International Student Town Hall

July 10, 2020 Zoom Webinar

Panelists

- Allen Groves
  Associate Vice President and University Dean of Students
- Steve Mull
  Vice Provost for Global Affairs
- Mark Rhoads
  President, McCandlish Holton PC; Director, Immigration Practice Group
- Richard Tanson
  Senior International Student and Scholar Advisor & Program Manager
- Linda Callihan
  International Student and Scholar Advisor
- Rachel Most
  Associate Dean for Undergraduate Academic Programs & Professor
- Phil Trella
  Director, Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs
- Chris Holstege
  Director of UVA Student Health & Professor

Moderator

- Dudley Doane
  Director of International Studies Office

Event Details:  Link

Video Recording:  Link (dwz.cn/NE5Q8yNA)
Dudley Doane

- **00:01:13** Good morning everyone. My name is Dudley Doane. I'm the Director of the International Studies Office at the University of Virginia, and it's my pleasure to welcome you to this town hall this morning that we are hosting for members of our international community, faculty, staff and other interested individuals. This will be the first of four weekly Town Halls. We will have the subsequent Town Halls on Fridays in July and into August. We are fortunate to have a group of panelists around the university, who will present on the work that they do, and that will be followed by a question answer period. We want to take care of a little housekeeping here. First of all, we have over 1,000 people registered for this event this morning. Very exciting. The session is being recorded the recording will be available via the International Student and Scholar website: issp.virginia.edu.

About 12 hours ago, the ISSP [International Students & Scholars Program] group sent out an FAQ [“FAQ on SEVP Guidance for Fall Semester 2020,” July 9, 2020] focused on the SEVP [Student and Exchange Visitor Program] guidelines that were issued on Monday [“Broadcast Message: COVID-19 and Fall 2020,” July 6, 2020] that went to all international students, new and continuing. We also included a link to a survey through which we hope to collect data on student plans for fall 2020. Please complete that survey as soon as you can. We have a great panel this morning. I want to thank them for their time. Each panelists will offer a brief self-introduction, review areas of responsibility, and talk a little bit about how that office works with our international student community. And I will turn this over to Steve Mull, who is our Vice Provost for Global Affairs, and is the first panelist to speak this morning.

Steve Mull

- **00:03:20** Thanks very much, Dr. Doane, and warm greetings to all of our international students around the world. Good morning, good afternoon,
Good evening, wherever you are. We're very happy to spend this time with you here from Charlottesville. As Dudley mentioned, I work as the University's Vice Provost for Global Affairs, in which capacity I serve as the University’s senior policy officer on global engagement, and - most importantly for you - the status and wellbeing of all of our international students here on Grounds. I bring very Warm greetings from President Jim Ryan and Provost Liz Magill, both of whom asked me to pass along to you their warm welcome to you - or welcome back - to the University as we get ready for the fall.

As they wrote in their message to you earlier this week UVA, international students are an essential part of our identity as a university and are integral members of our community. We are, and I know I speak for everyone on the panel here, are deeply sensitive to this special challenges all of you faced this year, including issues with getting visas, travel and border restrictions, flight availability, and now, as we know, the recent proposed new immigration regulation, which we look forward to discussing in detail this morning.

We as a university are eager to do whatever we can to ease these challenges for you and to support you every step of the way. And in connection with that, we're pleased that we've already been able to guarantee online instruction to every one of you, whether or not you are able to come to Charlottesville this fall or not, and we are committed to continue to provide that as long as you need it.

We have also introduced the possibility of deferring your arrival and enrollment until the spring semester. We of course also invite you to apply for a full Gap Year, if you would like to delay your enrollment for a year. We will also be working very hard against this new immigration regulation. We are right now considering the best ways to put pressure on the US government to block implementation of this regulation, but regardless of whether we and others succeed, we have succeeded in getting all 12 of our schools here at UVA to guarantee all of you who are able to come to Charlottesville some in-person instruction so that you will be in compliance with the regulation, if it is implemented. As I said, we'll wait and see what happens on that. We look forward to staying in close contact with you throughout the few forthcoming months. Starting yesterday we sent out a newsletter. That will come out every Thursday updating you and all of our community on issues related to opening. I encourage you to look at that newsletter every week, and of course, let us know your questions, not only today in the Town Hall, but going forward, I very much look forward to hearing your questions, so we can
be sure we are staying engaged and ahead of all of your concerns to support you during this challenging time. Now it's my great honor to introduce, we're so pleased to have with us today, UVA's Dean of Students, Allen Groves.

Allen Groves

- **00:07:03** Thank you, Steve. So welcome, everyone this morning. I'll be brief. I first want to extend to you have the same sentiments that Steve did, and that is our international students are such an important and vibrant piece of what makes UVA a global institution. Everyone benefits from your presence at our university, and the engagement and the discussions we have - and what you bring to those discussions - is critically important, so we look forward to having you here.

In terms of the role that I play as Dean of Students for the university, the pieces that report to me include orientation of all the new students that come in to orient them through various programs to the university. Then in addition to that, Housing and Resident Life, which is for our students who live on our campus, what we call on our Grounds, all of those residential facilities that are on the University's property itself. All the student organizations that we have, including many cultural organizations, involving folks from different international communities, politics, religion, all those kinds of things. We work to support those. And then critically, the issues around safety and security, making sure that our students are safe, making sure that they feel comfortable [with] any issues or concerns that they have outside the classroom. Those are the kinds of things that we deal with in the Office of the Dean of Students. So again, I also look forward to hearing your questions and hopefully providing responsive information that may help to put your mind at ease at what I know is a challenging time. With that, I want to turn to my colleague and friend, Dr. Chris Holstege, who runs our Student Health unit, as well as is an emergency room physician. So, Chris:

Chris Holstege

- **00:08:40** Yeah. Welcome. It's great to be able to talk to you briefly here today and to answer your questions that you have. I’m Executive Director of Student Health and Wellness, as Allen Groves stated. As an important entity at the University of Virginia, this entity is comprised of four units one of those is Medical Services, to assure that medically if you have health concerns that arise we can take care of those, and that is everything from infectious diseases to trauma, to just simple things, such as having a laceration that
needs to be repaired. It's also comprised of the Counseling and Psychological Services, where you can get counseling services at the University of Virginia and psychiatric services. The Student Disability Access Center that gives accessibility for various conditions, to make sure that you can matriculate easily at the University of Virginia if you need accommodations. And finally, there's the offices of Health Promotion that really gets out towards some of the best wellness and evidence-based materials for education for you as you're matriculating at the University of Virginia.

I know that some of you have had questions already, for example you've seen communications in regards to the Pre-Entrance Health Form, to make sure that vaccines are up to date. And for those of you who will not be traveling to UVA and not coming on site, those will be delayed so actually you do not need to complete those. There's also some insurance requirements. We want to make sure that if you're at the University of Virginia, you have appropriate insurance in case something happens, and we have a world class Health System that can also help you, and that's where your health insurance would kick in. But likewise, if you're not onsite and starting with online, that also is not due until a later date, unless you're here on site. So I'm happy to take questions. We are really dedicated to your health to your wellbeing, while you're here. To all the students, and again, I'd like to welcome you to our university and what we have to offer. And with that, I'm going to hand you over to Rachel Most, who will be speaking to you next:

Rachel Most

- **00:10:50** Thank you, Chris. I'm Rachel Most. I'm the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Academic Programs in the College of Arts and Sciences, which is the undergraduate side of Arts and Sciences. In that role, I oversee 12 academic deans in support of all of the students in Arts and Sciences, and I work very closely with all of the people in my position in the other undergraduate schools to support our undergraduate students. I work very closely with the International Studies Office to support our international students and to and to support our students who go abroad on various study abroad programs, and to create new programs for our students, because we're very committed to both your role at the University of Virginia and to sending our students out abroad to explore the world as well. I am going to pass the mic now to Phil Trella, who is the Associate Vice Provost in the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs:
Thanks so much, Rachel. Good morning, everyone. So as Rachel said, my name is Phil Trella. I serve as Associate Vice Provost. I direct the University’s Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs. The graduate professional level at UVA we’re comprised of a full 20% of international students. Some of our programs are majority international students, and indeed some of our schools are majority international students. So I think that speaks to the importance of the international community for our graduate and professional programs. Part of the reason we're so heavily international, of course, is because of the incalculable creativity and diversity that you bring into our classrooms and into our research labs, and so we are doing everything we can at the graduate professional level, of course, to support your needs. One of the differences about graduate and professional programs is we're very diverse and we're a little bit more specialized, so we have upwards of 90 masters programs at the university and upwards of 60 PhD programs. Those programs are unique, by nature, due to the highly specialized education that they entail, and so some of the questions that I anticipate that you will be asking today will indeed be about your specific program curricula, and specific policies in your schools, and so my role involves coordinating between those schools, right, and helping to think about University responses and the ways that we can best kind of channel your questions to get those appropriate answers.

So I anticipate some of your questions for us today will involve us kind of interfacing with your schools. That said, some of the things that we have been thinking about at the University, in terms of how we will how we will deal with these new regulations, involved things like thinking about what it means when students take research hours or research credits, so I know that we've received a lot of questions. For example, on whether non-topical research hours at the university would meet the requirement of in person classes. That's one question that I'm happy to say “yes” to. I know that that's been on a lot of your minds and so I'll go ahead and issue that answer now. I look forward to engaging with all of you across the university. Again, I would just emphasize that for myself and for my colleagues across the university, thinking about how to support international students has been first and foremost on our minds, since the beginning of this crisis until now, and we will continue working as hard as we can to make sure that we can accommodate your education as best as possible and bring you to the university as soon as possible. And so with that, I'd be happy to turn over to my colleague, Richard Tanson, in the International Studies Office:
Richard Tanson

- 00:14:26 Good morning everyone. It is an absolute pleasure to be part of this panel this morning. I am Richard Tanson. I'm the Senior Advisor and the Program Manager for the International Student and Scholar Programs, as part of the International Studies Office. So we are the agency within this organization that works directly with you and on your behalf. And I think that you've heard from the wonderful introductions, that my esteemed colleagues have made that you are and we are all privileged to be part of what is a truly global institution. And this is a role that we happily embrace. We recognize the value - the intrinsic the inestimable value - that you as international students and scholars bring to this university, and our principal role is to provide the best support that we can, especially in these very trying times. Thank you very much and an absolute pleasure to turn this over to Linda Callihan, my colleague in the ISO [International Studies Office]:

Linda Callihan

- 00:15:36 Thank you, Richard, and hello everyone. I'm Linda Callihan. I also work in the International Studies Office to support our international community of students and scholars. We are so looking forward to welcoming you to Grounds, if you're new to the university - or if you're continuing, welcoming you back to grounds, whenever you're able to get here to Charlottesville.

