



WEEKLY UPDATE – May 8

International Travel Considerations and Reminders

As you wrap up your spring courses, it's important 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. As always, you can **email our office** with any questions or concerns. Wishing you the best of luck as you prepare for your final exams!

DOCUMENTS NEEDED FOR TRAVEL

Do you have a valid travel signature on your most recent I-20? Before you request a new travel signature, be sure to log into your **MyISSS account** and view your most recent I-20. Travel signatures can be found on page 2 of your I-20 and **are valid for one year from the date of issuance (six months for students on OPT)**. If you already have an I-20 with a valid travel signature in your MyISSS account, you can return to your record, download, print, and sign this document. Students are issued new I-20s for many request types including CPT, OPT, and Reduced Course Load. Please review all of the requests in your profile to find your most recent I-20. Reference the **MyISSS Student Handbook** for additional information related to navigating the student portal.

Get a travel signature by submitting a request for an I-20 reprint: If you do not have a valid travel signature on your most recent I-20, you can request one from our office by **submitting a request via MyISSS**. Note that our office processing time is ten business days, and once we complete a travel signature request, we will upload a new I-20 onto your account. From there, you can download, print, and sign your document and carry it with you when you travel. Please keep the processing timeline in mind as you plan for your upcoming travel. Note that students need a valid travel signature to re-enter the U.S., but you **do not need it to leave the U.S.**

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.
- Proof of COVID-19 vaccination is currently required. **Learn more »**

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 the **Transcripts web page**.
- 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.
- These documents are not required but can be helpful if the port of entry officers have additional questions about your studies and status.*

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 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 the **Travel and Reentry into the U.S. web page** for any visa updates.

Our office hours will be the same as our usual business hours throughout the academic year. 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**.

Upcoming Events and Announcements

WE'RE HIRING

Fall 2023 International Student Orientation Guide

Apply to be an orientation guide! Interested students must be able to fully commit to the position and have availability on the following dates:

Friday, Aug. 11 | Guide Training
Saturday, Aug. 12 | Move-in Day
Wednesday, Aug. 16 – Friday, Aug. 18

School of Nursing and School of Education students preferred

Learn more and apply »



International Student Association Reception

Join the International Student Association (ISA) at their end-of-semester reception for an opportunity to wind down and socialize with USF students! Food and drinks will be provided. Attend for a chance to win a Nintendo Switch, mini projector, or Amazon gift card! Please reach out to **ISA on Instagram** if you have any questions.

RSVP »

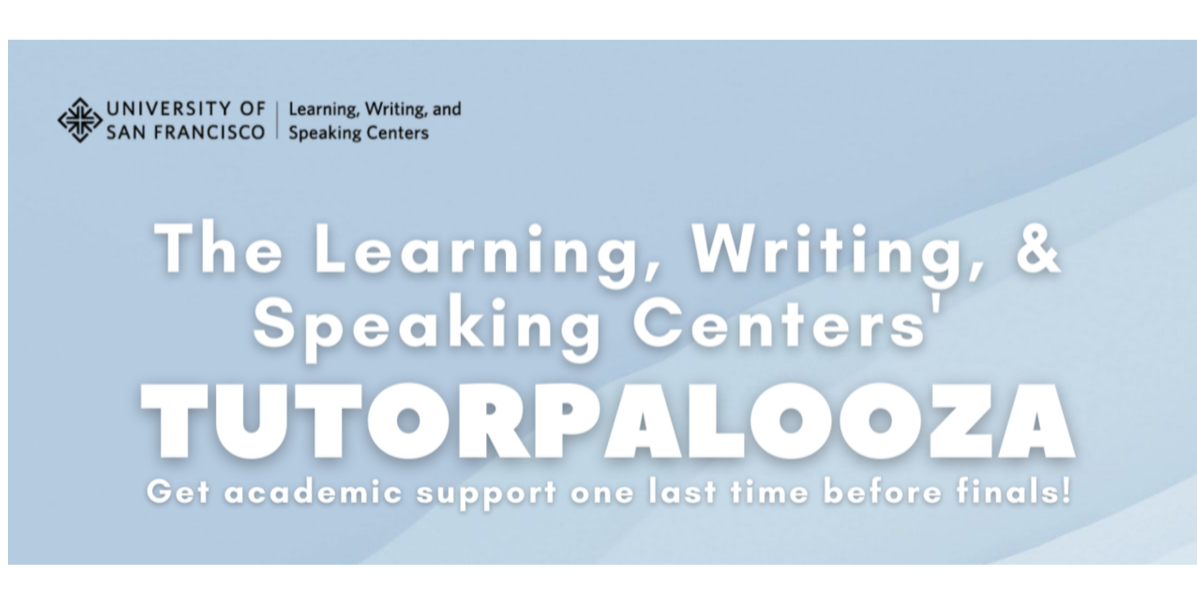
Workshop: Preparing for Finals

Preparing for Finals Workshops

The Learning Center would like to invite you to one of their upcoming virtual Preparing for Finals workshops on Tuesday, May 9, from 11:50 a.m.–12:40 p.m. PDT, or Wednesday, May 10, from 5:30–6:30 p.m. PDT. You can choose any day to attend. The following topics will be discussed:

- Structured study time
- Finding focus/ academic mindsets
- Test-taking and exam-preparation strategies
- And much more!

Join the Preparing Finals Workshop on **Zoom**. **Learn more »**



Tutorpalooza

The Learning, Writing, and Speaking Centers would like to invite you to their drop-in tutoring event on **Friday, May 12 from 12–4 p.m. on the second floor of Gleeson Library and in rooms 139, 232, 233, and 237**. Stop by to meet with LWSC tutors, coaches, and consultants to get ready for finals.

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. All ISSS requests should be submitted through the **MyISSS student portal** (select the home icon, site home, and then requests on the left-hand menu). You can view our **MyISSS Student Handbook** for assistance with your 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.

Drop-in Hours

Have a question? Stop by our drop-in hours on UC fifth floor! We have drop-in hours on Tuesdays from 11:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m. **The last day for drop-in hours is Tuesday, May 9.**

Connect with ISSS through Instagram »

Join the conversation **#USFCA**



UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO
International Student and Scholar Services

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