

## Concerns over returning to your home country

What if I cannot return to my home country due to conditions there (war, disease, border closing, etc.)?

1. **Grace Period:** Upon completion of your studies, or completion of your period of OPT, you have 60 days of grace period to remain in the U.S. in F-1 status (30 days for J-1 status).
2. **Post-graduation employment:** You may apply for OPT or AT to remain in the U.S. in order to work in your field of study for 1-3 years. Apply well before graduating & follow instructions here:  
F-1 <https://www.rit.edu/studentaffairs/iss/immigration-visas/f-1-employment>  
J-1 <https://www.rit.edu/studentaffairs/iss/immigration-visas/j-1-employment>
3. **New degree or full-time coursework at RIT:** ISS can issue new immigration documents (I-20 or DS-2019) for full time coursework that begins in summer or fall if you receive an acceptance before the end of your grace period. Please consult our website, as we will soon be adding a new option for you to upload your financial documents and acceptance letter to request a new I-20 or DS-2019. For students starting new studies in the fall, you can remain in the U.S. during the summer and summer course enrollment would be optional.
4. **Transfer to another U.S. school:** If you are accepted to another U.S. school before the end of your grace period, please submit to ISS your acceptance letter and tell us what date to release/transfer your SEVIS record. You can remain in the U.S. if your new school does not begin until fall. Schools usually ask you to complete a “SEVIS Transfer form” that you give to ISS.
5. **Apply for a visa to go to a 3<sup>rd</sup> country.** For example, our page: <https://www.rit.edu/studentaffairs/iss/immigration-visas/links-resources> contains information about immigrating to Canada [Canadian Immigration Information](#) and [Career Options in Canada](#). Or, you might find temporary refuge in another country where your nationality does not require a visa to enter. Details on the consular website of the country.
6. **Consult an immigration attorney.** We have listed a few on our website, along with links to Volunteer Legal Services Project and the American Immigration Lawyers Association. You may wish to consult an attorney if you feel you might be eligible to apply for asylum or some other status to stay in the U.S. Note: you typically are required to keep your current (student) status valid up until the approval of a change to a new status. But an attorney can best advise you.
7. **Your embassy** may list other options on their website if there is a widespread problem or catastrophe in your home country.
8. **You can also call or visit during our walk-in hours (M-F, 10-12 and 2-4).**  
Our phone is: 585-475-6943 and Email: [iss@rit.edu](mailto:iss@rit.edu)