

Since the University of Nebraska-Lincoln moved on-campus classes to remote learning for the Spring 2020 and Summer 2020 semesters, we understand you have many questions and concerns. Please know that UNL and the International Student and Scholar Office are available to answer any questions you have and help you as we move forward together during this challenging time. We have gathered a list of common questions and answers below. We will continue to update this information as it becomes available. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact our office. For UNL event status and current information related to COVID-19, make sure to check the UNL coronavirus page for the latest updates: <https://covid19.unl.edu/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19>

Updated: 5/11/2020

Question: Since UNL moved to a remote learning format for spring and summer, will this affect my immigration status?

Answer: If you are enrolled as a full-time student in the spring semester, then you are considered in good immigration status. This will not change even though courses will be completed remotely. This immigration exception is being made due to the challenging environment that the outbreak is causing across the world.

Please understand that you must remain enrolled in your spring semester classes. If you choose to drop any of your classes, this will cause you to be out of status and your record will be terminated.

Question: Recently an Executive proclamation was issued about restricting immigration to the United States. How does this affect me as an international student?

Answer: Currently, this proclamation does not affect non-immigrants, such as international students pursuing a degree in the United States.

Question: Will the International Student and Scholar Office be open on campus this summer?

Answer: Currently, our physical office on campus is NOT open. However, we are still advising students. We can advise students via email, over the phone, or through Skype. Students can make virtual advising appointments on our [website](#). As the situation evolves, we will continue to keep students updated.

Question: Am I able to stay in my dorm room and eat in the dining hall?

Answer: UNL residence and dining halls are continuing to provide modified housing and dining accommodations to students who choose to stay throughout the Spring and Summer semesters. More information can be found at: <https://housing.unl.edu/>

If you would like to stay on campus this summer, please fill out a [summer housing contract](#).

Question: What if I am a degree seeking student and want to travel back home now and return during the summer/fall?

Answer: We urge you to carefully consider the impact this might have on your further studies. If you ultimately decide to depart the U.S, please request a travel signature. [request](#).

Questions to ask yourself if returning home:

- Are you able to access from home the technology used by UNL to complete your courses remotely (Canvas, Huskers email, Zoom, etc.)?
- Have you considered the difference in time zones between Nebraska and your home country? This could be an issue if your professor chooses to use Zoom to provide information/lectures at the same time as a regular class meeting.
- **Is your passport/visa valid for a return in August?** Your visa must be valid for travel and your passport must be valid for 6 months beyond your return date to the U.S.
 - o Keep in mind that most U.S. Embassies and Consulates are not currently fully staffed and are providing only emergency services (a visa appointment is not typically considered an emergency service) and this will cause significant delays in renewing a visa. *Some embassies are taking appointments, so schedule your appointment now if you know you will need to renew your visa before you return.*
- Have you discussed with your family the potential risks associated with travel?
- **Please be aware:** We do not know how long current travel restrictions will last and what additional countries may be added to the restrictions already in place. If you decide to travel, be prepared, understand the risks, and be advised that you might not be able to return to the U.S. for an unknown period of time. Also, your trip could be disrupted, or you may be quarantined upon your return to the U.S. Check the CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> and the Customs and Border Patrol website: <https://www.cbp.gov/>
- **If you were planning to apply for OPT or CPT:** If you go home and are unable to return for the fall semester, this could cause an interruption in your immigration status which can cause you to become ineligible to apply for CPT or OPT.

Question: If I get sick from COVID-19 (coronavirus), will I be covered by my health insurance?

Answer:

F-1 students with United Health Care Insurance: Currently, this plan covers pandemic situations such as COVID-19 along with other accidents and illnesses. This includes testing.

However, we recommend you contact the UnitedHealthcare Student Resources campus representative to get the most up-to-date information on your coverage:

Call 866.351.4262 or 866.416.2623

Email: unbraskaadvocates@uhcsr.com

J-1 students with International Student Insurance: The Select and Elite plans will cover COVID19 illnesses along with other accidents and illnesses. This includes testing and any necessary treatment if the test is positive.

Question: I have an on-campus job. Am I able to continue working?

Answer: Only a limited number of UNL employees are currently physically working on campus in order to limit the spread of Covid-19. Every effort is being made to keep student workers employed through remote work. Please contact your direct supervisor to discuss this option. The University of Nebraska system [announced](#) extended emergency leave for all employees, including student workers.

Question: Is there financial aid available for me during this time?

Answer: If you have financial need your first step is to contact [Husker Hub](#) via phone or email to receive a financial review to see what aid you might be eligible for. If you would like to discuss applying for off-campus work authorization based on economic necessity, please sign up for a remote advising appointment.

Question: Is the International Student and Scholar Office continuing with programs and events this semester?

Answer: In accordance with CDC guidelines, we will not be hosting any events or programs with more than 10 people in attendance. As such, all Spring 2020 regularly scheduled events have been cancelled or postponed. Please check our website, listserv, and social media for upcoming virtual programming.

Question: I am a degree seeking student and want to apply for OPT or CPT. Can I still do that?

Answer: ISSO will be happy to assist you with OPT or CPT applications through email or virtual advising.

IMPORTANT:

- If you return home and are not able to come back on time for the fall semester, this could negatively impact your immigration status and cause you to lose the eligibility to apply for CPT or OPT.
- Students must be present in the United States at the time of filing their OPT application.
- If a student has a pending OPT application, ISSO highly discourages travelling outside of the United States while the application is pending.

Question: Will summer classes continue being held remotely or return to on-campus classes?

Answer: An [announcement](#) was made that all summer courses will be conducted remotely.

Question: Will fall classes continue being online or return to on-campus classes?

Answer: [An announcement](#) was made that UNL intends to return to in-person classes in the Fall, but with some exceptions and modifications in order to continue to protect UNL's faculty, staff, and students. More details will be announced.

Question: Myself or a friend have experienced bias or discrimination (such as, but not limited to, hurtful verbal language or physical aggression/attacks). What can I do about this?

Answer: UNL does not tolerate acts of bias or discrimination. If you feel that you or a friend have experienced this, you can report the incident on TIPS. Click [here](#) to learn more about TIPS or file a report. **Please note that this report can be anonymous.**

You can also [contact](#) the Office of Diversity and Inclusion if you have any other comments or concerns you would like addressed.