

FW: Advising updates for international students

From: Jamie Taylor <taylorjl25@vcu.edu>

Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 8:35 AM

To: GRADUATE_PROGRAM_DIRECTORS <GRADUATE_PROGRAM_DIRECTORS@vcu.edu>

Subject: Advising updates for international students

Good morning,

Please share the following information with advisors in your areas:

"Dear advising staff,

We are aware of the unique challenges that the coronavirus pandemic has created for VCU's international student population and know that you have likely been fielding many questions about fall course scheduling and returning to campus. In response to this, GEO has created an [FAQ page](#) that should answer many questions that international students may have about the fall semester. Please encourage international students in your department to visit the page and to contact our office directly should they have questions regarding immigration concerns. We know that these situations are complex and we want you to utilize the expertise that GEO provides in this area. I am happy to serve as a contact for any situation that arises regarding an international student needing assistance.

We have sent email communication to international students regarding the most recent federal immigration regulations and have encouraged them to monitor their schedule and maintain close communication with their advisors and department regarding their fall classes. If they are unable to arrive or return to Richmond for the fall semester, we have asked that they contact their academic advisor for assistance in registering for online coursework. Here are a few important points of note that have been communicated to students and will be helpful in your advising of them. The following represents GEO's informed interpretation of current federal immigration regulations.

For continuing students:

If continuing F-1 students remain or return to the United States, they will, as always, need to maintain a full course of study (12 credits for undergraduate students, 9 for graduate students). Continuing F-1 students can register for Fall 2020 credits in any combination of the following instructional formats: in-person, hybrid/blended, and online. This does allow for students to take all online coursework if necessary.

If continuing international students decide to stay abroad, they will need to maintain a full course of study in order to remain in legal status, but they can register for all online credits.

For new students:

If new F-1 students choose to come to the United States for fall semester, they need to maintain a full course of study, but should not register for more than 3 online credits. At least nine credits should be

designated as in-person or hybrid. If they choose to remain outside the United States, they will need to maintain a full course of study in order to remain in legal status, but they can register for all online credits.

Thank you so much for all you do for VCU's international students! Please do not hesitate to reach out to GEO at [\(804\)828-8471](tel:(804)828-8471) or to direct students to their office with any questions they may have."

Thanks!
Jamie

--
Jamie Taylor, MBA
Administrative Coordinator
The Graduate School
Virginia Commonwealth University
Box 843051 | Richmond, VA 23284-3051
408 West Franklin Street | Blair House
Office: [804-828-2233](tel:804-828-2233) | Fax: [804-827-0724](tel:804-827-0724) | taylorj25@vcu.edu
Notary Public

VCU Staff Senator

Pronouns: He/Him/His

--
To unsubscribe from this group, send email to graduate_program_directors+unsubscribe@apps.vcu.edu

To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to GRADUATE_PROGRAM_DIRECTORS+unsubscribe@vcu.edu.