

International Center

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Date: November 1, 2021

To: F-1 International Students

From: Leonardo A. Villalón, Dean, UF International Center
Martine Angrand, Director, F-1 International Student Compliance Services

RE: Spring 2022 - Summer A/C 2022: Online Course Registration Guidelines
Travel Guidelines, effective November 8, 2021

Dear F-1 International Students,

On June 24, 2021, we provided [guidance](#) applicable to Summer B 2021 through Summer A/C 2022. We advised we would provide updates as necessary.

- **Registration:** At this time, there have not been any changes to the temporary SEVP COVID-19 registration requirements. As a reminder, we have included the registration information applicable to Spring 2022 and Summer A/C 2022, below.
- **Travel to the U.S.:** There have been changes to the travel requirements.
 - For the regional travel bans which are effective through November 7, 2021, refer to *Travel to the U.S. on page three* of [this document](#).
 - For the new travel requirements which go into effect on November 8, 2021, please refer to *Travel to the U.S.*, below.

Registration in Spring 2022 and Summer A/C 2022

The temporary SEVP COVID-19 registration guidance will continue to apply at UF through Summer A/C 2022. Pending availability of courses, **F-1 international students may continue to enroll in more online classes than would typically be allowed.** We are able to confirm the following:

- **Students with F-1 visa status effective after March 9, 2020 must enroll full time and must have at least one course that meets the physical presence requirement(s).** This includes students in the following situations:
 - Any student who was issued an I-20 for reason of "Initial Attendance" for fall 2020, spring 2021, summer A/B/C 2021, fall 2021, spring 2022, or summer A/C 2022 whether they were specifically admitted or deferred to one of the above mentioned semesters due to inability to study within the U.S. with admission in the 2020-2021 academic year.

- Any student who was issued an I-20 for reason of "Initial Attendance – Change of Status Requested," if the change of status is approved prior to the drop/add deadline for the program start date on the I-20.
- **Continuing F-1 students who were enrolled at a U.S. college as of or prior to March 9, 2020 and who have maintained their F-1 visa status continuously must enroll full time (unless they are all but thesis/dissertation, or in their final semester) and may enroll 100% online in Spring 2022 and Summer A/C 2022, whether the student is present in the U.S. or abroad.** This includes the following students:
 - Any F-1 student who was in the U.S. as of March 9, 2020, studying at UF in a degree program that began as of spring 2020 or earlier and who has maintained continuous valid F-1 status until the present time.
 - Any F-1 student who completed a timely change of education level to begin a new program at UF as long as the student had already established F-1 status as of March 9, 2020 and has continuously maintained valid F-1 status since then.
 - Any F-1 student who was in the U.S. in spring 2020 at another SEVP certified school, has maintained continuous valid F-1 status since then, and has completed or will be completing a SEVIS transfer to the University of Florida, as long as the student is inside the U.S. and completes the check-in requirement with the University of Florida International Center.
 - Any F-1 student who was engaged in post-completion practical training (OPT or STEM OPT) during 2020 - 2021 and will subsequently begin a new degree program at UF, provided the student obtained a timely transfer pending I-20 (if doing a SEVIS transfer between schools) or a timely change of education level I-20 from UF and has maintained continuous valid F-1 status since March 9, 2020.
 - Any F-1 student who began a degree program at UF in summer 2020 (within the U.S.), and continued full time enrollment in fall 2020, spring 2021, and fall 2021 while still present in the U.S., will be considered a continuing student for spring 2022.

F-1 students with an I-20 program start date in Spring 2022 or Summer A/C 2022 must enter the US within:

- **15 days** of the start of classes for **transfer-in F-1 students**
 - Thursday, January 20, 2022 for Spring 2022
 - Tuesday, May 24, 2022 for Summer A/C 2022
- **30 days** of the start of classes for **initial F-1 students**
 - Friday, February 4, 2022 for Spring 2022
 - Wednesday, June 8, 2022 for Summer A/C 2022

F-1 students with an I-20 program start date in Spring 2022 or Summer A/C 2022 who are not able to enter the US within the timeframes stated above:

- *Undergraduate students:* must notify their F-1 Advisor to request an updated I-20
- *Graduate students:* must notify their academic advisor to request they submit a **New International Student Update Request** in the ISSS Portal.

