This information is only for current NJIT students. If you are a new student, contact us directly at global@njit.edu.

GENERAL QUESTIONS

Is it safe for international students to come to the campus?
Our university has been working very hard to keep students, staff, and faculty safe. In fact, we started reopening in June for staff and faculty. Our Pandemic Recovery Committee has been working diligently to ensure our campus is safe for all. We encourage all students to check our website for more information https://www.njit.edu/pandemicrecovery/.

If there is a second wave which forces the university to close, what will happen to F-1 students? Will students be asked to leave the country?
According to the July 24 guidance, students will be allowed to remain in the country and take all courses online or a combination of converged and online.

How will emergencies involving healthcare be taken care of?
The NJIT student health insurance provided by AETNA is extremely good and will provide coverage for most matters. If students are demonstrating any symptoms of COVID-19, they should go to health services to get checked immediately.

What happens to students who are overseas and decide not to/cannot come back to the US for the fall semester?
Students have the following options:

Stay in their home country and take all classes online if this option is conducive to their country’s regulation about online access, internet bandwidth, etc. Students must maintain a full course load (12 credits undergraduate, 9 credits graduate) to keep their SEVIS record active.

Stay in their home country and take a leave of absence. The student will not take any classes in the fall 2020 semester and plan to return to the US in spring 2021. The student SEVIS record will be terminated and a new I-20 will be issued for spring 2021. If spring 2021 is the student’s last semester, he/she will not qualify for OPT.
REGISTRATION FOR FALL

How do students know which classes to register for?
Based on the July 24 guidance, students can take any combination of online or converged courses. Students may take all their classes online if they wish, and their SEVIS record will remain active. Please note that the Office of the Registrar is still updating our fall schedule, therefore you may not see a list of all converged courses that will be offered. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we have been working diligently to make this information available as soon as possible. We anticipate the final updated schedule will be posted at the end of July.

Will students who already registered for the fall semester have to register again? How can students know if their current class registration meets the new requirements?
Students who already registered for fall do not have to re-register but they must check their registration and ensure that they are registered for enough credits to maintain their status (12 credits if undergraduate and 9 credits if graduate). Last semester and dissertations continue to be an exception to this rule; students can register for only the number of credits they need.

If fall 2020 is the student’s final semester, does he/she have to be registered full time? Do students have to take at least one converged class if it’s their final semester?
According to the July 24 guidance, current students can take all their classes online. During their last semester, students can take only the courses needed to complete their program. If students in their final semester are taking less than a full course load, they must complete the online full-time certification form in the NJIT Pipeline.

If the student is outside of the US in the fall 2020 and wants to keep his/her SEVIS record active, does he/she have to maintain a full course load?
Yes. In order to maintain their SEVIS record active, students must maintain a full course load, as if they were in the US. Failure to do so will result in SEVIS record termination. Part-time enrollment is allowed by the university but the SEVIS record will be terminated.

What is the last day for students to change their schedules?
NJIT’s regular policies for dropping and adding classes will apply to the fall semester. After September 8, students will only be allowed to withdraw from classes and the withdrawal refund policy will apply.

EMPLOYMENT

Are students still allowed to apply for CPT in the fall?
Yes. Students should apply using the Handshake application and work with CDS on their application. In order to maintain status, students are required to register for the co-op course for the fall 2020 semester and at least 1 additional course required for their program to ensure they are making progress toward graduation.

If students are outside of the US during fall 2020 and graduate in December 2020, will they be eligible to apply for OPT after graduation?
At this time, we cannot guarantee that students finishing their degree will be eligible for OPT because USCIS requires students to be in the US when they apply for OPT. The July 24 guidance did not address this issue. We are still waiting for more guidance regarding OPT. As soon as information is made available we will post it here.
If students are outside of the US during fall 2020, but return to the US for spring 2021 and graduate in May 2021, will they be eligible to apply for CPT in the spring or OPT after graduation?
If the student maintained a full course load in fall 2020 and returned to the US in spring 2021 to finish their degree, they would be eligible to apply for OPT when they graduate. They would also be eligible for CPT during spring 2021.

