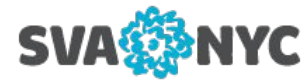


# Q & A Session - Fall 2020 Semester

International Student Office



# We are here to help!

This is a challenging time with many uncertainties about your academic plans and life in the U.S. as an international student. ISO is here to support you.

# Agenda

1

## SVA Fall 2020 Plan

Quick Recap from the Provost's Town Hall

2

## F-1 Requirements for Fall 2020

- Current / Returning Students
- New Students

**UPDATES!**

3

## Q and A



## Fall 2020 Semester

SVA is adopting a **hybrid plan**.

A combination of classes:

- in-person
- online

Start date: **September 28, 2020**

This current plan is contingent upon the NYC entering phase 4 (NYC is currently under phase 3 as of 7.16.2020).



## COVID-19 Safety

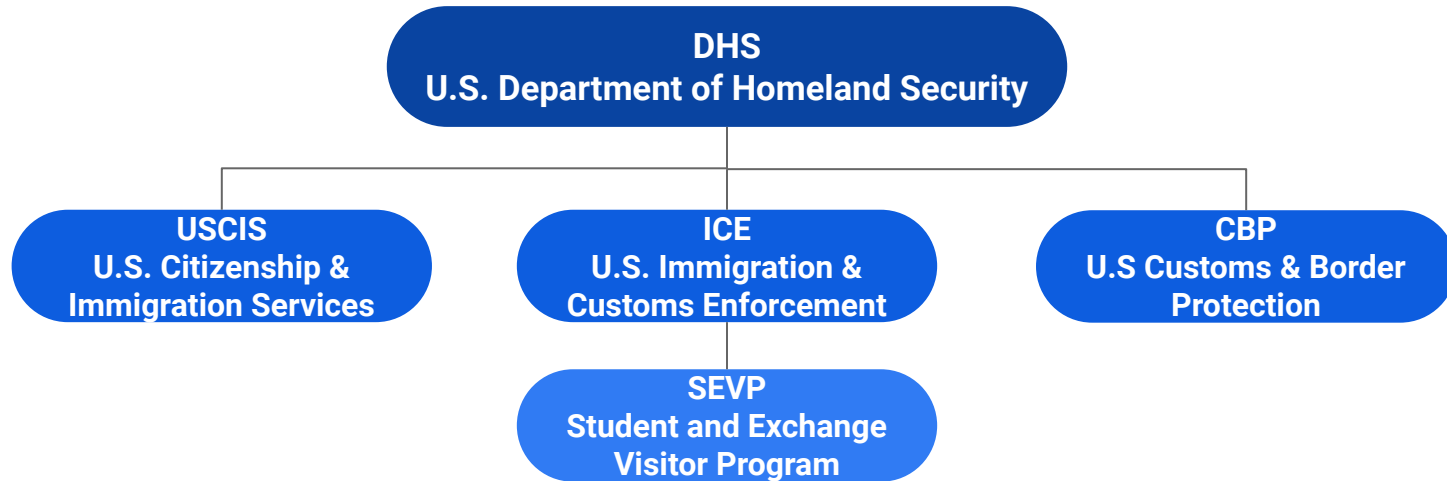
With the strict safety guidelines by the New York State Department of Health, SVA is preparing a safe environment for students to take in-person classes including reduced class sizes, limited capacity in common areas, required face covering, required health check-in and more.

# New F-1 Requirements **RESCINDED**

The new guidance for Fall 2020 announced on **July 6, 2020** by The Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) **was removed** on **July 14, 2020**.

ISO, in coordination with the College, interpreted the guidance announced in **March 2020** amid COVID-19 and how it applies to Fall 2020 for international students at SVA.

# Involved U.S. Government Agencies



DHS: <https://www.dhs.gov> USCIS: <https://www.uscis.gov> CBP: <https://www.cbp.gov> ICE & SEVP: <https://www.ice.gov>

# Successful Lobbying!

- A lawsuit/legal complaint by Harvard University and MIT joined by Google, Microsoft, Facebook and more.
  - A separate lawsuit by the State of California
  - A lawsuit by 17 states and the District of Columbia
- Presidents' Alliance Amicus Brief (opinion from the field) filed by 180 institutions **including SVA**



## Important Points

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### For Current / Returning Students

Regardless of your choice\* for the fall 2020 semester,

- You can **remain in the U.S.** to study.
- You may **return to the U.S.** for the fall 2020 semester.

~~"You must leave the U.S. if you plan to take all of your courses online for the fall semester."~~

### For New Students

- You **may apply for an F-1 visa\***, enter the U.S. to study for the fall 2020 semester unless you plan to take **all of your courses online** (see the Transfer Student section for new transfer students).

\*You must be **registered full-time** (minimum 12 credits)

# Who may enter/return to the U.S.?

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## From what we know as of July 16, 2020

- **Current / Returning Students** whether you plan to:
  - study fully online,
  - attend in-person classes, or
  - take a combination of both.
- **New Students** including **Transfer Students** who plan to:
  - attend in-person classes, or
  - take a combination of both.

