



Return from Leave of Absence of 5 Months or More

Instructions for Obtaining a New Initial I-20 to Resume Classes after a Non-Medical Leave of Absence of 5 Months or More or to Return to Classes after a Medical Leave of Absence If You Have Been Out of the U.S. Continuously for 5 Months or More

- **Completing the OGS Application Form to Request a New Initial I-20**
Fill out the electronic request
- If you **can access** your NEU account via username and password:
[I-20 or DS-2019 Request for Return from a Leave of Absence of 5 Months or More.](#)
- If you **cannot access** your NEU account via username and password:
[I-20 or DS-2019 Request for Return from a Leave of Absence of 5 Months or More.](#)

Instructions on supporting documents needed and options for having your new I-20 mailed to you are included within the form. Please note that you must have your academic advisor (for undergraduate day students) or your SEVIS contact (for graduate and all CPS students) sign the portion of the form that is included for the purpose of confirming your academic eligibility to return to your program in the academic term that you have selected and your expected program completion date.

- **Paying the SEVIS Fee**
When you receive the new I-20, you will need to pay the SEVIS fee online and then apply for a new F-1 visa so that you can return to the U.S. to resume your program. Instructions will be included with your I-20. Please note that you still need to pay the SEVIS fee even if you do not need to obtain a new F-1 visa stamp.
- **Obtaining a New Visa If Needed**
Once you have received your I-20 and paid the SEVIS fee, you may need to apply for an F-1 visa stamp if your current F-1 student visa has expired or if it will expire before you return to the U.S. If your current visa bears the name of another educational institution in the U.S. rather than Northeastern University, you will need to obtain a new visa whether or not your visa has expired. If your visa will still be valid at the time that you plan to return to the U.S. and if "Northeastern University" is noted on the visa, you most likely will not have to obtain a new visa, but you may wish to check on this with the U.S. embassy or consulate nearest to you to confirm this. Contact or view the website of the U.S. embassy or consulate where you will apply for a visa for information on procedures for obtaining an F-1 student visa.
- **Completing OGS Online Check In After Arrival in the U.S.**
Since you will be entering the U.S. on an initial I-20, even though you are not a new student, please note that you will need to complete Online Check In with the OGS. You will be able to do this by completing the online OGS Check In form. You will receive an email before classes begin directing you to the link you will need to complete this online form. This is necessary to confirm your arrival in the U.S. for government purposes and so that our office can register your arrival in the SEVIS system.

- **Entering the U.S. on a New Initial I-20 and Impact Upon Eligibility for Co-op (Curricular Practical Training – CPT) and Optional Practical Training (OPT)**

Additionally, it is important that you realize that returning to the U.S. with an initial I-20 may have an impact upon your eligibility to do Co-op (curricular practical training) in the U.S or Optional Practical Training. Students must have been enrolled for at least one academic year (two semesters or three quarters) in order to be eligible to do Co-op after entering the U.S. on an initial I-20. All students must have been enrolled for at least an academic year in order to be eligible for Optional Practical Training authorization after entering the U.S. on an initial I-20.