

Dear USF International Students,

We hope this message finds you safe and well. For those of us in the San Francisco Bay Area we have just had our first day of “Shelter in Place”, a state directive requiring us all to stay inside and practice social distancing. For those of you who have departed the US or are on your way home right now, we hope you had a safe trip and are settling into the pace of life there. Please ensure that you self-quarantine when you return to your home countries. It is very important to read carefully and adhere strictly to the guidelines of your local and national public health authorities. The importance of taking care of each other and our broader communities is one of the few certainties in these uncertain times.

ISSS Services

The ISSS office is open, with all services available to you remotely. Students should refer to the following resources for assistance:

- **ISSS Website:** View the [ISSS website](#) to learn more about [F1 work authorization](#), [J1 work authorization](#), [filing taxes](#), [workshops](#) and other services.
- **General Questions:** Email iss@usfca.edu about travel, visa renewals, submitting documents to ISSS, and other general questions.
- **Advising Services:** Email your [ISSS adviser](#) with questions about your immigration situation, or [make an appointment](#).
- **Submit a Request:** ISSS will process requests remotely and will mail your new I-20 or DS-2019 to you. You can [submit your request online](#) and follow the instructions to schedule and pay for the document to be mailed. ISSS has adjusted regular processing time to 10 business days. Please make sure your request is complete and you have scheduled your documents to be mailed to prevent delays.

Please note that all ISSS workshops and appointments will be conducted via Zoom, and students will be notified before the event with instructions for the Zoom information.

Departing the US?

Now that classes are online for the rest of the semester, students can finish the semester from abroad. If you wish to return to your home country, you should do so as soon as possible. Further movement restrictions or border closures abroad are possible. The San Francisco International Airport (SFO) is currently open with flights departing daily. We have been running several shuttles a day to the airport and continue to have some availability for shuttles on Thursday, Friday and Saturday if needed. Please contact Anastasia Vrachnos [[insert link](#)].

Immigration Documents for Travel and Reentry

Students will want to make sure they have a valid travel signature, valid F1/J1 visa, and a valid passport to reenter the US. If you need to renew your F1 or J1 visa, check with your local US consulate and book an appointment for the Summer. Some US consulates are currently closed and students should book these appointments as soon as they become available. If you do not have a valid travel signature, you can request one through the [ISSS Online Request form here](#). All documents will need to be mailed since the ISSS office is virtual. When you submit your request online you will also be asked to schedule the mailing to your foreign or local address, depending on where you want to receive your documents.

Taking Online Classes from Abroad

We have received several questions regarding the logistics of taking classes from abroad. The University is aware of the time differences and how this may impact students being able to attend class at a specific time. USF is working on this and other considerations with our international students in mind for this. Please expect more information in the days to come. In the meantime, please check your internet connection and your access to Zoom, myUSF, Canvas, and your USF email account. Note that Zoom should be accessed by first logging into myUSF and selecting the Zoom app in your MyApps page. Your faculty may use other applications too, but knowing you can connect to these is a good start.

Moving Out of Your Residence Hall

Students are asked to move out of the residence halls by 12pm on March 21st. Students moving out should complete this online [move-out form](#) immediately. See attached flyer with move-out information. If you have already left campus without reporting to SHaRE, please complete the [move-out form](#) right away. Students who want to request an exception to stay in their on-campus housing beyond March 21st, need to [submit this exception request](#) by Wednesday, March 18th at 5pm.

If you are not on-campus and left your items in your room SHaRE asks that you retrieve them before March 21st if possible. If you cannot return by March 21st to retrieve your items SHaRE is currently developing a process for handling this with students.

Off-Campus Housing

If you are looking for off-campus housing please visit the USF Off-Campus Living [listings here](#). If you are looking for a roommate or moving out and want to sublet your room you can post it on the message board or as a listing on the [Off-Campus living page](#). You can also post rentals on the instagram account @usfcaoffcampus. Off-Campus housing frequently asked questions

related to COVID-19, including storing your personal items, can be [found here](#). Still have questions? Contact USF Off-Campus Living at usfcaoffcampus@usfca.edu.

Stay Supported and Connected

Dr. Robin Li, USF Staff Psychologist, is offering virtual consultations on Tuesdays from 3pm-5pm PST. These consultations are drop-in and you can [find Robin here on Tuesdays](#). Due to licensing restrictions, Robin can only offer consultations to all students physically located in California and China. Cafe International, the popular USF program for international students to discuss different topics, is going virtual. Stay tuned for more on this.

We know that this is a challenging time and students are facing a number of transitions in their living situation, learning environment, and sense of safety. The health and well being of our students is our top priority and we are here to support you through this transition. Remember to breathe, take care of yourself, and let us know what we can do to assist you.

Warm regards,
Marcella Pitcher DeProto
ISSS Director