

International Student and Scholar Services – March 14, 2020 update on programs and services

Laurel Hall Remains Open

As noted in President McConnell's message to campus, all administrative offices remain open. ISSS will continue to offer services as follows.

Advising

In supporting the university's response to the evolving COVID-19 virus situation, we are strongly encouraging students and scholars to limit their in-person visits to Laurel Hall by submitting open advising questions by email to iss@colostate.edu. An ISSS advisor will be closely monitoring incoming messages and will answer questions as quickly as possible. We will still offer in-person open advising during normal advising hours for matters that require you meet with an advisor in-person.

Travel

It's critical that if you have upcoming travel plans you stay up-to-date with entry restrictions because they have the potential to change quickly. While there may not currently be restrictions on travel to or from your travel destination, there is the distinct possibility that further restrictions could be put into place.

Any international travel while this situation is evolving involves some risk. We encourage you to gather as much information as possible, assess the risk in your travel situation and determine how to proceed.

Please note: On March 11, 2020, a presidential proclamation suspended entry of immigrants and non-immigrants who have been *physically present* in the European Schengen Area within the last 14 days.

The European Schengen Area includes Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland.

It does *not* include the United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland) or Ireland.

In addition, travel to the United States is also restricted from China and Iran.

In-Person Courses Moving Online

Spring 2020 Enrollment and Your Immigration Record

- The Department of Homeland Security (Ref: [Study in the States COVID-19 News](#)) and Department of State have both notified schools that the temporary shift from in-person to online courses in response to COVID-19 would not impact international student immigration records so long as the student continues to make "normal progress in a full course of study as required by federal regulations."

This means that the immigration records for international students who continue to participate in their coursework online and maintain a full-time course load through the remainder of the semester will not be negatively impacted.

Maintain Your US Address

At this time, all university buildings remain open, including residence halls and apartments while classes are held online. If you decide to depart the United States while completing your courses online during the Spring semester, you will want to list the U.S. address you plan to return to in the Fall in your RAMweb account.

Fall 2020 course registration opens in April. When enrolling in your courses for Fall, make sure you follow the full-time enrollment requirements for your academic level and visa type listed below. In-person courses for Fall 2020 will still be required to maintain your immigration record.

- Undergraduates: 12 credit minimum
 - *F-1 students: 9 or more must be on campus*
 - *J-1 students: 12 or more must be on campus*
- Graduates: 9 credit minimum
 - *F-1 students: 6 or more must be on campus*
 - *J-1 students: 9 or more must be on campus*

Returning Home for the Remainder of the Semester

Some students have indicated they may want to return home for the remainder of the semester due to in-person courses shifting to online. At this time, the university has not made a decision about whether or not courses will be limited to only online instruction for the entire semester. The university has made the shift to online courses while it continues to assess the spread of the virus, and has committed to communicating on or before April 10 to students about decisions regarding online instruction impacting the remainder of the semester. Please use your best judgement in determining your travel plans.

Also, keep in mind that you will need reliable access to technology and internet to successfully complete your coursework online. Please make certain that you have compatible technical connections to study remotely as various countries have different systems and requirements.

Immigration regulations allow students who are maintaining their immigration record to be outside of the US for **less than five (5) months** and have their immigration record remain active. The five months starts the day you depart from the United States.

If you are outside of the US for **more than five (5) months**, your record will be terminated, and you will need to arrange with our office for a new record and I-20 to be created should you plan to return. This can result in paying the I-901 fee of \$350 again.

If you plan to study from home for a period of time and then return, make sure you return to the US within five months of your departure.

Programs and Events

Many programs are canceled until further notice including the weekly Friday Afternoon Club, some workshops, etc. To inquire further, please contact ISSS@colostate.edu.

Resources

Some resources for updates on COVID-19:

- ICE's [Study in the States COVID-19 News](#) page
- NAFSA.org's [COVID-19 Restrictions on U.S. Visas and Entry](#) page

Check your email often for continued updates and guidance from our office as well as the office of President Joyce McConnell. Additional resources include the [main CSU website](#) and the [Office of International Programs website](#) for updates regarding our university's response to COVID-19.