VISA, TRAVEL, FALL ENROLLMENT & MORE
FALL 2020 – NEW STUDENTS

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Agenda

- New F-1 Student Enrollment Requirement
- In-person
- Transfer Students
- E-form Guidance
- Visa Issues
- Travel & Quarantine
- Online Study
- Resources
NEW F-1 STUDENT ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENT FALL 2020
New F-1 Student

- DHS guidance for Fall 2020 states that if you are a new F-1 student and you will be in the US in F-1 status during Fall 2020 semester, you must have at least one in-person class on campus.

- This applies to all new F-1 students, including Change of Status.

- In person courses are coded as:
  - In-Person
  - Hybrid
  - Hybrid with In-Person Exam
In-person Fall 2020

Do I need a new I-20?

• No, you can use the one that was originally issued to you. Unless you have already completed the Change of Plans e-form and recently gotten a visa appointment. In this case, please complete the Upcoming Visa Appointment e-form immediately.

What will happen when the mode of instruction changes in November? Will I be out of status? Will I have to depart?

• Your status will not be affected, provided you maintain full-time enrollment.
• You will not need to depart, though you may choose to.
• Students living on-campus should contact Campus Living regarding Winter housing contract.
In-person Fall 2020

How do I finish my ISS check-in when I arrive?

• To complete New International Student Check-in online, upload your most recent I-94.
• Watch the Immigration Session video – part of your Orientation program.

What is happening with Orientation?

• Check out the schedule on Guidebook – download the app on your phone.
• Undergraduates must complete the online Orientation modules.
• Undergraduates must attend Your Role in the Community session.
• All new students must watch the Immigration Session video.
SEVIS TRANSFER STUDENTS
SEVIS Transfer Students

I’m inside the U.S. Can I study 100% online?

• IF you were enrolled on March 9, 2020, yes. If you were on OPT, no. You must meet the in-person requirement.

I will remain outside the U.S. Can I study 100% online without impacting my SEVIS record?

• Yes, BUT your SEVIS record will not be active. We will need to request a data fix to amend your record BEFORE you intend to travel to the U.S. SEVP assures us your SEVIS record will not be negatively impacted.
E-FORM GUIDANCE:
Which E-form should I complete? Change of Plans or Check-in?

Everyone will need to submit “International Student Reporting – Fall 2020” to gain access to the rest of the e-forms.

In-person = Document Check-in
Online from outside U.S./Defer = Change of Plans

Considerations:
• Visa
• Travel/flight restrictions
• Arrive-by date – September 4th
• Program requirements
• Health concerns

If you do not complete one of these e-forms on UB Global by **08/28/2020**, your SEVIS record will impacted.
I have completed the Change of Plans e-form. When will I get my new I-20?

- IF you will be **studying online** for the Fall 2020 semester, you will be issued an electronic I-20 when we process your Change of Plans e-form.
  
  You will receive the I-20 via email.
  
  Thank you for your patience as we process these e-forms. You do not need the I-20 to begin studying online.

- IF you will be **deferring your admission** to spring or fall 2021, International Admissions will issue you a new I-20.
  
  IF you are a **graduate student**, please work with your department to defer your admission. They will liaise with International Admissions to issue your new I-20.
  
  IF you are an **undergraduate student**, please work with International Admissions. They will issue your new I-20.
VISA ISSUES
Fall 2020

I have a visa appointment in August. What should I do?
• Do you have a flight booked?
• Will your visa be issued at the appointment?
• Can you arrive by the first week of classes?
• Can you check in by September 4 (submit I-94)

I have a visa appointment in October. What should I do?
• Complete the Change of Plans e-form.
  Begin studies online from outside the U.S. OR
  Defer program start date to a later semester
I have a visa but I can’t get a flight until mid-September. What should I do?

- Complete the Change of Plans e-form.
  
  Begin studies online from outside the U.S. OR
  
  Defer program start date to a later semester.

If my visa is issued in August or September, will it still be valid for Spring 2021?

- Yes. You may enter the U.S. using the visa plus your valid passport & I-20 with Spring 2021 start date.
TRAVEL
International Travel

Documents needed for entry

- valid Passport
- valid visa / (SEVIS fee receipt if Canadian)
- valid I-20

Recommended

- proof of enrollment (print your Fall enrollment from HUB)
- financial documents, in case you get questions on how you are funding your studies
- ISS letter of support
Domestic Travel - Quarantines

NY State Requirements:

Students, faculty, staff and visitors arriving in New York State from designated states that have significant community spread of COVID-19 will be required to quarantine for 14 days before coming onto campus.

This requirement does not apply to any individual passing through designated states for a limited duration (i.e., less than 24 hours) through the course of travel. Additional information for UB employees is available this UB employee website.

• For residential international students who may need to come to campus early to quarantine, UB Campus Living will house those residential students in an on-campus residence.

• Non-residential international students will be required to quarantine at their off-campus housing.
UB 7-day Quarantine Recommendation:

For faculty, staff and students who have not been to campus since UB transitioned to remote learning in March, the university is recommending that faculty, staff and students follow these quarantine guidelines as much as possible:

- Take your temperature with a thermometer two times a day and monitor for fever over 100°F or 37.8 celsius. Also monitor for symptoms such as coughing or trouble breathing. Use this temperature log to monitor your temperature.
- Stay home and avoid contact with others.
- Keep your distance from others (about 6 feet or 2 meters) and do not go out in public.
- If you have to interact with others or go out, please wear a mask and physically distance as best as possible.
Travel Resources

• CDC Travel Advisory for New York State

• U.S. State Department Travel Advisories
  https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html/

• ISS COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions (Travel Section)

• ISS Information on Presidential Proclamations & Travel Alerts

• Travel-Related Proclamations Affecting Entry from Certain Countries
  https://www.nafsa.org/regulatory-information/covid-19-restrictions-us-visas-and-entry#countryproclamations
ONLINE STUDY FROM OUTSIDE THE U.S.
Beginning Your Program Online

• Complete the Change of Plans e-form
• Resolve your other holds
• Recommended: submit required health docs now
• You will not be in F-1 status until you enter the U.S. using your I-20 and F-1 visa, therefore you are not required to enroll full-time from an immigration perspective, but may choose to.
• Consult with your advisor/department regarding academic goals/requirements
Online Resources

Online or in-person, you are a UB student!
Your student fees pay for these resources. Use them.

• Tutoring and Academic Support
  https://www.buffalo.edu/studentsuccess/tutoring.html

• Center for Excellence in Writing
  http://www.buffalo.edu/writing/make-an-appointment.html

• Mathematics Help Center
  http://www.buffalo.edu/cas/math/ug/help-center.html

• Virtual Engagement
  https://www.buffalo.edu/studentlife/life-on-campus/clubs-and-activities/virtual-spring.html
COVID Immigration Resources


- NAFSA COVID Critical Resources – create free account to log in: [https://www.nafsa.org/regulatory-information/coronavirus-critical-resources](https://www.nafsa.org/regulatory-information/coronavirus-critical-resources)

- SEVP Study in the States: [https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/covid-19-resources](https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/covid-19-resources)
COVID Health Resources

- UB Health Guidelines
- UB COVID-19 FAQ page
  https://www.buffalo.edu/coronavirus/faqs.html
- CDC
- NYS Department of Health
  https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home
THANK YOU!
Take care and stay healthy!

Questions not answered via chat…email isss@buffalo.edu

Please be advised that the information in this presentation may change due to updates to regulations and policies. Please always consult the ISS website for the most up-to-date information.

www.buffalo.edu/international-student-services.html