Q: Is there any restriction on specific countries if we choose to travel outside the U.S.?

A: If you choose to travel outside of the U.S., please make sure to check the current policies/restrictions for your destination. Many countries are currently implementing quarantine procedures depending on where the traveler is from or what countries they have recently visited.

Q: Am I allowed to or required to leave the U.S.?

A: You are not required to depart the U.S. OIA encourages you to make your decision based on your own health considerations as well as the health and safety of others in mind.

Q: If I leave the U.S. now and I am gone for more than 5 months, will there be any impact on my immigration status?

A: No. If you maintain your full-time enrollment, you are still considered to be maintaining your immigration status. The move to on-line classes for the rest of spring semester is just a temporary change to the mode of instruction given the current circumstances.

Q: I am graduating in May. Can I come back if I leave now?

A: If you depart the U.S. now, you will not be able to return to the U.S. after 5/3/2020 as your I-20 will be shortened to your commencement date.

Q: How should I get my I-20 signed?

A: If you have lost your I-20 or need a new I-20 due to a funding or major change, please email iss@osu.edu to request a new document. Due to the health and well-being of our students and staff, OIA is adapting REMOTE advising, via phone, email and E-Form requests for travel signatures. As a result, walk-in services are no longer available. Travel signature requests must be through the E-Form system. Students will be notified once endorsed I-20 or DS2019 is ready to be mailed or picked up.

If you choose to depart the U.S. and take the online courses from your home country, please make sure you have a valid travel signature for re-entry on your I-20.

- You can now request the travel signature via this [E-Form request](https://go.osu.edu/f1travelsig). I-20 Travel Signature Form can be accessed at: [https://go.osu.edu/f1travelsig](https://go.osu.edu/f1travelsig). The DS2019 Eform can be accessed at: [https://go.osu.edu/j1travelsig](https://go.osu.edu/j1travelsig)
- If you want to pick up your I-20 when you are notified that it is ready, you can use the following link to schedule your pickup appointment: [https://go.osu.edu/intstuappointment](https://go.osu.edu/intstuappointment)
- Once your documents have been processed, you can request to have them mailed (no cost), request a link to set up an eShip Global account to have them expressed mailed inside or
• outside of the U.S., or request an appointment time to pick up your documents in person at OIA. You must have an appointment to pick up your documents.

• **Requests will not be accepted in person – you must request travel signatures through E-Form.** You will not be permitted to pick up your documents outside of your scheduled appointment time.

**Q: Is OIA open now?**

A: Yes, and advising is handled remotely, not in person. Our staff is working fulltime and is available to assist you via email (iss@osu.edu) or phone 614-292-6101.

**Q: Will I be guaranteed entry to the U.S. for AU20 if I depart the U.S. now?**

A: While re-entry can never be guaranteed, please make sure you have a valid passport, valid F-1 visa, a travel signature on your I-20 signed within the last year, and your funding documents to minimize your risk. Please keep in mind that your ability to enter the US will be determined by Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials at the port of entry. There are currently a variety of restrictions prohibiting various groups of foreign nationals from entering the U.S. due to COVID-19. We have no ability to predict how suspensions of travel will evolve during the upcoming weeks/months nor what kind of scrutiny will be in place at the port of entry.

**Q: Are we required to report to OIA if we depart the U.S.?**

A: No. Make sure you have a current travel signature (signed within the last year) If you don’t have a travel signature and you have departed the U.S. already, you can request a travel signature via Eform.

**Q: How will I be able to apply for OPT if I remain outside the U.S. after graduation?**

A: At this time, USCIS does not permit applications from outside of the U.S. If you have not applied for OPT and are planning to depart the U.S. soon, please email ISS to start the application process before you leave.

**Q: What happens if we leave now and we spend 5 months at home before we can return to campus in August for autumn semester, will our I-20s be terminated for spending 5 months abroad?**

A: No at this time no terminations will occur, according to the latest guidance form DHS( pasted above) for spending part of spring 2020 semester at home to continue your online classes before autumn semester.

**Q: Is there any possibility for a refund (i.e. tuition, fees, housing)?**

A: Please direct any questions regarding refunds to the University Bursar: https://busfin.osu.edu/bursar

**Q: Will spring commencement take place?**

A: We understand that there are many questions surrounding the upcoming spring commencement ceremony. Our first priority is the health and well-being of the Ohio State community, and we remain focused on ensuring the safety of our students and their guests. The university is working to address these important concerns and will share additional information as soon as possible.