Rollins College has made the decision, effective Monday, March 23, to move all classes to an online format for the remainder of the semester. Additionally, it was decided to close residence halls effective 5 pm on Friday, March 20 to all but a very limited number of students whom were approved for a waiver.

However, please know that the College remains open and all departments and offices are continuing to support you throughout this challenging time. Below are some common questions received by international students and we hope you will find helpful. We will continue to update this page as the situation evolves and new information or updates are received.

**FAQs**

**Enrollment**

- I am taking classes remotely now. Will this cause my visa status to be affected with all of my classes online?
  
  No. The Department of Homeland Security has approved F-1 and J-1 students to continue their study online whether in the U.S. or from abroad. As long as you continue to regularly attend your online classes and stay enrolled in at least 12 credits (for undergraduates), 9 credits (for graduates), and 6 credits (for EDBA students), your SEVIS record will remain active.

- Do I need to enroll in classes for Summer 2020 to keep my visa status?
  
  Summer 2020 will be normal vacation period for you if you plan to enroll in Fall 2020 and the program end date on your I-20 is through December 2020 or beyond. In the summer, you may enroll in any number of credit hours in any modality (face-to-face or online) or not enroll at all.

  If you are expecting to graduate in Summer 2020, no decisions have been made yet by Rollins in regards to the mode of instruction for classes.

**Travel Questions**

- I've returned to my home country to continue my classes for the rest of the semester. Is there anything else that I need to do?
  
  OISSS is asking for all F-1 students to complete the [Change of Address](#) regardless of whether they have left the U.S. or stayed in the U.S. If you have not already completed this form, please do so immediately.

  All J-1 students and scholars are asked to complete the [J-1 Tracker](#). If you have not already completed this form, please do so immediately.
• This is my final semester and I am thinking of returning to my home country. Is there anything special that I need to do or consider?

The primary concern is whether you had planned to apply for OPT, the one year of work authorization F-1 students are eligible for. If you are NOT interested in applying for OPT and planned to return to your home country after your program completion, you do not need to do anything else.

If you were planning to transfer to another school in the U.S. to start a new program, you should contact OISSSS to discuss the transfer of your SEVIS record to the new school. This process must be completed prior to the end of the Spring semester.

If you wish to apply for OPT, we recommend that you DO NOT leave the U.S. You should submit your OPT application as soon as possible and OISSSS will continue to assist in preparing the OPT application. If you chose to leave the U.S. before applying for OPT, please let us know and we can explain your options. The government has been asked to consider adjusting the requirements to be in the U.S. when you apply for OPT. Until they make that change, we can help you think of other options. You can learn more about the OPT application requirements here.

• I left the U.S. without getting a travel signature. What should I do so I can reenter the U.S. later?

Please check the date of your last travel signature, if the last signature will be less than a year ago when you plan to reenter the U.S., you will be able to reenter with that I-20. If the signature will be older, OISSSS will issue you a new I-20 and email it to you. We ask that you complete the Request Form to ask for a travel signature.

J-1 students and scholars must still have an original DS-2019 and travel signature for reentry. OISSSS will issue a new DS-2019 and mail it to you if you have left the U.S. We ask that you complete the Request Form to ask for a travel signature.

• When I'm ready to come back to the U.S., what do I need for reentry?

As always, students will need to bring their I-20 or DS-2019 with a valid travel signature, along with their valid passport (valid for at least 6 months into the future from the date of entry) and a valid F-1 or J-1 visa.

• What about travel within the U.S.? Can I visit family or friends elsewhere in the country?

When making decisions about whether to visit family or friends elsewhere in the U.S., OISSSS strongly encourages you to follow the recommendations made by the U.S. Center for Disease Control when deciding on travel within the U.S.

If you decide to travel outside of the local area, you are advised to carry your original immigration documents including your I-20 or DS-2019, passport, F-1 or J-1 visa, and a print-out of your I-94.

• I'm almost at the end of my program or grace period but having difficulty finding flights home. What can I do?

