



# INTERNATIONAL STUDENT NEWSLETTER AND CALENDAR

April 2021



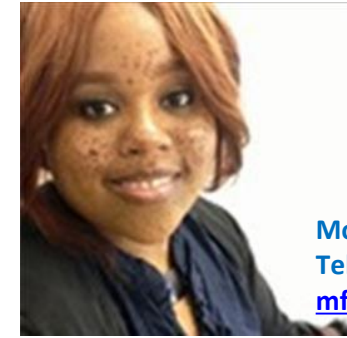


## Designated School Officials - DSOs

International Student Advisors  
Immigration related matters



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## International Student at TCSP

Ademola Owolabi – DC Campus: 2020  
Global Impact Scholarship Recipient

Enjoying the DC Tour organized by the  
Campus Dean

# IMPORTANT REMINDERS & UPDATES

*As an international student, you have the responsibility of acclimating to a new culture and maintaining your international student status. In order to support you, International Programs and Services (IPS) provides you with a newsletter that includes timely announcements. Each month, the newsletter will include relevant information including a calendar with important events, dates, and reminders. Please contact us with questions!*



# Travel During Spring Break and COVID-19

Please be aware of the risks for travel that you may encounter during this time, especially as you consider travel between the spring and summer semesters. We do highly recommend that you do not travel unless it is an emergency, because,

- TCSPP continues its remote operation through Summer 2021. You might not be admitted by the CBP officer when you return for your Summer training.

Per [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\) guidance](#), *“If you plan to travel internationally, you will need to get tested no more than **3 days** before you travel by air into the United States (US) and show your negative result to the airline before you board your flight or be prepared to show documentation of recovery (proof of a recent positive viral test and a letter from your healthcare provider or a public health official stating that you were cleared to travel).”*

- [U.S. Department of State](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control](#)



# Travel During Spring Break and COVID-19

Additionally, please be advised of additional travel restrictions for immigrants and non-immigrants re-entering the U.S. due to the Presidential Proclamation:

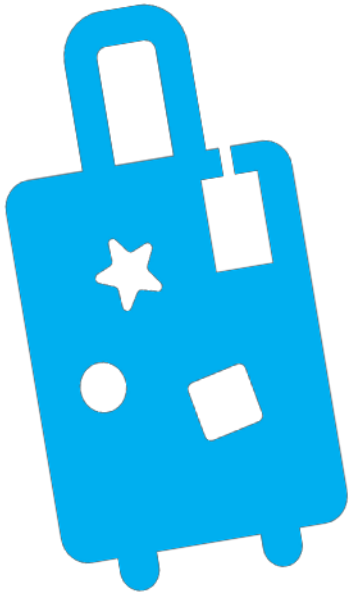
- [Presidential Proclamation](#)

You also can track country-specific travel measures at [this link](#).

If you are planning to travel home, please communicate with your family and friends regarding your country's policies on citizens returning from abroad. During your travels, [please monitor your TCSPP email as well as we will provide updates from the Department of Homeland Security regarding guidelines for returning through a U.S. Port of Entry.](#)



## Travel During Spring Break and COVID-19



If you decide to travel, please make sure to have the following documents in hand when you return for the Summer 2021 semester – once again admission by CBP officers is not guaranteed.

- A valid passport with at least six months of validity beyond the date of your return and a minimum of two blank pages.
- A valid Visa.
- An I-20 with your DSO's travel signature on the 2<sup>nd</sup> page dated within 12 months of your return.
- An I-901 SEVIS Fee payment receipt. If you cannot find one, please re-print from [fmifee.com](https://fmifee.com).
- A copy of your most recent I-94 Print Out. If you don't have one, please re-print from [CBP's website](https://www.cbp.gov).
- It is also highly recommended that you carry evidence that you have the funding required to support your study in the U.S.

## Summer 2021 Registration and CPT Authorization

Summer 2021 Registration opened on March 15, 2021. If you are continuing current CPT(F1) or AT (J1) or starting a new practicum or internship in Summer 2021, please be sure to register the corresponding TCSP course as soon as it opens for registration and fill out the [application form](#). Please [contact your DSO](#) if you have questions. Working for practicum or Internship without an authorization will result in the termination of your status.

