



WEEKLY UPDATE – May 9

International Travel Considerations and Reminders

As you wrap up your spring courses, 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** for the most up-to-date information on these travel requirements for international students. You can also view USF campus policies related to COVID-19 on the **USF Together** web page and the **travel page** for USF's travel policies. As always, please **email our office** with any questions or concerns. Wishing you luck as you prepare for your final exams!

TRAVEL CONSIDERATIONS

When planning for your return to the U.S. you will want to consider flight, travel, and entry restrictions. Guidance for air travelers: All individuals traveling to the US are required to be **vaccinated against COVID-19**. All WHO or US-FDA approved vaccines are accepted. View **acceptable vaccination documentation** here and keep it accessible at all times when traveling. Per the **CDC requirements** air travelers who plan to enter the U.S. must also provide a negative COVID-19 test to their airline in order to board their flight. For testing requirements to board your plane, please contact your airline company. For COVID-19 testing information for San Francisco, please **refer to this page**.

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. Note that travel signatures can be found on page 2 of your I-20 and they are valid for one year from 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)
- Students can **print this travel letter**. The letter explains that, as a USF student, you will be able to maintain your visa status and follow the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) Guidelines for the pandemic.
- 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.
- COVID-19 vaccination and testing are currently required (see Travel Considerations section above for further information)

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 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 **ISSS 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**.



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 several USF students! Food and drinks will be provided. Attend this event for a chance to win a **free** upgrade to first class on a domestic flight via United Airlines. **RSVP here**. For more information or any questions, **please message ISA on their Instagram »**



USF Graduation

Congratulations to the upcoming spring 2022 grads! A reminder that the commencement ceremonies will be held in person at a reduced capacity. All ceremonies will be streamed virtually on **USF's website, YouTube, and Facebook**. Note that guests are required to have a ticket in order to come to campus. You should have received your two guest tickets through your student email. **Learn 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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