In the Time of Coronavirus:
Policy Updates, Best Practices and Helpful Takeaways for International Student Advisors

Welcome!

- This presentation will be recorded
- A recording of the session and slides will be made available after the presentation
- You can type any questions into the Q&A chat box or general chat box throughout the presentation
- Please join in by responding to our participant polls

Agenda

- Meet the panelists
- Review latest policy updates regarding COVID-19
- Panel discussion
- Open Q&A
- Resources and Takeaways

Who's here today?

Event Coordinators:

- Martha Baillargeon, International Student Advisor, SVA
  NAFSA Region X NY Downstate Representative
- Michelle Bourassa, International Student & Scholar Services Coordinator, University at Albany
  NAFSA Region X Two-Year Institution Representative
- Claire Rehbock, Senior Compliance Advisor, Columbia University ISSO
  NAFSA Region X Student Issues Regulatory Ombudsman
- Laura Valeri, International Student Advisor, NYU OGS
  NAFSA Region X Advocacy Coordinator

Who's here today?

Panelists:

- Emily Brew, International Student and Scholar Services Manager, SUNY System Administration
- Thomas Carter, Director of International Education, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry
- Chad Lectura, International Student Advisor, NYU OGS
- Mohini Mukherjee, Director of Student Services, Rutgers Global - International Student and Scholar Services

Who's here today?

What type of institution are you working for?

Policy Updates - COVID-19

USCIS

- Announces 60-Day Grace Period to Respond to RFEs, NOIDS or to file I-290B (May 1, 2020)
- Extends Suspension of In-Person Services at Local USCIS Field Offices (April 24, 2020)
- Announces Data Entry Delay for Cap-Subject H-1B Petitions Until at least May 1, 2020
- Announces flexibility in submitting required signatures (March 20, 2020)

Travel related (CBP/DOS)

- Coronavirus Proclamation of April 22, 2020 Limits Entry of Certain Immigrants (April 22, 2020)
- DHS and CDC Extend Canada-Mexico Restrictions for 30 Additional Days (April 20, 2020), continued restrictions for entry to the US from Schengen area, UK, and China
- General suspension of visa services announcement from travel.state.gov

Policy Updates - COVID-19

SEVP

- FAQs: https://www.ice.gov/doclib/coronavirus/covid19faq.pdf
- Electronic I-20's
- Online learning and reporting updates for summer term
- Transfer students
- Updates to on-campus employment/off-campus employment
- Failure to depart during grace period

EVP

- DOS EVP Updates FAQs with Questions Arising From Automatic 60-day Extensions (April 7, 2020)

SSA

- SSA offices closed to the public since March 17, 2020
- USCIS updates Questions and Answers Related to Temporary Policies for Form I-9 and E-Verify (April 3, 2020)

Ask the Panel

How are you keeping students engaged?

What types of communications have gone out to students (university wide, from your office, etc)?

Audience Poll

How are you communicating with students while working from home?

Ask the Panel

What tools are you using to handle incoming inquiries? Have you been engaging with other stakeholders, such as faculty and university administrators?

Ask the Panel

What is the current set-up of your office?
What tools are you using to keep in touch with office staff?

Audience Poll

Are you issuing I-20's electronically?

Ask the Panel

Has your school announced any changes to the fall semester?

Do you have contingency plans for changes that may be made to the fall semester format?

Audience Poll

What options are being considered for the fall semester at your institution?

Ask the Panel

What positive lessons have you learned from this remote working experience that your office may incorporate in daily work-life in the future, even when the crisis is resolved?

Open Q&A

Resources

- NAFSA Coronavirus Critical Resources

https://www.nafsa.org/regulatory-information/coronavirus-critical-resources

- ISTA/ISCA/Region X Network
- IssueNet/Get Liaison Help
- NAFSA Advocacy Platform Connecting our World! Webinars on Advocacy activity Dive deep: International Student and Scholar Advocacy in the time of COVID-19 on May 11, 2020

Takeaways

- Remote work is possible!
- Transparency with students
- Contingency planning - planning a step ahead of policy updates
- Checking in with staff and keeping everyone on the same page
- Advocacy is important

Thank you for joining!