## OPT Application

If you are planning to graduate in Summer, it is time to work with your Department and DSO to prepare your OPT application. OPT processing time with USCIS can range from three to five months. Please see the required document checklist on our [website](#) and join the monthly OPT Workshop the second Tuesday every month. See calendar below. \_\_\_\_\_

## Summer 2021 Remote Operation

By now you should have received the COVID-19 School Operation update from your campus leadership regarding Summer 2021 semester. TCSP is going to continue offering courses remotely for our on-ground students through Summer 2021 semester when certain classes might have in-person sessions. It will continue with Live videoconferencing – Synchronous (real-time) model.

**Please refer to the next few slides for Q&As.**





|                        |                   |  |
|------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Chicago Campus         | Ivonne Diaz       | <a href="mailto:idi@thechicagoschool.edu">idi@thechicagoschool.edu</a>             |
| So. Cal. Campuses      | Rachel Dory       | <a href="mailto:rdory@thechicagoschool.edu">rdory@thechicagoschool.edu</a>         |
| Washington, D.C Campus | Monisola Fakiyesi | <a href="mailto:mfakiyesi@thechicagoschool.edu">mfakiyesi@thechicagoschool.edu</a> |

**If I have questions regarding SEVP Compliance, whom I should talk to?**

You are always welcome to reach out to your DSO/ARO for your campus - see above. Please also feel free to drop-by PDSO's weekly office hour every Thursday – see Calendar.

**Am I still in status if I take all my courses online (synchronous) in Summer 2021?**

Yes, as long as you are enrolled full time. Please consult with your DSO and Academic Advisor for more details. SEVP has adjusted its policy to adapt to the current COVID-19 crisis and will inform school when it is time to resume regular operations.





## May I return home and take my courses online from my home country in Summer 2021?

Yes, as long as you enroll full time per your program requirement, you can take courses from your home country. SEVP requires students travelled abroad to return to school within 30 days of next available session once normal operation is resumed by SEVP/School. And you can only be outside the U.S. less than 5 months to be in Continuous Status. However, we highly recommend that you wait until we receive the leadership's decision on Fall 2021 operation.

- You must plan your departure date so that it is within 5 months when you return for Fall 2021
- Keep in mind that if the remote operation continues in Fall 2021, you will have the risk not to be admitted into the U.S. when you plan to return. It might impact the required training if it applies to you in Fall 2021.
- Please make sure to check with your family to see if the internet capacity back home allows you to attend the courses. You are still required to attend all the course as you do in the U.S.
- Please check with your family to know what the travel restrictions are by your home country government.
- Please check your travel signature on the 2<sup>nd</sup> page of your I-20 if it is still within 12 months when you return to school for Fall 2021 starting on Aug. 30 if the regular operation is resumed.
- Please keep in mind that you will need to renew your visa if it is expiring and monitor [US Embassy/Consulate Office](#) operation update.
- Please keep in mind that your passport must be valid for at least 6 months beyond the date when you return to the U.S. with minimum 2 blank pages left.
- Please look out for TCSP email update on school operations and U.S. government travel ban update.



## Do I still need a wet signature on my I-20 in order to travel during COVID-19?

Yes. The 2nd page of your I-20 must be physically signed by your DSO and it must be valid within 12 months of your return date. SEVP has relaxed the guideline to allow a digital signature on I-20s for other uses within the U.S., but it has not been implemented consistently by other government agencies. To ensure that you don't have any trouble at the Port of Entry when you return, please make sure to have your I-20 signed. You can work with your DSO for more details.

## I am a J1 Student. Where do I find government update regarding my J1 status?

In addition to SEVP update above, please also check the update from [Exchange Visitor Program](#) for more information regarding your J1 status. Please also monitor your school email account, since your ARO will keep in touch with you more closely during this time.

## If I return home during Summer 2021, am I required to enroll in TCSPP Insurance?

No. You can notify Health Office to cancel your insurance for Summer 2021 and re-enroll once for Fall 2021. If you register full time for Fall 2021, you will be automatically enrolled for another year starting from Aug. 15, 2021. If you wish to opt out, you will follow the instruction on the [Insurance website](#) to apply for waiver. Even though you might have approved for waiver before, you are required to apply every year at the annual enrollment.

Please be aware of that you are not covered by TCSPP's insurance if you return home for Summer 2021.



### **May I work from my home country for my On-Campus Employment?**

Current HR policy doesn't allow students to work from overseas for any on-campus employment. Please confirm with your supervisor and consult with HR if you have questions.

