

ISSS Live Chat

Spring 2020 Information
for International Students and Visiting Scholars

Format for today's Live Chat

You can ask questions in the Q and A box

Some questions we might respond to immediately

Some we may not respond to now, but respond to after presentation (and we can post answers).

Some may be beyond what ISSS can address - individual cases, institutional decisions.

Important Dates for Students

Spring Break - **Sunday, March 15 - Saturday, March 21**

Monday, March 23 - Courses begin online mode of instruction.

Sunday, April 5th - Online extension ends, but could be extended.

Monday, April 6th - Classes scheduled to resume.

If online courses are extended, the University will notify you.

ISSS Services

ISSS Storrs is open daily 9 - 4 to public, closing 12-1 for lunch.

Drop in hours daily 1:30 - 3:30. Front desk open at other times to accept applications.

ISSS Stamford: Closed at this time, but ISSS working behind the scenes. Submit your applications, and emergency documents will be printed. Others will wait.

ISSS at GBLC, Law: Varied hours. Still may submit applications.

Email = Best Way to Contact

To Do:

1. Complete the [Remote Learning - ISSS Check In Form](#) by Friday, March 20
2. In ISSS Portal, add/update an SMS Text Number in your ISSS Portal profile.
(Students only).
3. Check UConn email daily for updates.
4. ISSS [Travel Information Record](#) (international travel only)
5. [Global Affairs Travel Record](#) (international travel within next 90 days)

Travel/Study Scenarios

What if I am traveling outside the U.S. for Spring Break?

- Submit Travel Information Record to ISSS portal.
- Submit a travel notification to Global Affairs.
- Get a travel signature on your Form I-20 or DS-2019.
- Return by Sunday, March 23rd.
- Caution - entry restriction.

To return from Spring Break international travel, you must:

- Have an unexpired visa and a passport valid 6 months into future
- A valid travel signature on your I-20 or DS-2019
- NOT be returning or having traveled from:
 - China
 - Iran
 - Schengen Zone Countries of Europe (excludes UK or Ireland)

Res Life Question:

I live on campus. What do I need to do to stay in my room for any part of spring break?

You should have applied to Spring Break Housing already so if you missed the deadline please email livingoncampus@uconn.edu to permission to stay on campus during Spring Break.

Res Life Question:

Do I need to “check out” of my room if leave for Spring break, or leave for the semester?

You do not need to check out of your room for Spring Break or leave for the semester. We are asking that you take things you will need for next 3 weeks.

**I will stay in the U.S. for UConn online coursework.
Is this OK?**

YES! As long as you remain enrolled in UConn courses full-time.

Complete Remote Learning - ISSS Check In form.

-Update ISSS with any change in address within 10 days.

Res Life: What do I need to do if I need to remain living on campus? Will I be able to stay in my room? If you need to remain in Res Life from March 23-April 06, 2020 you need to apply via MyHousing by Noon, Monday, March 16, 2020.

I will do my online coursework in a different state, within the U.S. Is this OK?

Yes!

You must: Complete the ISSS Remote Learning -ISSS Check In form.

Update ISSS with any change in address within 10 days.

Return to campus if courses return to in-person delivery - update address again.

I want to leave the U.S. for **ONLY** the two week online course period and return for classes April 6.
Can I do this?

Yes, if you have not traveled to a country subject to a U.S. entry restriction.

You will need the I-20/DS-2019 with travel signature, unexpired visa and passport valid 6 months into the future.

I will leave the U.S. to complete online coursework, and may not be able to return unfall. What will happen?

Submit a travel information record with your anticipated travel dates. Update this form if your dates change.

Submit the Remote Learning-Online Check In with your foreign address.

AT THIS TIME: Your SEVIS record will remain “active” provided you continue to participate in courses on a full time basis.

If courses resume “in-person” status, your SEVIS record may be subject to termination. Your professors may (or may not) be willing to work with you to complete your courses from home. This is a risk to consider.

