



LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY
APPLETON, WISCONSIN

December 29, 2020

To Whom It May Concern
U.S. Department of State Consular Services
United States Customs and Border Protection

Dear Officer:

Lawrence University wishes to provide additional information regarding our Winter 2021 operations for F-1 international students:

Winter 2021 Operations

Lawrence University will be operating with in-person, hybrid, and online learning options for the Winter 2021 Term. Lawrence University **will not** be operating fully online and students in initial status **will not** be enrolled in fully online coursework. This information has been conveyed to SEVP as part of the Temporary Procedural Adaptation permitted to schools as a result of COVID-19.

Electronic Form I-20 Issuance

Lawrence is issuing electronic I-20s with digital signatures, in accordance with the SEVP COVID-19 guidance, which also assures the cooperation from the Department of State and Customs and Border Protection. SEVP's COVID-19 FAQ can be found at www.ice.gov/doclib/coronavirus/covid19faq.pdf:

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8. Can a certified school issue Forms I-20 electronically?

A. Yes, DSOs may electronically send Forms I-20 to student email addresses listed in SEVIS. In the case of a minor student, the email address may belong to their parent or legal guardian. Schools do not need to request permission from SEVP or report their plans to electronically send Forms I-20 as part of their COVID-19 procedural changes.

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2. What methods can DSOs use to sign and send Forms I-20?

A. SEVP has identified the following methods to sign and send the Form I-20:

- Email a scanned version of the physically signed Form I-20;
- Email a digitally signed Form I-20 using electronic signature software; or
- Email a digitally signed Form I-20 that contains a digitally reproduced copy of a physical signature.

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5. Has SEVP worked with both the U.S. Department of State and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) in developing the policy to accept the use of electronic signatures during the COVID-19 emergency?

A. SEVP coordinated with both the Department of State and CBP regarding the policy to allow electronic issuance and signing of Forms I-20 for the duration of the COVID19 emergency. Both agencies are in support of this action.



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I-20 Remarks

In accordance with the now rescinded July 6th guidance, some Lawrence students have remarks that indicate they will not be in fully online coursework. Most Lawrence students do not have these remarks. Lawrence is operating in accordance with the information provided in the Clarifying Questions for Fall 2020 Based on March 9 Spring Guidance Broadcast (page 5) available at <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/coronavirus/covid19faq.pdf>.

Initial Status Students

While it is suggested that students in initial status arrive prior to the start of classes (January 4), due to embassy closures and travel restrictions worldwide, Lawrence University has implemented procedures that will allow initial status students to join their programs on campus by January 10, 2021. Please note that I-20 Program Start Dates will not be adjusted in SEVIS or on the student's printed I-20 to reflect a later Program Start Date.

Active Status Students

As the March 2020 guidance permits active status students to maintain valid F-1 status from outside of the U.S. by enrolling in a full course of study, there is no Winter 2021 arrival deadline based on immigration requirements, for students in continued attendance/active status. For students taking in person classes, it is expected they arrive by January 10, 2021.

Thank you for your consideration. Should any additional information be necessary, please contact me at leah.d.mcsorley@lawrence.edu or 608-576-5708 (mobile).

Sincerely,

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