



WEEKLY UPDATE – Nov. 23

Note of Gratitude

As you wrap up your fall courses, our office wants to extend our gratitude to all of the international students near and far for your resilience this semester. We appreciate your patience as we navigate these uncertain times and we strive to continue to support you as we move towards the spring semester. We hope you can take time to rest and rejuvenate over the upcoming break. As always, please feel free to reach out to our office by **email** with any questions or concerns. For immigration questions, you can **make a Zoom appointment with your ISSS adviser**.



Program End Dates

All F-1 students are responsible to complete their program on time. Remember that failure to complete your studies at USF before your I-20 program end date is considered a violation of your F-1 student status. Please note that the program end date listed on your I-20 also signifies the end of any student employment positions on campus. If you will not be able to complete your degree requirements by the program end date on your I-20, please **make an appointment with your ISSS adviser** to discuss your eligibility for an extension of your stay in the U.S. If you are eligible for an extension of your program, your request must be submitted at least ten business days prior to your I-20 program end date.

View additional information »



OPT Workshops

If you are an F-1 student graduating in December 2020, you may want to consider applying for **Optional Practical Training (OPT)**. OPT is a 12-month work authorization benefit that allows students to work in the U.S. in a job related to their field of study. Students can apply as early as **90 days** before their program end date. Students are encouraged to apply early, as doing so allows for more flexibility in choosing work start dates. Before you can apply for OPT, you must attend a workshop. Visit the OPT page of the ISSS website to **register for an online workshop »**



ISA Elections

The **International Student Association (ISA)** is electing new officers! Joining the ISA Executive Board is a great opportunity to meet new people, form strong bonds, and develop new skills in a professional environment. ISA officers will serve the international student body at USF with the goal of promoting cultural education, advocating for the rights of international students, and building a stronger community on campus. **View and apply for a position »**



December Commencement

The president announced that the university will celebrate the December 2020 graduates with a virtual commencement ceremony on Friday, Dec. 11. If you are graduating this December, keep an eye out for additional information, including how your friends and family can view your commencement. In the meantime, please **visit the Graduation Center on myUSF for details on diplomas and more »**

ISSS OFFICE RESOURCES

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. **You can also make some document requests through online submission.**

Adviser Appointments and Workshops

Appointments can be made online. Please visit the **ISSS website** to schedule an appointment. Appointments are still booked in 30-minute increments.

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