I-20. Please note you must be in the US to apply for OPT.

In addition to email and phone, you can now connect with your ISSS Advisor via Zoom Video Communications. In order to access this service, you will need to download Zoom. Click [here](#) for Zoom Instructions. Once you have access to Zoom, email your Advisor to request a meeting if you currently have any questions or concerns. Click [here](#) for your Advisor's name and email.

Quick questions can best be answered by emailing your ISSS Advisor. You can also speak to your ISSS Advisor over the phone if you prefer. Email your ISSS Advisor your telephone number, and your Advisor will call you back.

## U.S. Imposes Additional Travel Restrictions for Travel related to Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19): China, Iran, Schengen Area, United Kingdom and Ireland (03/16/2020)

Please be aware that on March 14, 2020, the White House issued a presidential proclamation imposing travel restrictions on individuals traveling from the [United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland](#) to the United States due to the current Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak:

- The presidential proclamation temporarily bars the entry of foreign nationals who were physically present in the United Kingdom, excluding overseas territories outside of Europe, or the Republic of Ireland during the 14-day preceding their attempted entry to the U.S. This includes foreign nationals of any nationality who hold a valid F-1 or F-2, or J-1 or J-2 visa to the U.S. (as well as Canadian citizens who are exempt from the J-1 and J-2 visa requirement).
- The travel restrictions will go into effect on Monday, March 16, 2020, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time. Please note that the travel restrictions do not apply to persons aboard a flight scheduled to arrive in the U.S. that departed prior to 11:59 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on March 16, 2020.
- Although President Trump stated that these travel restrictions would be in effect for 30 days, the proclamation states that “it shall remain in effect until terminated by the President,” thus leaving open the possibility that the travel restrictions may be in effect for more than 30 days.

Additionally, please be reminded that the White House issued three previous presidential proclamations imposing travel restrictions on individuals traveling from the [People’s Republic of China \(PROC\)](#), the [Islamic Republic of Iran](#), and the [Schengen Area in Europe](#) to the United States due to the current Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak:

- The presidential January 31, 2020 proclamation temporarily bars the entry of foreign nationals who were present in mainland China during the 14-day period preceding their attempted entry to the U.S. This includes foreign nationals of any nationality who hold a valid F-1/J-1 or F2/J-2 visa to the U.S. (as well as Canadian citizens who are exempt from the F-1/J-1 and F-2/J-2 visa requirement). The travel restrictions went into effect on Sunday, February 2, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. EST. At this time, it is not known how long these travel restrictions will be in effect.
- The February 29, 2020 presidential proclamation temporarily bars the entry of foreign nationals who were physically present Iran during the 14-day period preceding their attempted entry to the U.S. This includes foreign nationals of any nationality who hold a valid F-1/J-1 or F2/J-2 visa to the U.S. (as well as Canadian citizens who are exempt from the J-1 and J-2 visa requirement). The travel restrictions went into effect on Monday, March 2, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST). At this time, it is not known how long these travel restrictions will be in effect.

- The presidential proclamation temporarily bars the entry of foreign nationals who were physically present in the Schengen Area during the 14-day period preceding their attempted entry to the U.S. This includes foreign nationals of any nationality who hold a valid F-1/J-1 or F-2/J-2 visa to the U.S. (as well as Canadian citizens who are exempt from the J-1 and J-2 visa requirement). The Schengen Area includes the following countries: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland. The travel restrictions went into effect on Friday, March 13, 2020, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time. Although President Trump stated that these travel restrictions would be in effect for 30 days, the proclamation states that “it shall remain in effect until terminated by the President,” thus leaving open the possibility that the travel restrictions may be in effect for more than 30 days.

International Student and Scholar Services is closely following the U.S. travel restrictions related to the Novel Coronavirus outbreak and will provide further updates as they become available. For the latest information from the University of Miami about COVID-19, go to [coronavirus.miami.edu](https://coronavirus.miami.edu).

## Exchange Visitor Program Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and Potential Procedural Adaptations for J nonimmigrant students (03/13/2020)

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) in the U.S. Department of State continues to monitor developments related to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and acknowledges that universities are implementing significant operational or curricular changes in order to prevent unnecessary exposure to the disease and its spread. ECA recognizes that sponsors share its commitment to protect the health, safety, and welfare of all exchange visitors participating in the Exchange Visitor Program and the Americans with whom they interact.

**Per guidance from the ECA, international students in J-1 status who are currently enrolled in a program of study at the University of Miami may engage in full-time online study until on-campus classes resume.** Therefore, international students who choose to stay in the US for the rest of the semester will be considered to be in J-1 student status while taking a full-time load of online classes until on-campus classes resume this semester. Students with authorized Academic Training are encouraged to speak to their respective employer about alternative ways to maintain program objectives and/or employment, such as telework or other arrangements, and to keep their respective exchange visitor program sponsor updated.



## New SEVP Guidance about Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and Procedural Adaptations for F Nonimmigrant Students (03/13/2020)

The Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) continues to monitor developments with the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and acknowledges that Universities are implementing significant operational or curricular changes. **Per new guidance from SEVP, international students who are currently enrolled in a program of study may engage in full-time online study until on-campus classes resume.** Therefore, international students who choose to stay in the US for the rest of the semester will be considered to be in F-1 student status while taking a full-time load of online classes until on-campus classes resume this semester.

For international students who plan to leave the US and re-enter the US after on-campus classes resume this semester, note that further travel restrictions may be implemented with short notice and some international students may not be able to return to the US in time.

For international students who will or have departed the US for the rest of the semester, being able to complete the semester online will depend on their professors/academic departments.

SEVP is monitoring this situation closely. It will supplement this guidance with additional information and will adjust guidance as needed. We will keep you updated as new guidance is provided.