OIE International Student and Scholar Services
International Travel Update
December 8, 2021
International Travel

• Travel disruptions and U.S. entry restrictions are expected to continue and could affect your ability to maintain your student or exchange visitor visa status if you are unable to return to the U.S. and enroll in a full course of study or pursue program objectives. We encourage you to carefully consider avoiding non-essential international travel during this worldwide health crisis.
  • Travel restrictions are fluid and can be enacted very quickly during the pandemic.
  • Most U.S. consulates are currently open, but this is subject to change at any time.
  • Mandatory quarantines and/or travel restrictions may be enacted upon your arrival to another country.

• We encourage all individuals traveling to the U.S. to review the guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for more information and consult with your airline with any questions in advance of your flight date.

• For contact information for your Embassy or Consulate about guidance related to returning to your home country, please visit the U.S. Department of State site here.

• If you have a flight booked, we also recommend you contact the airline you are flying on for more travel information.

• If you are seeking legal advice concerning travel, please refer to this resource regarding immigration attorneys: https://oie.gatech.edu/sites/default/files/legal_consultation_-_updated_02.28.2020.pdf
U.S. Entry Restrictions

• U.S. entry restrictions in place for individuals with physical presence in the last 14 days in Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, and Zimbabwe

• F, J, and H-1B visa holders who are traveling by air will be required to show both a negative Covid viral test and documentation that they are fully vaccinated or are eligible for an exception to the vaccination requirement.

• Entry requirements for those entering by land ports at the U.S. and Mexico border will also be enacted. More information about the U.S. entry requirements is provided by the CDC online at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/international-travel-during-covid19.html.
Preparing to Depart the U.S.

• Review your I-20/DS-2019 to ensure you have a valid DSO/ARO travel signature
  • Enrolled students: DSO/ARO signature is valid for one year
  • Post-Completion OPT Participants: DSO signature is valid for six months
  • If you need a new signature, you will need to submit the Travel Signature Request form in the iStart portal.
  • You will receive a digitally signed I-20 and will download this from the iStart portal and print it for your re-entry to the U.S.

• Review your student visa to ensure it will be valid on the date you plan to return

• Review your passport to ensure it is valid and will remain valid beyond six months after your planned entry date

• Visit the OIE International Travel resource for more information on preparing to depart the U.S. https://isss.oie.gatech.edu/content/travel-outside-us-0
International Flights

If you are fully vaccinated:
• Get tested with a Covid-19 viral test within 24 hours of your flight to the U.S..
• Travel with your proof that you are fully vaccinated against Covid-19.

If you are not fully vaccinated:
• Limited exceptions apply to the vaccination requirement, so you may not be allowed to enter the U.S. Nonimmigrant children under the age of 18 are exempt from the vaccination requirement but must show proof of a negative Covid-19 test taken no earlier than 1 day in advance of travel.
• If you determine you are eligible for an exception, travel with supporting documentation and a viral test taken no earlier than 1 day prior to departure.
• Prior to departure, please review the CDC website for the most current guidance on entering the U.S.
• Visit the CDC site for recommendations before and after international travel as well as considerations before domestic travel. Do be aware that public health guidance is subject to change.
After Arriving in the U.S.

If you are fully vaccinated:
• Get tested for Covid-19 within 3-5 days after arrival in the U.S.
• Monitor for symptoms of Covid-19 and get evaluated if you develop symptoms.

Note: In general, people are considered fully vaccinated:
• 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or
• 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen vaccine.

To be considered fully vaccinated, you must have received a vaccine that is FDA approved or authorized, or a vaccine that is listed by the World Health Organization (WHO) for emergency use.

• If you don’t meet these requirements, regardless of your age, you are not fully vaccinated. Keep taking all precautions until you are fully vaccinated. Visit the CDC site for additional considerations if you have a condition or are taking medications that weaken your immune system.
After Arriving in the U.S.

If you are not fully vaccinated:
• Get tested for Covid-19 within 3-5 days after arrival in the U.S.
• Self-isolate for 7 days. Note that the CDC recommends you stay isolated for the full 7 days, even if your test results are negative.
• Self-isolate for 10 days if you cannot get tested.
• Avoid being around people who are at increased risk for severe illness for 14 days, whether you get tested or not.
• Monitor for symptoms of Covid-19 and get evaluated if you develop symptoms.
After Arriving in the U.S.

• If you have received a vaccination on the WHO-approved list, the CDC does not recommend that you receive an additional vaccine from the FDA-authorized list. However, individuals who have not yet received vaccinations on the FDA or WHO lists are strongly encouraged to get an FDA-authorized vaccination once they arrive on the Georgia Tech campus. These individuals should work with a medical professional to understand the best vaccine option for them and can do so by scheduling an appointment at Georgia Tech’s vaccine clinic.

Vaccine and Testing Resources on Campus

• Check health.gatech.edu/coronavirus/testing for campus testing hours, locations, and options for Georgia Tech’s free surveillance testing program.

• Travel testing information is available at health.gatech.edu/coronavirus/testing/travel.

• Students may make a vaccination appointment by visiting mytest.gatech.edu and using these instructions: health.gatech.edu/coronavirus/vaccine/appointments.
Spring 2022 Enrollment Requirements

• F-1 and J-1 students are required to enroll full-time in coursework to maintain Active SEVIS records.

• F-1 and J-1 student visa holders inside the U.S. should plan to engage in primarily residential instruction counting no more than 3 credit hours of fully at a distance coursework towards the full-time requirement.

• F-1 student visa holders outside the U.S. can maintain active SEVIS status if they are enrolled full-time in fully at a distance coursework, are enrolled full-time at the GT Shenzhen or GT Lorraine campus, or if they are participating in the Global Research and Internships Program.
Late Arrivals

What is the latest day the university allows for F-1 student visa holders to arrive in the U.S. for the semester?

• Newly admitted students or students entering the U.S. for the first time who are unable to arrive by the end of phase II registration need to request support with late arrival within the “Arrival Confirmation” e-form found within the [OIE Check In eforms](#). Your academic department and OIE will review and determine the latest date the department can support the student with late arrival.

• Continuing students with an Active SEVIS record can enter the U.S. at any time, but should discuss any plans and receive permission from faculty for any alternative course arrangements.
Institutional Processes

• OIE will continue to use the Arrival Confirmation and the Spring Intentions e-form process to allow students to report plans to OIE, the academic program, Bursar and Registrar. These forms will be live 30 days prior to the start of classes.
  • New students should complete the Arrival Confirmation e-form.
  • Students in Active SEVIS status should complete the Spring Intentions e-form.
  • Students requesting reactivation of their previous SEVIS record should submit the I20 Request for Returning Students.
Resources

• Tech Moving Forward for International Students web resource at https://health.gatech.edu/coronavirus/students/international.

• OIE Drop-in advising available Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday via Bluejeans.

• OIE FAQ and join details for virtual sessions are available online at https://oie.gatech.edu/issss/home.