



WEEKLY UPDATE – May 10

## International Travel Considerations and Reminders

As you prepare for summer break, we are writing to make sure you have the most current travel information and feel confident in what you need for departing and re-entering the U.S. 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. We recommend that you continue to review the [ISSS COVID-19 FAQ](#) as well as the [USF Together web page](#) for the most up-to-date information on these topics.

### TRAVEL CONSIDERATIONS

When planning for your return to the U.S. you will want to consider flight, travel, and entry restrictions. In order to support students as you make your plans for travel and arrival to the US, USF has established a Global Response Team. If you have questions about travel logistics, the Global Response Team can support you. Please contact our team at [travel@usfca.edu](mailto:travel@usfca.edu).

**U.S. Entry Restrictions:** The US Department of State has announced that students on an F1 or J1 visa will be exempt from the **entry restrictions** when arriving for the fall semester. This means that our international students DO NOT need to quarantine in a third country for 14 days and can fly directly to the US when arriving within 30 days of the fall semester. Prior to entry for the fall semester, the entry restrictions will apply. Students traveling in the **F1 visa category will automatically receive the National Interest Exemption** when entering up to 30 days before the start of the fall semester. Students traveling in the **J1 visa category will need to apply for the National Interest Exemption** at your local US consulate when entering up to 30 days before the start of the fall semester.

**Guidance for Air Travelers:** Per the **CDC announcement**, beginning Jan. 26, 2021, air travelers who plan to enter the U.S. need to provide a negative COVID-19 test to their airline in order to board their flight. If a passenger does not provide documentation of a negative test or recovery, the airline must deny boarding to the passenger. Additionally, upon arrival in the U.S., **state** and **local** public health authorities now require all travelers (international and domestic) returning to the Bay Area to **quarantine**. Please read the regulations linked above for additional information.

### 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 [MyISSS](#). Please see the [MyISSS handbook](#) on our website for questions related to the student portal. Note that processing time is 10 business days and you will receive an email notification when your electronic I-20 has been issued and uploaded onto your MyISSS account.

**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 a 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 registrar

**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 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.

### OTHER ADVISORIES

**Returning to Campus:** Students arriving in the U.S. will need to follow federal and local health guidelines. Anyone arriving in California from another U.S. state or another country will need to self-quarantine for a period of 10 days. Self-quarantine means that the individual will manage their own quarantine period and find their own space with a private room and bathroom. If you are moving into on-campus housing, a 14-day quarantine is now required. Students returning to on-campus housing should arrive by July 31 if they want to quarantine on campus. Please [contact SHaRE](#) for further information about the on-campus quarantine process.

ISSS will keep our resource page updated as government policies and procedures change. If you have questions, 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](mailto:iss@usfca.edu).

Warmly,  
International Student and Scholar Services

## ISSS OFFICE RESOURCES

### Requesting a document from ISSS?

If you are requesting an immigration document or letter from our office, remember that we request **10 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 make 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 15-minute increments.

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UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO  
International Student and Scholar Services

(415) 422-2654  
[USFCA.EDU](mailto:USFCA.EDU)  
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