I am what the US State Department designates as the Responsible Officer for the J-1 Program. So I work with primarily scholars and students that are here on a J-1 visa. That comprises our visiting students, a handful of our degree seeking students, and all of our exchange students. That's my primary responsibility, but I work with our F-1 students as well. So all of the advisors in our office are here to support all of you coming to the University this fall or spring. Thank you. And finally, Mark Rhoads:

Mark Rhoads

- 00:16:44 Okay. Well, my name is Mark Rhoades. I'm an immigration attorney. I am not an employee of the University of Virginia. I'm actually an attorney in private practice. What I do for a living is that I work with companies all over the United States. I help them process work visas for international employees. I also work with universities all over the United States, including UVA, helping them navigate immigration issues that impact
international students. And so with that I'm going to turn it back over to Dudley and we can proceed:

**Dudley Doane**

- **00:17:21** Thanks very much, everyone. We are asking our participants this morning to use the Q&A function in the Zoom webinar, and if you see a question that’s of interest to you, you can vote it up by selecting the thumbs-up icon, and we have a number of people who have already expressed questions and we’re seeing some voting here, so that’s very helpful. First question, Ambassador Mull/Vice Provost Mull:

  “Is there any indication when visa services will be resumed, and do we have any information on that?”

**Steve Mull**

- **00:18:22** Yes. So as all of you know, embassies and consulates have been pretty much closed around the world for visa services, routine visa services, since the middle of March. We have had some success in some of our students approaching local consulates or embassies and asking for Emergency Visa appointments. For whatever reason, many embassies and consulates have said that at least as of this point they do not consider student visa applications to be an “emergency.” However, some of our students have had some success in getting appointments and getting visas issued. So each embassy around the world, and each consulate around the world, will make a determination on whether to open, based on the return of their own visa staff to the embassy or consulate, and in response to emerging demand. So at this point, there’s no one date for around the world when visa operations will be up and running. The best thing to do is just be in regular contact with your local US embassy or consulate to follow their reopening schedule.

**Dudley Doane**

- **00:19:44** Thank you. I think the next question is for the International Student and Scholar Advisors and Mark:

  “If UVA starts hybrid, but then has to go online due to another COVID shutdown, will F-1 students need to leave the country?”
Richard Tanson

00:20:07 Yeah, I think that that's an open question at this point. I mean, if we look at the original guidance from Monday, it certainly suggests that F-1 students would have to depart the United States if we were to move entirely online. I think our posture, especially since we're not at mid-semester, is we're going to wait for further guidance, not only from immigration, but as this is litigated through the courts, I think that will see refinements of that.

There are arguments that can be made on both sides. I mean, if a student moves to an entirely online enrollment, then even by the regulations that preceded the pandemic, they would not be eligible to maintain their F-1 status. The argument on the other side will be: “well the requirement, up until then, has been that we have to be enrolled in at least one course online [sic], which I've fulfilled, since I was in the United States, prior to the university going online.” So I think it's not only our university but universities around the country, as well as our professional association, that will be litigating - and I mean that in the loosest sense of litigating - that issue, both with immigration directly and with the courts.

Just let me say broadly, what all of us have seen and which our FAQ - which I hope all of you have read or will read - tries to address is that there is a discordance - not surprising for immigration - but there is a discordance between the original broadcast message that came out at the start of the week and then the FAQ that Immigration itself had issued midweek. There are some disparities there which are very, very significant. So this is what sort of gives me the sense that more refinement is forthcoming and we will wait for that.

Dudley Doane

00:22:14 And I think you meant at least one course \textit{in person}. Right?

Richard Tanson

00:22:17 I did. One course in person. Thanks. And I will also say, Dudley, that as you've said - and thanks to your help - every school of enrollment at the University of Virginia has assured that every student here in Charlottesville will be able to enroll in \textit{at least} one residential course.

Dudley Doane
Thanks. That's an important point. Next question:

“In light of the recent US announcements, will we be able to transition from on-line to on-Grounds at any time during the semester? Will there be any restriction for after 30 days after the start of classes?”

Richard Tanson

Yeah, that that's a really, really big question, which a lot of students have asked if they're going to be able to enter the United States after the semester begins or mid-semester, and the presumption is they would begin online and then try to enter the United State, once the semester is underway. We're reserving ultimate commentary on that, but I want you to be aware that there are a lot of moving parts to this kind of deliberation. So for those of you who have read the guidance from CBP [Customs and Border Protection] as well as our FAQ, that - and this is the big part - that only students who are enrolled in a school that has gone to an online only format can take classes remotely and yet maintain their legal status. Now all of our students can study remotely. The question for continuing students is whether or not they can continue to maintain their current legal F-1 status, while you're outside the United States. The current guidance suggests, “No.”

So what we are - myself, our team, Mark and others - what we're trying to come to terms with is at what definitive point would that decision have to be made. As many of you are aware from reading the FAQ, that we are obligated to report to the government every fall and spring semester that a student is enrolled, and that has to be done within 30 days of the start of the semester. So if you'll allow us, we're going to reserve our ultimate commentary on that, but suffice it to say that everybody outside the United States can begin or continue their studies, and new students will be able to defer, if that's not the optimal decision. But the question at hand for continuing students is, “Can you maintain your legal status?”

Dudley Doane

Thank you.

“Will UVA be supporting the Harvard-MIT lawsuit?”

I think this was for Steve:
Steve Mull

- **00:25:32** Yeah, so thanks, Dudley, a great, great question. As I mentioned in my opening comments, there are actually a number of legal challenges rapidly developing against this new rule. In fact, in the Harvard-MIT case, there's going to be another hearing at 10 O'clock US Eastern Coast Time this morning that could result in the next few days in an injunction on preventing implementation of the rule. So we're watching that very closely.

In any event, that's only one of many cases. We're in fact very intensively considering with our legal counsel, which one we can best join to advance our interests and your interests in this, and I'm confident we will be engaging in one of them in the in the coming days. The University is also cooperating very closely with US-wide associations of higher education, who have also been very active that we've lent our name and our support to, and we've also been working very extensively in Washington with our Congressional representation to get their support and assistance as well. So we will report it to all of you as these efforts develop.

Dudley Doane

- **00:26:56** Thank you. Next question, which I think this is for the immigration team.

  "If I choose to remain in my home country and study remotely in fall 2020, will it affect my F-1 status and how will a gap in my F1 status this year affect my CPT/OPT [Curriculum Practical Training/Optional Practical Training] eligibility?"

Richard Tanson

- **00:27:18** Well, again, addressed in our FAQ, and we knew that this would be a very big question. If this guidance holds, if there's no injunction, if immigration doesn't recalibrate their guidance, and Mark's saying that's not going to happen.

Mark Rhoads

- **00:27:38** Unlikely.

Richard Tanson
00:27:39 Yeah, unlikely. If the guidance stands, if we take it at its face value, what it will mean is that for all of you current students - those holding F-1 status - if you are studying remotely, because we have adopted a hybrid system in the United States, which will allow students to come into the US to study in person, you will not be able to maintain your F-1 status. What does that mean? It means that if things stand, at some point yet to be determined in the fall semester, we would have to terminate your F-1 status. That will mean that your legal status in the United States will be, as it sounds, terminated, your I-20 will no longer be valid, yet your F-1 visa will not be impacted, as it is retained in your passport.

So for the purposes of employment authorization, Practical Training, remember that you have to be in F-1 status for one academic year, as defined by immigration, before you are eligible for those benefits for CPT [Curriculum Practical Training] or OPT [Optional Practical Training]. If your status is terminated, you would need a new I-20, and when you enter the United States with that new I-20, you are gaining a new status. What that means for you is that the so-called clocks of eligibility would start again. You would not benefit from any of the time that you had prior. No time accrues for your eligibility for CPT/OPT. It would begin again upon your new entry. Mark, anything?

Mark Rhoads

00:29:39 You've covered it. Okay.

Dudley Doane

00:29:41 Great. Thank you. The next question.

“Is the university updating new students’ I-20 forms? When and how are you prioritizing new students?”

Richard Tanson

00:29:52 Another great question. I hope everyone by now has received the email from our office, which has the FAQ, of course the announcement for today’s Town Hall, but as importantly, there is a survey attached. Every student needs to fill this out. We are going to prioritize students that do have valid impending visa appointments, students who don't need visas but know that they have a sure way of coming into the United States soon, and of
course, and students who are currently in the US. So we're going to be using that survey very significantly to triage the students who are going to get the language that needs to be incorporated in the I-20, unless there is an injunction against this measure.

**Dudley Doane**

- **00:30:47** Thank you. Any other comments? Alright, next question.

“After Thanksgiving, UVA has announced to go completely online. So do international students need to leave the country post-Thanksgiving?”

And I wonder, Steve, if you might lead with that one, because I think the premise here is not entirely correct.

**Steve Mull**

- **00:31:09** Yes, that's right. So we are, the semester will formally end at the end of November on the Thanksgiving holiday. The exam period will then commence, as stated on the calendar for December, however, there is *no* expectation that international students leave at the end of the semester, given the challenges with travel, which we assume will continue to be in place at that time. We certainly would be supportive - and probably even encourage - international students to remain here, if they are able to do so, pending the start of spring semester in January.

**Dudley Doane**

- **00:31:54** Can I put you on the spot and ask if University Housing will be open during that time?

