

Keep in mind that due to COVID-19 all these policies and guidelines are fluid and are fast changing. Please email [iss@louisville.edu](mailto:iss@louisville.edu) with any questions or concerns that you may have.

## Fall 2020 Guidance

You can find the full SEVP exemptions due to COVID-19 for the fall 2020 semester at <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/sevis/pdf/bcm2007-01.pdf>

Students are allowed to remain in the US and travel to the US (when possible – see travel updated below) as the University of Louisville has implemented a hybrid model, which allows students to remain in active status. Due to this, the University will fall under exemption 3 under the fall 2020 federal procedural changes.

### Temporary Exemptions for the Fall 2020 Semester:

#### Exemption 3:

Students attending schools adopting a hybrid model—that is, a mixture of online and in person classes—will be allowed to take more than one class or three credit hours online, but their entire schedule cannot be on-line.

#### Hybrid Courses and Exemption 3:

For more information on what constitutes a hybrid course at the University, please visit [UofL's website](#). UofL will also offer some in-person and on-line courses for the fall semester. Students are encouraged to contact the department or their academic advisors to determine how courses are being implemented.

**Note:** International students **cannot be enrolled in on-line courses only**. If at all possible, international students need to enroll in hybrid or in-person courses when possible. Students are able to enroll in additional courses on-line (outside of the 3-credit hour traditional federal regulation), but a student cannot be entirely on-line. Further details are below.

#### Additional On-line Course Information:

International students should, as much as possible, be enrolled in hybrid or face to face classes or in-person courses; however, noting the following exception that grants some flexibility: *“Nonimmigrant F-1 students attending schools adopting a hybrid model—that is, a mixture of online and in person classes—will be allowed to take more than one class or three credit hours online.”* This will allow students to take additional on-line courses, if there is no hybrid or in-person course that meets the criteria above and is directed towards making progress towards their degrees. **Remember: International students cannot be enrolled fully in on-line courses.** While the new guidance requires a student to be enrolled in at least one hybrid or face to face course, the ISSS office is suggesting you enroll in more than one if possible in case of a course moving on-line due to illness or other reasons. If there is an option between a hybrid course and an on-line course, then please treat this as normal regulations, and choose the hybrid when possible.

### **Faculty and Departments:**

Please be flexible when working with international students and if possible, have a few course options that can be considered hybrid so they can remain in active status in the US. Contact the [ISSS office](#) if you have any questions.

### **Masters and Doctoral Candidacy:**

If you are currently in Masters or Doctoral candidacy/research then you are considered in a hybrid course and are in good standing.

### **New I-20:**

All F1 international students will receive a new I-20 from the ISSS office within the coming weeks that indicates *"the school is not entirely online, that the student is not taking an entirely online course load for the fall 2020 semester, and that the student is taking the minimum number of online classes required to make normal progress in their degree program."*

### **Current/Returning student outside the US and unable to travel back to the US for fall 2020:**

Continuing students that are enrolled, but outside the US, and are unable to attend courses within the US for the fall 2020 semester may be unable to engage in remote learning from their home country. In this situation you are asked to contact the ISSS office immediately. The ISSS office email can be accessed by clicking [here](#). Each of these cases are different and will need to be discussed before moving forward.

### **New Undergraduate or Graduate Students:**

If you are a new student then please see the information below on arriving, deferral, and other concerns.

**The University of Louisville will strive to maintain in-person or hybrid courses for the entirety of the fall semester. Please check your email frequently for further updates.**

Keep in mind that the SEVIS FEE is valid for one year.

## **Travel Updates**

### **Visa acquiring and travel to the US. Update from SEVP:**

Information will be updated on U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) [COVID-19 resource page under the Nonimmigrant Students and SEVP-Certified Schools section.](#)"

### **Entry into the US:**

US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is only allowing expedited entry of land-border ports of entry. A student could potentially enter from Canada, Mexico, or a Caribbean Island as expedited entry. This is not to say someone could not fly directly into the USA from another country, but they will be held to the travel restrictions of their home country and any COVID-19 proclamations issued by the US government. This will pertain more for returning students as many embassies still are not issuing visas. If a student is

still in a country that is impacted by the Presidential Proclamation, then they must be outside of that country for 14-days before they can enter the US. This will be updated as travel restrictions are lifted.

### **Travelers Prohibited from Entry to the United States:**

To slow the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19), several Presidential proclamations established restrictions on the entry of certain travelers into the United States. To see the list of the countries impacted by the Presidential Proclamation, click [here](#). To find all restrictions regarding your specific country, click [here](#).

