



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](#).