The notification must be made within the 15-day or 30-day deadline stated above, as applicable to the student.

Also, please note:

- If the academic unit has an earlier deadline than those shown above, the academic department's deadline takes priority.
- F-1 international students with assistantships are expected to begin their assistantship on January 1, 2022 (for Spring 2022) or on May 15, 2022 (for Summer A/C 2022). Questions regarding this requirement should be directed to your academic unit/hiring department for further guidance. The academic unit/hiring department may contact the Graduate School for guidance.
- The academic departments' and the Graduate School's deadlines cannot occur after the dates provided by the UF International Center.

Travel to the U.S.

The Presidential "[*Proclamation on Advancing the Safe Resumption of Global Travel During the COVID-19 Pandemic*](#)" **takes effect at 12:01 am Eastern Standard Time on November 8, 2021**. This proclamation rescinds the previous regional travel bans and places COVID-19 vaccination and testing requirements on non-immigrant travelers to the U.S.

For full details about the vaccination and testing requirements, including the definition for being "fully vaccinated," the list of Accepted COVID-19 Vaccines, and the testing result timeframes, see:

- [Non-U.S. citizen, Non-U.S. immigrants: Air Travel to the United States | CDC](#)
- [Requirement for Proof of Negative COVID-19 Test or Documentation of Recovery from COVID-19 | CDC](#)

[Non-U.S. citizen, Non-U.S. immigrants traveling by air to the United States](#) (this includes F-1 and J-1 visa holders and their dependents). Air travelers must:

- Be fully vaccinated with an approved COVID-19 vaccine. Certain exceptions are allowed; see exceptions information below.
- Show a negative COVID-19 test result or show documentation of recovery from COVID-19. The timing of the test result depends on the traveler's age and vaccination status.
 - Children under 2 years old do not need to show a COVID-19 test result.
- Wear a mask in all indoor areas of public transportation (including airports and airplanes).
- Provide contact information to airlines to aid in contact tracing due to potential exposures to COVID-19.

[Exceptions to the vaccination requirement:](#)

- Children under 18 years old do not need to show proof of vaccination
- Persons with documented medical contraindications to receiving a COVID-19 vaccine
- Persons with valid visas [excluding B-1 (business) or B-2 (tourism) visas] who are citizens of and have a passport issued by a [foreign country with less than 10% COVID-19 vaccine availability](#).
 - Those receiving an exemption will generally need to be vaccinated within 60 days after arriving in the United States.
 - The CDC plans to update this list every 90 days.

- For other limited exceptions, see: [Requirement for Proof of COVID-19 Vaccination for Air Passengers | CDC](#)

Additional U.S. Travel Proclamations and Updates resources:

- [U.S. Visas News](#)
- [NAFSA: COVID Vaccine and Test Requirements for U.S. Entry](#)
- [Fragomen Immigration Update: Coronavirus](#)
 - Students may verify information for the country they are travelling from, will travel to/through, and the United States.

Leave of Absence

Continuing F-1 students who are not able to register full time must submit a [Leave of Absence](#) request prior to the start of classes for the semester.

- Spring 2022, submit request by January 4, 2022
- Fall 2022, submit request by August 30, 2022

This is the information which we can confirm at this time. We will update it if we receive any further guidance from SEVP.

UF Support Resources

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or [visit the Student Health Care Center website](#).

UF International Center: Reach out to your [international student advisor or drop in during our virtual office hours with](#) any questions or concerns related to maintaining your legal status and regulations concerning travel, or advice on special accommodations for medical or other emergencies.