Below are answers to frequently asked questions from international students regarding the transition to campus. View the full recommendations from the university’s COVID-19 Transition Task Force to stay updated.

If autumn is my first semester and I am not able to enter the United States to start my program at Ohio State, will I be able to defer my admission?
Please contact International Undergraduate Admissions (int.undergrad@osu.edu) or Graduate Admissions (gradadmissions@osu.edu) for more information.

What if I need to travel outside of the United States to change my status to F-1 for autumn 2020?
Due to uncertainty surrounding visa appointments and availability of international flights, we recommend that you defer your admission to a future term.

If I am able to enroll full-time online from my home country this autumn, will I be able to still maintain my F1 status?
Due to COVID-19, the federal Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) made an exception allowing students to remain in status, even if they exceeded the number of allowable online classes. At this time, we are not sure if SEVP will continue this exception through fall semester. We will update the FAQ and send an announcement via email if we receive additional guidance.

Can I arrive in the United States after the autumn semester start date of August 25, 2020?
Typically, we allow undergraduate students to arrive one week after the semester starts and graduate students up to two weeks after the semester starts, with department permission. Given these extraordinary circumstances, please contact both your department and ISS with your travel plans if you want to arrive after the semester start date.

If I cannot make it back to campus, can I enroll in online classes from my home country?
The university is currently working to identify online pathways available to individuals who either cannot or would prefer not to return to campus. Because our students come from across the globe, there will not be a single solution as factors change by country and academic program. Please contact your academic advisor to make them aware of your interest in online education so that you can receive updates about the availability of online classes in your department and country.

Can I take a gap semester or year?
Typically, if a student chooses not to enroll for a semester or year, we must terminate their immigration record and they have 15 days to depart the United States. We are not sure if the federal Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) will make an exception to this rule given the current circumstances. If you are interested in this option, we ask that you wait until closer to the start of the semester so that we have time to gather additional information. We will update the FAQ and send an announcement via email if we receive additional guidance.

If I am unable to enter the United States and decide to take my classes online, will this count towards my eligibility for OPT or CPT?
It depends on whether your immigration record remains active during this time, which will be determined by guidance from SEVP. We will update the FAQ and send an announcement via email if we receive additional guidance.