**Allen Groves**

- **00:32:01** Are you asking me, Dudley?

**Dudley Doane**

**00:32:02** Yes, please. Yeah. Between Thanksgiving and start of the new semester. Thank you.

**Allen Groves**
Yeah, at this point in time, the assumption is yes, that University Housing will be open.

**Richard Tanson**

Definitely. Let me, look, can I just respond briefly with Mark?

**Dudley Doane**

Of course. Yes.

**Richard Tanson**

I think what one of the reasons that the question is being asked is because you're reading in the guidance that if we change midstream from hybrid to online that you're compelled to leave the United States. That's actually not what's happening at the University of Virginia. We are conducting all of our courses in a hybrid approach until Thanksgiving. It is only the exam period, which may move to online, not the course. So, Mark, I would think we could very fruitfully argue that there is no change to online courses at Thanksgiving, because all of the course has been conducted in person. It is just the exams that follow.

**Mark Rhoads**

Yeah, I think that's exactly right. And I think a very important point to make is that as everybody out there can see from this panel that's assembled, UVA is taking these issues very seriously, to make sure that they try to provide the best opportunity for people to pursue their degree, and at the same time maintain their lawful status. And I think Richard's point is exactly the case, as things stand right now, I believe that there is a very sound argument that as long as courses remain hybrid up to Thanksgiving, and then exams come after that, everybody is going to maintain their lawful status. But everyone at UVA is going to be in constant communication to make sure that this advice is as sound as it can be, as we go forward.

**Dudley Doane**

Thank you both. And just to be clear, the University, there was a possibility that classes would extend to the original end date for classes after Thanksgiving online. That is no longer the case. As of Monday, the academic
calendar for the University had not been updated to reflect this. What we can tell our listeners this morning with certainty is that classes will end at Thanksgiving, followed by an exam period that will be online. Thank you.

Rachel Most

- 00:34:31 Dudley, can I just clarify one thing? There are some classes that are only online, because they’re too large to have an in-person component, and all of the schools have said that if a student lands in a schedule with all online courses, all of the schools will do whatever they can to get students an in-person experience.

Dudley Doane

- 00:34:51 Thank you very much. Next question from Maria:

“I have a question for students from travel coming from restricted areas, such as China and Europe. I think what travel ban says is that we leave those areas for 14 days and we'll be able to enter the US. I'm an incoming graduate student in biomedical sciences from Poland. If I travel outside the Schengen Area for two weeks, will I be able to enter the US and therefore to start classes in August, if I managed to do it before the start of the fall term?”

Mark Rhoads

- 00:35:30 And the short answer to that is “yes.” That that is a very common strategy that many people are pursuing.

Dudley Doane

- 00:35:38 Yeah. So the travel restrictions that the US government has imposed are not tied to citizenship, but rather point of origination, so travelers from China, travelers from Schengen zone. Thanks. Next question:

“For graduate research assistants outside the US, can they get their stipends as normal?”

Mr. Trella:

Phil Trella
Yea. Thanks. That's a good question. So, and I know it's a question that a lot of students are concerned about. So I will say that prior to the most recent guidance on that was issued, the University developed our own guidelines for helping to fund international students who are abroad. And one of the things that is part of that guidance is that students maintain a valid work visa while they are abroad, which would allow us to continue to fund the student, right, for the students to continue to work, and that we would be able to maintain that period for up to six months period of time.

Given this most recent guidance, I think that we need to revisit that, and so I'm not sure that I'm able to completely answer that question as it stands. Certainly we've created ordinances for that possibility, and we are adjudicating those cases as they come to us. The most recent guidance does create some questions around the validity of the US work visa and our ability to continue to pay students who are out of country and out of status. Should there be an injunction or should this be halted, then I would say the pathway is absolutely there for that to happen for a period of up to six months.

So I'm hopeful that we would still continue to do that. We have a number of students, both incoming and current returning students who are in this scenario, who are working with advisors and principal investigators who would like to continue to be able to pay them to do their graduate research assistantships while they are remote or abroad, and also graduate teaching assistants who are working remote, and so we want to be able to support students in their ability to do that and to be able to continue to provide them the funding. So look, we will offer additional guidance on this and clarity on this once we have those answers, so unfortunately, I think this is something that's in a little bit of a gray area right now, but we are studying and we will provide some guidance around it.

Dudley Doane

Thank you.

“Can international students who are not in the US and awaiting consulate openings and flight openings, can they enter the US on F-1s at any point during the year?”

Richard:

Richard Tanson
• 00:38:25 I think we just spoke to that, didn't we, about mid semester entries?
  Dudley Doane

• 00:38:27 Yes, it's a popular question though, so worth your time to answer it again. Thanks.
  Richard Tanson

• 00:38:38 Okay. Well, again, I don't want to repeat myself. But here I go…
  Dudley Doane

• 00:38:42 It's interesting. That's okay.
  Richard Tanson

• 00:38:43 That's okay. Okay, it's interesting. We do not have a definitive answer on that. There are too many question marks that are raised by this guidance and the main thing, I mean, for continuing students, the question that looms is, “Will you still be in status, and if not, will a new I-20 have to be issued for mid-semester?” The question for the new students will be, of course we'll have to issue a new I-20 mid-semester or whenever you plan to come in.

What are the unknowns? Well, if you're a new student, can you get a visa appointment for a mid-semester entry? And I think even more importantly, will CBP (Customs and Border Protection), those the friendly people you meet at the airport, will they let you in the country mid-semester when the semester is already begun? One thing we heard yesterday, very anecdotally, is that one student from Harvard has already been denied entry into the United States, based on this new guidance, so you will just need time to see how this transpires and what immigration further demands from us.

Dudley Doane

• 00:39:58 Thank you.

“I'm a PhD research student on a wage. I do not have any online classes anymore. Do I still need to update my I-20? If so, when and how can I do it?”

Richard Tanson
Well, alright, we've spoken to this. So I'll also repeat what Phil said, and it's also in our FAQ, and President Ryan amplified this as well. Any student who is just who is that dissertation level, is taking research credits, research credits are considered in person courses. So if you're registered for 12 credit hours of non-topical research, you're fine. Will you need the I-20, the new I-20 with the comments? Yes. How you do it? Fill out the survey.

Phil Trella

Yeah. I would also comment that that's exactly right. A lot of our students are in that phase. Also, many of our students who are in the coursework phase, are taking a mix of non-topical research hours and courses. It’s quite common for students to be taking three courses and three hours of non-topical research credits. And so, for the purposes of this, those non-topical research hours would satisfy the requirement, regardless of the fact of whether or not those three courses that you are taking have moved into an online environment.

Dudley Doane

I want to thank students for responding so quickly to the request to complete the survey. Overnight Charlottesville time, over 600 surveys were completed, so that's a great response. Thank you. If you haven't completed that survey, please go ahead and do that today. Next question, it's up for anyone here.

“Many universities waive the tuition for online programs. What about UVA?”

Steve Mull

I'll take that question. So we're not planning a reduction in our tuition, because the tuition is for the instruction that is delivered, regardless of the channel through which is delivered. However, we realized that an online experience is not the same as in person. So to so-called “sweeten the pot,” we are, in fact, adding course availability during the J-term in January, as well as in the first summer session, which normally you'd have to pay for, you can now to give yourself greater flexibility in completing your academic program during the year, take courses in those period at no extra charges. Fees, of course, related to living in the residence halls and food service, if you're not if you're not living or eating on Grounds, obviously, we're not going to make you pay for that. So we do have some room for flexibility there.
Dudley Doane

- **00:43:01** Thanks. And I would add, as the person who oversees summer session and J-term that we're really excited about plans for both of those terms, and we've got a lot of exciting new courses in the works, and a lot of senior faculty, who don't normally teach in those terms, will be offering classes, so people should have access to some really exceptional opportunities J-term 2021 and in summer session 2021.

Rachel Most

- **00:43:32** Dudley, can I add to that that we're working on an FAQ that will be added to the main FAQ that has some answers to very detailed questions on that? The J-term course will only be available to students who pay full-time tuition in the fall, and the summer session one class is only available to students who pay full-time tuition in the spring.

Dudley Doane

- **00:43:55** Okay.

“Based on CDC guidelines for all travelers returning to the US on international flights, once we arrive on campus, we have to self-isolate for 14 days. Does UVA provide any support for students during this period? Thanks.”

So I think this is a Chris and Allen question.

Allen Groves

- **00:44:17** Yeah, I'll start with a Dudley and then and then pass to Chris. The short answer is, we're still working on guidance on that. Obviously this has been a quickly shifting environment, and so there's no question that we're going to put out additional detailed guidance as we get closer, and so watch for that, and we'll obviously make sure everybody gets that. Chris, I don't know what you want to add to that:

Chris Holstege

- **00:44:40** Likewise, Student Health and Wellness will be available during that time period too. So, certainly if symptoms develop we want to make sure that
our students get the care they need immediately and our team is primed to help with that. Also, so that you have the healthcare that you might need if something develops, as well as testing.

**Allen Groves**

- **00:45:00** We hope to have that guidance out fairly soon. Great.

**Dudley Doane**

- **00:45:05** Thanks so much. Full disclosure, this question is coming from Larry Mueller [Assistant Dean, Global Advising] at the Darden School:

  “The Darden School at the University of Virginia requires a summer internship as a part of our academic/education requirements. Is it assured that the CPT clock allowance will not be affected for our first year students?”

**Richard Tanson**

00:45:27 Thank you, Larry. I'll answer this, because I know you know the answer, and you know my answer to this. Because Darden has now adjusted their curriculum, such that it is a requirement in order to get the degree to have a CPT, or at least an employment experience, that any student, no matter the duration, who is here in lawful F-1 status will be eligible for CPT.

**Dudley Doane**

- **00:46:00** Thank you. Okay, next question:

  “Is there any possibility for UVA to cooperate with local universities (I think this is a reference to universities in the student’s home country) to help students finish some courses, like lab courses, in person?”

