



International Education

06 June 2020

Dear International Students,

We hope you are doing well and have been thinking about you. This is a troubled time worldwide, especially now in the United States after the death of George Floyd by the police, and the ensuing protests.

We are receiving questions from you about whether it is appropriate and safe for you to be active in US politics at this time. I'm personally encouraged to hear that some of you are standing in solidarity with communities of color by posting your thoughts on social media in response to recent events of racist violence across the U.S. Although this kind of advocacy is not a direct threat to your student visa status since freedom of speech applies to everyone in the U.S., during this unusual time you should be cautious about any posts on social media platforms that can be viewed or forwarded to people you do not know. While taking a stance on current events is a positive sign of the kind of global environment we want for all of our students, please be mindful of the content and the audience for your posts. I think that it should be fine to express sympathy for victims and support for change, but advocating protest or condemning the US government in the current climate is not something I would recommend.

On another topic that we know is causing those of you overseas stress, we do not yet know the fall calendar. I also wanted to take this opportunity to address your concerns about potential changes to the fall semester for students who might experience travel or visa issues, or are thinking about taking a gap semester or year. If circumstances require you to delay starting the fall semester, we will work with you on options to defer your studies and, if relevant, your entry to the US while maintaining your F-1 eligibility. The Department of Homeland Security recognizes the potential for delayed study and is being flexible with changing I-20 program start dates and other adjustments to your F-1 status.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us. Please stay healthy and safe.

Sincerely,

Krittika

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