



INTERNATIONAL

March 30, 2020

Dear Cal State LA International Student:

We understand that many of you still have questions about travel, virtual/online learning and immigration status. Our International Office has developed an [IPGE Alert web page](#) that addresses these questions and provides additional information. Please check it often for updates.

In the meantime, below are services we have available for you now. Additionally, I have provided some answers to some key questions we have received in our office:

1. Create an Online Advising Appointment [here](#):

- Once an appointment is scheduled, a Zoom link will be emailed to the student from an advisor.
- An assessment survey will be emailed to the student following the advisement session.

2. To Access the Virtual Office during the hours below, use this [link](#):

Monday	10:00 to 11:30 a.m.
Tuesday	10:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.
Wednesday	2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Thursday	2:30 to 4:00 p.m.
Friday	3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

3. Online/Virtual Courses: As an F-1 Visa student, you are allowed to complete courses virtually from within the United States or from abroad (your home country). Currently, all Cal State LA students will continue to receive instruction that does not require face-to-face interaction now through finals week. More recently, President Covino has announced that non face-to-face instruction will continue during the Spring 2020 semester.

- Learn how to use Canvas [here](#).

4. Traveling Back to Your Country: Under current conditions, if you leave the United States to complete the spring semester online, your SEVIS record will remain in Active status and not be terminated. While the temporary measures related to COVID-19 are in place, students are deemed to be maintaining status if they are making normal progress in their course of study. For that reason, the five-month temporary absence provision will not apply for students who remain in Active status. SEVP will allow you to temporarily count online classes toward a full course of study,

even if you have left the United States and are taking the online classes elsewhere. **This temporary provision is only in effect due to COVID-19.**

5. I-20 Expiration Date: If your current I-20 expires on May 23, 2020, or if you are in your final semester of coursework and on track to graduate this semester, you should consider staying in the United States and finishing the semester. If your I-20 is going to expire this semester (Spring 2020) and it is not your final semester, please make an appointment with an International Student Advisor to extend your I-20. Schedule an appointment [here](#).

I hope this update is helpful for you. We understand and respect your decision as to whether you should return home or stay at Cal State LA. Please contact us via email at international@calstatela.edu or you can set up an online Advising Appointment [here](#), if you wish to discuss further.

Please bookmark the [IPGE Alert web page](#) for easier access.

Whatever you decide, please let us know so that we can assist you during this extraordinary time.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jimmy Solis
Director, International Programs and Global Engagement