



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY - SAN ANTONIO

Office of International Affairs

## Immigration Guidance for New Students (Fall 2020)

### Frequently Asked Questions

- 1) I am a new F-1 student who entered the U.S. for the fall 2020 term. How does this rule affect me?
- 2) I am a new F-1 student. Do I need an updated I-20 to apply for a visa and/or enter the U.S. for hybrid instruction?
- 3) Can I receive my I-20 electronically?
- 4) Can the OIA provide me with a letter for entry to the U.S. or for my visa appointment?
- 5) I am a new student who is inside the U.S. and I am either transferring, changing levels or changing status to be a student at A&M-SA. How does this rule affect me?
- 6) I am a new F-1 new student who may be arriving late, or I am considering deferring, my admission to a future semester. How does this rule affect me?
- 7) I am a new student who will not enter the U.S. for the fall term. I plan to enroll in all online classes from abroad. How will the new rule affect me?
- 8) I am a new student who has decided I will not attend A&M-SA in the fall 2020. What do I need to do?

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**1) I am a new F-1 student who entered the U.S. for the fall 2020 term. How does this rule affect me?**

- Based on the current rule by [U.S. Immigration Customs and Enforcement Services \(ICE\)](#), current active F-1 students who are already in the U.S. *may enroll in classes that is hybrid, online and or both.*

**2) I am a new F-1 student. Do I need an updated I-20 to apply for a visa and/or enter the U.S. for hybrid instruction?**

- The OIA assumes that some embassies may still ask for an updated I-20 confirming that the school is engaging in a hybrid, online and face-to-face model of instruction. Thus, the OIA will be reissuing I-20 to only **new** students. The new I-20 will include remarks that A&M-SA is offering an in-person, hybrid and online model of instruction. You will need to include this I-20 with your visa application and visa interview and or once you arrive at the at the U.S. port of entry to the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officer.





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The OIA will electronically email the I-20s by Tuesday, July 28th.

**3) Can I receive my I-20 electronically?**

- Yes, OIA can issue you an electronic I-20. We will email you an I-20 to the email you provided to the OIA and registered in the Student Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP). Most students provided their personal email.

**4) Can the OIA provide me with a letter for entry to the U.S. or for my visa appointment?**

- Yes, please email [international.affairs@tamusa.edu](mailto:international.affairs@tamusa.edu) to request a letter for entry to the U.S. or your visa appointment.

**5) I am a new student who is inside the U.S. and I am either transferring, changing levels or changing status to be a student at A&M-SA. How does this rule affect me?**

- **Transfer Students:** The current [ICE](#) guidance allows a hybrid, online and face-to-face model of instruction for students who choose to transfer their I-20 from one institution to another.
- **Change of Level & USCIS Change of Status students:** You will be considered a continuing student and you may engage in a hybrid, online and face-to-face model of instruction.
- **Change of Status via Travel:** If you are applying to change to F-1 via travel, you will need to depart the U.S., apply for an F-1 visa, and you will need to re-enter the U.S. to activate your F-1 status. If you plan to apply for a change of Status in the U.S., please email [international.affairs@tamusa.edu](mailto:international.affairs@tamusa.edu).

**6) I am a new F-1 new student who may be arriving late, or I am considering deferring, my admission to a future semester. How does this rule affect me?**

- The OIA recognizes that students may face difficulty in making an entry to the U.S. prior to the official start date of class. In acknowledgment of possible travel delays, the OIA strongly encourages you to communicate with your professor and with you international student advisor to inform them of your late arrival. If you will not be able to arrive in time to start the fall 2020 semester, you may want to consider enrolling in all online courses in the fall 2020, OR you may defer your semester to the spring 2021 semester.

Please email your immigration advisor at the OIA at [international.affairs@tamusa.edu](mailto:international.affairs@tamusa.edu).

**7) I am a new student who will not enter the U.S. for the fall term. I plan to enroll in all online classes from abroad. How will the new rule affect me?**

- New students may enroll in all online classes for the fall semester from abroad. You do not need a F-1 visa or I-20 to begin studies online. Please email [international.affairs@tamusa.edu](mailto:international.affairs@tamusa.edu) if you plan to





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stay outside the U.S., while attending classes online. The OIA will provide you with instructions on how to obtain a new updated I-20 when you are ready to enter to the U.S. for a new semester.

**8) I am a new student who has decided I will not attend A&M-SA in the fall 2020. What do I need to do?**

- If you cancel or withdraw your admission please notify [international.affairs@tamusa.edu](mailto:international.affairs@tamusa.edu) so that we can cancel your I-20.



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