### **Embassy and Visa Information**

Students will need a valid visa to enter the U.S. Due to many embassies and/or consulates being closed, it is difficult for new students to obtain visa appointments. We have no definite information when embassies will be opening. Please click on the link to contact the embassies in your home country to get the most up to date information: <https://www.usembassy.gov/>

Some US consulates in many countries allow expedited visa interviews for F and J participants if they are less than 60 or 30 days from their program start date. The general guideline is 60 days: [www.ustraveldocs.com/in/in-niv-expeditedappointment.asp](http://www.ustraveldocs.com/in/in-niv-expeditedappointment.asp). However, in some countries require waiting to reach the 30 day window: [www.ustraveldocs.com/jp/jp-niv-expeditedappointment.asp](http://www.ustraveldocs.com/jp/jp-niv-expeditedappointment.asp)

### **US Customs and Border Protection (CBP):**

CBP has information on essential travel into the US. For educational purposes this is only for land border countries. You can find more information by clicking [here](#).

### **Documents Required to Travel:**

To travel into the US, international students will need:

- Signed I-20
  - For F-1 Students, original or copy
- DS-2019
  - For J-1 Students, MUST BE ORIGINAL
- Valid Passport
- Valid Visa

If you need a new I-20 for any reason, email the International Student and Scholar Services office as soon as possible. They will create a new I-20 and mail it to you. If you need it sooner, Immigration services are allowing copies of I-20s to be used during this pandemic.

For J-1 Students, you will still need the original DS-2019 to enter the country. Copies cannot be used.

### **Letter for Travel:**

A letter from the University may help in allowing you to enter the US. Please request a letter from your department or academic advisor and/or a letter from the ISSS office for entry into the US – try to arrive early to give you enough time to complete the mandatory 14-day quarantine.

To get a letter for a potential expedited visa interview and/or entry into the US, contact the ISSS office at [iss@louisville.edu](mailto:iss@louisville.edu).

You can find more information on the [Pivot to the Fall](#) guidelines prepared by the University.

**Parents:**

With a global pandemic currently going on, we advise ONLY students to come on campus after being quarantined ALONE for 14 days. Parents cannot quarantine with the student and may be unable to visit the campus.

**Resources and More Information:**

You can find additional resources and information on [NAFSA's webpage](#).

**After Thanksgiving Break and Winter Break:**

**After Thanksgiving break, the University will move to on-line courses. This will not affect your status and you will remain in active status. You can remain in the US during the breaks and you do not have to leave the country if you are a current student. It is recommended that you consider your options before any travel outside the US.**

## **University of Louisville Procedures and Guidelines**

**Deferral information for incoming students:**

For deferment of admission, please contact your department and/or [Graduate Admission](#) for more information. If you are unable to attend UofL for the Fall 2020 semester then you can contact [Graduate Admissions](#) and your department to potentially move to on-line courses for the Fall. If you are undergraduate, contact Undergraduate Admissions [admitme@louisville.edu](mailto:admitme@louisville.edu) Attn: Ramonia Brents Undergraduate Admissions website: <https://louisville.edu/admissions/>

Please send us an email about your decision, so we can create a new I20 with the correct dates.

**ISSS Check in:**

Once you have arrived into the country, you will need to check in with ISSS. To check in you will need to send a copy of your visa, passport, I-94, and local telephone and address information to ISSS at [iss@louisville.edu](mailto:iss@louisville.edu)

**14-day self-quarantine and Housing Info:**

When you get into the country, you will need to complete a 14-day self-quarantine before you can come on campus.

- [Apply for Housing](#) now - On-campus and off-campus suggestions: <https://louisville.edu/housing/options/communities>

- If you are a returning student and already notified housing of your return before departing the US, then check your housing account and make sure your housing information has not changed. You can also [email housing](#) for more information or to check your status as your housing may have shifted. This is only for those students that live in a traditional residence hall and not an affiliated property.
- Contact housing at [housing@louisville.edu](mailto:housing@louisville.edu) to let them know that you will need to 14-day self-quarantine due to arriving from out of the US and they will help you locate a suitable living arrangement during this period.
- If you live in affiliated property or another apartment complex, make sure to follow their guidelines and procedures. Contact that apartment complex directly.
- If you cannot travel due to COVID, [email housing](#) to get a refund. Make sure you include any documentation that displays you are unable to arrive to UofL due to COVID-19.