OISSSS encourages you to reach out to your country’s embassy here in the U.S. for travel assistance.

• My visa expired and I left the U.S. or am planning to leave the U.S. for the summer. What do I do?

Currently, all U.S. embassies and consulates around the world are not providing visa services for F-1 and J-1 students. There is no timeline in place for when they will resume such services or how quickly you may be able to get a new visa once services do resume. OISSSS recommends that, if you are currently in the U.S. and have an expired visa, that you carefully consider any international travel, understand the potential risks/delays and contact us directly for further assistance.
Housing On-Campus

- I moved out of on-campus housing as required. When can I return?

Rollins has not made a formal decision as to when on-campus housing will reopen due to the on-going nature of the COVID-19 pandemic. As soon as a decision is made, a notification will be sent to all students who requested on-campus housing for Fall 2020.

- I moved out of my dorm – do I need to update OISSS with my new address?

Yes, you are required to notify OISSS of your new address if you have moved off-campus for the remainder of the semester. If you are an F-1 student, please complete the Change of Address form. If you are a J-1 student, please complete the J-1 Tracker.

Employment

- What if I currently work on-campus as a GA or student employee? Can I continue working?

If you can complete your working hours on-campus, you may continue to work in your on-campus position.

If you are currently in the U.S. but off-campus, you CANNOT continue your on-campus employment remotely.

- I’ve stayed in the U.S. and have been approved for CPT. If my employer wants me to work, can I continue going to the office?

Yes, you may continue if you are currently approved for CPT and your employer wants you to continue the internship.

- What if my employer has requested that we work remotely? Can I work remotely on CPT? Can I work remotely for my CPT employer from abroad?

Yes, you may continue your internship by working remotely whether in the U.S. or from abroad if you are currently approved for CPT.

- I have CPT authorization for Spring 2020 but I decided to leave the U.S. and stop working. Is there anything that I need to do?

You should have your supervisor email OISSS directly explaining that you have ceased working with the company or organization and your last date of work so your CPT authorization can be adjusted in SEVIS.

- I’m in my post-completion OPT and my employer has reduced my hours or furloughed me due to covid-19. Does this mean I am out of status?

The Department of Homeland Security has not provided any guidance or clarification for students on OPT in this situation. We can only advise that under the regulations, post-completion OPT students should be working over 20 hours per week to maintain their status. You can work for an additional employer in a position directly related to your field of study to help meet this requirement. If you add or change employers, be sure to submit the employer update form.

- I’m in my final semester of classes and planned to apply for OPT. What should I do?

First, if you have not already left the U.S., we recommend that you stay in the U.S. It is a requirement by USCIS that a student be physically present in the U.S. in order to be eligible for submitting an OPT application.

OISSS will continue to assist graduating students with preparing their OPT application. You should review the OPT information on our website and to obtain the required forms. Once you have all the required forms, please scan and email all the forms to OISSS. We will provide additional guidance, issue the new I-20 and mail it to you so you can send your complete application to USCIS. We are also happy to arrange a Webex advising session if desired.
• My employer applied for the H1B on my behalf but I was not selected. What can I do?
Each situation like this can be very different. Please reach out to OISSS directly for assistance.

General

• How can I receive immigration advising while classes are being held remotely?
Rollins College is not closed at this time. All offices and departments are open and operating remotely. OISSS remains open and available to assist all international students and scholars throughout this emergency situation. We are continuing to advise via email, phone and Webex and mail immigration documents as needed.

• Can I continue to use my Rollins health insurance even though I am not taking classes in-person anymore?
Yes, your Rollins health insurance policy is still valid and will remain so through August 14, 2020. Additionally, UnitedHealth has made some adjustments to the policy to allow for coverage in your home country whereas normally this is not allowed. These adjustments were emailed to all Rollins international students but you can also contact OISSS for additional questions or concerns regarding the policy coverage.

For more information please contact our office at OISSS@rollins.edu or by calling 407-691-1158