



COVID-19 Information for NSU F-1 International Students

March 13, 2020

PRESENTER



Jeannie Jaworski
Director of International Affairs, NSU Florida

AGENDA

- NSU's COVID-19 Announcement
 - www.nova.edu/coronavirus
- Online Coursework & F-1 Students
- Travel
- OPT
- Reminders

DISCLAIMER

- **The Office of International Affairs (OIA) is able to provide general guidance. Any advice provided by OIA, including the information in this presentation, should not be construed as legal advice.**
- **Due to the fluid nature of governmental interpretation, DHS, USCIS, SEVP and other governmental agencies may change their interpretations of these immigration laws/regulations and eligibility requirements for benefits, at any time. OIA is committed to providing advice based on the most current guidance.**
- **Each case is fact-specific and it is advised that students contact an experienced immigration attorney with questions regarding individual situations.**

DISCLAIMER

- **This situation is entirely unprecedented at NSU, within the United States, and within our modern world.**
- **University officials may only present factual statements based on existing knowledge. We may not provide information to students that relies on anticipations, guesses, wishes, or other uncertainties.**
- **NSU and all DSOs are legally bound to fulfill SEVIS reporting requirements, respond to governmental directives, and adhere to the F-1 regulations.**
- **NSU will continue to prioritize the best interests of all NSU students – including F-1 international students – in decision-making related to COVID-19 and beyond.**

NSU's COVID-19 ANNOUNCEMENT



- Residential students strongly recommended to leave on campus housing
- Limited dining services today & tomorrow.
- Shuttles, dining, and many other services unavailable starting today.
- Residential students must complete this form: <https://opinio.nova.edu:443/opinio/s?s=18617>.

OIA OPERATIONS



- **The Office of International Affairs is expected to have regular hours next week (and beyond):**
 - **Front Desk: Monday-Friday 8:30am-5:00pm**
 - **Advising Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9:00am-1:00pm & 2:00pm-4:00pm**

NSU's COVID-19 ANNOUNCEMENT



- **No courses now through 3/22**
- **Online courses starting 3/23
until at least 4/17**

ONLINE COURSEWORK



- **Synchronous vs. asynchronous**
- **Technology and access concerns:**
 - **help@nova.edu**

ONLINE COURSEWORK & F-1 STUDENTS

A stylized world map in the background, rendered in a watercolor-like style with various colors including blues, greens, yellows, and reds. The map is centered on the Atlantic Ocean, showing the continents of North America, South America, Europe, Africa, and Australia.

- **SEVP 3/9/20 Broadcast Message**

- *“SEVP intends to be flexible with temporary adaptations. In all cases, schools and students should document any decisions made and be able provide this information to SEVP upon request.”*

ONLINE COURSEWORK & F-1 STUDENTS

- **NAFSA 3/13/20 SEVP Statement**

- *“SEVP is committed to remaining flexible in allowing schools to make temporary procedural adaptations so nonimmigrant students can continue to make normal forward progress in their program of study. They can temporarily engage in distance-learning, either from within the U.S. or outside the country, in light of COVID-19. SEVP will provide updated guidance as the scope and length of this situation becomes more clear.”*

TRAVEL



- **Returning home is a personal decision**
- **Consider:**
 - **Personal & community health**
 - **Resources available (in US and in home country)**
 - **Availability of flights**
 - **Quarantine requirements**
- **Encouraged to consider CDC and WHO recommendations for travel.**

POSSIBLE SCENARIOS



- **Courses resume in person on 4/17; F-1 students return to campus.**
- **Courses resume in person on 4/17; F-1 students do not return.**
- **Courses do not resume in person prior to the end of the semester.**

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS



- **A reminder of the required documents to re-enter the country:**
 - **Valid, unexpired passport**
 - **Valid, unexpired visa**
 - **Valid, unexpired I-20 with a travel signature on page two dated within the past six months**

VISA CONCERNS



- **Students who leave the country will need a valid F-1 visa to return.**
- **OIA has received reports of visa interview cancellations.**
- **OIA has no guidance on possible delays associated with obtaining an updated F-1 visa.**

I-20 CONCERNS

- **Notify us if your CPT will end so that we may update your record. We can always re-authorize for new dates, if necessary.**
- **Ensure your I-20 will not expire prior to your return! If your I-20 will expire in the next few months and you will not finish your program, apply for a program extension now!**

I-20 CONCERNS

- **F-1 students are required to still update their address.**
- **A new online form will be created and shared for students to update their physical address. Watch your email.**

TRAVEL SIGNATURES

- **Travel signatures are available in our office TODAY from 9:00am-12:00pm and from 2:00pm-5:00pm.**
- **After today, travel signatures are available during REGULAR ADVISING HOURS.**
- **Students unable to obtain travel signature may request new I-20 to be shipped. Email intl@nova.edu.**

OPT

- **Zero guidance has been provided regarding:**
 - **Students currently on OPT**
 - **If OPT applications will be accepted from outside of the US**
 - **If students attempting to re-enter the country with a pending or approved OPT will be permitted entrance without job offer.**

OPT

- Based on the current SEVP memos expressing a commitment to flexibility, we believe it is **UNLIKELY** that students who choose to leave the country and return *in accordance with NSU guidance* will have any risk related to their eligibility for OPT.

OPT

- **OIA is prioritizing safety and security of F-1 students and has not currently developed policies or procedures related to processing OPT applications for students outside of the US.**
- **Additional details will be provided once available.**

REMINDERS

- **Sign up for NSU Alerts**
- <https://www.nova.edu/emergency/notification/registration-process.html>.
- **Official method of communication with students is via NSU email address!**

REMINDERS

- **Set up multi-factor authorization using the Authenticator app to prevent interruptions to access for NSU email, Canvas, and other SharkLink**
- <https://www.nova.edu/oit/office-365/help/multi-factor-authentication.html>

Q&A



THANK YOU



OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (OIA)

Horvitz 253 / (954) 262-7240 / INTL@NOVA.EDU

www.nova.edu/internationalaffairs

DROP-IN ADVISING

Monday – Thursday: 9 am – 1 pm & 2 pm – 4 pm