Some guidelines you will need to follow while in quarantine are:

- Stay out of public areas
- Wear a mask when you are in public areas
- You cannot, under any circumstances, come to campus during those 14 days
- Keep your distance from others as much as possible
- Do not use public transportation
- Stay in your room as much as possible and do not leave unless you need to get groceries
- Monitor your health daily. Take your temperature and be on the lookout for symptoms such as trouble breathing, coughing, fever, etc.

If you feel sick, please stay at home and call the University [Health Center](#) to make appointment. They will assist you either by phone or in person.

#### **On-line Orientation and Welcome Events:**

As the summer progresses, we will contact all students about all events and more information. Keep reviewing your UofL email account for further information.

#### **Meals (Food Pantry) – Grocery Trips:**

There are some groceries stores that deliver groceries in Louisville Kentucky and the University of Louisville offers a free food pantry for delivery. We ask that you utilize these services during your 14 day self-quarantine or if you are unable to move about the City of Louisville:

- <https://louisville.edu/involvement/leadership/engage-lead-serve-board/cardinalcupboard/>
- <https://www.yellowpages.com/louisville-ky/grocery-delivery-service>
- <https://grocery.walmart.com/locations/delivery/Walmart-Louisville-KY-Supercenter-5417>

You can also use apps like [Grubhub](#) and [Doordash](#) to have food delivered to your home.

## **Courses**

For information about the hybrid courses, please contact your department and visit [our website](#) for more detailed information. Please see hybrid and on-line information above for federal compliance changes due to hybrid and on-line courses.

Students, if you arrive late, and must quarantine during classes, please work with the faculty to get all the information online until you can return to campus. Undergraduate students can identify their academic advisor (this person will assist you in registering for courses) by clicking [here](#). If you become sick after being in the US for a period of time; work with these individuals by email letting them know of your illness and to work with them to be on-line during your period of illness. Contact the [Campus Health Center](#) as soon as you show any symptoms.

Immigration Info: Please visit the International Students and Scholar Services [website](#) for more information.

## **Calendar Info:**

### **1 Week Prior to arriving on Campus**

- Complete the online ISSS orientation
- Contact academic advisor and register for courses if you have not done so
- Contact ISSS office and inform us of your plans to return
- Make sure to travel with your I-20 or DS2019, visa, passport, and letter from the school
- Contact Campus Health Office to set up potential COVID testing if you show symptoms

### **Thursday, August 14, 2020**

- Move into traditional residence halls

### **Monday, August 17, 2020**

- Make sure to send “check in” information to ISSS office

## **Guidelines While on Campus:**

The University has released a [“Pivot to Fall”](#) report that outlines the new guidelines that will be implemented in the Fall. These are some of the operational guidelines that will be implemented to minimize the risk of virus and potential spread of virus:

- Download the contact tracing app
- Mask will be worn in all community open spaces (on-campus, classrooms, dining areas, etc.)
- Follow building designated entrances and exits
- Mask are to be worn with interacting with faculty, staff, and fellow students
- Check your temperature before coming on campus – if you feel sick - do not attend classes
- Practice physical distancing
- Common areas will be disinfected by UofL daily

You can view the full report [here](#).

**Important Contacts:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Website</b>
International Student & Scholar Services	<a href="mailto:iss@louisville.edu">iss@louisville.edu</a>	502.852.6604	<a href="https://louisville.edu/internationalcenter/iss">https://louisville.edu/internationalcenter/iss</a>
Graduate Admissions	<a href="mailto:gradadm@louisville.edu">gradadm@louisville.edu</a>	502.852.6495	<a href="https://louisville.edu/graduate/">https://louisville.edu/graduate/</a>
Undergraduate Admissions	<a href="mailto:admitme@louisville.edu">admitme@louisville.edu</a> Attn: Ramonia Brents	502.852.6531	<a href="https://louisville.edu/admissions/">https://louisville.edu/admissions/</a>
Campus Health Office	<a href="mailto:hlthoff@louisville.edu">hlthoff@louisville.edu</a>	502.852.6479	<a href="https://louisville.edu/campushealth">https://louisville.edu/campushealth</a>
Campus Housing	<a href="mailto:housing@louisville.edu">housing@louisville.edu</a>	502.852.6636	<a href="https://louisville.edu/housing">https://louisville.edu/housing</a>
Athletics	<a href="mailto:Lauren.rust@louisville.edu">Lauren.rust@louisville.edu</a>	502.852.0863	<a href="mailto:gocards@louisville.edu">gocards@louisville.edu</a>