**Virtual Town Hall:**
Frequently Asked Questions & Updates from ISO on Coronavirus/COVID-19 Impacts

**Tuesday, March 18, 2020**  •  **12:15 pm Eastern**

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**Introductions**

- **Jane Gatewood**
  Vice Provost for Global Engagement

- **Ravi Shankar**
  Assistant Vice Provost & Director, ISO

- **Stephanie Krause**
  Associate Director, ISO Student Services

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**Today’s Agenda**

**Impact & Guidance due to Coronavirus**
- ISO Business Operations
- Full-time Enrollment for F/J Students
- Travel Restrictions & Documentation
- Benefit Eligibility & Next Steps
- Available Resources

*Enter questions into the Q&A tool!*

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**CORONAVIRUS IMPACT & GUIDANCE**

**What changes has ISO made to operate virtually for the time being?**

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**ISO Business Operations**

- Important functional changes are necessary
- ISO Staff remain available & ready to help!
- Temporary adjustments to routine services
  - Appointments & Walk-In Hours suspended
  - Advising via email: questions@iso.rochester.edu
  - Inquiries will be prioritized based on urgency
  - Document distribution options under review
    (SEVIS Reporting: Issuance vs. Distribution)

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**Future ISO Operations**

- Resumption of appointments & walk-ins
  - Options for Phone & Zoom, as soon as possible
- Secure documentation submissions
  - URcompass: Under development; Info to come
  - Login with UR NetID (VPN access off-campus)
- Survey to assess current location & needs
**CORONAVIRUS IMPACT & GUIDANCE**

**Is it a problem for F-1 & J-1 students to take classes online?**

- Temporary approval for online study
  - Viable for spring 2020; Unsure re: summer/fall
  - Enrolled students may remain in US, or abroad
- Full-time thresholds are unchanged
  - Credit requirements, or Reduced Course Load
  - Leave of Absence possible; SEVIS termination
- Maintaining progress/status (no 5-mos rule)

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**CORONAVIRUS IMPACT & GUIDANCE**

**Will I be able to return to UR for Fall 2020?**

- Indefinite impact & uncertainty, worldwide
  - New restrictions possible, as situation evolves
  - Quarantine periods, if entry is permitted
- *Example:* Canadian border closures
  - Announced restrictions for foreign nationals
  - No details or timing yet; Difficult to plan
- Monitor closely, in preparation for return!!

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**CORONAVIRUS IMPACT & GUIDANCE**

**Do I need a new travel signature? What if my visa is expiring?**

- Travel signatures are not urgent right now
  - ISO will reprint & ship docs; Online form soon
- Current visa expires in 2020, or earlier
  - Consular closures; Risks of access & demand
  - Remain in US; Return while valid; Renewal
- What documentation do I need for travel?
  - [www.iso.rochester.edu/immigration/categories/index.html](http://www.iso.rochester.edu/immigration/categories/index.html)
Can I still obtain US work permissions? Do I need to notify ISO?

F-1 Students
Eligibility for the F-1 Student category is based on admission to a qualified institution and demonstrated ability to meet the financial expenses on your intended study. The University of Rochester is able to issue documentation for F-1 students attending Bachelor’s, Masters, Doctoral, Certificates, and Special Visiting Student programs.

Travel Permissions & Required Documentation
Students attending a new program of study are permitted to enter the United States up to 30 days before the start date listed on the I-20. To allow for time to get settled at the school prior to the start of classes, this restriction does not apply to immigration transfer students who are already maintaining a valid I-20 record. Once the program of study is complete, most F-1 students will receive a grace period for departure. F-1 travel documentation includes:
- Passport, valid 6-months into the future
- Original Form I-20, endorsed by the ISO each academic year
- Valid F-1 visa stamp (including Canadian citizens)
- Proof of financial support, as listed on the I-20
- Admission letter or I-20 transcript showing full-time enrollment
- I-901 SEVIS fee receipt

Benefit Eligibility
- F-1 Curricular Practical Training (CPT)
  - Authorized remotely; Monitor company policy
- F-1 Optional Practical Training (OPT)
  - Apply prior to departure, or remain in US!
  - Coordination with ISO/employer, given limits
- Recent Graduates on OPT/STEM
  - Discuss & document any work adjustments

Other Transitions
- SEVIS Immigration Transfers
  - Remains viable, with proof of admission
  - Confirm policy/operations with new school
- Leave of Absence & SEVIS Termination
  - Spring enrollment; Summer vacation; Fall?
  - Return requires new record & documents
- Contact ISO, especially in coming weeks

Resources on Coronavirus
- UR’s Coronavirus Update website
  - [www.rochester.edu/coronavirus-update/](http://www.rochester.edu/coronavirus-update/)
  - Updates on policy, operations, guidance, etc.
- Stay Connected!
  - Verify connectivity & test your technologies
  - Take advantage of academic advising resources
  - Community support, even during distancing
  - ISO here to help; We appreciate your patience!
Virtual Town Hall: Coronavirus Impact & Updates

Q & A
Enter questions into the Q&A tool!

Thank You!

Look for additional sessions
Virtual Town Hall: Coronavirus Impact & Updates