

First Year International Students Breakout Session (9:00-10:00 am, June 23)

Discussion moderators: Karen Edwards, Associate Dean and Director of International Student Affairs, and Brenda Strong, Assistant Director of International Student Affairs

S&B Reporters:

Introductions

- Session is primarily for students with F1 visas
- Because of the high volume of emails, OISA would prefer that international students/their parents send emails only to one email address at a time (i.e. to Karen Edwards, Brenda Strong, Molly Ullestad, OR [oisa], but not all of them cc'd on one email)
- Webpage with info specifically for international students:
<https://www.grinnell.edu/campus-life/health-wellness/coronavirus/students/international>

Students currently living on campus

- For the most part, students living on campus must register for all blocks in both semesters.
- OISA must “monitor [those students’] physical presence” while they remain on campus (if an international student moves to an off-campus house, they must notify OISA within 10 days)
- International students who left campus for the summer must petition to live on campus again
- International students living off-campus must be living within 10 miles of the school
- “The most critical criteria for the petition process will be students who do not have a place to live”
- Residence life will not be approving any more people to live off-campus (this applies to all students, not just international students)

International students not living on campus

- Taking a leave will end students’ “current F1 status”, so returning to campus would require reapplying for a visa, paying SEVIS fee again, and taking two semesters of classes to regain F1 status

- The school recommends that international students currently not living in the US remain taking classes remotely and return only when “invited” by the school
- International students taking classes remotely may enroll either full- or part-time
- Students living outside the US cannot work remotely for the college (for reasons to do with US labor/tax laws) and need-based financial aid that includes a work-study award will be adjusted to reflect this

Incoming international students

- Grinnell will hold an online IPOP
- All new (and returning) students will need to stay in a hotel (at the college’s expense) for COVID-19 testing before moving into campus living

Q&A with Karen Edwards

- International student status will not have an effect on likelihood of being invited back to campus
- No tuition discount for online classes
- Hoping that international students invited back to campus will be able to stay for more than one block, considering travel expenses and time commitments
- Likely that students will be able to stay on campus during the winter break (which is very long - 7 weeks)
- OISA will work with students who need to live somewhere in the US that’s not on campus (considering that SEVIS requires OISA to monitor the locations of all international students on F1 visas)
- OISA is trying to figure out a way for international students living outside the US to waive the health-insurance enrollment requirement
- Quarantine process will be the same for international and domestic students
- Advise flying to Des Moines rather than Chicago to avoid need for public transit, reduce transmission risk
- Students who have been on leave and have not returned to the US are not subject to F1 rules
- College insurance plan (which all international students in the US must have) provides “good” coverage for COVID-19 treatment
- Edwards advises that students talk to their academic advisors to get a sense of when they might be invited back to campus
- Potential for US’s list of countries w/ no travel allowed to expand “with little or zero warning”
- International students living on campus as a result of a petition may end up taking online classes anyway if none of their classes are considered “high-touch” (but will still be allowed to do paid work)



→ Additional questions can be sent to oisa@grinnell.edu