If students are outside of the US during fall 2020, but return to the US for spring 2021 and graduate December 2021 (or beyond), when will they be eligible for CPT? Will they be eligible for OPT after they graduate?
If the student maintained a full course load in fall 2020 and returned to the US in spring 2021 to finish their degree, they would be eligible to apply for OPT when they graduate. They would also be eligible for CPT during spring 2021.

If fall 2020 is the student’s final semester and he/she is in the US, will the student be able to apply for post-completion OPT?
Yes, students will be able to apply for post-completion OPT as long as they meet the usual requirements for applying. Refer to the OGI website for instructions on how to apply for OPT at the appropriate time.

Can students apply for fall CPT if they will be outside of the US?
CPT is a benefit usually offered for students who are in the US. The July 24 guidance does not address the issue of CPT. If the student is outside the US in fall 2020 and wants to apply for CPT, he/she should contact the OGI for additional information. As soon as updated guidance regarding employment is available we will post it here.

TRAVEL

If a student plans to travel outside of the US later this summer, will he/she be able to return to the US in time for the fall semester?
Current students should be allowed to return if they have a valid visa. They will need a valid I-20 with a travel signature. The government is no longer requiring a notation on the I-20s. Please note that the OGI cannot guarantee re-entry to the US at any time.

What if, because of reasons beyond their control (flights canceled, country lockdown, visa not granted, etc.), students are not able to return to the US before September 8? Can they come back after that date?
If students are not able to return to the US (for any reason) before September 8, they should email our office at global@njit.edu and let us know about their fall plans. We discourage students from planning to return after September 8 as they may be prevented from re-entering the US. Additional guidance for fall 2020 travel has not been released yet. We will post any updates here.

Students who do not return by September 8 will have the following options (depending on their internet connectivity and the regulations of their home country regarding online classes):

1) Take a full course load online (SEVIS record remains active) – please note that not all classes may be offered in an asynchronous online mode
2) Take a leave of absence for the fall 2020 semester (SEVIS record is terminated)
3) Enroll part-time (one or two online classes) to continue to make progress toward the degree (no leave of absence required but SEVIS record is terminated)

If the student is currently outside of the US, how late can he/she return to NJIT for the fall semester?
Students need to be back at NJIT by the end of the drop-add period (September 8). If they cannot return by this date then they must contact the OGI immediately by emailing global@njit.edu. After September 8, students will only be allowed to withdraw from classes and the withdrawal refund policy will apply. Even if students have a valid visa and a travel signature, they should not try to return to the US in the middle of the semester.

If the student decides to stay home in fall 2020 but return to the US in spring 2021, will he/she need a new I-20 AND a new visa?
The student may not need a new I-20 if their SEVIS record remained active in the fall. If their I-20 was terminated, they will need a new one with a new SEVIS number. If the F-1 visa is expired, the student will need to reapply for a new visa at the nearest US consulate or embassy. If the F-1 visa is still valid, the student can reuse it. Please note that entry to the US is always at the discretion of the immigration officer at the airport.

If the student has been outside of the US for more than 5 months, will the “5-month rule” apply?
The 5-month rule is a regulation that requires the university to issue a new I-20 with a new SEVIS number to students who are outside the US for more than 5 months. According to the July 24 guidance, students whose SEVIS records have been active since spring 2020 (students who were registered full time in the spring), will not be subject to the 5-month rule if they register full time for fall 2020. Students whose SEVIS records were terminated will be subject to the rule.

FOR Ph.D. STUDENTS

Are Ph.D. students, during the dissertation phase of their program, required to register for 9 credits?
No, Ph.D. can register for their dissertation credits only. The student should refer to the academic department for more information about funding if the student is abroad.

Can Ph.D. students maintain their F-1 status if they are outside of the US in the fall 2020 semester and taking only dissertation or predoctoral research credit?
Yes, per July 24 guidance, students who maintain their full-time status can keep their SEVIS record active. However, depending on the type of research students do, they may be required to be in the US. Students should contact their departments for additional guidance regarding physical presence requirements and funding.

Can Ph.D. students with departmental funding continue to receive their funding if they are outside of the US in the fall 2020 semester?
Normally, graduate students must be in the US to receive support. The issue of departmental funding is currently under consideration and further clarification will be available soon.