

## FAQ: Travel and Immigration information for F-1 Students

**UPDATED: March 27, 2020**

We strongly advise against travel outside of the United States. Existing travel bans, closure of the US embassies across the world and the ever-changing situation make travel very risky at this time. If you leave, we cannot guarantee you will be able to return to the US in time for the next semester. However, we understand that this is a very personal decision for you and your family. We present the most up-to-date information for you so that you can make the best decision. We will continue to update students by this FAQ and email as information changes.

### IVC is Closed How Do I Get a Travel Signature on My I-20?

As the IVC campus is closed, we are not able to process in-person travel signature requests at this time. DO NOT WORRY!!!! **You can leave the United States without a travel signature.** You will need a travel signature in order to return to the United States.

1. Email [cdelgado@ivc.edu](mailto:cdelgado@ivc.edu) with your name, student ID, travel destination and travel dates (Departure and return date) and student email.

*NOTE: We are only processing students that are leaving the US now; summer travel requests will be processed in May.*

2. We can then process your request and email you the I-20. \* You will then need to print it out in order to return to the USA.

\* Student status will be checked and students who are currently out of status will have to obtain a new I-20. Such students will be notified separately.

Please pay attention to any travel bans or restrictions which may impede your ability to return to the USA AND be sure your F-1 visa is still valid. (you will need a valid visa to re-enter the US).

### What if My F-1 Visa is Expired or Will Expire While I am Overseas?

The US State Department is suspending visa services (F-1 visa renewals) at most embassies worldwide indefinitely. This means that IF your F-1 visa has expired and you travel, you would NOT be able to renew your F-1 visa at this time. Please check the expiration date on your F-1 visa before traveling. The State Department statement is posted below.

“In response to worldwide challenges related to the outbreak of COVID-19, the Department of State is suspending routine visa services in most countries worldwide. Embassies and consulates in these countries will cancel all routine immigrant and nonimmigrant visa appointments as of March 18, 2020. These embassies and consulates will resume routine visa services as soon as possible, but we are unable to provide a specific date at this time. Check the website of the embassy or consulate for its current operating status: [usembassy.gov](http://usembassy.gov).

Services to U.S. citizens will continue at U.S. embassies and consulates overseas, but the availability of these services may be limited. Check the website of an individual embassy or consulate to determine their operating status and find emergency contact information."

### **What are the Current Countries that are Prohibited from Entering the US?**

The countries currently on a travel ban (as of March 19) are listed below. **This list is constantly changing and we cannot guarantee that additional countries will not be added in the future.** Students whose home country is not on the travel ban list now and who leave the US, may find that they are no longer able to return if a new travel ban is implemented. This means that for ANY student, leaving the US at this time poses a risk to your ability to return.

#### ***Current Travel ban countries as of March 19, 2020:***

**Austria**  
**Belgium**  
**China**  
**Czech Republic**  
**Denmark**  
**Estonia**  
**Finland**  
**France**  
**Germany**  
**Greece**  
**Hungary**  
**Iceland**  
**Iran**  
**Ireland**  
**Italy**  
**Latvia**  
**Liechtenstein**  
**Lithuania**  
**Luxembourg**  
**Malta**  
**Netherlands**  
**Norway**  
**Poland**  
**Portugal**  
**Slovakia**  
**Slovenia**  
**Spain**  
**Sweden**  
**Switzerland**  
**United Kingdom**

**\*Canada and Mexico have restricted travel; however, international students should NOT be impacted by this specific travel ban from Canada and Mexico.**

**If your home country is currently on a travel ban, you are STRONGLY advised NOT TO LEAVE THE US** as you are at a great risk of not being able to return to the US in the near future.

**We caution all other F-1 visa students to carefully consider your decision to depart the US as we are not sure if additional travel bans will be implemented** that would effectively leave you stranded back in your home countries and unable to return to the US.

### **Will I Maintain my F-1 Status if All of My Classes are On-Line?**

Yes! The Department of Homeland Security has adjusted federal regulations to ensure that F-1 visa students maintain their status while enrolled in fully on-line classes (12 units or more) during this public health crisis.

Students are expected to complete the spring semester and complete 12 units of on-line coursework to maintain status.

### **Can I Leave the US to do My On-Line Classes and Maintain My Status?**

Yes! The Department of Homeland Security has adjusted federal regulations to ensure that F-1 visa students maintain their status while enrolled in fully on-line classes (12 units or more) during this public health crisis while staying in the US or returning to their home country.