

Updated (July 30, 2020) Guidance regarding the Enrollment of International Students at USF for Fall 2020

USF World is pleased to report that on Friday, July 24, 2020, SEVP/ICE, provided [clarifying information](#) to institutions of higher education with regard to Fall semester international student enrollment:

Most importantly, SEVP/ICE has provided **maximum flexibility** for international student enrollment for institutions resuming operations under a hybrid mode of instruction.

F-1 Students Continuing their Studies at USF Inside the U.S.

- A student may select *any* combination of in-person and online courses as offered by the student's academic program during Fall 2020.
- Students will keep their F-1 status and all the benefits that go with that status – even if the university transitions to all online course delivery at some point during the Fall semester.
- Students must enroll full-time to receive scholarships and other financial assistance offered by the University.
- Students may request a reduced course load for their final semester at USF or for medical reasons. A reduced course load may impact a student's eligibility for scholarship assistance.
- A new I-20 does not need to be issued.

F-1 Students Continuing their Studies at USF Outside the U.S.

- Students may select all online courses during Fall 2020.
- Students will keep their F-1 status and all the benefits that go with that status.
- Students must enroll full-time to receive scholarships and other financial assistance offered by the University.
- Students can request a reduced course load for their final semester at USF or for medical reasons. A reduced course load may impact a student's eligibility for scholarship assistance.
- A new I-20 does not need to be issued, unless the student plans to apply for a new visa.
- Due to federal sanctions, students from Cuba, Iran, Sudan, or Syria are not able to study online from outside the US.

New F-1 Students Planning to Travel to the U.S. – to a USF Campus

- Students cannot be in all online courses. **A new student's course schedule should include at least one course that includes an in-person component; such courses include those categorized as classroom (CL) or hybrid (HB) delivery.**
- Students must enroll full-time.
- International Services is sending all new international students a new I-20 that specifically indicates that USF is employing a hybrid instructional model for Fall 2020.
- For immigration purposes, new students are only students traveling to the United States as F-1 visa holders for the first time. "New" does not include students changing levels at USF (e.g. undergraduate to graduate).

New International Students Planning to Begin Coursework Outside the U.S.

- Students may begin courses online without issue. A list of available UG and GR course options is available [here](#)
- These students are not considered F-1 until they arrive on campus for Spring semester 2021.

Resources

We are updating our [international student FAQs](#) daily.

Enrollment information and "Next Steps" for international students can be found [here](#).

Students wishing to meet with an immigration advisor should complete the [Request Advisor Appointment E-Form](#) in iStart. An advisor will arrange a remote appointment at the student's convenience (any time zone).