1. I am an international student. Do I have to leave Penn?
   • Depopulating campus and completing the semester with virtual classes is an important step Penn is
taking to help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus.
   • International students with special circumstances who applied and received University approval to
remain in on-campus housing are permitted to stay on campus.
   • For international students living off campus, please see Provost Pritchett’s guidance from March 15.
2. I am planning to leave the US. What immigration documents do I need to have before leaving?
   • Check that the travel signature on your I-20/DS-2019 is valid. Ensure you have your original
immigration documents (passport and visa) and that they are valid. **You may still leave the US
without a signed I-20/DS-2019, but you will need a valid travel signature to return to the country.**
3. How do I get a travel signature?
   • Please complete the travel signature request e-form in iPenn. ISSS staff will review the e-form and
approve your request. A new I-20 for the purpose of travel will be generated. After your request is
approved, you will need to complete the shipping request e-form in iPenn. ISSS staff will then sign
the form, process it, and mail it to you in time for your return to the US. Travel signatures are valid
for one year from the signature date.
4. Will the five-month out-of-country rule impact my immigration status if I leave the US?
   • As long as you maintain a full course load online and make normal progress towards your degree, the
five-month rule will not impact your immigration status.
5. Will the online courses impact my immigration status?
   • Due to the extenuating circumstances, SEVP guidance dictates that you may continue to maintain a
full-time course load in an online format without negative implications for your immigration status.
6. Will ISSS be open for the rest of the semester?
   • In accordance with the University’s guidance about remote work, ISSS will be providing all services
remotely as of Friday, March 13, 2020. For updates regarding our operations, please consult our
website: global.upenn.edu/isss.
7. If I am abroad but have a summer internship, can I apply for CPT?
   • Yes. You may apply for CPT as your school allows as long as you have a confirmed internship offer
and you meet the CPT requirements for the summer. Please see this page for more information
about CPT.
8. If I am abroad, can I apply for OPT?
   • You must be in the US at the time of your OPT application. If you are completing your degree
program this May, you must return to the US by May 18th, 2020.
9. If I have documents issued by ISSS after March 13, 2020, how can I get the documents?
   • ISSS is now operating remotely until further notice. No in-person services are available at this time,
including document pick-up and drop off. However, you can still have your document shipped to you
by filling out the shipping request e-form in iPenn. ISSS will then ship your document to the address
you have provided.
10. If I need more information about the resources available to me, where can I go?
    • Please see the University’s list of student resources and FAQs at
    https://coronavirus.upenn.edu/students-families.