Maybe you want to take that one, Steve:

**Steve Mull**

- **00:46:24** Sure. During this very challenging period for all of us, our watchword has been “flexibility,” and we've been able to explore all sorts of options for our students to help them complete their academic requirements or their degree requirements here at UVA, regardless of where they are and how they’re able to come. The requirements do differ from school to school,
so if you have a proposal or a question about whether or not a specific program could help you meet your academic requirement here, please raise that question with the advisors in ISSP, as well as with your individual school. We're absolutely committed to work together to find solutions for you.

**Dudley Doane**

00:47:21 Thank you very much. Yeah.

“Is there a deadline for deciding and informing the ISO [International Studies Office] whether we will come back to the country and need a new I-20 for fall semester? Also, if we decide to come back to the US, when is the latest date that we need to enter the country physically?”

**Richard Tanson**

00:47:43 Well, these are all variations of the same question, but it still remains a good question. We have a couple of things to bear in mind. I mentioned the 30-day window that we have in reporting to Immigration. All of you, apart from Immigration, also have an add/drop period that I think is significant in terms of whether you're going to enter residential classes or not. Allow us, again, more time; work with us closely; be in touch with any of the advisors in the ISSP. Everybody on this call can make an appointment for a Zoom meeting with all or any of the advisors in the ISSP directly. We have very generous appointment schedules, discuss your individual plans. I just can't say at this point, “This is the date by which you have to be in the United States.” We're watching that very carefully.

**Dudley Doane**

- **00:48:41** It's a dynamic operating part of the process, for us as well as for students. Thank you Richard.

“What happens to our health insurance (and I assume this means the Aetna Student Plan Health Insurance) if we are not able to make it to campus?”

**Chris Holstege**

- **00:48:59** So the Aetna Student Health Plan is an international plan and works wherever you are in the world. So that is a good plan, regardless if you're on Grounds or are off overseas.
Dudley Doane

- 00:49:13 Thanks very much, Chris, that's reassuring.

“I'm currently in the US, but not in Charlottesville. Do I need to be in Charlottesville and attend some sort of in-person classes in order to maintain my valid F-1 status? Is it possible, if I would like to take online courses in a US city without coming to Charlottesville?”

Richard Tanson

- 00:49:40 So the hybrid approach, which is endorsed by Immigration, as we understand it, is that at least one course has to be a residential course. It has always been the case, and it remains the case under the most recent guidance, that you cannot be an entirely online student and maintain your legal status. So unless you are solely in research classes, meaning you're writing your dissertation from your “cabin in the woods” (that was for you, Mark, because that's your kind of joke) [laughter]…

Mark Rhoads

- 00:50:19 Yea. This is where I am. My “cabin in the woods” [laughter].

Richard Tanson

- 00:50:22 So unless that's the case, yes, you do have to come to Grounds and be a student in person.

Dudley Doane

- 00:50:31 Thank you. So this question, I think, next question, which is a popular question, has been addressed, but let's take it on again please:

“How will visa be [inaudible] if the pandemic situation becomes uncontainable and the school becomes 100% online? Will international students be forced to leave the US suddenly on short notice mid-semester?”

Mark Rhoads

- 00:51:00 Well, the short answer to that is that if it goes 100% online then international students will have to depart the United States. How urgently that will have to happen? There is no guidance on that. There will, there’s always
a reasonable period of time for people to take care of their affairs in the US, arrange for travel outside the US, but no question that that goes 100% online, international students will have to depart.

Steve Mull

- **00:51:32** If the regulation remains in place.

Richard Tanson

- **00:51:35** If the regulation remains. I mean, we understand that this is really, in the worst possible way, the proverbial “rock and hard place,” because many of you if you come to Charlottesville, it means a lot of things: you're not only paying for a plane ticket, you're engaging a housing contract, or you're signing a lease, there's all sorts of other establishments that you have to make in order to begin your life in the United States. So, coming up with a good calculus, which is going to help you make that decision is especially challenging and we're all very sympathetic to that.

Dudley Doane

- **00:52:13** As are universities across the United States, a number of States’ Attorney Generals. This is an issue that is receiving a lot of attention right now.

  “Do you provide electronic I-20s to students and when will my I-20 be available?”

Richard Tanson

- **00:52:32** So Immigration has continued in their guidance to permit us to issue the I-20 electronically. The way to receive an I-20 from UVA is by going to the website of our office and fully submitting the New Student Request. That is the only way to get the I-20. Once you've qualified for the I-20, we do issue it electronically. We place it in your request, and then you just need to print it out, sign and date it.

Dudley Doane

- **00:53:07** Thank you.
“How would my student visa status be impacted if I choose to study online in my home country for the upcoming fall semester due to COVID? Do I have to apply for a new visa? What would be equivalent requirements for the visa if I choose to take a Gap Year?”

And just tell me if you want me to repeat any part of that.

Richard Tanson

- **00:53:30** No. I got that. So if you lose your F1 status, it is the I-20, essentially, that will be invalidated. If you have a valid F-1 visa in your passport, even if we terminate your status, you should be able to enter the United States, having received and be able to present the new I-20, having repaid the SEVIS [Student and Exchange Visitor Program] or I-901 fee, but presenting the valid visa in your passport CBP [Customs and Border Protection] has commented on this many times, and there is nothing in the action that we would be forced to take that would invalidate the visa. If you take a gap year, same thing: your F-1 status would be terminated, you would have to reapply for the I-20, requalify for the I-20, making sure you do take a leave of absence through SIS [Student Information System] with the University, and then we would issue a new I-20 with the start date for the semester in which you intend to return. Visa still valid: use it. Visa not: back to the consulate.

Mark Rhoads

- **00:54:50** I think that’s an important point. And that is that the visa is something that is independent of the I-20. The visa can remain valid. The visa is a document that allows travel. The I-20 is the document that allows you to come into the United States and then become a student. So if the I-20 is terminated [that] does not terminate the visa.

Dudley Doane

- **00:55:16** Right. Excuse me.

“The ICE [Immigration and Customs Enforcement] regulations updated to mention that continuing students could study online and still maintain an active F-status. Does this hold true for both an online model and a hybrid model?”
Richard Tanson

- 00:55:33 Well, of course, you're referring to the FAQ, which came out mid-week as a comment on the original guidance by the CBP, and thanks for mentioning that again, because we had the same confusion that you do. In fact, we had to reach out to folks that had a direct connection to Immigration to try to get this clarification, because this is discordant with the original guidance. There is no distinction in the SEVP [Student and Exchange Visitor Program] FAQ as to who can maintain their status while studying remotely. We've heard since then from many sources, including we've heard directly from Immigration, that that FAQ will be updated to reflect the original guidance, meaning that students who are members of a hybrid school, such as UVA, will certainly be able to study remotely, but will not be able to maintain their F-1 status. I wish it were otherwise.

Dudley Doane

- 00:56:37 It looks here like…

“Will these new regulations limit our capacity to travel home and come back to the United States?”

So, for example, between semesters.

Richard Tanson

- 00:56:56 There's nothing intrinsic in the policy that would limit travel between semesters. I would just counsel don't travel before a semester or during a semester, given the volatility of the situation.

Dudley Doane

- 00:57:12 And of course we would advise students to attend to any travel restrictions, right, if we have restrictions on entry to the United States still in place come January, well if you're from Brazil, say, or Iran, and there's a restriction, traveling home to one of those locations would not be advised.

Richard Tanson

- 00:57:33 Right, it's very important for students to go to the COVID-19 section of the State Department's Consular Affairs website (travel.state.gov) and
there is a country-by-country, or Country Specific Information about COVID-19 restrictions.

**Dudley Doane**

- **00:57:54** Thank you.

“**What options are available to international students who are not able to receive visas, due to the closure of US consulates?”**

So defer, online course for whole semester. So Rachel, Phil, others may want to weigh-in here:

**Rachel Most**

- **00:58:14** Yeah, I think Deferral, Leave of Absence, Dudley, as you mentioned, taking courses from home all online, taking a mix, of maybe being a part-time student at UVA and taking no more than six credits. This is, I'm speaking mostly for undergraduate, so where that's possible.

**Dudley Doane**

- **00:58:33** Could you explain that option a little bit, unpack that a little bit, Rachel?

**Rachel Most**

- **00:58:37** Yes. So students in most undergraduate schools have an option of being part time, which means no more than six credits. So that could be two three-credit courses, a four-credit course and two-credit course, but you are capped at six credits, and tuition is then paid by the credit. You still pay fees, and you're still eligible for - because you're paying fees - whatever comes along with that. You would not be able to…

**Dudley Doane**

- **00:59:06** Academic fees, not housing [fees] or anything else.

**Rachel Most**

- **00:59:08** Yes. And you would not be eligible for the January term, of course, because you wouldn't pay full-time tuition, but you'd be enrolled in UVA
courses that would count toward General Education requirements in your school and program/major requirements, and then you could potentially take some courses at a home institution as transfer credit, so that you were still earning the equivalent of a full-time course load. So, it's kind of everything from all or nothing, which is Leave and Deferral, to part-time at UVA to part-time at UVA with some credits at home, to all online classes through UVA. And Phil, you could probably talk to the grad side.

Phil Trella

- 00:59:51 Sure, yeah. I mean, I would say, first and foremost, be in touch with your program and the department of what those options are.

Rachel Most

- 00:59:58 For undergrad, absolutely. Yeah.

Phil Trella

- 01:00:00 Some of our graduate programs are more flexible, meaning that a one semester deferral is certainly possible. For some of them, if you're in a one-year master's program that relies on a cohort sort of model, one semester deferral might not be possible. It might mean a year-long deferral, unfortunately. That's really going to depend on your department and your program.

