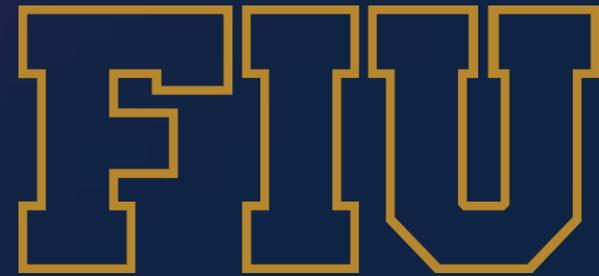


FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY



# International Students Informational Session

# Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) New Requirements for Fall 2020

## Recap:

1. Nonimmigrant F-1 and M-1 students attending schools operating entirely online may not take a full online course load and remain in the United States.
2. Nonimmigrant F-1 students attending schools operating under normal in-person classes are bound by existing federal regulations. Eligible F-1 students may take a maximum of one class or three credit hours online.
3. 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.

# Understanding the new international student requirements for Fall 2020



To comply with the new Federal rules, all international students:

- **MUST** be enrolled in at least one in-person or hybrid course that is degree applicable
- **MUST** enroll for 12 credits undergraduate / 9 credits graduate level
- **WILL** receive updated I-20s clarifying FIU compliance (delivery mode) in the next 3 weeks

Your last semester?

- **MUST** complete a Reduced Course Load Form (see [ISSS Guidelines for details](#))

English Language Institute (ELI) students?

- **MUST** take in-person classes

Implications for Optional Practical Training (OPT) and Curricular Practical Training (CPT)?

- **NONE** at this time



# The **FOUR** Ways

THE FIRST WAY

## ALL IN-PERSON

Meet on campus and have a scheduled meeting pattern in a classroom.



0%

ONLINE



100%

ON CAMPUS



set  
MEETING  
PATTERN

THE SECOND WAY

## CERTIFIED HYBRID

In classroom, with physical distancing and with between 1/3 to 2/3 of out-of-classroom work.



1/3 to 2/3

ONLINE



2/3 to 1/3

ON CAMPUS



mixed  
MEETING  
PATTERN

THE THIRD WAY

## APPROVED SYNCHRONOUS REMOTE

Temporary digital alternative which means students and professors meet online during scheduled days and times. There is no distance learning fee for taking a remote class.



100%

ONLINE



0%

ON CAMPUS



set  
MEETING  
PATTERN

THE FOURTH WAY

## QUALITY DESIGNED FULLY ONLINE

Taught in Canvas. Activities/assignments are designed to take place virtually and have deadlines and due dates. Please note that there is a distance learning fee associated with fully online classes.



100%

ONLINE



0%

ON CAMPUS



flexible  
SCHEDULE



# Q&A

# Enrollment Options Q&A

**Q: Will all classes be taught in all four modalities (remote, online, hybrid, in-person)?**

**A:** No, not all classes can be offered in all formats. If you are unable to find the right course in an in-person or hybrid format, please contact your advisor for alternative options.

**Q: Are remote classes considered "online" in terms of the new rules?**

**A:** Yes, meaning under the new rules, remote classes do not meet the requirement for in-person courses. We urge you to continue to monitor Federal requirements as new guidance becomes available in the coming weeks.

**Q: Will attendance be mandatory for in-person classes?**

**A:** Yes, "in-person" or "hybrid" courses require in-person attendance in class. If extenuating circumstances arise once the semester starts, communicate with your professor as soon as possible.

**Q: Will I have to attend in-person classes if I am immunocompromised?**

**A:** No, as long as you complete a Medical Reduced course load form. Please visit the ISSS virtual office ([go.fiu.edu/virtualoffice](https://go.fiu.edu/virtualoffice)) or website ([iss.fiu.edu](https://iss.fiu.edu)) to obtain the form.



*Leanne Wells*

# International Student Undergraduate Q&A

**Q: What are specific undergraduate student enrollment requirements?**

**A:** Undergraduate students must be registered for 12 credit hours to comply with the full load immigration requirement.

Based on the latest SEVP update you must take as many hybrid/in-person courses as there are available (at least ONE hybrid or in-person course). Work with your academic advisor to make sure you adjust your schedule accordingly.

**Q: If I decide to stay in my home country for the fall term, do I need to be registered for a full load while abroad?**

**A:** No, but you must make sure that you have completed a COVID-19 Leave of Absence Form with ISSS so that your I-20 can be adjusted to show that you are out of the country. In this case you can take any number of credits from abroad (or none).

