



Dear International Graduate Students,

There have been several pieces of good news this week for international students. We are encouraged that the United States government recognizes the contributions of international students and has begun to address the needs of students seeking to come to the U.S. in pursuit of education. There are still a variety of challenges our students are facing and questions that you have as you plan for the fall 2021 semester. We have heard from some of you about the uncertainty you have for fall and we wanted to reach out to provide the most current information, advice, and support.

U.S. government guidance for international students for fall 2021: The U.S. government office, the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP), confirmed on April 26, 2021, that the existing guidance will remain in effect for the fall 2021. In short, this means that active F-1 students can take classes online within the U.S. or abroad and maintain their F1 status. Initial status students will need to take at least one *in-person, hybrid or Hyflex* class if they enter the U.S. for fall.

Fall 2021 course enrollment: Not sure which **course modality** to enroll in? Graduate students should contact your academic department for more information about the courses available within your department (not all programs have all the different course modalities). Students who will study from within the U.S. should take mostly *in-person or hybrid* classes. Students who are not able to return to the U.S. for the fall semester should enroll in *remote, online, and Hyflex* courses.

For more details regarding your enrollment decisions and immigration status, visit our **Frequently Asked Questions** (listed under Course Enrollment).

Applying for your visa and travel to the U.S.: If your student visa has expired and you are returning to the U.S., you will need to apply for and receive a new visa. Many U.S. Consulates around the world have reopened but visa appointments may be limited. If you can book your visa appointment, we recommend you do so as soon as possible. As more consulates reopen, ISSS will provide additional updates. All students can read details about the **U.S. visa application and interview process** on the ISSS website and prepare for their visa interview. If you have additional questions about the visa process, please contact ISSS at iss@usfca.edu.

If you have a student visa that has expired in the past 48 months, you can apply for a visa interview waiver. Contact the U.S. Consulate near you to find out more about the **visa interview waiver process**. (Note students arriving on an F1 or J1 visa from China, Brazil, UK, Ireland, the Schengen area of Europe, Iran, and South Africa **no longer need to quarantine for 14 days in a third country** when arriving for studies that begin after Aug. 1).

Planning your 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.

U.S. arrival and quarantine: 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. International students arriving from abroad for the fall and moving into on-campus housing for fall can arrive early to quarantine. Students quarantining on-campus will have access to order meals to be delivered to their room.

Getting vaccinated: International students are eligible to receive the vaccine in the U.S. For students living in San Francisco, visit **Get vaccinated against COVID-19** for more information and to book a vaccination appointment. USF students living outside of San Francisco but in California can visit the **California Department of Public Health**. Students located in another state should check the site of your local health department or **The Center for Disease Control (CDC)**.

For more information and future updates, please **read the ISSS COVID-19 FAQ**. You can contact ISSS at iss@usfca.edu, +1 (415) 422-2654, chat on our website, or **make an appointment** with your ISSS advisor.

We hope your spring semester is going well and that you and your loved ones are safe and healthy. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with questions or feedback.

Best regards,

Marcella Pitcher DeProto
ISSS Director

Join the conversation **#USFCA**



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