Beyond that, though, I would say that for many of our traditional, for example doctoral programs, where students might be interested in at least beginning their coursework online, and then transitioning into the in-person experience when they can, I know that a number of our schools are willing and interested to be at least able to fund the tuition and fees portion of the education, even if we're not able to support you in an Assistantship or in a Fellowship. We believe that we could still cover a sort of a tuition and fees portion, which would normally be covered through your package as a doctoral student, for example. So in other words, you would be able to start your coursework, depending on the school and program - this is all program- and school-specific - you may have your tuition and fees covered as you normally would if you were here and then you can transition into sort of the in-person experience and research and coursework when you get here.
So, I would urge everyone - and I know that many of our students have - to maintain contact with your school in your program to really think through what those various options would be, but I would just emphasize again that working with all of our schools and programs across the entire university, I know that they're all pulling out the stops and thinking about providing maximum flexibility to international students who are in these scenarios, but time is of the essence. And so the sooner that you can start those conversations, probably the better. And I know that with so much uncertainty that's difficult to do, but maintaining contact and starting to think through what are the various options at your disposal would be wise.

Dudley Doane

- 01:02:01 This next question is for you, Phil, and you've answered it, but I think it's a question that bears a second response:

“Does the new SEVP announcement affect three-plus years doctoral students, who have finished coursework and who are now writing and researching?”

Phil Trella

- 01:02:21 Well, yeah. So, it affects everyone. It affects all of international students. But if I understand the question, it means, “Am I going to have to take some in-person course, in addition to non-topical research hours or dissertation research hours, in order to meet this requirement?” The answer is, “No.” So if you have finished your coursework, if you're beyond whatever that means for you (for some programs it's beyond year three, for someone's beyond year two or what have you), but if you're engaged currently specifically and only in non-topical research, which the majority of our doctoral students are (most of them finished coursework within a year or two, but they're in a five- or six-year program to obtain the doctorate), so most of our doctoral students are actually in this scenario. Know that means that you would register as normal for your 12-hours of non-topical research, and that meets the requirement. As we have said, non-topical research hours meet the in-person requirement of the new CBP guidance.

Dudley Doane

- 01:03:23 Thanks very much.
“If I, as an F-1 student, decide to take the fall semester online remotely, what steps do I have to take to come back for the spring semester? For example, do I need to schedule another visa interview?”

- 01:03:44 Richard or Mark will do:

  Mark Rhoads

- 01:03:45 Well, if your visa is valid, the visa will remain valid. You will need a new I-20 and Richard Tanson can address that.

  Richard Tanson

- 01:03:56 Yeah. So remember that in order to take a leave of absence, and I'll defer to Rachel and others, to take a Leave of Absence that's committed through SIS [Student Information System]. When you want to return to the university that is also a process through SIS. But the parallel process is you have to be in communication with us, because if you're going on a Leave of Absence, we have to know - we have to know you’re outside the country. We would have to terminate your F-1 status. I mean, there's a number of reasons that we can offer the government for termination (this is, if you will, and in really the “friendliest” of reasons), but yes, you would need a new I-20 as you're going through the process to return to the University. As I said before, pay the SEVIS fee again. But as Mark said, if your visa is still valid, you don't need to get a new one.

  Rachel Most

- 01:04:48 And Dudley, I'll just add that all the schools have slightly different deadlines for when you have to file for a Leave of Absence, versus withdrawing from the semester, and when you have to apply for readmission. So check your school of enrollment for those deadlines.

  Dudley Doane

- 01:05:03 And so, Rachel, would you recommend checking school websites or the UREG [University Registrar] website?

  Rachel Most

- 01:05:10 School websites.
Dudley Doane

- 01:05:12 Yeah, they're the best source of information.

Rachel Most

- 01:05:14 Yeah. And if you don't see them, then you can contact grad students, Phil you can correct me if I'm wrong, but contact your advisor or the Director of Grad Studies in your school. If you don't see them on a website, contact the school directly.

Phil Trella

- 01:05:29 Agree.

Dudley Doane

- 01:05:30 Thanks very much. Okay:

"I'm graduating early this fall. Will studying remotely in my home country, prevent me from obtaining my degree?"

Rachel Most

- 01:05:42 If that's from an undergraduate, then it may delay or degree and depending on when we get the transcripts, and you'd have to be sure the credit was going to transfer in. So it's possible, and I think for that as well, contact your school of enrollment to make sure the courses you're taking are going to transfer in, and know that there may be a delay in awarding your degree because of when the transcript comes into the University of Virginia.

Dudley Doane

- 01:06:09 But, Rachel, a student might be full-time at UVA online too, correct?

Rachel Most

- 01:06:14 Yes.

Dudley Doane

- 01:06:15 In which case…
Rachel Most

- 01:06:16 No delay, because they're UVA courses. Those grades…

Dudley Doane

- 01:06:19 They're direct credit courses.

Rachel Most

- 01:06:21 Direct credit. It would be no different than if you were here on Grounds. Those grades will get posted by our deadlines.

Dudley Doane

- 01:06:28 Right, and then there would be certain school requirements that one has to make as a student expecting to graduate, right?

Rachel Most

- 01:06:34 Yes, you have to apply for graduation. And those deadlines are on our school calendar and they're on most school calendars. They're pretty early in the fall term for December graduation.

Dudley Doane

- 01:06:45 Yeah. Do you have anything to add, from the graduate and professional school side, Phil?

Phil Trella

- 01:06:50 No, I would say the same thing: that if they're UVA courses, it would be as normal as if they are here. So, I wouldn't see any difference, and also applying for graduation, that those transactions can happen online. So, I don't see that you would need to be here in person to accomplish any of that. So, provided that they're UVA courses and you've met the curricular requirements of your program and all those milestones, then you're in good shape.

Dudley Doane
Those transactions have to be completed. They can be done online, but they have to be completed.

Phil Trella

Yeah, and by the date specified by the schools. And schools do have different deadlines for, we have similar deadlines at the graduate professional level for most students, but they are different. So, so again, be in contact with your DGS [Director of Graduate Studies], with your school to really understand exactly what those deadlines and procedures are, and they are absolutely working with students who are here/abroad/everywhere as we're trying to maintain social distancing to make sure that those processes are possible, being distant.

Rachel Most

Undergraduates apply for graduation in SIS, and if you have any problems with that your school can do that for you.

Dudley Doane

Okay. Thanks Rachel.

“In the FAQ it mentioned that the reactivation of the 2021 spring semester may be done within 60 days. Does it mean the period 60 days before or after the semester starts? Does it also apply to fall semester, so that our I-20 can still be reactivated within the fall semester if we are not able to enter the US on time by the time the fall semester starts?”

Richard Tanson

I think I get it. So there's sort of an odd provision in the Federal regulations, which allows the following: if we have to terminate an F-1 student for unexpected reasons, and I would certainly consider this unexpected, and the student is going to return to the University within five months from the time they're terminated, we can ask Immigration to reactivate there I-20, rather than issuing a brand new one. What this allows is you don't have to pay the SEVIS fee again. Basically, you keep your same SEVIS ID number, but we can only request this of Immigration within 60 days of the start of the semester in which you intend to enroll. So that's what all that means. It doesn't give you your status back. You still have had an
interruption in your status. You just get an I-20 that saves you, what is it $300 something dollars, for your SEVIS fee.

Dudley Doane

- 01:09:47 Okay, thank you.

“International students are likely to experience more difficulties, as there's a time difference, which would greatly prevent many of them from being able to engage with the rest of the students and faculty members [so if they're studying online]. Those international students who decide to attend in-person lectures, might also experience more stress as the current regulations pose a mental health risk to international students. What is UVA’s plan to address the difficulties that international students might experience in the fall semester?”

Thank you, Allen. So we have the academic piece…

Allen Groves

- 01:10:53 Chris, do you want to talk about the counseling?

Chris Holstege

- 01:10:58 Yeah. I think there's two different aspects to this, as Dudley was about to say, there's an academic component and then there's the counseling and psychological services. For the students, realize that we have always in Student Health and Wellness served the students regards to counseling, and the counseling services have been expanded significantly. There's Tele-counseling now that you can get online and talk with counselors, like we're doing right now, to make the ease of access much better. We're expanding hours. There's always an on-call counselor to be able to talk to. We've expanded the counselors themselves, as well as the psychiatrists. So the good news is, at any hour of the day or night, you can actually access mental health resources. We continue to expand in this era, knowing that there's going to be increased stresses for our student populations, both domestic and international.

Rachel Most
On the academic side, I can say we are going to have some classes at different times, we have some faculty that are going to be remaining in Europe, for example, that are going to teach courses that are 5:00 and 6:00 am East Coast time, because that's better for their schedule. There will also be some courses that are asynchronous, and by August 1 - or on or around August 1 - those will be marked in SIS. You'll know if a class is synchronous, asynchronous, in-person, hybrid and so on. So asynchronous courses may be a better option.

Dudley Doane

And I know there is a section of ENWR 1510, which will be offered in the evening our time to accommodate students in East Asia.

Rachel Most

Right.

Dudley Doane

Thanks.

“I understand there are concerns about whether DHS [Department of Homeland Security] will allow students to enter at mid-semester. What is the latest students will definitely be allowed into the US and what is the cutoff date for mid-semester? Is it just August 24 or some other point in the semester?”

Richard Tanson

Well, yeah. I think we've addressed this a number of times, but let me at least say one additional thing. You are really not permitted - I mean if you're a new student - you're not permitted to enter the United States after the start date on the I-20. So, at the very least, it's important to know that if you're a new student and you're trying to come into the United States, you do need to work with our office to have an I-20 that reflects the date of entry and this presumes also, if you're an undergraduate, you're going to have to reach out to the school of enrollment and see if it's okay. Same for graduate students, with their departments, because we'll be looking for that permission as well, but we honestly don't have a date by which you can enter the United States.
States and, frankly, this may not even be possible for all schools of enrollment, so that's all I really can say for now.

Dudley Doane

- 01:14:05 Thank you.

“Many of the questions of similar around the I-20. What happens if we move online? I'm a second-year PhD student, and I'm considering taking a Leave of Absence as a response to all that's happening at the moment. What are the benefits of taking a Leave of Absence?”

