



**International Student
& Scholar Services**
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

FALL 2021

WELCOME SESSION FOR CONTINUING STUDENTS

PRESENTERS **TODAY**



Jhonery Mendoza

DSO/Coordinator, ICEP leader



Alexandra Gonzalez

DSO/Coordinator

A message from Dr. Ortiz



Dr. Ortiz

Vice President, FIU

TODAY'S AGENDA

- COMMUNICATING WITH ISSS
- TRAVEL TO THE US-VACCINE INFORMATION
- F-1 STATUS DURING FALL 2021
- ENROLLMENT GUIDELINES FOR F-1 STUDENTS
- LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTS
- NEW, TRANSFER & CONTINUING STUDENTS GUIDELINES
- OPT INFORMATION
- SOCIAL SECURITY & DMV
- RESOURCES
- QUESTIONS

COMMUNICATING WITH ISSS



**Connect with our
Virtual Office!**

go.fiu.edu/virtualoffice



**Send us an
email!**

iss@fiu.edu



Schedule an appointment!

go.fiu.edu/appointment



Call our office!

305-348-2421 (24/7)



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ISSS WEBSITE

Office of International Student & Scholar Services

About ▾ International Students ▾ Visiting Scholars ▾ Medical Insurance Finances & Taxes ▾ ISSS Portal ▾

FIU Coronavirus Advisory – Visit our [Panthers Protecting Panthers website](#) and our [Federal Relief page](#) for updates.



Visit the
ISSS website for events,
immigrations updates,
document requests and
more!



**FOR ALL DOCUMENT REQUESTS,
PLEASE USE OUR **ISSS PORTAL****

Visit the
Documents and Forms
page on our website
issss.fiu.edu



The screenshot shows the FIU ISSS Services Home Page. At the top left is a world map icon. The main title is "FIU ISSS". Below the title is a "Secure Online Session" icon and the page title "FIU ISSS Services Home Page". The page content includes a welcome message from the Office of International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS), a list of services in a left-hand menu, and a "For New Students ONLY:" section with instructions for F-1 students and J-1 exchange students. There is also an "All Students:" section with a confirmation instruction. At the bottom, there are two side-by-side sections: "SEVIS Status Information" with fields for SEVIS ID, Status, Level, Program Start, and Program End; and "Options" with checkboxes for "View cases closed before today" and "View correspondence and notes older than 60 days".

FIU ISSS

 Secure Online Session

FIU ISSS Services Home Page

The Office of International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) welcomes all international students at FIU!

At the ISSS Office we want to make sure you have a positive and productive experience as you become an integral part of our community and beyond. We are committed to your academic, professional, and personal success as you pursue your studies in the United States and are here to support you through out that endeavor.

For New Students ONLY:

- If you are an **F-1 student**, please use the **New Panther** link to check -in.
- If you are a **J-1 exchange student**, please use the **J-1 Student Services** link to check -in.

All Students:

Please confirm that your **Biographical Information** from the menu on the left is correct.

FIU ISSS Home Page
Biographical Information
Document Request
F-1 Practical Training Applications
F-1 Practical Training Reporting
F-1 Student Services
Biographical Updates
Letters & Certifications
Fall 2020 Reporting
Immigration Documents Upload
Concurrent Enrollment
RCL Last Term Upload
Reduced Course Load for Completion of Degree
F-1 Transfer
F-2 Dependent(s)
New Panther
Logout of FIU ISSS

SEVIS Status Information
SEVIS ID:
Status:
Level:
Program Start:
Program End:

Options
<input type="checkbox"/> View cases closed before today
<input type="checkbox"/> View correspondence and notes older than 60 days

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FIU Pre-Arrival Information for F-1 Students

FIU Pre-Arrival Information for J-1 Students

Getting Ready to Go

Welcome to Florida International University!



At this point, you should have received your acceptance letter and FIU I-20 or DS-2019. If you have not, please contact the **Admissions Office**.

Pre-Arrival Information

Please make sure you read all this information **BEFORE** you embark on your academic journey to the United States!

+ Before you arrive in the U.S.

+ Arrival in the U.S.