# International Student Graduate Q&A

**Q: What are specific Graduate Student enrollment requirements?**

**A:** Graduate students need to work with their program directors to ensure their schedules meet the appropriate requirements.

**Q: Does the University consider Graduate Supervised research, Master's thesis and Doctoral dissertation credits as in-person courses?**

**A:** Yes, these are considered in-person courses.

**Q: Do Master's and Doctoral students who have advanced to candidacy meet the requirements by enrolling in 1 thesis and 3 dissertation credits?**

**A:** Yes, under University policy, 1 thesis and 3 dissertations are considered a full-time load in person.

# International Students Currently Still Abroad

## Q&A

**Q: I am a new international undergraduate student. I am remaining in my home country and taking my classes online/remote during the Fall. What are my enrollment requirements?**

**A:** There are no specific enrollment requirements for international students remaining in their home countries related to their immigration status. Your academic program or scholarship requirements may require you to take a minimum of 12 credit hours. Please consult your academic advisor.

**Q: I am a new international undergraduate student. I am intending to arrive in Miami for my courses. What are my enrollment requirements?**

**A:** You must arrive by the August 24, 2020, and check-in with ISSS. In order to maintain your status, you will be required to take a minimum of 12 credit hours. Our current understanding of SEVP guidance is that at least one of your courses must be in-person or hybrid.

**Q: I am a new international undergraduate student. My visa appointment is in September for the Fall term. Can I still come to Miami?**

**A:** If you are enrolled in a hybrid course or an in-person course beginning in Fall B, please contact International Admission to update your I-20 with the Fall B entry date. If you do not have Fall B in-person/hybrid coursework, we do not advise that you arrive late. Please contact International Admissions to update your I-20 to Spring term and take classes remote/online during the Fall.



*Sarah Noppen*

# International Students Currently Still Abroad

## Q&A

**Q: How will the University accommodate new international students that are unable to receive visas to enter the U.S. for the beginning of the academic year this Fall?**

**A:** We look forward to welcoming all our new international students. We are taking two approaches to this. You need to communicate with your academic program/academic advisor to determine the best option:

1) You may take the Fall term courses online and then enter the U.S. for the Spring term.

**or**

2) You may defer starting your courses to either next Spring term (January 2021) or the next academic year (Fall term 2021).

Please contact International Admissions to update your I-20.

# International Students Housing Q&A

**Q: Is on-campus housing opening for Fall 2020?**

**A:** FIU Housing & Residential Life and Bayview will be open and promote healthy living and physical distancing with enhanced cleaning, virtual programs and a staff ensuring the best experience possible for students living on campus.

**Q: Is housing still available for Fall 2020?**

**A:** Yes. Send an e-mail to [housing@fiu.edu](mailto:housing@fiu.edu) to inquire for more details.

**Q: What if I am unable to return to the U.S. for classes this Fall? Can I cancel housing?**

**A:** FIU MMC Housing will allow you to cancel your agreement with no penalty. Students living at FIU Bayview at BBC can cancel for a significantly reduced cost.

**Q: If I cancel for Fall can I live on campus in Spring semester?**

**A:** Yes, but you must reply for Housing. Spring semester housing applications will be available beginning October 1. Priority will be given to international students and students living out of state or out of area.



*Andrew Naylor*

# International Student Health Insurance Q&A

**Q: Will graduate students be able to enroll in the health insurance plan provided by FIU for the next academic year beginning this upcoming Fall term?**

**A:** Yes. Students will be able to enroll in FIU's health insurance plan by the first week of August and will then have their holds removed. Specific to graduate assistants, the health insurance hold will be removed by August 8 when contracts are in place, and they will then be able to enroll for coverage.

**Q: I am remaining in my home country and taking my classes online/remote during the Fall. Do I need health insurance?**

**A:** No. If you are a continuing international student, you must contact ISSS to complete a Leave of Absence Form. If you are a new international student, make sure you contact International Admissions to remove your insurance hold.



# ISSS Services

**More questions? The ISSS team is here for you!**

For up-to-date information on Fall 2020 requirements for international students please visit: [fiu.edu/coronavirus](https://fiu.edu/coronavirus)

To speak with an ISSS advisor, visit: [go.fiu.edu/virtualoffice](https://go.fiu.edu/virtualoffice)

To schedule an appointment with one of the ISSS advisors, visit: [go.fiu.edu/appointment](https://go.fiu.edu/appointment)

If you need additional support, visit: [AskCharlie.fiu.edu](https://askcharlie.fiu.edu)



**FIU**

International Student  
& Scholar Services