Phil Trella

- 01:14:34 Well, you'd be hard to say. I mean, I think this a really personal decision that a student would have to make in terms of whether or not to take a Leave of Absence. What are the academic benefits of taking a Leave of Absence? I suppose, if you're in a doctoral program and you cannot be here in person, that taking a Leave of Absence, and of course we're assuming that after that Leave of Absence that you would be able to come to the US, that's an assumption based upon the state of the end of the pandemic, so it's hard to think ahead in those larger chunks of time. I would say that if someone is considering to take a Leave of Absence, that probably the best thing to do would be to have a discussion with your Director of Graduate Studies, and a discussion with your advisor about what could be accomplished during this period, where you would be academically at the end of this year. I think that, again, when we're thinking about a highly specialized doctoral program, a lot of it depends on where you are in your research phase, what the coursework entails, how this is going to impact your overall time-to-degree, potentially. I think that, again, I would just emphasize that when I'm talking with faculty members and with administrators across the University at the graduate level, I think people are thinking very hard about how to be flexible and creative to make sure that our doctoral students are able to continue to make progress.

We issued a survey…last month for graduate students across the University. We're just getting those data now to look at them. I've been encouraged that the vast majority of our graduate students report they have been able to make academic progress during this period. In part it's because of the good flexibility and the good advising by their faculty members, and so forth. So, I would urge careful consideration and some discussions with the advisor and the Director of Graduate Studies to really think through carefully all the things
that could be done over the course of this year. Again, a lot of it depends on where you are in your research phase. Are you at a point where you can work on literature reviews, how is your research going? It's so field-specific that's it's just really hard to grapple with that question in the absence of the context, which often drives what the best course of action is. But regardless of that, again, the best course of action is to talk closely with your Director of Graduate Studies, the Chair of your department, with your advisor, obviously, considering your own personal situation, and go from there. But I would also say that if a Leave of Absence is the best course of action, I think that most of our schools and programs are very welcoming of students coming back after those leaves to make sure that you complete what you came here for. I think that's our ultimate goal. Is that for students who do take leaves that we want to make sure that you have of course a path to completing that degree, and we would certainly hope that we would do everything in our power to help you complete that goal.

Dudley Doane

- 01:17:41 And I think I would add that this week faculty have expressed their willingness to work with students. They're ready to advise. They want to hear from you, and help you all make the best decision and be successful.

Phil Trella

- 01:17:58 Yeah, and Richard [sic], I would just add for that student who asked that question: feel free to reach out to me personally also. I'm happy to talk and advise and certainly we have people in our office who often offer that kind of support and to help direct you as best we can. So, whatever we can do, we're happy to help.

Dudley Doane

- 01:18:16 Thanks very much. Rachel, I think this is a good question for you to lead on, please:

“If we choose online classes, how do we attend classes that require an in-person experience, for example acting and performing classes, [and] astronomy classes that require observations?”

Rachel Most
So all those classes will be modified. We are only going to end up with a very small number; I think it's about 10 to 12 classes that will be in-person only. Three of those are at the grad level, one I think is an MFA class (Master in Fine Arts class), and one is an upper-level class in Chemistry for the chemical certification degree. The others are in Studio Art, where special equipment is required. So those classes, as they were in the spring, will have an online option for them.

Dudley Doane

Right.

"Is there any ‘Go Local’ option with a cooperative university outside the US, and is UVA considering ‘Go Local’ options?"

I think you’ve covered this once, Steve, but I’ll bring it back to you, if you don’t mind:

Steve Mull

Sure. Yes. So, we are aware that some of our students are interested in this option of perhaps studying at a UVA partner institution in their home countries, and then coming to UVA when circumstances permit. So we're studying this question very intensely. If you have interest in participating in a program like that, please let ISSP know about it, and we'll communicate about it when we have news.

Dudley Doane

Thanks very much. Chris and Allen:

“Will on-Grounds housing open earlier to international students who might want to self-quarantine in their dorms before roommates move in?”

Allen Groves

At present, the answer is “No.” In fact, the opposite concern is in play, which is we don't want people being in the Residence Hall long before, quite frankly, we begin the school year. We have not made a determination yet on precisely when the dormitories will open that still being discussed, but
at this point I would say that it is unlikely that we would open significantly early.

Dudley Doane

- 01:20:48 Thank you.

“What is UVA’s relationship with ICE [Immigration and Customs Enforcement], and do you have any policy that prevents the presence of ICE on-campus or off-Grounds housing?”

So perhaps Allen, Richard, Mark:

Allen Groves

- 01:21:14 All I can say is that the University is part of the Commonwealth of Virginia, so we are a public institution. We do have our own police force that has restriction over the University itself. Then we're surrounded by the City of Charlottesville, so most off-Grounds apartments and residences are in the City of Charlottesville, which is the jurisdiction of the Charlottesville Police, although our police do sometimes patrol in that area. We are not in a position to tell the Federal Government that they cannot come onto our property, but I'm not aware of any situation in which ICE has come on to the University's Grounds to conduct an enforcement action. I've been the dean for 14 years; I don't recall that happening. So again, it's we are the State. So, the State has a relationship with the Federal government, but we police our own Grounds with our own police.

Dudley Doane

- 01:22:10 Thank you.

“Hypothetically, were a student to receive their visa for fall 2020, but they then decide not to go to the US, due to the pandemic situation in the US, in favor of going to the US in spring 2021, will the fact that their visa was not used for half a year be an issue?”

Mark Rhoads

- 01:22:37 No. The visa will remain valid. For as long as the duration on the visa, you're perfectly fine.
Dudley Doane

- 01:22:46 Thanks very much.

“Is the Five-Month Rule still in place? Considering I left UVA on March 15, do I have to be back by August 15, or has that rule changed in any way?”

Richard Tanson

- 01:22:59 Well as we stated in the FAQ that was issued in the spring [“FAQ for International Students and Scholars,” June 23, 2020], the Five-Month Rule was suspended, so it does not affect students who left in the spring (summer doesn't count). So, no, if you’re coming back in the fall, you are not encumbered by the Five-Month Rule.

Dudley Doane

- 01:23:18 And Richard, if you don't mind, that might be helpful to remind everyone…

Richard Tanson

- 01:23:23 Yeah, it's reference to a rule that gets a lot of attention that if you're outside the United States for more than five months, it constitutes grounds for termination of your status. I think really what we're facing here preempts that. If you're coming back to Grounds, don't worry about the five months, no matter when you left in the spring. If you're not coming back in the fall, then it's the current guidance that really is an issue, not the Five-Months Rule.

Dudley Doane

- 01:23:59 Next question:

“Is the University working with any other universities or institutions to fight against the ICE [Immigration and Customs Enforcement] order? Does the University plan on making any public statements explicitly against and condemning the new regulations, the Trump Administration or DHS [Department of Homeland Security], similar to those done by other universities like the University of California System, Northeastern [University], NYU [New York University]? We understand this does not immediately solve the problem. However we feel that the current situation requires a statement
and stance supporting the international community and fight against the body dictating such regulations."

Steve:

Steve Mull

- 01:24:41 I'm happy to take that. Thanks, Dudley. So I think I mentioned at the outset of our meeting today that your welfare as international students is really of utmost importance for us, and so in responding to this proposed regulation, we first of all want to make sure that you are protected from this to the maximum extent possible. And we've done that by guaranteeing that if you are able to come here to Charlottesville, you will have some in-person instruction and you will not be at risk, regardless of whether this regulation goes forward or not.

At the same time, we want to fight back in the most effective way possible to prevent its implementation. As I mentioned, we will be joining a number of statements that will be coming out from various associations of American higher education institutions. We are also in the process, very much today, of making decisions on which legal challenge will be the most effective to prevent the implementation of this rule. I expect there will be news to come. But regardless of the legal process, which we're very much closely following and will be engaged in, we want to make sure that - whatever happens with this rule - that first and foremost all of you will be protected from it.

Dudley Doane

- 01:26:13 Thank you.

“Can UVA update the start date on the I-20 to August 24 if we need more time in case the embassies open late?”

Richard Tanson

- 01:26:26 If that is okay with the school of enrollment, then we're happy to update I-20s.

Dudley Doane

- 01:26:34 And so how would you advise a student with regard to confirming…
Richard Tanson

- **01:26:39** Yeah, I think the best thing to do is to reach out to the school of enrollment, and when they get the email response, that should be part of their response to us.

Dudley Doane

- **01:26:49** Okay, thanks.

  “As many of us are coming in from outside the US, when will the new I-20s be reissued; many flights are nonrefundable, so we can get through Immigration in the US without a new I-20?”

Richard Tanson

- **01:27:05** Right, so we did address this before, but it does bear repeating. In the email that all of you have been sent - both new and continuing students - we enclosed a survey. Those of you who want a new I-20 that survey has to be filled out. That is going to be the basis of distribution, as well as being used for other purposes within the University, but if you need an I-20, you got to fill out the survey.

Dudley Doane

- **01:27:34** Thank you. And, Richard, remind me please, do we offer a suggested deadline for completing the survey?

Richard Tanson

- **01:27:41** ASAP [as soon as possible]. Yeah.

Dudley Doane

- **01:27:43** Which really means by today [July 10], 5:00 pm.

Richard Tanson

- **01:27:45** Eastern Time, close of business.

Dudley Doane
Thank you.

“If I'm holding a travel visa. Can I enter the US with a B-1 visa and change to the student visa?”

Richard Tanson

Oh boy. No, no, no. Absolutely not. Look at Mark, look at what you've done to Mark! No! Please don't. Do not enter! In fact, let's go through an exercise: everybody on this call who's a student, I want you to think about that B-1/B-2 visa in your passport. Okay? Now, forget it's there. You will never use it ever. Do not use that B-1 or B-1/B-2 to enter the United States. You will not be able to change your status from B-1/B-2 or B-2. Okay? You cannot study at a university on a Tourist visa. Furthermore, if you come into the United States as a tourist, even though you won't be able to start your studies, and then you try to change status, two things: one, change of status application takes about eight to 12 months; two, likely your entry to the US will be considered fraudulent. So don't do it [phone rings]. Mark?

Mark Rhoads

I think ICE was calling you, Richard…[laughter]

Richard Tanson

Really? Somebody just won't stop calling me.

