



January 13, 2021

To Whom It May Concern

Re: University of Pittsburgh, Spring 2021 Semester

Dear Sir/Madam:

For the Spring 2021 semester, the University of Pittsburgh (the "University") will offer Flex@Pitt, a hybrid model of teaching and learning, offering both in-person and remote instruction, depending upon the risk levels assessed at any point in time during the semester. Pitt's decision to engage in a hybrid instructional mode for the spring 2021 semester has been reported to the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) as a COVID-19 procedural change per SEVP's March 2020 guidance. Classes begin on January 19th and all students will be expected to quarantine for 14 days after arrival in Pittsburgh and prior to attending any in-person class.

While the Department of Homeland Security's July 6 guidance required schools to update SEVIS records and provide students with annotated I-20s, that guidance has since been rescinded as announced during a court hearing July 14, 2020. SEVP has returned to their March 2020 guidance, with an updated message <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/sevis/pdf/bcmFall2020guidance.pdf> and updated Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/sevis/pdf/fall2020faq.pdf>, both published on July 24, 2020. As the March guidance and the updated information do not indicate a new requirement for institutions to issue updated or annotated I20s to students, all I-20s issued to students by the University should meet the requirements for applying for and obtaining a non-immigrant visa and meet eligibility requirements for entry into the U.S.

Please be advised that the university recognizes that individual students may experience difficulty in making travel arrangements or entry to the U.S. prior to the official start of instruction at the University of Pittsburgh, which is January 19. While students are encouraged to arrive on time if possible, in acknowledgment of possible travel delays, most Pitt programs will allow new students in initial status to arrive through the university's course add period, which extends to February 5. The university respectfully requests that all courtesies be extended to enable Pitt students to obtain their visas and arrive on campus for the start of the spring semester. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
*Delores Blough*  
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