



BROWN

Office of International Student & Scholar Services

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General FAQs| COVID-19

1. I am planning to leave the US. What immigration documents do I need to have before leaving?
Check that the travel signature on your I-20/DS-2019 is valid. Ensure you also have your original immigration documents (passport and visa) and that they are valid.
2. How do I get a travel signature?
Request a new I-20 or DS-2019 with a new travel signature here: brown.edu/go/reprint. Your new I-20 or DS-2019 will be mailed to you.
3. My visa is expiring, and I am unable to travel to my home country currently. What should I do?
You may stay in the U.S. on an expired F-1 or J-1 visa as long as you maintain your immigration status by being in possession of an unexpired I-20 or DS-2019. Enrolled students must be pursuing a full course of study.
4. My visa is expiring/has expired. If I leave the U.S. now, but must come back after the expiration date of my visa, will I need a new visa, or can I re-enter on an expired visa?
If you leave the U.S. and your visa will have expired by the date you expect to re-enter the U.S., then you will need to obtain a new visa at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate before you can re-enter the U.S. (Canadian citizens do not need a visa to enter the U.S.)
5. Will OISSL remain open for the rest of the Spring 2020 semester?
OISSL advisors are available for email communication as well as appointments via phone or via Zoom. If you have a question please email oiyss@brown.edu.

F-1 Student FAQs

6. I departed the U.S. and will be finishing the Spring semester from my home country. Am I still in valid F-1 visa status?
Yes. Because Brown has shifted to all-online instruction for the remainder of spring semester, if you are enrolled in classes full time then you are still considered in valid immigration status. Provided international students can continue to make normal progress in a full course of study as required by federal regulations, students are presumed to be maintaining legal immigration status.

7. What if I am outside the U.S. for more than 5 months? Am I still considered to be in valid F-1 status?
For the dates of the Spring semester, you are still maintaining your F-1 status because you are a full-time student, even though you are pursuing your coursework remotely and/or abroad. The summer months are considered annual vacation.
8. I applied for post-completion OPT. Can I depart the U.S. and re-enter without my EAD (OPT card)?
OISSS does not recommend this. However, if you have to travel due to an urgent situation, you should communicate with a resident at the address you listed on the Form I-765 to forward your EAD card to you once it arrives. The EAD card needs to be present upon re-entry with your other immigration documents. A word of caution: Mail forwarding orders do not apply to government mail.
9. I would like to apply for OPT. May I do so from my home country?
Applying for post-completion OPT must be done from within the United States.

J-1 Scholar FAQs

10. My appointment is nearing its end date, can it be extended?
If your department wishes to extend your appointment and you have time left on your J-1 Program, please have your department submit an extension request to OISSS no less than 30 days before your current end date.
11. My appointment is nearing its end date, but there is a travel ban in place for my home country. What should I do?
You have a 30-day Grace Period following the end date listed on your DS-2019 during which you can remain in the U.S. If you find that it is impossible for you to leave before the end of this 30-day Grace Period, please schedule an appointment with an OISSS advisor to discuss your situation.
12. I was invited to come to Brown this Spring semester on a Faculty appointment, can I still come?
Most international visits for the Spring semester have been postponed or cancelled. If your department has not yet been in touch with you to discuss the timing of your stay, please reach out to your inviting Faculty Host to determine how to proceed.