Dudley Doane

Yeah, anything to add to that, Mark?

Mark Rhoads

No.

Dudley Doane

Okay. That was definitive.

Richard Tanson

I hope so.
Dudley Doane

01:29:21

“I'm a student outside the US. I'm newly accepted to UVA and have not obtained my visa status yet. Would I be able to take remote classes in China if I have not obtained my F-1 visa status yet, and if so, when could I apply for my visa status if I want to come back in the spring semester?”

Do I need to repeat the question?

Mark Rhoads

01:30:10 Yeah, can you repeat it?

Dudley Doane

01:30:12 Sure.

“I'm a Chinese student outside the US. I have been accepted to UVA and have not obtained my visa status yet. Would I be able to take remote classes in China if I have not obtained my F-1 visa, and if so when could I apply for my visa, if I want to come in the spring semester?”

Mark Rhoads

01:30:35 Richard, you want to handle the I-20 part of that?

Richard Tanson

01:30:38 Say it again.

Mark Rhoads

01:30:40 The student is in China. Has not received a visa. Has an I-20. Will take online classes through the fall. Wants to come in second semester.

Richard Tanson

01:30:52 So yeah, we've addressed this too, but it also bears repeating. You can't come into the US after the start date on the I-20, plus we have our reporting requirement that we mentioned before, so it's absolutely essential
that as soon as you know you are not coming to the US in the fall, and the I-20 has been issued, you need a new I-20 that starts in the spring semester. So everybody can reach out to our office, once that is in fact the case. If you've already received a deferral from your school of enrollment, you can enclose that, or you can forward that to us with your request. If you have not requested it of your school living enrollment, you need to do that first.

Dudley Doane

- 01:31:49 Well, I think this is something for Chris and Allen to perhaps comment on generally:

“If there are cases diagnosed during the fall semester [Dudley, “cases of COVID-19”] will UVA move completely online?”

So maybe you could outline how the University will analyze a potentially changing health situation here in Charlottesville.

Allen Groves

- 01:32:16 I think I'll start briefly and then turn to Chris. Much of this will be driven by the Virginia Department of Health. There is a very good chance that if there was a significant outbreak across a university in the Commonwealth of Virginia that the State Government, the Governor, and the Virginia Department of Health may then issue guidance - or indeed directives - to the colleges and universities in Virginia to move online. So certainly that is one way in which something like this could happen. This would all be driven by a public health analysis in determining what is happening, are prophylactic measures possible if the outbreak is small, such that we can continue to operate, but if the scale of it was broad enough, then yes, from a public health perspective, we would have to change the approach we're taking, but I'll turn to our health expert, who's on the Zoom here:

Chris Holstege

- 01:33:11 And Allen is absolutely correct. And a lot of this comes down to testing, both testing those who are symptomatic as well as surveillance testing within our community, both the University and the community in which we reside. So the call for any changes to what we have in regards to the academic environment, gatherings and such, will be by the Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control, our Governor's Office, and certainly
the University Administration. But again, a key to that is the testing. I'm glad to report that we have great testing capabilities right now at the University of Virginia, thanks to our colleagues in the School of Medicine.

**Dudley Doane**

- **01:33:53** Thank you.

“Will we receive a memo about an immediate ‘To Do List’ after this Town Hall today?”

So I think maybe we should think about Student Affairs, Orientation, academic side, the schools, undergrad, grad and professional. I think I can say with confidence, we are not sending a ‘To Do List,’ or several ‘To Do Lists,” immediately after this Town Hall. As the month progresses and we gain information, we will, I think, be offering that kind of granular advice. So Allen, Rachel:

**Allen Groves**

- **01:34:42** Yea. I was simply going to say, you should already be hearing from Orientation, because they are already doing programs and I know your school should be in contact with you as you look at registering classes. All that is beginning to happen this month. So you should be getting (as an international student you’re no different in some respects than any other student in terms of getting), most regularly this summer, about the things you need to do as an incoming student.

**Rachel Most**

- **01:35:12** I would echo that. We've been communicating with students since early May. So if you have not yet activated your UVA email, you should do that and check that daily. That's the only email address we use, and that's where all schools send their communication to the UVA email address. It's the University’s official way of communicating with students. We will probably send something out at the end of the month, as will the University Registrar (**UREG**), because they'll be letting students know they can find the status of their classes in **SIS** on August 1, so watch for that message as well.

**Dudley Doane**
01:35:49 Thanks. And another reason why the survey is so important to complete is that we will be sharing some of that data with groups like Student Affairs, Housing, and the individual schools, and that will help them figure out who to message and what those messages that go out should contain for content.

Rachel Most

01:36:09 Yeah, I think all the schools will want to know that if you are here and find yourself in all online courses, we need to work with you to get you an in-person course. And we'll do that. We just need to know.

Dudley Doane

01:36:22 Thank you. I don't know if this question is coming from a grad student or an undergrad, but:

“What should I do with the health insurance if I'm not going to Charlottesville this semester, but I am starting online classes?”

Chris Holstege

01:36:39 So, I'm assuming that is in relation to the Health Insurance Form that needs to be completed, Dudley.

Dudley Doane

01:36:46 Okay.

Chris Holstege

01:36:46 If that's the question: those who are not coming on site, you do not need to complete the Health Insurance Attestation. So there'll be a messaging that will come out in regards to this to a select group who will not be coming. That is for people who will be on site, specifically.

Dudley Doane

01:37:10 Thank you.

“Do the incoming students and teachers need to take the nucleic acid monitoring, regardless from internal [sic] US or outside?”
I think, do you need to get a test before arriving and can the test be taken outside the US, perhaps?

**Chris Holstege**

- **01:37:38** Yeah, Dudley, I'll talk on that too. The testing in regards to coming to the University, there's going to be more guidance coming out, as there's a working group determining testing and what testing will need to be done before students come. That will be global for the student population, but expect more messaging on that. If there's specific (and I'm not aware of specific) guidance from the Federal Government right now (before coming in) regarding testing, but there may be some to pay attention to closer to that also.

**Dudley Doane**

- **01:38:12** Okay. Thanks very much.

“I'm a grad student from Uganda, and I had planned on both teaching and taking classes virtually and staying at home in my country for the duration of the fall semester. The FAQ that was sent yesterday [“FAQ on SEVP Guidance for Fall Semester 2020,” July 9, 2020] stated that all students would be required to take at least one in-person class to maintain their legal status, and that graduate student research courses are considered in-person classes. I'm sorry if this is a ridiculous question [Dudley, “It's not.”], but does this mean that graduate students will need to be physically on campus or physically present in the United States in order to maintain their legal status?”

I think we're looking at you, Mr. Tanson.

**Richard Tanson**

- **01:39:09** Mark is ready to go so go for it.

**Mark Rhoads**

- **01:39:12** No. I'll leave it to you [laughter].

**Dudley Doane**

- **01:39:13** I'm sorry I wasn't looking at Mark.
Mark Rhoads

- 01:39:17 I'm merely here for moral support. Go ahead, Richard.

Richard Tanson

- 01:39:20 I need it [sigh]. I mean, it's an excellent question, but, really…

Dudley Doane

- 01:39:28 Do you want to parse it out for us, Richard, for the…

Richard Tanson

- 01:39:30 Yeah, yeah, you're right. And I can see where the confusion would easily issue. I mean, we've just declared that dissertation-level classes are considered in-person classes, but as you state yourself, you could be anywhere and be engaged in research classes, even though there's an underlying presumption that you're meeting with your advisor and you're doing research, and so forth, which supports that that contention. [Sigh] I don't know.

Mark Rhoads

- 01:40:11 Yeah, the answer is there is no clear answer. The presumption of most of this guidance is that, particularly with regard to PhD students, that you're here in the United States and the UVA’s policy is consistent with that, that if you're here in the US and you're working on your dissertation, you can remain lawfully in F-1 status. If you are outside the United States, there is no clear answer on that. So all I can say is that we will continue to monitor whatever guidance is issued from Immigration Service. We also continue to monitor a number of nationwide university groups on all of these issues. So far we've seen no answer with regard to this question, but we will continue to monitor and will update as information comes in.

Phil Trella

- 01:41:06 Yeah, if I can…Go ahead…

Richard Tanson
Well, I was just going to say that taking research credits from Uganda would be the same as any student taking a normally in-person class that is being taught for the sake of this pandemic remotely. So research credits are in-person classes, as are almost all the classes at the University of Virginia, but for students who remain abroad, those classes have a remote inflection, and it could very well be the case that Immigration would look at this the same way. Yes, it's usually an in-person class, but you're in Uganda. So we'll reserve judgment, but I could easily see it going that way. Phil:

Phil Trella

Yeah, I was just going to jump in and say that that the question is an important question. A side observation: usually the person who says, “I think this question might be silly,” usually touches upon one of the most important questions of the day. So, the answer to this question, just appreciating that has ramifications for both the PhD student and the courses that they're taking and their status, but also their role at the university as a teacher, so I think that the question or mentioned teaching remotely also, the notion that we've been moving forward with is that provided that it's allowed by your school and by your program that you would be able to continue your assistantship duties remotely. Whether that's here in the United States or abroad. So if you're in Uganda, theoretically, you could continue doing your teaching assistantship while you're abroad. This recent guidance throws a monkey wrench into about.

So I take it you may be a student who is enrolled full-time in non-topical research hours, you're serving as a graduate teaching assistant at the University. Our ability to pay you as a graduate teaching assistant relies upon, and Richard correct me if I'm wrong, relies that your work authorization is tied to your F-1 status. So if that goes away, and we're not authorized to pay you, then there's also a ramification for your ability to serve as an assistant in this scenario. So, just to highlight that in that question there are two really important questions about your ability to continue and status as a student, and then also your ability to continue engaging in your teaching assistantship as that is tied to your ability to be employed by the university (a graduate teaching assistantship is an employment relationship with the University), and if we're not able to employ you because you're not in status, then there would be jeopardy to your teaching assistantship, if that makes sense.
Richard Tanson

- 01:43:57 It makes sense, and it's actually something I'd love to hear Mark comment on. And that is, Mark: we have a graduate research or teaching assistant who is compelled to stay outside the United States. The issue here, even though they have no status, presumably, in the US, is that they're going to be paid by a US institution into a US bank account. In order for that to happen, do they have to have a valid legal status in the United States?

