

# International Students FAQs about COVID-19

## **Q1: I am new incoming F-1 student what should I do?**

A1: If you are already in the United States as a new or transfer student holding an active F-1 status, you can begin your studies at Quincy College. You are allowed to take online classes for the upcoming academic semester, due to the current COVID-19, F-1 accommodations. This guidance applies to f-1 students currently in the U.S.

Please be advised that if you are an initial F-1 student outside of the U.S. and do not currently hold active F-1 status, the new COVID-19 F-1 accommodations do not apply to you.

## **Q2: Does the college's transition to online delivery affect my visa status as a current student?**

A2: The Department of Homeland Security's Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) has temporality approved, current students in the United States, the flexibility to take online or remote courses to maintain full-time status.

## **Q3: Am I able to go my home country and complete my courses?**

A3: Yes, you can go home. If you decide to return to your home country or leave the United States, we highly recommend you regularly review current health and travel advisories at [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov).

## **Q4: If I go back to my home country, are there any restrictions on me being able to return to Quincy College for the following term? And If I am outside of the United States for longer than five months, will this affect my F-1 status?**

A4: If you decide to leave the United States, we highly recommend you review any travel advisories at [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov).

The Department of Homeland Security's Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) has confirmed that international students maintaining active F-1 status will not be subject to the five-month temporary absence rule.

## **Q5: If there are no travel restrictions, can I come home sooner?**

A5: If there are no current travel restrictions, it is your choice to travel.

# International Students FAQs about COVID-19

**Q6: During this time, will my F-1 status stay active?**

A6: Throughout this temporary F-1 accommodation period, your F-1 record will not be impacted, as long as you are engaged in online courses.

**Q7: What do I do if I am graduating or my I-20 is expiring soon?**

A7: If you need an extension of your I-20, or you are graduating please contact Bilun Ozbilen at [bozbilen@quincycollege.edu](mailto:bozbilen@quincycollege.edu) to review your status and see what steps you need to take.

**Q8: If I am graduating, can I apply for Optional Practical Training or transfer to another institution?**

A8: Contact Bilun Ozbilen [bozbilen@quincycollege.edu](mailto:bozbilen@quincycollege.edu) to review your eligibility for POST OPT.

Yes, you can still transfer your record to another institution.

For both OPT and transfer out please be advised to apply 60 days prior to the end date on your I-20.

**Q9: If the college transitions back to on-ground classes, will I have problems coming back to the United States?**

A9: Prior to travel please make sure to contact [bozbilen@quincycollege.edu](mailto:bozbilen@quincycollege.edu) to review your current status. Make sure you have the proper travel documents (i.e. current signed I-20, valid passport and valid visa).

**Q10: How long will travel restrictions be in place?**

A10: Unfortunately, at this time it is unknown.

**Q11: How do I get a travel signature?**

A11: The Department of Homeland Security's Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP of Homeland Security's Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP

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announced during this Covid-19 F-1 accommodation period, digital I-20 forms with a scanned signature is allowed and can be sent via email to your Quincy College email.

Travel signatures are not essential when you depart the United States however, are required for re-entry. You can leave the U.S. and we can send you the I-20 via email 2 weeks prior to your return date.

## **Q12: Can I register for the Summer and Fall semester?**

A12: Yes! You can contact one of our international advisors through zoom, email or phone. We can advise and register you 100% remotely.