I am an international student and I want to return home. What should I do?

You may travel home and complete your spring courses online. For the remainder of the spring 2020 semester, all students will be able to complete their courses via alternative methods. This is to ensure that no student’s academic progress will be affected if they are not able to return to campus.

What should I think about if I decide to travel home?

We recommend you consider the following:

- There are some increased risks of exposure during travel, so please review: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/faqs.html
- In most cases, your home country will allow you to return, but they might place you into a self-quarantine, even if you are healthy. Check your home government website for guidance.
- If you return home and conditions later change, the United States government might impose additional temporary restrictions preventing a return to campus during the pandemic. These are already in place for travelers from certain countries.
- If your visa has expired (or expires before you return to the U.S.) then you might experience difficulty during the coming months in renewing your visa at a U.S. Consulate.
- We do expect other temporary closures of consulates in highly affected countries.

Who should I notify if I decide to return home?

If you decide to return home, please notify International Student Services at iss@rit.edu

Will moving to online instruction impact my visa status?

Your immigration status will not be impacted if you stay in the U.S. and complete coursework through online methods. ISS will also maintain your SEVIS (F or J) status as active through spring and summer as long as your plan is to enroll in the fall to continue your studies. ISS will do this whether you are inside or outside the U.S. Please check your I-20 (or DS-2019) ”program end date” and if you need ISS to extend that, please ask your academic advisor to submit the Program Extension Form: https://www.rit.edu/studentaffairs/iss/forms-documents/iss-forms
I am an international student on a study abroad program in another country and I have questions. Who do I contact?

Please contact RIT’s Office of Study Abroad at https://www.rit.edu/academicaffairs/global/team

What's the latest update on Optional Practical Training request form application procedures?

RIT staff is no longer scheduling “in-person” OPT appointments in the office. For more information, go to the F-1 Employment Section of our website https://www.rit.edu/studentaffairs/iss/immigration-visas/f-1-employment