Fall 2021 Guidance for New International Students with Program Start Date of September 2021 and Initial Status or Transfer Pending I-20 Issue Reason

UPDATED: JULY 23, 2021
SEVP released guidance on April 26 for academic year 2021-2022. Updates will be posted to the ISS COVID UPDATES page: iss.wisc.edu/students/current-students/health/covid-19-updates.

Are you currently in the U.S.?

NO

Is your F-1 visa valid?

*If you are Canadian, please follow the YES channel

YES

1. Renew your visa prior to returning to the U.S. Routine visa services (including F-1 visas) may be suspended or delayed.
2. Review global travel advisories.

Will you be returning to campus in fall 2021?

NO

YES

Before September 8, 2021 and after you arrive in the U.S.:
1. Complete International Student Orientation (ISO) and ISS check-in in Terra Dotta.
2. Enroll full-time for fall 2021. See the enrollment table.

Before September 8, 2021, CHOOSE ONE. Your I-20 program start date must be updated to spring 2022 or later.
1. Enroll in remote/online credits.
   A. Undergraduates—Fill out this intake form using your NetID login credentials
   B. Graduates/professional students—Contact your Graduate Program Coordinator/Advisor for options
2. Request to change your semester of admission and do not enroll for fall 2021.
   You may have to reapply for admission.
   Undergraduate students: contact onwisc@admissions.wisc.edu
   Graduate/Professional students: contact your program coordinator
   VISP/Special students: contact VISP@dcs.wisc.edu

Will you stay in the U.S. for the fall semester?

NO

YES

1. Complete International Student Orientation (ISO) and ISS check-in in Terra Dotta.
2. Enroll full-time for fall 2021. See the enrollment table.

FULL-TIME ENROLLMENT TABLE

Full-time enrollment or approved ISS Reduced Course Load (RCL) is required for your F-1 or J-1 immigration status.

- Undergraduate students: minimum 12 credits; minimum 9 credits “in-person”
- Graduate students: minimum 8 credits; minimum 5 credits “in-person”
- Graduate TA/PA 33%: minimum 6 credits; minimum 3 credits “in-person”
- Graduate TA/PA 50%: minimum 4 credits; minimum 1 credit “in-person”
- Graduate RA 33%-50%: minimum 8 credits; minimum 5 credits “in-person”
- Dissertator: minimum 3 credits; minimum 3 credits “in-person”
- ESL: 6 credits; minimum 6 credits “in-person”

View U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) global travel advisories and current list of Travelers Prohibited from Entering the U.S.

Read your airline carrier information closely for additional travel advisories.
Please review the National Interest Exception information at iss.wisc.edu/covid-19-related-travel-restrictions-national-interest-exceptions-me