# Current/Returning Students

Current Students Returning to SVA For Fall 2020

# ALL Current / Returning Students

## Currently inside the U.S.

- You **can remain in the U.S.** to study for the fall 2020 semester whether you plan to:
  1. study fully online,
  2. attend in-person classes, or
  3. take a combination of both.
- Your **F-1 status will remain active** as long as you are registered full-time, make normal progress, and successfully complete the fall semester.

## Currently outside of the U.S.

- You **can continue to stay outside of the U.S.** and take all of your courses online for the fall 2020 semester.
- You **may return to the U.S.\*** to study for the fall 2020 semester with a valid passport and F-1 visa.

\*Refer to travel sections for entering/returning to the U.S. guidance.

## Five-Month Rule

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### The five-month rule **does not apply:**

1. while the COVID-19 guidance in place, and
  2. your F-1 status remains active.
- Your F-1 status remains active as long as you are registered full-time, make normal progress, and complete the fall 2020 semester.
  - You **do not need to apply for a new F-1 visa** (as long as your current one is valid) even if you are outside of the U.S. for longer than 5 months.
  - You **can use your current I-20** as long as it has a valid travel signature.

## Taking A Leave of Absence (Gap Year)

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- Discuss with your academic advisor and request a leave of absence, in writing.
- If you are in the U.S., you **must leave the U.S. within 15 days** from the date of notification.
- Your F-1 status will be reset when returning to start your program so you will have to **be enrolled for one academic year again** in order to be eligible to apply for CPT or OPT.

Please contact ISO for more details.

# New Students

New students starting in the Fall 2020 Semester including  
the students transferring from other US institutions

# Take All Classes Online - New Student

## New Student outside the U.S.

- You **can take classes online** outside of the U.S.
- You will **not be able to apply for an F-1 visa** for Fall 2020.
- Your I-20 will be deferred to Spring 2021 (your F-1 status will not be activated in the fall 2020).

## Transfer Student **inside** of the U.S.

- You **can continue to stay in the U.S.** and take all classes online.

## Transfer Student **outside** of the U.S.

- You **may remain outside of the U.S.** to take all classes online, **however** -
- Your I-20 will not be activated until the next semester when you return to the U.S. to study full-time.



# Take Some Classes In-Person - New Student

## New Student outside of the U.S.

- You **may apply for an F-1 visa** if the U.S. Embassy/Consulate in your home country resumes F-1 visa processing.
- You **may enter the U.S.\*** to study for the fall 2020 semester.

## Transfer Student **inside** of the U.S.

- You **can continue to stay in the U.S.** to study for the fall 2020 semester.

## Transfer Student **outside** of the U.S.

- You **may return to the U.S.\*** to study for the fall 2020 semester with a valid passport and F-1 visa.

## Deferral of Admission

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- Newly admitted students can request their admission to be deferred to a future term. It is only granted for a maximum of one academic year. If longer than a year, you will be required to reapply.
- Discuss with your academic department and contact the Office of Admissions.

**SVA Admissions Counselors**  
[sva.edu/counselors](https://sva.edu/counselors)

# Travel

Travel guidance for current and new students who are eligible to enter the U.S.

- Any affecting travel restrictions **must be lifted** before your entry to the U.S
- U.S. Embassy/Consulate in your home country **must resume F-1 visa processing** if you need to apply for an F-1 visa.

# Traveling to the U.S.

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## Travel Documents:

- Passport  
(valid six months into the future)
- Valid F-1 visa
- I-20 with a valid travel signature\*
- Copy of the [SVA Fall 2020 announcement](#)
- Copy of your fall 2020 schedule

\***For current/returning students:** You can request a new travel I-20 if your travel signature is expired. Link: [iso.sva.edu](https://iso.sva.edu)

## New Students with Initial I-20



- You can only enter the U.S. **30 days** before the fall program starts (an exception applies to transfer students).
- Your initial I-20 does not need a travel signature, page 2 should be blank.
- The U.S. Embassy /Consulate must resume F-1 visa processing and you must obtain an F-1 visa before your entry to the U.S.

# U.S. Embassies and Consulates - Applying For an F-1 Visa

- Some of the U.S. Embassies and Consulates resumed routine visa processing.
- Certain U.S. Embassies and Consulates are accepting **expedited appointment requests**.
  - Check your local US Embassy or Consulate website for updated information.

# Resources

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## The Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP)

<https://www.ice.gov/sevis>

## NY State Department of Health

[https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/Higher\\_Education\\_Detailed\\_Guidelines.pdf](https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/Higher_Education_Detailed_Guidelines.pdf)

## School of Visual Arts

Registrar: [registrar@sva.edu](mailto:registrar@sva.edu)

Student Accounts: [studentaccounts@sva.edu](mailto:studentaccounts@sva.edu)

Student Affairs: [studentaffairs@sva.edu](mailto:studentaffairs@sva.edu)

Student Health and Counseling Services: [health@sva.edu](mailto:health@sva.edu)

Residence Life: [reslife@sva.edu](mailto:reslife@sva.edu)

## SVA International Student Office FAQ


<https://sva.edu/features/message-from-sva-about-covid-19-novel-coronavirus#internationalStudents>

# Q & A

Please follow our  
Instagram! [@sva\\_iso](https://www.instagram.com/sva_iso)

International Student Office



**SVA**  **NYC**