+ Arrival at Florida International University

+ Immigration & Enrollment Policies



For in-depth information about Studying in the United States, access the free "Getting Ready To Go" Booklet.



For more information, visit **Homeland Security – Study in the States**.

TRAVEL REMINDERS



International Student
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FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY



Be prepared for the requirements that you may be expected to comply with before, during your trip, and once you arrive in the United States. **It is your RESPONSIBILITY to be up to date with the latest information.**



Check with your Airline for travel updates

Make sure you have an updated Travel Signature

Returning to the US

TRAVEL

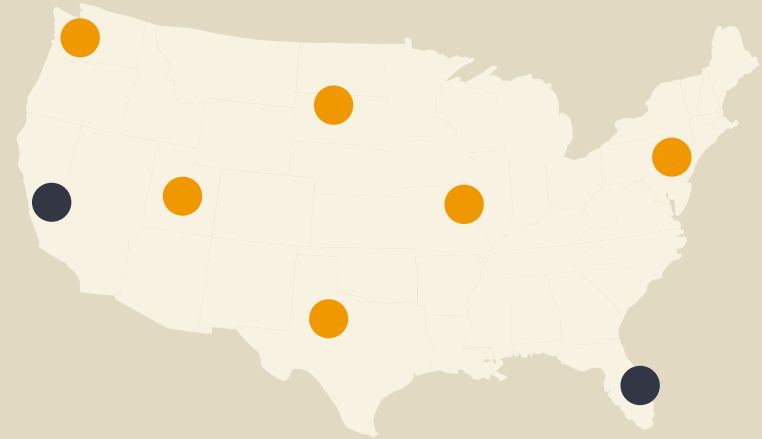
Travel with your valid I-20 travel signature, F-1 visa & passport

Check with your airline about travel and learn about your country's travel status via local sources.

Contact the US embassy website and U.S. Department of State for information about travel restrictions and updates as well as checking the US Customs and Border Protection

Website for US travel restrictions:
<https://www.cbp.gov/>

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel.html>



5 month rule

5 MONTH RULE (What we know today)
According to USCIS COVID guidance dated 23 March 2020: five-month temporary absence provision addressed in 8 C.F.R. 214.2(f)(4) will not apply for students who remain in Active status.

VACCINE INFORMATION

Office of International Student & Scholar Services

About ▾ International Students ▾ Visiting Scholars ▾ Medical Insurance ▾ Finances & Taxes ▾ ISSS Portal ▾

[Home](#) / [International Students](#) / [Current F-1 Students](#) / [F-1 Travel & Re-entry](#) / [Travel Info](#) / [COVID 19 Vaccine Information at FIU](#)

COVID 19 Vaccination Information at FIU



Vaccination guidance for international students

FIU does not require any students or employees to get a COVID-19 vaccination, although we highly recommend it for your own benefit. While evidence shows that people who are vaccinated can get COVID-19, their symptoms are usually milder. If you are unvaccinated, you are assuming a significant risk to your health.

Following the guidance of Governor Ron DeSantis and the Florida Board of Governors, this fall classes will be back on campus with no remote option and no physical distancing in our classrooms. There are no plans to modify the operations of the university to accommodate individuals who choose not to get vaccinated.

What follows is guidance for **unvaccinated students who wish to get vaccinated**, **partially vaccinated students**, and **students who will work in healthcare facilities** where vaccinations are mandatory:



Visit

<https://iss.fiu.edu>

For updates on COVID-19 vaccine
information

F-1 STATUS DURING **FALL 2021**



Be Proactive- do
your due diligence!



Take ownership of
your status



Do not assume-
check in with us!



