As Ohio State continues to monitor the global outbreak of COVID-19 and take appropriate steps to ensure the health and well-being of the campus community, we will provide regular updates and guidance for students, scholars, faculty and staff relating to international travel. The Office of International Affairs (OIA) understands that COVID-19 protocols will cause disruption, but the risk of not acting outweighs the inconvenience of these measures.

As the university prepares to gradually return to campus, visit the Safe and Healthy Buckeyes website.

Resources for emotional support are available through Student Life's Counseling and Consultation Service. To stay abreast of recent travel restrictions, visit the U.S. Health and Human Services website and Ohio State travel alerts. Additional guidance can be found on the World Health Organization website and the Wexner Medical Center website.

Below are useful information and resources available to students, scholars, faculty and staff.

**Travel**

The U.S. Department of State has elevated its travel warning, advising U.S. citizens to return to the United States if possible and avoid all other international travel due to the global impact of COVID-19. Ohio State has suspended all university-sponsored international travel and any non-essential domestic travel. Those restrictions remain in place indefinitely.

**Education Abroad**

The university has canceled all university-sponsored all autumn and winter break education abroad programs. If education abroad students have questions or need to speak with an education abroad specialist, please call 614-292-6101 or email abroadadvisor@osu.edu.

- Answers to frequently asked questions

Ohio State formed a working group of the International Travel Policy Committee to develop protocols and assess the viability of university-wide international travel by students, including education abroad programs for the 2020-21 academic year. The working group will develop assessment criteria to align preexisting health and safety standards with current travel restrictions and university precautions related to COVID-19.
International Students

For the majority of our services, the most efficient way for OIA to assist students at this time will be via email. Forms can be accessed at [oia.osu.edu/forms-and-handouts](http://oia.osu.edu/forms-and-handouts) and can be scanned and emailed to iss@osu.edu. Learn more at [oia.osu.edu/international-students](http://oia.osu.edu/international-students).

In-person classes will resume autumn 2020. Courses will be offered in different formats—some will be in person, some will be online ("distance learning"), and some will offer a blend of in-person, online and other activities ("hybrid" courses).

- [Autumn Semester 2020 FAQ](#)
- [Safe and Healthy Buckeyes website](#)

The Office of International Affairs will conduct international student orientation and mandatory immigration check-in virtually.

- [Undergraduate student pre-arrival information](#)
- [Graduate student pre-arrival information](#)

International Scholars

Scholar immigration specialists are available by email (preferred) and phone Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. We will continue essential actions in the SEVIS system for J-1 scholars, such as J-1 extensions and departure notifications, ensuring the J-1 scholar’s immigration record will not be jeopardized. Learn more at [go.osu.edu/intschguidelines](http://go.osu.edu/intschguidelines).

Human Resources Professionals

We are still accepting J-1 scholar and H-1B cases via IntBuckeye. However, printing of all DS-2019 immigration documents for J-1 scholars will be delayed. Additionally, since our physical office location in Enarson is closed, we are unable to offer pick-ups of documents such as DS-2019s and I-797 approval notices through March 31. Learn more at [go.osu.edu/intschguidelines](http://go.osu.edu/intschguidelines).