

July 25, 2020

To Whom It May Concern  
U.S. Department of State Consular Services  
United States Customs and Border Protection

Dear Officer:

Nova Southeastern University (NSU) wishes to provide additional information regarding our fall 2020 operations for F-1 international students:

**Fall 2020 Operations**

NSU will be operating with in-person, hybrid, and online learning options for the fall 2020 semester. NSU **will not** be operating fully online and students in initial status **will not** be enrolled in fully online coursework. This information has been conveyed to SEVP as part of the Temporary Procedural Adaptation permitted to schools as a result of COVID-19.

**Electronic Form I-20 Issuance**

NSU is issuing electronic I-20s with digital signatures, in accordance with the SEVP COVID-19 guidance, which also assures the cooperation from the Department of State and Customs and Border Protection. SEVP's COVID-19 FAQ can be found at [www.ice.gov/doclib/coronavirus/covid19faq.pdf](http://www.ice.gov/doclib/coronavirus/covid19faq.pdf):

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***Can DSOs electronically send signed Forms I-20 to students instead of physically mailing the forms?***

A. *Yes, due to COVID-19, DSOs may electronically send Forms I-20 to student email addresses listed in SEVIS.*

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***What methods can DSOs use to sign and send Forms I-20?***

A. *SEVP has identified the following methods to sign and send the Form I-20:*

- *Email a scanned version of the physically signed Form I-20;*
- *Email a digitally signed Form I-20 using electronic signature software; or*
- *Email a digitally signed Form I-20 that contains a digitally reproduced copy of a physical signature.*

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***Has SEVP worked with both the U.S. Department of State and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) in developing the policy to accept the use of electronic signatures during the COVID-19 emergency?***

A. *SEVP coordinated with both the Department of State and CBP regarding the policy to allow electronic issuance and signing of Forms I-20 for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency. Both agencies are in support of this action. SEVP continues to respond to any issues raised or questions from both agencies about this policy and will provide clarity as needed.*

**Fall 2020 I-20 Remarks**

In accordance with the now rescinded July 6<sup>th</sup> guidance, some NSU students have Fall 2020 remarks that indicate they will not be in fully online coursework. Most NSU students do not have these remarks. NSU is operating in accordance with the information provided in the Clarifying Questions for Fall 2020 Based on March 9 Spring Guidance Broadcast available at [www.ice.gov/doclib/sevis/pdf/fall2020faq.pdf](http://www.ice.gov/doclib/sevis/pdf/fall2020faq.pdf):

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**What should a certified school report on F or M students' Forms I-20 for the fall 2020 session?**

- A. Schools who have already issued Forms I-20 for F or M students in accordance with the July 6 guidance or July 7 FAQs (rescinded on July 14) do not need to reissue those Forms I-20, unless there are other substantive changes that would trigger a Form I-20 update. Similarly, schools that did not issue Forms I-20 in accordance with the July 6 guidance or July 7 FAQs (rescinded on July 14) do not need to reissue Forms I-20, unless there are substantive changes that would trigger a Form I-20 update.

**Fall 2020 Arrivals After Program Start Date**

Due to COVID-19 disruptions worldwide, this letter also serves as a humble request for consideration of one or more of the following, on behalf of the individual who presented this letter, accompanied by a valid I-20 issued by Nova Southeastern University:

- An emergency F-1 visa appointment; and/or
- F-1 visa issuance for a program after the I-20 program start date; and/or
- Admission at the Port of Entry into the U.S. after the I-20 program start date.

***Initial Status Students***

While it is suggested that students in initial status arrive prior to the start of classes, due to embassy closures and travel restrictions worldwide, Nova Southeastern University has implemented procedures that will allow initial status students to join their programs on campus up to three weeks (21 days) after their I-20 Program Start Date. Nova Southeastern University's fall 2020 program start date for most (but not all) programs is August 17, 2020. This date can be confirmed on the accompanying I-20. Students with August 17, 2020 program start dates must arrive in the U.S. in valid F-1 status no later than September 7, 2020.

Please note that I-20 Program Start Dates will not be adjusted in SEVIS or on the student's printed I-20 to reflect a later Program Start Date. This letter serves to confirm that visa issuance and/or admission to the U.S. for fall 2020 study that occurs no more than 21 days after the program start date is supported by Nova Southeastern University. Students in initial status who are unable to enter the U.S. prior to this date will need to request a deferred I-20 for the winter 2021 term that begins on January 4, 2021.

***Active Status Students***

As the March 2020 guidance permits active status students to maintain valid F-1 status from outside of the U.S. by enrolling in a full course of study, there is no fall 2020 arrival deadline for students in continued attendance/active status.

Thank you for your consideration. Should any additional information be necessary, please contact me at [jjaworski@nova.edu](mailto:jjaworski@nova.edu) or (954) 262-8674.

Sincerely,



Jeannie Jaworski  
Principal Designated School Official (PDSO)  
Director of International Affairs

