

The University of Texas
Rio Grande Valley™

International Admissions
& Student Services

Dear International Student:

The U.S.-Canada and U.S.-Mexico borders will continue to be closed to non-essential travel until September 21st, 2020. The Acting Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced an extension of these restrictions. The published definition of “non-essential travel” remains unchanged, please see below for the specific information.

For the U.S.-Mexico border restrictions on “non-essential” travel DOES NOT APPLY to:

- U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents returning to the United States;
- Individuals traveling for medical purposes (e.g., to receive medical treatment in the United States);
- **Individuals traveling to attend educational institutions;**
- Individuals traveling to work in the United States (e.g., individuals working in the farming or agriculture industry who must travel between the United States and Mexico in furtherance of such work);
- Individuals traveling for emergency response and public health purposes (e.g., government officials or emergency responders entering the United States to support Federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial government efforts to respond to COVID-19 or other emergencies);
- Individuals engaged in lawful cross-border trade (e.g., truck drivers supporting the movement of cargo between the United States and Mexico);
- Individuals engaged in official government travel or diplomatic travel;
- Members of the U.S. Armed Forces, and the spouses and children of members of the U.S. Armed Forces, returning to the United States; and
- Individuals engaged in military-related travel or operations.

The “non-essential travel” APPLIES to:

- Individuals traveling for tourism purposes (e.g., sightseeing, recreation, gambling, or attending cultural events).

We continue to monitor any updates for your safety and well-being.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact us.

IASS Staff

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