### **I will start my CPT/AT in Summer. Can I receive authorization and participate in CPT while I am abroad?**

Yes. You may engage in CPT/AT during your time abroad, provided you:

- Have registered for the course associated with the training
- Your training is in the program of study
- Your DSO/ARO authorized CPT/AT in advance of the CPT/AT start date; and
- Either the employer has an office outside the United States or the employer can assess your engagement and attainment of learning objectives electronically. You must discuss with your supervisor at the training site and receive approval.





## **I am on CPT / AT. Due to COVID-19, I am not going to finish my required hours. What am I going to do?**

It happens to some students, so you are not alone. Please reach out to your Academic and training advisors to discuss. Most Departments have practicum/internship extension courses you can register if it is your last semester to complete your training. If it is not your last semester, please discuss with your department on your curriculum sequence and see if you will need to extend your program of study. Please work with your DSO as soon as you can if you need to extend, so your DSO can provide some guidance on documentation needed to extend your I-20. Please keep in mind that you only can extend your I-20 prior to the Program End Date. Otherwise, you will be out of status. We really appreciate it if you can give your DSO at least 2-3 weeks to work on your extension.





### **Where can I find update from Immigration Services during this special time?**

SEVP continues to update its guidelines during COVID-19 Operation. Please see the updates on [ICE.gov](https://ice.dhs.gov) and expand the second topic from the bottom, [Nonimmigrant Students and SEVP-Certified Schools: Frequently Asked Questions](#).

### **What are other resources that can help me find updates related to special COVID-19 operations and warnings?**

- [U.S. Department of State](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control](#)

I J **IMPORTANT**  
ANNOUNCEMENT



## 2020 International Student Tax

**2020 Federal Tax filing deadline has been extended until May 17, 2021! Extension doesn't apply to State Tax.**

As an international student, you are required to file a [Federal Tax Return](#). We have announced earlier that TCSPP has contracted with Sprintax and purchased a code for 50 students to file their 2020 Federal Tax (8843 and 1040NR) free of charge (extra for State). *Code is shared on our [website and via an email in February](#).*

The Sprintax team will be hosting a series of [free open tax webinars](#) to provide helpful information around non-resident tax filing obligations. The webinar will cover an overview of tax for non-resident students and scholars, who must file a 2020 U.S. tax return, what income forms students may receive, Forms that need to be completed and sent to IRS, what happens if students don't file or misfile, State tax returns... You can find the details and registration links below. Each webinar will cover the same topics. Please make sure to use your TCSPP email account when register for the webinars and file your tax using the free code.

| Day       | Date      | Time         |              |              | Registration Link             |
|-----------|-----------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------------|
|           |           | Pacific Time | Central Time | Eastern Time |                               |
| Wednesday | 4/7/2021  | 11:00 AM     | 1:00 PM      | 2:00 PM      | <a href="#">Register here</a> |
| Thursday  | 4/8/2021  | 11:00 AM     | 1:00 PM      | 2:00 PM      | <a href="#">Register here</a> |
| Monday    | 4/12/2021 | 9:00 AM      | 11:00 AM     | 12:00 PM     | <a href="#">Register here</a> |
| Monday    | 4/12/2021 | 11:00 AM     | 1:00 PM      | 2:00 PM      | <a href="#">Register here</a> |



## GoinGlobal Webinars

|          |         |                            |                               |
|----------|---------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| TUESDAY  | 4/20/21 | 2:00 pm GMT / 10:00 am EDT | <a href="#">REGISTER HERE</a> |
| THURSDAY | 5/6/21  | 2:00 pm EDT / 11:00 am PDT | <a href="#">REGISTER HERE</a> |

Please see above, more webinars available from [GoinGlobal](#), providing career guides both in the U.S. and worldwide. Students and professionals nationwide participated in their first webinar earlier feel that it is an eye-opening experience. There are so much assistance and resources out there that was unknown to many. The webinar provided important strategies and tactics that will help you achieve your career objectives, especially in a market transformed by the pandemic. GoinGlobal also offers a network of many employers in different countries and in the U.S. and introduces those who offer a H-1B sponsorship.

Hope one of schedules work for you. These webinars are offered nationwide and could be filled pretty quickly. Please register as soon as you can if you are interested.



