Updates for International Graduate Students

'LAUREN A FEINER' via SoHE Graduate Students <sohegradstudents@googlegroups.com>
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To: sohegradstudents@googlegroups.com <sohegradstudents@googlegroups.com>

Dear SoHE international graduate students,

I'm including a few important updates from campus partners below:

This is just a quick FYI that the following has been added to the Graduate School’s COVID-19 page, [https://grad.wisc.edu/covid19/#international-students](https://grad.wisc.edu/covid19/#international-students).

Can international students who are unable to come to Madison get paid and receive tuition remission as graduate assistants?

Graduate students with assistantship appointments need to make every effort to return to campus or telecommute from within the U.S. Individuals who cannot return to the campus or the U.S. due to immigration issues may be permitted to telecommute internationally under certain circumstances. Individual graduate students need to work closely with their admitting graduate program and that program’s Human Resources office.

International telecommuting is prohibited from countries deemed to pose the highest risk associated with export control: Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Syria, and the Republic of Sudan.

This guidance applies to international graduate students with research (RA), teaching (TA), and project (PA) assistantships as well as fellowships.

New students with an Initial Attendance I-20/SEVIS record, you have three options: (New students can follow the [ISS flowchart](https://grad.wisc.edu/covid19/#international-students) for enrollment, visa and travel options.)

1. Enroll in at least one in-person credit
   a. The U.S. consulate and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) will review your eligibility for an F-1 visa and entry to the U.S. as an F-1 student. You will need proof of in-person enrollment.

2. Enroll in remote/online credits
   a. Remain outside the U.S.
   b. Request an I-20 program start date deferral from the Designated School Official who issued your I-20 (page 1). Your start date can be deferred to Spring 2021 or later when you intend to be on campus for in-person instruction.

3. Change your semester of admission and do not enroll for Fall 2020
   a. You must reapply for admission.
   b. Your I-20 program start date can only be updated if your term of admission is updated. Your I-20 program start date must match the start date of your term of admission.
Continuing students with a Continued Attendance I-20/Active SEVIS record, you have two options *:

1. Enroll full-time or have an approved ISS Reduced Course Load (RCL)
   a. You can maintain your F-1 immigration status inside or outside the U.S.
   b. You can enroll only in remote/online credits. There is no immigration requirement for in-person enrollment.

2. Take a gap semester or year
   a. Discuss this option with your academic advisor or graduate program coordinator first.
   b. You must be outside the U.S.
   c. You may need to apply for re-entry admission to UW-Madison
   d. Your F-1 immigration record cannot remain active during your leave of absence. You must complete the ISS Leave of Absence form in your Terra Dotta portal.

Please refer students to https://iss.wisc.edu/students/current-students/health/covid-19-updates/ for up-to-date information and email iss@studentlife.wisc.edu if additional questions arise.

Kind regards,

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