

Dear Graduate Coordinators and graduate training faculty:

In response to recent guidance from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), (<https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/sevp-modifies-temporary-exemptions-nonimmigrant-students-taking-online-courses-during>), the International Student and Scholars Services Department in International Programs is providing this update regarding our continuing international graduate students so you will be better able to advise them. Please note our department will send an email to all continuing international students impacted by this. Under guidance issued on July 6, WSU fits under category three, which is the hybrid instruction model.

Here's what that means for your international graduate students based on where they are and what kind of instruction you plan to provide:

1. For international graduate students who are still in the state of Washington or in the United States, we need to advise them to enroll in at least one course that requires a face-to-face component and meet the full-time enrollment requirement of 10 credits. Research credits, 700 or 800 level, should meet this requirement. This enrollment will allow them to properly maintain their immigration status and, as long as they reside in the state of Washington, will maintain eligibility for assistantship support and the associated tuition waiver.
2. For international graduate students who returned to their home country and cannot return this fall and are not on an assistantship, we cannot keep their SEVIS record active. They can choose to enroll or not for the semester from home if there are courses on their program of study that will be delivered via a mode that is accessible at a distance. These students are encouraged to contact IP- International Student and Scholar Services for guidance on issuance of a new form I-20 to return in spring semester. The Graduate School has a continuous enrollment policy, and thus recommends that those students who choose not to enroll apply for a leave of absence.
3. For new international graduate students who have been offered an assistantship, they must reside in the state of Washington to be eligible for the assistantship and associated tuition waiver. Obtaining a visa to arrive in time for the fall semester seems problematic at this time. Therefore, these students should contact the department and the Graduate School to defer their application to be considered for admission and assistantship support in a future semester. The students who have assistantships must be at WSU for residency.
4. For new international graduate students who do NOT have an assistantship, they can begin their course of study remotely without a visa. These students should consult with their department for advising on what courses will be delivered via a mode that is accessible at a distance.

Face-to-face components could be live in a classroom or live in a Zoom room. We are happy to consult on individual cases and help Colleges and departments plan for an instructional modality that supports continuing international graduate students. Please be aware that any international graduate student who is here or abroad and not enrolled in face-to-face components as described above will not maintain their immigration status. This means their SEVIS record may not remain active and we may need to re-issue them a new I-20 for their planned return to WSU.

As always, we are here as a resource to you. We greatly appreciate the help you are providing our international students during these difficult times. Please do not hesitate to contact us and/or refer international students with questions to email our office at ip.intlservices@wsu.edu.

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