



Dear Students,

On April 30, the **U.S. President issued a proclamation** to restrict travel and entry from India to the United States. Beginning May 4, the proclamation restricts entry for most nonimmigrants, including students traveling on a student visa, from entering the U.S. if they have been in India in the last 14 days. However, the **U.S. Department of State also issued a statement** to say that student visa holders (including those coming from India) will be included in the **National Interest Exemption (NIE)**. Based on this information, students will be able to travel directly to the U.S. from India within 30 days of the start of the fall 2021 semester and will not need to quarantine in a third country for 14 days.

At this time, we don't expect the travel restriction to have a large impact on our newly admitted students from India. Students will still need a valid visa to travel to the U.S. We will continue to share the latest information we have with you and support you as you consider your options. Read on for information about enrollment, visas, travel, housing, and vaccinations.

Enrollment: SEVP guidance requires students who have not entered the U.S. and have a SEVIS initial status to enroll in at least one in-person, hybrid or HyFlex class if you are coming to the U.S. SEVP guidance allows continuing students in SEVIS active status to remain in 100% remote or online courses. Please check with your department about course options, not all departments offer **all course modalities**. USF will try to provide flexibility to students arriving late but please check with your academic department for more details.

Visas: U.S. consulates in India have announced temporary closures and that they are processing only emergency visa applications at this time. The consulates have tentative plans to reopen in May and have also stated that they will prioritize student visas when they reopen. In the meantime, if you need a visa, you should still book the earliest available visa appointment and as visa appointments reopen you can request for this appointment to be moved up. You can view a recent session with the **U.S. Embassy of Delhi and Education USA »**

Travel: In order to support students as you make your plans for travel and arrival to the U.S., 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**.

On-Campus Housing: USF is currently accepting **fall housing applications** and students will be able to arrive early, on July 31, to quarantine in on-campus housing.

Off-Campus Housing: For students looking for housing in the Bay Area the USF Office for Off-Campus Living is able to assist you. Please **visit the listings** for more information. If you are looking for a roommate, you can post it on the message board on the **Off-Campus Living page** and review this helpful **resource for safe living practices**. Contact USF Off-Campus Living for more information at **usfcaoffcampus@usfca.edu**.

Vaccination: International students are eligible for the vaccine in the U.S. and SFDPH has announced that vaccinations are available to all individuals 16 years or older. International students living in the U.S. or arriving in the U.S. can book a vaccination appointment. Vaccine appointments are available based on supply, but many of our international students have already been able to receive them.

For questions regarding your immigration status, I-20, U.S. visa, and eligibility to enter the U.S., please contact **iss@usfca.edu**. More information about travel can be found on the **ISS COVID-19 FAQ page**.

We will continue to monitor these developments around travel and U.S. consulate openings and provide updates.

Warm regards,

Marcella Pitcher DeProto, ISSS Director

Anastasia Vrachnos, Associate Vice Provost of International Initiatives

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