Mark Rhoads

- 01:44:29 Well, the answer is that whenever somebody is working for a company - a US-based entity like UVA - if you are outside the United States, you do not need a US work-authorized status. So for example, you don't need to use OPT, don't need to use CPT. You only need US work authorization if you're physically feet-on-the-ground here in the United States. The question for UVA is: how do you best pay that individual? There are going to be international tax issues; there are going to be international payroll issues. That is beyond my area of expertise.

Phil Trella

- 01:45:14 And we have examined those, and have determined that there is some amount of flexibility there, which is what our previous guidance was based on. So, this is why I like to come to these meetings, because I learned something. So, I think that I would just say, withhold, that I think that we probably need to study this a little bit more, and kind of tease out some of these relationships, but just to highlight that in this question, there are actually several important embedded questions for students at the University who have a variety of responsibilities and relationships with the University, both as students and as employees.

Dudley Doane

- 01:45:52 So, Richard and Phil, how would you advise the student in terms of keeping in touch with you in the coming weeks?

Phil Trella

- 01:46:00 Yeah, I would say…Go ahead, Richard, sorry.
Richard Tanson

- **01:46:03** I would say be in touch with us. Certainly, if you're a new student in terms of I-20 issuance. Fill out the survey - I'll say it again. You need to be in touch with Phil, because this is an evolving policy. And again, Mark: these are students who would be paid, correct me Phil, from UVA only into US bank accounts. They wouldn't be sending any money abroad, so we don't know if that changes matters or not.

Mark Rhoads

- **01:46:34** That doesn't change the immigration issue. Whatever tax implications, payroll implications - that's a different issue.

Phil Trella

- **01:46:44** There are tax and payroll implications. Unfortunately, that is not possible, as I understand, so the US bank account is an important factor here. For continuing students who have been serving in assistantships for years over their education at UVA this is probably not an issue, in terms of the bank account assumption is that they already have that covered. But just to highlight again, but that is an important tax related issue, even though it's not an immigration issue and it's in fact kind of the interweaving of these tax and immigration issues that determines the guidance and where we've ended up. So my advice to the students would be: stay tuned; keep in touch with your school and your department; as soon as we have more clarity on this, we will be communicating through your schools and your departments, who will be communicating to you what is possible. So it's, unfortunately, a fast evolving scenario. But again, we hope that there might be opportunity that there's a pause put on this, which would allow us to fall back on the guidance which we have already issued, which would suggest that that certainly if you're in status and you have a valid US visa that for a period of six months we believe that we would be able to continue to pay you for your employment-based relationship with the University, including your graduate teaching assistantship.

Dudley Doane

- **01:48:14** Mark, if we could come back to you, we have an H-1B question:
“Those who won the lottery this year, are they still valid (the H-1B ban) or are they canceled? I just want to determine the impact of the H1-B lottery pool in the following years.”

Mark Rhoads

- **01:48:34** Well, as it stands right now, the H-1B “ban” only impacts individuals who are outside the United States. If you are in the United States, and you were selected in the H-1B lottery…Just as an aside, H-1B is a very common work visa in the United States. There is a very limited quota on the H-1B visa. The quota is 85,000. This past year there were about 270,000 applications submitted for that 85,000 quota. So the government randomly selects 85,000 cases out of that 270 [thousand] to process. If you are one of the lucky ones selected, your H-1B petition can proceed. Immigration Services is still processing H-1B’s and they are issuing approvals. If you’re here in the United States and your H-1B petition was selected for processing, and you are approved, it will be effective on October 1. Your status will change to H-1B right here in the United States. You do not have to depart.

Dudley Doane

- **01:49:51** Thanks very much. Great.

“All I choose to take a course in person, can I also have access to the course online? More specifically, if I do stay in Charlottesville and do take some in-person classes, can I also access the course online?”

Rachel Most

- **01:50:09** That’s probably going to be up to the individual faculty member, in terms of how they’re delivering the class and what the percentage of in-person to online is. Some may be very flexible, and it may not matter. Others may want the students having the in-person experience to be in attendance on a given day. So you’ll have to get guidance from individual faculty on that. It depends how they run the class.

Dudley Doane

- **01:50:34** And there’s a related question, which I think is worth sharing:
“I'm a returning student and already in the US. I'm very concerned about taking classes in person, given the continued rise and new cases. I have family members who were infected with the virus and some died from it [Dudley, “Sorry to hear that, of course.”]. I fear exposure to the virus, and I do not feel comfortable taking classes in-person. Would taking an independent study class in-person and the rest of my classes online run against the regulation?”

Rachel Most

- 01:51:10 I'm going to say that it's possible. I'll let Richard answer whether it meets the spirit of the in-person requirement.

Richard Tanson

- 01:51:21 Well, in person, really, the way that immigration frames it, no matter what their intent, is that you are registered and you are enrolled in an in-person class. Let's just say, what exact things you workout [completes sentence with gesture]. Yeah.

Rachel Most

- 01:51:47 Independent studies with a student...

Richard Tanson

- 01:51:50 Independent studies are fine. So, independent studies are in person classes by nature. Yeah one-credit independent study obviously works.

Rachel Most

- 01:51:58 And we are going to be working on different options for independent study classes, small group tutorials of no more than five students that can meet in-person for students that need them and maybe some slightly larger courses with an in-person component for students who need an in-person experience, one credit option.

Dudley Doane

- 01:52:20
“What class size is considered a large class? How can we make sure we enroll in an in-person course successfully?”

And then Rachel, I think this is for you, could you also comment on when students can expect to learn more about what classes will be online and what classes will be in person?

Rachel Most

- 01:52:39 Yeah, we hope by August 1, and it will probably be on August 1, and not much in advance of that, you'll be able to see what is in-person, what is on-line, and synchronous or asynchronous, in SIS (the Student Information System). So you can go and check that. Dudley, I'm sorry. I forgot the first part of the question.

Dudley Doane

01:53:03 I mean I'm looking at another question, sorry.

Rachel Most

- 01:53:04 Okay. Anybody remember what the first part was? I had an answer for it. I just can't remember what it was.

Dudley Doane

- 01:53:14 Sorry, I've lost it….Too many screens going.

Rachel Most

- 01:53:19 Yeah, it was also something about in-person. Oh, “what's considered large?”

Dudley Doane

- 01:53:27 Yes. Yes. Thank you.

Rachel Most

- 01:53:28 Schools are defining that differently, depending on the classrooms they have available to them. Right now, we're working with our largest classroom is the Chemistry Auditorium, which under normal conditions holds
about 495 students. With social distancing it holds 40, so we're going with 40. Anything over 40, we don't really have capacity for that class to be in person on a regular basis. We may create some small number of classes that alternate use of that room. So maybe they meet every two weeks, a small group in-person, but that gets complicated. So for right now, and it could change, we're going with 40.

Dudley Doane

- 01:54:12 Okay, thank you.

“The survey only talked about the I-20 Form, not the DS-2019 Form [“Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor (J-1) Status”]. Should J-type students take any additional steps to be reissued forms?”

This is from a newly accepted graduate student. Linda:

Linda Callihan

- 01:54:29 No. The State Department has not made any kind of announcement about requiring additional notations on the DS-2019, so no new forms required.

Dudley Doane

- 01:54:41 Okay. And Steve, did you want to comment on the updates with the MIT, Massachusetts case?

Steve Mull

- 01:54:52 Sure, I'd be happy to. We have breaking news from the courtroom hearing the Harvard-MIT suit. The judge has scheduled a ruling for the request to block the implementation of this order for next Wednesday, and then there'll be another hearing in advance of that ruling on Tuesday. So we will be very keen to follow the court, and will - I encourage all of you to follow it as well - will communicate, as soon as there's a ruling, what the implications are. So please continue to watch this space.

Dudley Doane
01:55:34 And, Richard and Linda, communications on our side would mean we would post updates on our website and also email all new and continuing international students?

Richard Tanson

01:55:45 Well, if there is an injunction that that is in force, once we finished our party [smiles], we would put it on our website and send an email out to everyone.

Dudley Doane

01:55:57 Okay, but if there's news of any sort...

Richard Tanson

01:56:00 News of any sort, it's going out. We have no problems with over communicating.

Dudley Doane

01:56:05 Okay. All right. Thanks very much. Last question:

“Will UVA be able to release a document of classes that will be in-person and on-line? I'm a Canadian student and when crossing the border, I will be asked to prove that I have these classes online. What can UVA provide me with?”

Rachel Most

01:56:27 Right now, I don't know of any document, but you could probably build a document of screenshots from the system that show the classes are in-person, because that will be loaded on August 1. You may even be able to print out your schedule, and it might show it there.

Richard Tanson

01:56:46 I think that's probably a valid point. But let's remember that if the guidance holds, what the students really need is this new notation on the I-20.

Dudley Doane
Richard Tanson

Yeah. So if you read the language of the guidance, students will have to have I-20s issued that state that the University is not offering only online courses; that the student is not engaging in only online courses; and is only taking the online courses necessary to move towards their degree objective. It's canned language. We have it ready. So yes, that's what they need.

Dudley Doane

Okay. All right. Well, thanks very much to our panelists. Again, we will be holding another Town Hall, or information session, next Friday and for the two Fridays that follow. ISSP will send information out about those sessions. This session has been recorded. We will post that as soon as it becomes available to us. Please continue to send us your questions. You're welcome to make an advising appointment via the ISSP website, which is: issp.virginia.edu. We look forward to working with you in the coming months and years. We know that all of you are living with uncertainty and navigating a global pandemic, as we are, but we will get through this and we will see you in Charlottesville. Thank you.

Thank you for joining us for the Town Hall. For any inquiries, write to:

issp@virginia.edu