

The University of Texas  
Rio Grande Valley  
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International Admissions  
& Student Services

Dear International Student,

As we approach the fall semester, it is essential to keep in mind that The United States will not lift any existing travel restrictions “at this point” due to concerns over the highly transmissible COVID-19 Delta variant and the rising number of U.S. coronavirus cases. Additionally, countries worldwide have a variety of restrictions, so it is strongly recommended that you check with the authorities of the countries you intend to visit both when making travel plans and again before traveling so they have the most up-to-date information.

#### **Cross-Border Traffic from Mexico and Canada**

The U.S.-Canada and U.S.-Mexico borders continue to be closed to non-essential travel through August 21st, 2021 and given the current surge in COVID-19 cases, chances remain high that the closure will be extended again before this date. **The restriction expressly exempts F-1 student and air or sea travel.** Please refer to our [website](#) for more details on this restriction.

#### **Travel from Specific Regions**

New or returning students present in China, Brazil, Iran, South Africa, or India may arrive no earlier than 30 days before the start of an academic program beginning August 1, 2021 or after.

F-1 students who were present only in the Schengen Area (Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland), United Kingdom, or Ireland are not subject to the August 1 condition.

Proof of a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours of boarding a flight to the United States continues to be required for all travelers.

#### **Avoid Unnecessary Travel**

If you decide to travel, be prepared, understand the risks, and be advised that you might not be able to return to the U.S. for an unknown period of time. Your trip could be disrupted, or you may be quarantined upon your return. Also, if your existing F-1 visa will expire before your return, you would need to apply for a new stamp at an Embassy or

Consulate of the U.S. before you can return to the states. Please review your country's Embassy or Consulate's visa appointment information before you make final travel plans.

### **UTRGV's Travel Protocols**

Prior to returning to campus, please complete the [Preliminary COVID-19 Screening Form](#), which is managed by the UTRGV COVID-19 Response Team (CRT) for case management, testing, and scheduling.

The CRT will then formally release you to campus after the quarantine period has elapsed and the testing has been completed and the results reviewed per the CDC guidelines.

Please follow CDC's travel recommendations for fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people:

**Fully Vaccinated:** [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html)

**Unvaccinated:** [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-during-covid19.html#unvaccinated-people](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-during-covid19.html#unvaccinated-people)

Please be advised that these rules can change at any time so please monitor your UTRGV email for any updates. We will continue to monitor the news, airline information, or travel information, and we will email you any updates. For any additional questions, please email us at [international@utrgv.edu](mailto:international@utrgv.edu)

Sincerely,

IASS Staff

**UTRGV**<sup>™</sup>

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