Returning for Fall

If you finished Spring term outside the U.S., you may require a NEW I-20/DS-2019 to return.

If entry restriction is not lifted by August for travelers to high risk countries, may have difficulty re-entering.

If visa needs to be renewed, may have difficulty obtaining visa appointment.

Visas for STEM fields could be subject to long background checks.

You must communicate with ISSS and your program throughout the summer.

I'm a student and I want to withdraw for the semester. Who do I contact?

Contact Dean of Students if you would like to withdraw or take a Leave of Absence. They can explain these policies to you. You must also notify ISSS if you will not participate in full time coursework.

Dean of Students Accessibility

Beginning Monday, March 16, Dean of Students Office will transition to remote services.

Email dos@uconn.edu if you need assistance. Include: full name, student ID, reason for message.

If requesting reschedule of your final exams, submit a webform on DOS website (active later today).

They will continue to respond to emails, phone calls, and set up phone/video meetings.

I'm graduating this semester, and I want to go home now. What will happen with my visa?

Submit a Remote Learning-ISSS Check In form through ISSS Portal.

ISSS will keep your SEVIS record active while the University mode of instruction is online. If courses resume in-person, or if online courses extend, and you cannot return, it might not be possible to come back with student visa.

High risk that you cannot apply for post-completion OPT. If you have applied already, it may be possible to return to look for work under OPT benefit. RISKS!

You may return for a commencement ceremony with a visitor visa, if no entry restrictions are in place for the region you travel from.

I'm graduating this semester, and I want to stay in the U.S. What do I need to do?

-Complete the Remote Learning-ISSS Check In form.

-Your I-20/F-1 visa or DS-2019/J-1 visa will remain active.

-If otherwise eligible, you may stay and participate in OPT or post-completion Academic Training.

I have filed an application for post-OPT and it is pending with the government.

If you are completing your degree from home, and returning after you finish your program, you will need your receipt notice or EAD to return.

Must have a U.S. address where mail can be delivered. If different than what was on your application, must update address on USCIS website.

Still need a valid visa, I-20 w/Travel Signature, and unexpired passport to return. If visa has expired, you may require EAD to renew the visa.

I'm currently working in the U.S. on post-completion OPT or Academic Training. What do I need to know?

- Complete the Remote Learning-ISSS Check In form.

- Pay careful attention to health and travel advisories in your local community.

- Submit an OPT Information Record for any job change information (start a new job, end a job)

- Remote employment = OK. Complete the Remote Learning-ISSS Check In form.

Visiting Scholars - J-1 Visas

Complete the Remote Learning- ISSS Check In Form.

Notify ISSS if you are working for UConn remotely.

Notify ISSS and Global Affairs of any intended travel.

Research abroad? Depends on the situation. Contact your ISSS advisor.

What if I left the U.S. and did not get a travel signature?

It's OK! Do not panic.

Email ISSS. We will work with you to mail your form or provide suitable documentation for your return.

Health Insurance

-Make sure you have your health insurance policy documentation

-Understand how your health insurance works

Co-pay = the amount of money you have to pay for each type of medical visit.

Deductible= the amount of money you have to pay for medical services before your insurance covers costs.

If you are sick:

Storrs campus students - call/visit SHaW. 860-486-4700

Regional campus students, visiting scholars: Call your Primary Care Provider (PCP) if you are concerned that symptoms match coronavirus symptoms.

- If you do not have a PCP, and you have symptoms that you fear are coronavirus, call 211 (CT Info Line) and explain your symptoms, and that you do not have a PCP to call.

Hospital/Emergency room: For emergencies and urgent medical situations.

Taxes

If you had U.S. source income and have not yet filed a tax return, email ISSS.

VITA program is on-hold - we can provide you access to free federal tax filing software for international students and scholars.

If home: Print and mail tax forms from home.

Follow Up

-Cases are being handled on an individual basis

-Volume of email = delay in response. Prioritize emergencies.

ISSS will send a follow up email today with many of the details covered (and some not covered).

Webpage for students who are completing programs from home.