

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

Fall 2020 Guidance

As you may have heard, the fall 2020 guidance sent out by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) last Monday, July 6, 2020 has been rescinded. Due to the cancellation, Universities have been informed to follow the guidance issued by DHS from March 9, 2020. You can find that original guidance [here](#). The ISSS office will utilize the [FAQ's](#) from this March guidance to inform students how to proceed for Fall 2020. Please ignore the July updates. Please make sure to keep checking your University email as more updates may come out soon. Please review the additional [FAQ's](#) provided by ICE for more information.

A few quick points:

- Remember that this information is fluid. DHS will clarify and update the March guidance to meet the needs for Fall 2020 related uncertainties.
- This does not mean that students can enroll in all on-line courses. If your program offers hybrid or face to face courses, then this should be your first option. This relates back to normal federal immigration regulations. However, this will allow students to remain in active status and to remain in the US if the University moves to all on-line courses for the fall 2020 semester. If a program or courses are on-line and are needed to make progress, then this could be considered okay as well. Please see more information below in the enrolled courses section.
- The University will still follow the hybrid model for fall 2020, so **new or initial students can travel to the US and attend UofL, as long as, the University does not move to on-line courses before the beginning of the fall 2020 semester. A new student will not be granted a visa, nor be allowed to travel if the University moves to all on-line classes**, so keep checking as we progress closer to the fall 2020 start date as this may affect your visa and/or travel if you are a new incoming student. A current student could potentially apply for a visa and travel to the US during this period.
- If you are a current or new student and unable to travel back to UofL for the Fall 2020 semester, please email the [ISSS office](#) for more information and direction. Please see more information below in the travel updates section.
- You will no longer need an updated I-20 with a travel statement. As long as your current I-20 is valid then this will be fine. However, students who will be continuing their studies outside the United States should have the following comment in the remarks field: "Outside the United States due to COVID-19." Email [ISSS](#) to obtain this I-20 via email.
- Please keep checking your University email, this is how the ISSS office will update students on any additional fall 2020 guidance.

- Please note that many embassies and consulates are beginning to reopen as of July 15, 2020. Students will need to first schedule an interview and then should reapply for the expedited interview to gain a quicker appointment if possible. You can see how to do this expedited service below.

Enrolled Courses:

International students should, as much as possible, be enrolled in hybrid or face to face classes or in-person courses. March guidance may allow students to take additional on-line courses if the program is affected by COVID-19. Please contact the [ISSS office](#) if you have any questions regarding enrollment concerns. **If this university moves to all on-line courses, then this will allow students to remain in the US and active.**

For more information on what constitutes a hybrid, face to face, and on-line course at the University, please visit [UofL's website](#). Students are encouraged to contact the department or their academic advisors to determine how courses are being implemented and to be registered accordingly.

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.

OPT and CPT:

Optional Practical Training and Curricular Practical Training are not affected by this decision. Please contact the [ISSS office](#) for further information.

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 will be able to engage in remote learning (on-line) from their home country. You will remain in active status and be able to return for spring (if possible) as long as COVID has impacted your studies. In this situation you are asked to contact the [ISSS office](#) immediately. 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.

Extension:

Due to the uncertainty of courses, travel, and OPT employment during this time. You may want to consider extending your program. Please contact the [ISSS office](#) if you wish to have an extension to your program end date.

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](#). Also, please check with your local [embassy or consulate](#).

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. 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 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. However, in some countries require waiting to reach the 30 day window: 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. This letter can be for expedited visa interview and travel. This should include that the University is implementing a hybrid model for fall 2020 and is not entirely on-line. 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.

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 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 U.S., 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

14-day self-quarantine:

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

All countries are currently considered Level 3 or 3+ by the CDC, and therefore, any inbound faculty, staff, or students would need to self-isolate for 14 days upon arrival. Quarantining inbound travelers cannot be replaced or shortened by negative test results. Testing is only recommended if the quarantined travel starts to develop symptoms. Testing isn't recommended without symptoms as the incubation period is from 2-14 days and if a student is negative on day 2 they still can turn positive through day 14.

Housing Info:

- [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 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.

I am a returning upper-level (sophomore and above) student who has decided to unenroll from classes at the University of Louisville. What do I need to do?

If you are a returning resident who withdraws from classes at the University of Louisville prior to checking in to your room assignment, you will not be responsible for paying a housing cancellation fee.

Please follow these steps to withdraw from classes in ULINK:

1. In order to avoid a tuition financial penalty, be sure to completely withdraw from all of your classes in ULINK. Click on the Student Services tab and navigate to "Registration" in the right-hand corner. Next, under "Summer and Fall 2020 Registration" or "Spring 2021 Registration" (whichever semester is relevant to your circumstances), go to "Drop/Withdraw from Classes." If you need assistance, please email Regoff@louisville.edu.

2. As long as you completely withdraw from classes and do not re-enroll, you will not be responsible for paying a housing cancellation fee. A housing cancellation fee will remain on your student account until we are able to verify that you have not re-enrolled in classes. This will occur after the last drop/add date of the semester for which you are un-enrolling. Once we are able to verify this, we will credit the full housing cancellation fee to your student account. No further action is needed other than withdrawing from classes.

If you withdraw from classes at the University of Louisville after you have already checked into your room assignment, you will still be responsible for paying a prorated housing cost based on your room assignment and length of stay. In addition, you should submit a Cancellation Request in the Housing Portal on our homepage. A housing cancellation fee will be placed on your student account. In order to appeal the fee, you may submit a Cancellation Fee Appeal Request in the Housing Portal on our homepage along with supportive documentation such as an official transcript which indicates that you have transferred to another university and are no longer enrolled at the University of Louisville.

<https://louisville.edu/housing/resources/cancellation-faq>

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:

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