# OFFICE HOURS AND WORKSHOPS

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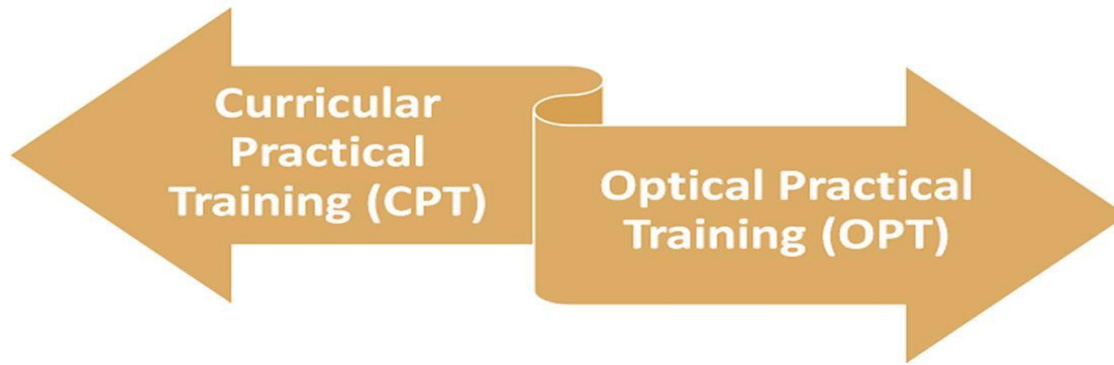


# Have Questions for the PDSO?

## PDSO's Virtual Office Hours

| <u>Every Thursday</u> | Pacific Time               | Central Time | Eastern Time |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|
|                       | 3 pm – 4 pm                | 5 pm – 6 pm  | 6 pm – 7 pm  |
| Zoom Link             | <a href="#">Click Link</a> |              |              |
| Dial In               | +1 312 626 6799            |              |              |
| Meeting ID            | 932 5368 7709              |              |              |





## Employment Workshops for F-1 Students

[CPT workshops and OPT workshops](#) are offered every month. You can access via Zoom as shown here. These workshops will help you prepare for all employment opportunities under CPT and OPT such as practicum, internship, volunteer work, and employment after graduation.

Please join us first Tuesday every month for CPT workshop and Second Tuesday for the OPT workshop.

| Workshop                           | CPT – Curricular Practical Training |                 |             |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| <u>First Tuesday of Each Month</u> | L.A., Irvine, SD                    | Chicago, Dallas | DC          |
|                                    | 12 pm – 1 pm                        | 2 pm – 3 pm     | 3 pm – 4 pm |
| Zoom Link                          | <a href="#">Click Link</a>          |                 |             |
| Dial In                            | +1 301 715 8592                     |                 |             |
| Meeting ID / Password              | 949 769 4199 / 7697784              |                 |             |

| Workshop                            | OPT – Optional Practical Training |                 |             |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| <u>Second Tuesday of Each Month</u> | L.A., Irvine, SD                  | Chicago, Dallas | DC          |
|                                     | 10 am – 11 am                     | 12 pm – 1 pm    | 1 pm – 2 pm |
| Zoom Link                           | <a href="#">Click Link</a>        |                 |             |
| Dial In                             | +1 301 715 8592                   |                 |             |
| Meeting ID / Password               | 949 769 4199 / 7697784            |                 |             |

# APRIL 2021 CALENDAR





# APRIL 2021



| Monday                             | Tuesday               | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday | Saturday  | Sunday |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|---|--------|---|--------|
|                                    |                       |             | 01  | 02     | 03  | 04     |
| 05                                 | <b>06</b>             | <b>07</b>   | <b>08</b>   | 09     | 10  | 11     |
|                                    | CPT Workshop          | Tax Webinar | Tax Webinar   |        |   |        |
| <b>12</b>                          | <b>13</b>             | 14          | 15  | 16     | 17  | 18     |
| Tax Webinar                        | OPT Workshop          |             | <b>State Tax Due</b><br>Federal Tax Filing<br>extended to May 17,<br>2021 |        |   |        |
| 19                                 | <b>20</b>             | 21          | 22  | 23     | 24  | 25     |
| Last day of<br>Instruction, SP2021 | GoinGlobal<br>Webinar |             |   |        |   |        |
| 26                                 | 27                    | 28          | 29  | 30     | First Day of Instruction for<br>Summer 2021 is May 10, 2021 |        |

# GRADUATE assistants

MEET OUR WONDERFUL GRADUATE ASSISTANT

*Lulu-Lucy Kavishe*



Lulu-Lucy Kavishe

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MEET OUR WONDERFUL GRADUATE ASSISTANT

*Isha Mahajan*



Isha Mahajan

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*Selina Rager*



Selina Rager

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**Just a  
reminder...**

**We are on Facebook and  
Instagram**



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