

**Considerations and Recommendations
for Summer 2020 Travel
by International Graduate Students**

*Dave Kieda, Dean, The Graduate School
and
Chelsea Wells, Director, ISSS
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Introduction:

International Graduate Students may be considering taking an international trip during Summer Semester 2020 to visit family and friends. As US immigration and visa policies have recently been evolving in response to the COVID-19 epidemic, as well as changes in federal policy regarding eligibility of certain foreign nationals for student visa eligibility, it is advisable to see up-to date information before planning and departing on international trips.

Recent Changes:

1. Routine visa services have been temporarily suspended at all US Embassies and Consulates (as of March 20, 2020). It is not clear when these services will reopen. Consequently, it is not clear when you may be able to apply for a new student VISA if you need to reapply when you are outside of the US.
2. Foreign nationals arriving from certain countries and regions (Brazil, Iran, Schengen region of Europe) are prohibited from entering the United States due presidential proclamations concerning the coronavirus pandemic. Consequently, you may be denied reentry if you are arriving from one of these locations.
3. The Center for Disease Control requires all travelers arriving from a country that is listed as CDC Level 3 to self-quarantine for 14 days.
4. Many countries will require a 14 day self-quarantine for travelers arriving in their country.
5. Many airlines are cancelling flights or consolidating routes in response to low demand for international travel. There is a possibility that you may be rerouted to certain restricted counties (above) which may delay/preclude your reentry into the United States.
6. A recent (May 29, 2020) presidential proclamation to cancel visas of Chinese graduate students and researchers who have direct ties to Chinese Universities affiliated with the People's Liberation Army. Some graduate and postdoctoral students, including those holding a valid F-1/J-1 visa, may not be able to reenter the US .

FAQ:

Should I travel outside the US this summer?

The US CDC, as well as the University of Utah, currently recommend against all unnecessary international travel, even for personal trips. Given the ongoing changes in the COVID-19 epidemic as well as US visa policy, your return to the US may be significantly delayed. There are additional personal considerations regarding potential for exposure to the COVID-19 virus during travel, and potential spread to family members and friends upon arrival at your international destination.

In addition, you may expect to self-quarantine for up to 14 days on the outbound portion of your trip, and 14 days on the return leg of your trip. This can change a simple weekend trip into a month (or longer) round trip.

If I leave the US now, will I be able to reenter the country?

This is difficult to predict. The visa situation is continually changing due to multiple factors, and it is not clear whether new restrictions will be put into place, or when current restrictions will be removed. If you travel abroad, you should continually monitor travel updates from the Center for Disease Control, as well as from your own country's governmental agencies. International Student & Scholar Services at the University of Utah is another resource for finding updated information regarding changes to visa, SEVP and USCIS policies.

Will the university assist me if I am denied reentry into the country after personal international travel?

The University's ISSS will complete necessary paperwork and forms to assist you with reapplication for your student visa. The University can provide assistance only for graduate and professional students who are travelling on officially approved University business, and who have purchased the mandatory University international travel assistance insurance. Individuals who are travelling on personal business should consider purchasing personal international travel assistance insurance through an independent travel company.

Contact Information:

The Graduate School: info@gradschool.utah.edu

International Student services: international@utah.edu