

UFIC Notice to All International Students - March 12, 2020

Dear Students,

In response to the recent university-wide announcement, we want to assure you that you are neither required nor expected to leave UF or the US. Campus housing and other facilities remain open and available to their residents, as do other resources and support services. All our students are a valued and important part of the Gator community, and we are committed to providing all possible support for you in the current challenging context.

Below are some considerations regarding maintaining your J1 or F1 visa (degree seeking students) status during this evolving situation.

F-1 Visa Holders:

The Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) has provided guidance stating SEVP-certified schools may make procedural adaptations in light of the Covid-19 virus. This guidance applies to students who are currently enrolled in a program of study in Spring 2020 and is not intended for new or initial students who are outside the United States.

The University of Florida President's office has confirmed that all classes must be moved online by Monday, 03/16/2020, and it is not optional.

REGISTRATION:

For the remainder of Spring 2020, F1 students are expected to continue to maintain a full course load:

- Enrolled in Spring 2020: undergraduate students: 12 credits minimum; graduate students: 9 credits minimum
 - Exceptions:
 - Graduating in Spring 2020: remain enrolled as required to satisfy graduation requirements; undergraduate students: 1 credit minimum; graduate students: 3 credits minimum
 - Authorized CPT: if you have already received CPT authorization, do not modify your registration
 - Authorized RCL: if you have already received RCL authorization, do not modify your registration
 - If any modification is needed to your registration between now and the end of Spring 2020, please contact your [F-1 International Student Advisor](#).
 - A modification which will lead to less than a full course load will require you to apply for and receive a [Reduced Course Load](#) prior to modifying your registration.

EMPLOYMENT:

- [On-Campus Employment](#): 20 hours or less per week

- **Off-Campus Employment:** Changes to workplace requirements may impact nonimmigrant students engaging in practical training. SEVP encourages such students to consult with their employer to seek alternative ways to maintain employment, such as teleworking or other arrangements.
 - **Curricular Practical Training (CPT):** *as stated on the I-20 with CPT authorization you received*

TRAVEL:

If you are planning to leave Gainesville, whether domestic or international travel, you must complete the travel report found at:

https://iss.internationalcenter.ufl.edu/index.cfm?FuseAction=OneStep.Apply&Program_ID=10061

Travel outside the US:

Please check the following CDC link for updates about travel to and from the US:

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/warning/coronavirus-europe>

As an F1 student, if you decide to **travel abroad**, and continue your classes on-line, you must have the following documents in order to re-enter the United States:

- Valid F1 Student Visa
- Valid Passport, valid at least six months beyond your re-entry date
- Valid I-20, with Valid Travel Signature

Travel inside the US:

While not required to have the above listed documents, we recommend you keep them with you. Please make sure you have made copies.

OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS:

- Please refer to official UF updates here: <http://www.ufl.edu/health-updates/>
- You can find an archive of International Center communications here: <https://internationalcenter.ufl.edu/ufic-communications-coronavirus>

ADVISING/INTERNATIONAL CENTER HOURS:

The UF International Center is currently maintaining regular business hours and will remain open as long as campus is operational. We are available to speak with students who come in to the UFIC or **you may call or email us**. If you have an emergency situation please contact 352-538-5558.

J-1 Degree Seeking Students:

Please contact your advisers with any questions which may not be answered above.

J-1 Exchange Students:

Please complete the travel report found

at: https://iss.internationalcenter.ufl.edu/index.cfm?FuseAction=OneStep.Apply&Program_ID=10061 if you anticipate travel plans.

Please expect separate communications from your Exchange Program Advisor, Carolyn Cesarotti, to navigate your options.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.
UFIC ISS and EVS Staff