Stay informed- watch for emails
and updates on social media



Use our virtual
office as a resource

ENROLLMENT GUIDELINES

TERMS	UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS	GRADUATE STUDENTS
FALL OR SPRING SEMESTERS	12 credits (Fall & Spring) Max 3 credits online	9 credits (Fall & Spring) Max 3 credits online
SUMMER A/C	12 Credits if first semester (Optional for continuing students)	6 credits if first semester (Optional for continuing students)
SUMMER B	6 credits if first semester (Optional for continuing students)	3 credits if first semester (Optional for continuing students)
EXCEPTIONS	RCL- completion of degree or medical RCL	PhD students advancing to thesis/dissertation, RCL- completion of degree

LEAVE OF ABSENCE- RETURNING STUDENTS

- If you previously requested a LOA and plan to come back to the United States in Fall 2021, you must access FIU ISSS PORTAL select and submit a Return to the US After Authorized Leave of Absence Request
- DSO will work with SEVP on requesting a correction request to your student record and you will be notified once a decision is made
- If Approved your SEVIS record will be set back to Active status for Fall 2021
- If Denied, you must then submit a RESTART I-20

NEW, TRANSFER & CONTINUING STUDENTS GUIDELINES

Office of International Student & Scholar Services

About ▾ International Students ▾ Visiting Scholars ▾ Medical Insurance ▾ Finances & Taxes ▾ ISSS Portal ▾

[Home](#) / [About](#) / [Fall FAQs](#)

FALL 2021 INFORMATION

Frequently Asked Questions FALL 2021

Welcome to this page where you will find comprehensive information, frequently asked questions, and step-by-step instructions on how to maintain your immigration status as you approach the FALL 2021 semester.

Whether you are a new, transfer, or continuing student, this information below is intended to provide you with all the details and instructions to follow for FALL 2021 (subject to change based on SEVP Guidance). Please read all the information very carefully, and follow instructions accordingly based on your situation and location. Contact our office at iss@fiu.edu or access our [Virtual Office](#) if you have further questions or doubts.

FALL 2021-NEW STUDENTS Guidance

IMPORTANT: If you started your program in the Spring/Summer 2021 but stayed in your country studying remotely and now you are coming to the United States, then FALL 2021 will be considered your first semester as an F-1 student and you are expected to enroll as follows:

- [New Students Studying in the United States in Fall 2021](#)
- [New Students Starting Program Overseas and coming to the U.S. in Spring 2022](#)

FALL 2021-TRANSFER & EDUCATION LEVEL CHANGE Students Guidance

- [Transfer & Education Level Change Students Studying in the United States in FALL 2021](#)

Make sure you are checking for updates on our website-

iss.fiu.edu/about/fall-faqs

FOR GRADUATING STUDENTS

- USCIS still processing OPT/STEM applications - you must be in the US to apply
- When do you apply? 90 Days before program end date and up to 45 days after program end date
- All standing regulations are still considered in effect- there are no policy or guidance changes to OPT regulations - no extensions
- USCIS processing time 90-120 days – some delays should be expected
- Remote work allowed for U.S. based companies
- OPT Travel Rule – no travel on OPT without employment- No COVID 19 exceptions in place
- If travelling must have a valid Travel signature, F-1 visa & passport

SOCIAL SECURITY & DMV

Check for local Social Security offices openings to the public for in-person service.



You must present original documents, not accepting photocopies or notarized copies. All documents must be current (not expired).

Check for FLHSMV offices openings in your area. They are also providing services online at [GoRenew.com](https://www.flhsmv.com), by telephone and email



60 days grace period extension

HELPFUL LINKS

- International arrival requirements and other travel info
<https://iss.fiu.edu/international-students/current-f-1-students/f-1-travel-re-entry/travel-info/index.html>
- National Interest Exception (NIE) Information
<https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/2021/07/national-interest-exceptions-for-eligible-international-students?fbclid=IwAR2Gve7bDC6Fg8uI4PjRlYkqJLgf--iEvKQLEdFWjTUnUaHiLGqD5Mjr7nI>
- COVID-19 Vaccine Information
<https://repopulation.fiu.edu/covid-19-response-team/covid-19-vaccination/index.html>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- FIU Corona Virus News
- <https://www.fiu.edu/coronavirus/>
- ISSS Website
- <https://globalaffairs.fiu.edu/iss/>
- FIU & ISSS Emails
- Travel
- <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/News/visas-news/Proclamation-Suspending-Entry-of-Immigrants-Who-Present-Risk-to-the-US-labor-market.html>
- NAFSA
- <https://www.nafsa.org/regulatory-information/covid-19-restrictions-us-visas-and-entry>
- Study in the States
- <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/covid-19-resources>
- Airlines



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THANKS!



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