



WEEKLY UPDATE – May 19

International Travel Considerations and Reminders

Dear International Student,

We hope your spring 2020 finals went well and you are staying safe and healthy. We are writing to you today to make sure you have the most current travel information and feel confident in what you need for re-entering the U.S. Due to the changing conditions and the uncertainty of what travel will be like in August, ISSS recommends that students stay in the U.S. this summer so they can be in classes in the fall. If you are already outside of the U.S. or decide to travel home this summer, please read the information below for guidance on what to expect and what documents you need.

TRAVEL CONSIDERATIONS

When planning for your return to the U.S. you will want to consider flight, travel, and entry restrictions.

Flight and Travel Restrictions: Some countries have restricted flights and travel and students will have to explore options to travel and possibly travel to a nearby country that is offering flights. The conditions are dynamic and changing by the day with some countries adding restrictions and others easing them. Information about **flight and travel restrictions** can be found on the ISSS COVID-19 page which is kept up-to-date.

U.S. Entry Restrictions: Students who are abroad and trying to return to the U.S. should be aware of the U.S. travel restrictions. These **entry restrictions**, listed on the CDC webpage for reference, currently include a prohibition on entry to travelers originating in or transiting China, Iran, UK, Ireland, and the 26 countries of the **Schengen region**. If you are in one of these countries you may need to travel to a third country that does not have this restriction and remain there for 14 days before being able to enter the U.S.

Please refer to the **COVID-19 FAQ on the ISSS** website for information throughout the summer months.

DOCUMENTS NEEDED FOR TRAVEL

Get a Travel Signature by Submitting a Request for an I-20 Reprint:

You can obtain a travel signature from ISSS by submitting a request for an “I-20 Reprint” or “DS-2019 Reprint” via our new student platform, **MyISSS**. Please see the **MyISSS handbook** on our website and **submit a request page**. Note that processing time is ten business days and due to the current circumstances you are required to purchase shipping for your document to be mailed to you. Please follow the instructions in MyISSS to request your document and schedule your shipping.

Required Documents for Travel:

All international students leaving the U.S. need to be in possession of the following upon reentry:

- Valid I-20/DS-2019 with a current travel signature from within the last year. (Travel signatures should be valid within six months for students on OPT).
- Valid passport from your home country that is valid more than six months into the future.
- Valid U.S. F-1 or J-1 visa stamp in your passport (except for Canadian nationals).
- SEVIS I-901 fee receipt that matches your current I-20/DS-2019 SEVIS ID number; you can print a new one here if needed.
- EAD card and letter confirming your employment if you are on post-completion OPT.

Additional items to carry with you and present if requested:

- Transcripts showing you have been a full-time student and are enrolled for the current or next academic term. If you need to request updated transcripts, you may do so by visiting **USF's Transcripts** page to complete the process for ordering transcripts
- Proof of finances, which can be a bank statement or letter showing that you have funds to cover your stay and tuition while in the U.S.
- Enrollment verification requested from the USF One Stop Office

Custom and Border Protection (CBP) Search Procedures:

When you arrive in the U.S. from any international destination, you may encounter stricter inspection procedures. CBP is legally allowed to search any item you are bringing into the U.S. This includes turning on and asking you to log in to your email, social media, and other items on your laptops and personal devices. You can read more about these search procedures on this **CBP information sheet**. Keep in mind that it is always best to be polite and tell the truth if you are questioned by CBP.

Renewing your U.S. Student Visa:

If your student visa (or visa you are studying on) will expire before you plan to return to the U.S., you need to renew it. The visa renewal application is much like the initial visa application and in almost all cases will require you to apply in person and sit for an interview. Please check for visa processing times and book your appointment early. Other information about the visa application process can be **found here** on the ISSS website and on the **U.S. State Department website**.

If you need to renew your visa because it is expiring you will want to make your visa appointment right away. Visa appointments will be limited because of consulate closures in many countries. You should contact your local consulate for more details about when they plan to reopen and when visa appointments will become available. In some cases, a student can request an expedited visa appointment if there is not one available before the next required term. Please keep checking back at ISSS page for any visa updates.

We do not know when the travel restrictions will be lifted. Students who have gone home will not be able to return until travel restrictions are removed and they can come back to the U.S. ISSS does not know when this will be.

ISSS will keep our resource page updated as government policies and procedures change. You are encouraged to make an appointment to meet with your ISSS adviser. All of our services are available online Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact our office at iss@usfca.edu.

Warmly,
International Student and Scholar Services

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Requesting a document from ISSS?

If you are requesting an immigration document or letter from our office, remember that we request **ten business days** to process requests. Make sure you plan accordingly so you have enough time to receive your document before you need it. Requests can be made online through **MyISSS**.

Adviser Appointments and Workshops

Appointments can be made online. Please visit the **ISSS website** to schedule an appointment. Appointments are still booked in 15-minute increments.

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