

March 20, 2020

OISS COVID-19 UPDATE: Travel Update and OISS Processing

Dear Students,

We hope that the transition to online format in your classes has gone smoothly so far. Many of you have reached out to the OISS for follow-up on travel and questions regarding reporting and processing. To assist with some of these questions, please see the information below:

TRAVEL UPDATE:

As of Wednesday, March 18, 2020, the university announced that **online/virtual class program delivery will be extended through the end of the winter 2020 semester, April 27th.**

As such, in accordance with the recent Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) guidance, students who depart may complete their classes in online/virtual format through the rest of the winter 2020 term from their home country or country of residence. **Please be advised students whose last term is scheduled for summer 2020 may be required to return to campus to resume face-to-face classes.*

With this new update, students who maintain their academic requirements will still have an Active SEVIS record. However, the OISS STRONGLY recommends students to schedule their return within 5 months of their departure date to avoid any potential issues.

Please note that departing the U.S. carries many risks. Please try to be mindful of border closures, travel restrictions, and mandatory quarantines.

Any student with a **near expired or expired visa may want to reconsider travel as the Department of State has announced yesterday that most U.S. consulates and embassies have suspended routine visa services:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/News/visas-news/suspension-of-routine-visa-services.html>

**Effective immediately students who feel that they must depart the U.S. are required to report their departure plans through the OISS Departure Form [here](#).

Please be advised you will need to log out of all Google accounts prior to accessing the link as you will be required to log in with your emich credentials. In addition, please send a copy of your flight itinerary to oiiss@emich.edu.

Contacting the OISS

Any questions or concerns can be emailed to oiss@emich.edu . Be sure to include your EMU student ID in the email. Please do NOT send these types of emails to the oiss_forms@emich.edu email or both email addresses. Sending an email to both will not help get a response sooner, it will only cause additional delays. Please be patient with us as we try to respond as quickly as we can.

Form/Document Submission

The OISS is currently operating remotely from campus, for any forms or documents submissions, please send them to: oiss_forms@emich.edu .

Form/Document Pick-up

The office continues to serve our students in a virtual/online environment and in-person services are not available at the moment. If you would like the I-20 or other documents sent to you, you may submit an eShipGlobal request.

Directions on how to submit a request can be found here:

<https://www.emich.edu/oiss/about/mailing.php>

OR, students can wait until the office re-opens to pick up their I-20 and other documents.

*Please refer to the previous update and note that the OISS is unable to accommodate travel signature requests at this time. We will continue to keep you updated regarding this issue.

CPT/OPT Seminars

The in-person CPT and OPT seminars scheduled in April have been canceled. Students can still complete their seminars online through the Canvas system. If you are not able to view the CPT or OPT seminar, please email oiss@emich.edu .

CPT Students

Students currently on CPT for this winter 2020 term should notify the OISS by email (oiss@emich.edu) if:

- You were approved for full-time CPT, but are now working 20 hours or less
- Your work site location has changed (included working remote from home)
- You are no longer employed by the employer (please include end date of employment)

OPT/STEM Students

Students on OPT/STEM OPT should **submit an IR-12/IR-24 update** if:

- Work site location has changed (included working remote from home)
- Employment has been terminated by employer

Taxes

GTP tax codes are still available. Please email oiss_forms@emich.edu from your emich account and be sure to include your name and student ID number.

The OISS is operating remotely from campus and we are unable to meet with students who may be required to file for an ITIN (International Tax Identification Number). If you are in need of filling an ITIN (W-7), please advise when requesting a tax code at oiss_forms@emich.edu.

University Updates

Please be sure to check your email for up-to-date alerts from EMU.

You can also view all updates at the EMU University Health Services page:
<https://www.emich.edu/uhs/coronavirus/>

Please see the most recent updates this week for information including:

- Spring Commencement date postponed
- Halle Library and Rec IM closures
- Campus Dining changes
- Computer lab in Halle opening
- Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) support by phone

Please also be sure to keep yourself and others around you healthy. Please see Prevention Tips from the Washtenaw County Health Department here:

<https://www.emich.edu/uhs/coronavirus/documents/prevention-tips.pdf>

All important OISS updates have been and will continue to be sent to your emich.edu email accounts.

We hope you are well and safe.

Best Regards,
Office for International Students & Scholars
oiss@emich.edu