Dear UMass Boston International Community,

Following up on the letter sent by our Interim Chancellor, Katherine Newman on March 15th, the ISSS wanted to provide some more information to our international students. https://www.umb.edu/editor_uploads/images/covid_19/Chancellor_Announces_Online_Classes_Rest_of_Year_3-15-20.pdf

• **UMass Boston is not closed**
The University of Massachusetts Boston has now officially switched to online modality, for the remainder of this semester. The University is not closed, however there will be restricted access to many offices, including the ISSS. However, ISSS will continue to operate remotely and students/scholars should use our e-forms page for requests. [ISSS E-Forms](https://www.umb.edu/editor_uploads/images/covid_19/Chancellor_Announces_Online_Classes_Rest_of_Year_3-15-20.pdf)

  If you need direct consultation, please email [ISSS@UMB.EDU](mailto:ISSS@UMB.EDU), our advisors will set up an online video conference, or a phone call with you to answer any questions.

• **On-Campus Housing**
Any international student, living on campus, will be permitted to remain in the residence hall. Please contact the Dean of Students office, should you need support for this. Dining services on campus will continue, but in a modified nature. [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?UMassBoston&layout_id=18](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?UMassBoston&layout_id=18)

• **Immigration Status**
The situation surrounding COVID-19 has created unique circumstances to allow remote instruction, and online learning. This will not jeopardize your current F-1 or J-1 status, and has been confirmed by U.S. Immigration services. There will be no changes to your visa during this time, provided you remain enrolled as a full-time for the spring semester, and remain in compliance with all visa regulations.

• **International Travel**
As there is currently a lot of disruption to air travel, including Federal travel bans on certain countries, ISSS strongly recommends that our students and scholars do not travel at this time. If you do plan to travel, please plan for all possibilities, including the potential to face self-quarantine and the possibility that you may not be able to return to the USA. The decision to travel is a personal decision, please ensure you have a valid travel signature on your DS-2019 or I-20 and that your visa and passport are valid. Please register all travel, with ISSS, using our [Spring 2020 Travel Form](https://www.umb.edu/editor_uploads/images/covid_19/Chancellor_Announces_Online_Classes_Rest_of_Year_3-15-20.pdf).
- **Remote instructional delivery**
  All additional information regarding your specific academic obligations and remote delivery instruction will be communicated directly from your faculty member and/or your affiliated academic college or department. The ISSS cannot advise on any academic-related obligations or methodology.

  Covid-19 has tested us all to be flexible, and the University of Massachusetts Boston will do everything we can to support our international community, and keep you up to date with any developments that may affect you.
  While academics are important, please take care of your health, paying attention to notices from UHS and consulting with healthcare professionals, should you feel ill.
  We are here to support you, and all of UMB will help you. Ultimately, please be safe during these times.

  Sincerely,

  **Shaun P. Morgan**

  Shaun P. Morgan
  Executive Director
  International Student and Scholar Services