

ISSS May 2021 Newsletter

This monthly newsletter is intended for students on F-1 and J-1 visas & contains important information regarding student visa status & other relevant announcements.

Please read it carefully and completely.

Our hearts are with all of our students, scholars, faculty, and community members who may be personally impacted by the devastating surges of new COVID-19 cases and related deaths occurring globally. We understand that the fight against COVID-19 is far from over, and it is important for everyone to remain vigilant and continue to follow recommended public health guidelines.

To quote Dr. Fauci, “The only way that you’re going to adequately respond to a global pandemic is by having a global response, and a global response means equity throughout the world.” We stand with everyone who continues to be impacted by this virus, and we are committed to taking every action to stop the spread.

If you are experiencing grief or are seeking help, please know that ISSS and other campus resources are here and available to support you.

International Student & Scholar Services: Telephone: +1 801.581.8876
Email: international@utah.edu

University Counseling Center: Telephone: +1 801.581.6826

The Office of the Dean of Students:
Telephone: +1 801.581.7066
Email: deanofstudents@utah.edu

Center for Student Wellness:
Telephone: +1 801.581.7776
Email: wellness@sa.utah.edu

Employee Assistance Program:
Schedule an appointment by calling +1 801.587.9319
Through June 2021, the EAP will be available to all University employees, including part-time employees.

Travel

ISSS does not recommend traveling outside of the U.S. at this time, since we are unable to predict how current travel restrictions may change in the future. Please continue to check the [COVID-19 FAQ](#) page on the ISSS website for updates as they become available. We cannot predict how [COVID-19 travel restrictions](#) may change and what additional countries may be added or removed based on COVID-19 conditions in country. Both current travel restrictions and visa processing delays at U.S. consulates, for students who need a new F-1 visa, might make it impossible for some students to enter the U.S. and return to campus.

If you are reentering the U.S. please be aware of [travel guidance](#) domestically or internationally at this time. ***Any travel you choose to do during this time is at your own risk.*** Due to COVID-19, U.S. Customs and Border Patrol as well as USCIS are allowing the use of digitally signed forms of I-20s.

If you need a travel signature, you can complete the E-form “*I-20 reprint request*” in UAtlas and we will process a signed *electronic* copy of your I-20. Once the I-20 has been processed you will be able to access the completed document in your UAtlas portal. You will need to **print** your I-20, and complete the “Student Attestation” section of the I-20 for it to be valid.

As a reminder, travel signatures are valid for 1 year for enrolled students, and 6 months for those on OPT or STEM OPT.

Please refer to our [COVID-19 FAQ](#) for further details on travel recommendations at this time.

Taxes Due 5/17!

The 2020 tax filing deadline is fast approaching on May 17th. If you have yet to file your taxes, please do so as soon as possible. For more information about tax filing obligations, please visit our [tax webpage](#) or email us at tax.international@ic.utah.edu.

Student Leadership Opportunities

Global Inclusion Advisory Board Leader (starting Fall 2021): The Global Diversity Advisory Board Leader has a passion for all things international and has a strong desire to help students on campus find opportunities to grow and develop in new ways. Apply for this position if you love leadership, social justice, networking, and using your critical thinking skills to address complex problems. All Advisory Board Leaders work to develop, maintain, and execute strategies with the overall goal of enhancing access to global engagement opportunities to all students. \$500 per year stipend available. Apply [here](#).

International Student Council Board Member (starting Fall 2021): The International Student Council (ISC) is an official ASUU student group designed to support International Students at the University of Utah. ISC board members come from many different nations, cultural backgrounds, and fields of study. Our main objective is to create a platform that ensures and enhances intercultural sharing and cooperation between both campus and local community members and organizations. If you are interested in meeting a lot of other international students, planning fun events, and developing your leadership and teamwork skills, this is a great opportunity for you! Apply [here](#).

Global U Newsletter

Subscribe to the Global U Newsletter to learn how our U community is engaging internationally. Issues are emailed twice per Fall and Spring semester. (<https://global.utah.edu/newsletter/>)

General Reminders:

COVID-19 Updates:

Refer to the ISSS [COVID-19 FAQ](#) page for the most up to date announcements concerning COVID-19 for the University of Utah as an F-1 or J-1 student for the Spring 2021 semester!

Further University of Utah resources related to COVID-19 for students, including general travel advisories, vaccines, current phase of return to campus, and details on mandatory wearing of face coverings on campus, can be found at [COVID-19 Central @TheU](#).

Resources

During this unprecedented time, we continue to encourage you each to reach out to the [ISSS office](#) if you have concerns. This can be due to immigration questions, financial concerns, feelings of loneliness and isolation, struggling in classes with grades or keeping up with online courses, or maybe you are just looking for something to do in the local community! There are many resources our office can put you in reach with. Here are a few resources that might be helpful:

- [Resources During COVID-19](#). A comprehensive list of financial, educational, food, fitness, things to do, wellness, and UofU resources.
- [Student Success Advocates](#): Meet with an advocate to help you in creating success on campus! Their office also has a helpful list of UofU [Tools for Success](#).
- Wellness resources:
 - If you are in need of real-time 24/7 crisis intervention, then you can text [SafeUT by using their app](#).
 - Local 24-hour crisis line by calling 801-587-3000 anytime day or night and connect with the [Utah Crisis line](#).
 - Interested in free and guided meditation then check out the UofU's [The Mindfulness Center](#) for virtual drop-in visits.
 - Check out tips on [Coping with COVID-19 Uncertainty](#).
 - Make an appointment with the [University Counseling Center](#) for free & confidential virtual meetings with a counselor!

Beware of Scams:

International students and scholars at University of Utah and other universities across the U.S. have frequently been targets of a variety of scams using phone, email, social media, and other means. The scammers will also often use your personal information to deceive you. **The university, a police department, or the U.S. government will never call you directly and demand immediate payment over the phone.** We recommend you to review our "[Beware of Scams!](#)" webpage for further tips and information related to scams.