

We are contacting you with the most up to date information regarding travel to the United States. Due to recent developments surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic and newly issued travel guidance and restrictions, we encourage you to carefully consider your international travel plans this winter. As evident by the most recent travel restrictions update that went into place on November 29th, new restrictions may be issued with little to no advance notice.

While there is always some risk with international travel, the pandemic is adding additional risk and concern.

Below is some important information regarding the following:

- Recent presidential proclamation restricting travel from specific countries
- Vaccination requirements for air travelers to the United States
- Testing requirements for air travelers to the United States
- I-20 travel signatures

Country Specific Travel Restrictions

Effective November 29, 2021, with specific exceptions, this [Presidential Proclamation](#) suspends the entry into the U.S. of non-citizens who were physically present within the following countries during the 14-day period preceding their entry or attempted entry into the U.S. For a full list of exceptions, please refer to the [Proclamation](#).

[Restricted Countries](#)

Botswana	Mozambique
Eswatini	Namibia
Lesotho	South Africa
Malawi	Zimbabwe

It is possible additional countries will be added to this list. We will update you when additional information becomes available. Please carefully monitor your SAIC email.

Vaccine Requirements

Effective November 8, 2021, all non-immigrant, non-citizen air travelers to the United States are required to be fully vaccinated and to provide proof of vaccination status with a WHO approved vaccine before boarding an airplane to the United States. You may find more details [here](#).

[WHO-approved vaccines:](#)

J&J/Janssen	Pfizer
Moderna	Astra Zeneca

CoViShield
Covaxin

Sinopharm
Sinovac: CoronaVac

Full vaccination occurs 14 full days after receipt of the final dose of a vaccine (either one dose of a one-dose series, or both doses of a two-dose series). As a reminder, all students planning to live in the residence halls, attend in-person classes, or access campus buildings must be fully vaccinated and provide proof of vaccination to SAIC Health Services. Information can be found on our [Make Together website](#).

Updated Testing Requirements

Effective December 6, 2021, travelers to the U.S. must present a negative Covid-19 test within one day of their planned travel to the U.S. For additional information, including information about acceptable tests, please visit the [CDC website](#).

Travel Signatures

Whether you are traveling outside the U.S. for the winter break or are currently outside the U.S. and planning to return for the winter or spring semesters, please be sure you have a valid travel signature.

Students in active F-1 status (inside or outside the U.S.) with a current I-20:

Please check the date of your travel signature on page 2 of your Form I-20. Travel signatures are valid for 12 months (signatures are valid for 6 months for recent SAIC graduates on OPT). If you require a new travel signature, you can drop your I-20 off at our office and it will be signed and available for pick-up the following day. If you are able to come to our office during our walk-in hour (12-1 p.m. Monday through Friday), we can sign your I-20 for travel right away. If you are not currently in Chicago, you can request a reprinted I-20 with a travel signature to be sent to you through [this form](#).

Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

I-20, Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status
OMB NO. 1653-0038

SEVIS ID: N0004705512 (F-1) NAME: John Doe Smith

EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION

EMPLOYMENT STATUS	TYPE
EMPLOYMENT START DATE	EMPLOYMENT END DATE
EMPLOYER NAME	EMPLOYER LOCATION
COMMENTS	

CHANGE OF STATUS/CAP-GAP EXTENSION

REQUESTED VISA TYPE	REQUEST PETITION STATUS	RECEIPT NUMBER	BENEFIT START DATE	REQUEST DATE
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EVENT HISTORY

EVENT NAME	EVENT DATE
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OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS

AUTHORIZATION	START DATE	END DATE
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TRAVEL ENDORSEMENT

This page when properly endorsed, may be used for reentry of the student to attend the same school after a temporary absence from the United States. Each certification signature is valid for one year.

SCHOOL OFFICIAL	TITLE	SIGNATURE	DATE ISSUED	PLACE ISSUED
		X		
		X		
		X		
		X		



If you are currently outside of the U.S. and do not have an I-20, and plan to travel to the U.S., please contact our office as soon as possible.

Again, the Covid-19 pandemic continues to evolve and many of these rules can change quickly and with little advance warning. We will continue to provide updates as they become available. If you do choose to travel internationally this winter, please be sure to check local travel restrictions and airline requirements prior to travelling, monitor your SAIC email, and contact our office if you have any questions.

Questions?

intaff@saic.edu

312-629-6830

saic.edu/international

Virtual Walk In Advising over [Zoom](#) (12-1 PM Monday through Friday)

In Person Walk In Advising: 12 - 1PM Sullivan 1203 (pink lobby)