Embassy of India Student Advisory [Updated 18 March 2020]

Following the growing cases of the coronavirus (COVID-19), US universities have taken measures to shut down on-campus operations and/or move classes online. The Embassy of India Education Team/India Student Hub has the following advisory for Indian students who may be impacted by these decisions. Please note that this advisory is based on information available as of 18 March 2020. The WHO, CDC, Government of India Ministry of Health and Welfare (for India-specific updates), and your universities are generally the best sources for the latest information in this rapidly evolving situation. Further Embassy of India Student Hub updates will be issued as needed.

Please read this advisory carefully. For further questions, you may use the helpline numbers mentioned below.

1. If you are staying in on-campus housing and are asked to vacate, check with your university if you can petition to continue staying in on-campus housing. If you cannot petition for continued on-campus housing or your petition is not accepted, consult with your university or your network on how to find alternate accommodations.

2. If your university is shutting down on-campus services, check with your university on how to avail your university’s health services, student health insurance, international student services, and any other essential service(s) that may be impacted.

3. Read official campus advisories or contact your Designated Student Official (DSO) for information on how short-term or long-term shifts to online courses will impact your F-1 or J-1 status. If you are graduating in Spring 2020 and travelling internationally, please contact your DSO for advice on how this may impact your graduation and application for OPT.

The Embassy of India is in touch with the US government on the issues being faced by Indian students. The US government has indicated that it is closely monitoring the implications that this evolving situation may have for international students. The Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) will continue to provide guidance on distance-learning for international students. SEVP recently confirmed that international students can temporarily engage in distance-learning, either from within the U.S. or outside the country, in light of COVID-19, without affecting their visa status. Please continue to monitor the Department of Homeland Services (DHS) at https://www.ice.gov/covid19 including this Guidance for SEVP Stakeholders for future updates on visa status, OPT applications/extensions, and related matters.

4. Please avoid all non-essential domestic or international travel. For official advisories on domestic US and international travel, please consult the CDC website. For international travel, please also contact your DSO for information on any possible impact in the future on your F-1 or J-1 status.

5. As of 18 March 2020, if you are planning travel from the US to India, then you will be subject to medical screening upon arrival and you may be put in quarantine at a government-earmarked facility for a minimum of 14 days if required. No travel OR transit is allowed through the restricted countries mentioned on Government of India Bureau of Immigration FAQs. https://boi.gov.in/sites/default/files/u4/faq-covid19.pdf
6. For travel from India to the United States, please check the US Department of State and US Embassy in New Delhi websites.

For admitted students to US universities concerned about summer and fall 2020 admissions / visas, please contact your designated university admissions officer and/or the EducationUSA advising centers https://educationusa.state.gov/find-advising-center for more information.

7. Please consult the WHO and CDC guidelines for further information about the disease, preventative measures, and what to do if you experience any symptoms.

This is an unprecedented situation, but we can successfully manage it by taking decisions with a calm mind. Please take prudent health precautions and carefully review information and travel advisories.

To receive the latest Embassy of India Student Hub advisory(s), register here: https://www.indianembassyusa.gov.in/Indian_Students_Registration

For queries/clarifications regarding recent travel advisories issued by the Government of India for travel to India in view of the spread of COVID-19, please see travel advisories at: https://www.mohfw.gov.in/ and on the Embassy of India/Consulate Generals of India websites in your area.

For any emergency consular services by jurisdiction, please visit:

| Residents of Bermuda, Delaware, District of Columbia, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia | https://indianembassyusa.gov.in/cons4.washington@mea.gov.in Tel: 202-213-1364 and 202-262-0375 |
| Residents of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virgin Islands | https://www.indiainatlanta.gov.in/cons.atlanta@mea.gov.in Tel: 404-910-7919 and 404-924-9876 |
| Residents of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin | https://www.cgichicago.gov.in/visa.chicago@mea.gov.in Tel: 312-687-3642 and 312-468-3276 |
| Residents of Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Colorado and Nebraska | https://cgihouston.gov.in/enquiriesegi@swbell.net Tel: 713-626-2149 |
| Residents of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont | Reach out through PRAMIT available on our website: https://pramit.indiainnewyork.gov.in/ Tel: 212-774-0607/347-721-9243 |
| Residents of Alaska, Arizona, California, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming | https://www.cgisf.gov.in/oci2.sf@mea.gov.in Tel: 415 483 6629 |